



## Neighborhood vitality meeting establishes list of local priorities

**By Mike Dollar  
ONA President**

The Oakridge halls are decked with boughs of holly, thanks to the wonderful volunteers and district directors who jumpstarted the Christmas spirit by decorating the neighborhood. Caroling, Christmas cookies, wreaths, lights — what a wonderful time of the year! I'm happy to be part of this Oakridge family.

Thanks to all who attended and gave their input this past month at the City of Garland's Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods Kickoff meeting. This meeting provided an open forum for input from the entire surrounding community. An excellent list of our strengths, opportunities, and challenges were generated from the input of these participants.

A summary list of twenty-five key issues was created. On Dec. 5, a follow-up meeting was held to prioritize these twenty-five issues. The highest priority items were catalogued and will be examined by the city to establish action

plans which address those issues. Subsequent meetings will be held with the Oakridge community, and work plans and city approvals should be wrapped up around April next year.

There may be more opportunities for your participation, so be sure to check [www.garlandvitalneighborhoods.org](http://www.garlandvitalneighborhoods.org) as well as the Neighborhood Newline (972-205-2008). Also check the Garland Neighbors section of *The Dallas Morning News*, CGTV, the Garland City Press, and the front desk at Holford Recreation Center for more of the latest information. The ONA will also pass along information as we receive it.

Your ONA would like to file for tax-exempt status to save on expenses. We have been a chartered State of Texas, nonprofit corporation since 1991, but have not filed for tax-exempt status with the IRS. If you have expertise in filing IRS Form 1023 or State of Texas AP-20# forms and would like to help, please let me know.

Please keep your e-mail coming. I enjoy having your input and have

learned a lot from following up on suggestions. For instance, according to the city Web site and City Ordinance Section 50.34 Sewer service rates, each resident has an individual volume ceiling that factors into the maximum sewer bill. A resident's maximum monthly sewer charge is based on 98% of the averaged metered water volume consumed during the previous December-March period by that individual.

Therefore, your maximum sewer bill is being determined on the water consumed (inside and outside) during these next few months. When you factor in that the sewer rates are higher than our water rates, being frugal now may help you save later. (Thank you, Mr. Epperson, for leading me to this tip.) There is some confusing language in Section 50.34. A fixed ceiling is stated elsewhere and the December-March averaging is under (A.2) Duplex Dwelling Residential Users, who also have a fixed ceiling stated elsewhere.

*See New ONA on Page 2*

## Oakridge Carolers make debut appearance on neighborhood streets

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

The night was bitter cold in Oakridge; even the squirrels were tucked away in tree crevices or maybe your attic. A beautiful silvery moon lit up the sky so bright you could read by it. And if you listened closely, caroling voices could be heard throughout all Oakridge. And so it was on Sunday evening, Dec. 3.

What a great time approximately 22 carolers had singing to several Oakridge residents. Jim Norris led the group and accompanied the carolers with his guitar. New Oakridge residents Tracy & Cathy Jordan's children A.J., Teresa, and Anna helped make the group like storybook caroling. Carolers were bundled up but still managed to dress in the spirit of the season with Santa hats. Some even

brought bells, which added just the right touch to "Silver Bells" and "Jingle Bells." The bright moon aided in reading the music, but Karen Engler came to the rescue of some carolers with extra flashlights. Great thinking, Karen.

After caroling it was off to Roger and Sherri Frank's house, where Vince and Lois Golbeck greeted carolers with much needed and appreciated hot cocoa. The rest of the evening was spent with more Christmas caroling, eating snacks, and lots of visiting. The evening ended with door prize drawings, which were won by Debra Pandek and Karen Engler.

Margaret Fowler dubbed the group the "Oakridge Carolers," and it was decided this should become an annual event. You will want to make plans to join us next year. Who knows — with Texas weather, we may be caroling in shorts and Santa hats.

A special thanks to the Golbecks for

### 2006 House Decorating Contest Winners Announced

Congratulations to the winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - 2609 Ridge Oak Place
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - 2702 Ridgeview
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - 2722 Oak Point

Thank you to the judges for this year's competition: Michelle Thomason, a business analyst, Kelley Perez, a planning technician, and Alex Koenig, a neighborhood planner.

their expertise with hot chocolate and apple cider, to Roger Franks for braving the cold to take pictures of the carolers, and to Martha Dollar and Margaret Fowler for help implementing this event.

# New ONA membership directories mailed

*continued from page 1*

See what I mean when I say I'm learning a lot from your input?

I hope by now you've received your new Membership Directory. It is very similar to last year's but updated with all our current members. If you would like to serve on the ONA Board, the nominating committee, or volunteer on a project-by-project basis please let me know. We are always in need of help,

especially as we finalize plans in the Vital Neighborhoods program, and don't forget to ask your neighbors to join us. We have many first-time members this year. Write to me at [onapresident@aol.com](mailto:onapresident@aol.com).

Finally, the Oakridge Neighborhood Association Board of Directors would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

From all of us to all of you, Merry Christmas!

# Oakridge Daytimers ready for holiday events

**By Dianne Winter  
Oakridge Daytimers**



Daytimers were greeted at the home of Monica Evans on Nov. 10 by a new acquisition: a large sign that identifies the Oakridge Daytimers that was placed in the yard. Monica had graciously opened her home to a bountiful harvest of neighbors and friends. She was assisted by food hostesses Sharon Carlton, Dot Mohrle, JoAnn Williams and Charlotte Vaughter.

After a time of mingling and visiting and viewing photos of the costumed members at the October meeting, and tasting tidbits from the abundance of food, Sally Weiss, president, entertained the group with the list of many special days of the month. The most humorous days were Peanut Butter Day, Clean your Refrigerator Day, Buy Nothing Day and Take a Hike Day.

Sally introduced Carolyn Franks, a visitor who has joined to become a member. Daytimers also welcomed back Mary Reed, who had been absent due to a health problem and Nancy Murray, her neighbor. Sally also announced concerns for ill members, Jane Buchanan and Janice Shadegg.

Margaret Fowler has been very active in the ONA and informed the group of the progress on the Revitalization Project for the neighborhood and the property use where the Target Store was previously located.

Cecile LaBossiere asked for hostesses for two of the monthly coffees and was able to fill that need with the generosity of volunteers, Suzanne Snow and June Parks. She also asked for volunteers to help with decorating

the neighborhood for Christmas.

Audrey King announced birthdays and asked to be alerted to situations that need her attention so she can communicate with those involved.

The Late Bloomers announced that the trip to the Arboretum was cancelled due to bad weather.

The Book Club met at the home of Audrey King on Nov. 17. Audrey had decorated beautifully and prepared delicacies for the group to enjoy while they discussed *The Patron Saint of Liars* by Ann Patchett.

The group strayed in the discussion, though, as the conversation turned from books to calendars. Ask a Book Club member about the proposed calendar and ask Audrey King to describe her tears when she laughed so much, and ask Mary Jensen why she can't remove the jacket of a three-piece ensemble when she gets too warm.

Next month the meeting will be held at the home of Frances Morgen on Dec. 15 as they discuss *The Christmas Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini.

Daytimers will look forward to the December meeting at the Oakridge Country Club on Dec. 12 for a cookie exchange. Put on your baking apron to prepare your favorite cookies and bring them to share at 10 a.m.

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

*Questions should be directed to President Sally Weiss at 972-202-1140.*

## 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  
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# City of Garland hires new secretary, prepares for charter review

**By Mark Monroe  
District 7 City Councilman**

I hope you and your family had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the Christmas holidays. I think Hunter, at the age of four, has this Santa Claus deal down pat. He explained to me that if we didn't have a tree with lights Santa would not come, and he followed that with lights for outside so Santa can see where to land. Those comments have made my holiday, and we still have three weeks left.

On with the business of the city; as many of you know, our City Secretary Ranette Larsen retired in October. The council has hired Mary Kayser from Burseson. Mrs. Kayser comes with a wealth of experience, and I know I am excited to have her on our team. We were recently updated on the progress of the redevelopment of downtown.

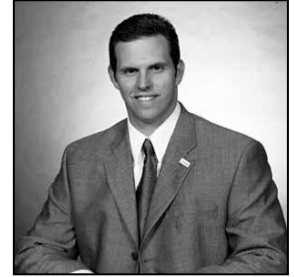
The city is in the process of nego-

tiating with Trammel Crow to develop the site across the street from the Granville Arts Center. While it is difficult to explain in such a small space, the City of Garland is taking steps to reclaim life in the downtown area. This process has been extremely slow, but I think you will see significant process once we have an agreement with Trammel Crow.

Finally, I wanted to update you on the elections in May 2007. The council has approved a measure to form a charter review committee. The charter review committee has been tasked to make recommendations on the charter to the council.

There are several concerns on how the charter is worded, and it has put the city in a precarious position, not only in the 2006 elections. It will have an affect on the 2007 election as well. One of the most glaring problems with our charter is that the charter limits council members and the mayor to a limit of six con-

Mark Monroe  
District 7  
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mmonroe@  
ci.garland.tx.us



secutive years.

This rule excludes the most senior council members from seeking the office of the mayor.

With all of this being said, I have made the decision not to run for Mayor in 2007. There are many factors in this decision, including the charter provisions, but I believe it is time for me to direct my attention to Tami, Hunter, and Case.

As always, if you have any questions or if I can do anything for you, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

# Winter months are useful for cleaning gardening tools, equipment

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

Gardeners and their gardens are only as good as the tools they use. Clean up, sharpen and repair all tools, so you will not waste time during the growing season, when time is precious.

Change oil in mowers and edgers and sharpen blades. Dull mower blades butcher the grass rather than cutting.

Plant tulips, daffodils, and hyacinth bulbs no later than the fifteenth of January.

Later in the month plant asparagus, fruit trees, pecans, blackberry, grapes, anemone, and ranunculas.

Transplant any trees or shrubs that need it during this dormant period. Prune transplants to reduce the work of severed roots. Make sure all plants are well watered and mulched to protect



**Gardeners can use the winter months to clean their tools.**

roots from winter damage.

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# Safety for all can be the best give one could give this holiday season

**From HealthDay News**  
[www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)

Safety may be the very best gift to give this holiday season.

U.S. hospital emergency rooms treat about 10,800 people each year for injuries related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Candles alone cause about 11,000 fires each year in the United States, resulting in an average of 150 deaths and 1,200 serious injuries. Christmas trees are involved in another 400 fires each year, resulting in about 20 deaths, 70 injuries and more than \$15 million in property loss and damage.

It does not have to happen in your home. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Safe Kids Georgia offer the following holiday safety advice:

**Match toys to a child's age.** Only allow children to use age-appropriate toys and never allow infants and toddlers to play with toys that have small parts that could pose a choking hazard. A handy hint: If a part can fit inside a standard cardboard toilet paper tube, it's a choking hazard.

**Ride safe.** When Santa brings kids

bikes, skates, skateboards or scooters, make sure he brings helmets and other appropriate safety gear, too. Motorized scooters and all-terrain vehicles are not appropriate for children under age 16.

**Deck the halls with care.** Keep decorations and other items with sharp edges well out of the reach of children.

**Be tree-safe.** Make sure the Christmas tree is fresh, green and watered frequently. Keep it away from heat sources, such as vents, candles and fireplaces. Make sure that artificial trees are fire-resistant. Christmas lights when you go to bed and blow out all candles.

**Check fire safety.** Make sure all your smoke alarms have batteries and are in working order. Develop a fire escape plan for your family that offers two escape routes out of each room.

**Beware of Yuletide toxins.** Keep poisonous plants such as amaryllis, holly and mistletoe out of the reach of children and pets.

**Unwrap, remove.** Clear up used wrapping paper from around the tree and fireplace immediately after you open presents.

**Light safely.** Use only indoor holiday lights inside the house and outdoor lights outside.

**Spread the word.** When you visit



**If you'll be spending the holidays with children, double-check all toys and make sure your ornaments are safe.**

relatives or friends, make sure their homes are childproofed for your children.

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## Garland City Council appoints new city secretary from Burleson

**City of Garland News Release**  
[www.ci.garland.tx.us](http://www.ci.garland.tx.us)

The Garland City Council has appointed a new City Secretary to fill the position vacated by the retirement of the current City Secretary, Ranette Larsen.

Mary Kayser is scheduled to assume the City Secretary post on or before Dec. 1, 2006. Ms. Kayser has served as City Secretary for the City of Burleson since 1999. Prior to serving as Burleson's City Secretary, Ms. Kayser served Burleson as Deputy City Secretary and the Records Management Coordinator.

Ms. Kayser holds the Certified Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, which she obtained in 1999.

Additionally, Ms. Kayser earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth.

Ms. Kayser is very active with the Texas Municipal Clerks Association (TMCA). She currently serves as a trustee on the TMCA Executive Board. Ms. Kayser served on TMCA's policy book revision committee and has assisted in TMCA's education and training unit. She co-authored several chapters in the 6th, 7th and 8th editions of the Texas Municipal Clerks Handbook and assisted in the teaching the "Early Voting" course during the annual Election Law Seminar from 2002-2005.

Ms. Kayser has been a member of the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association Chapter of TMCA since 1994, where she served as president in 2003, and has served on many of the chapter's

committees and most of the executive offices. She received the NTMCA's Municipal Clerk of the Year award in 2001.

"Ms. Kayser is highly respected by her peers and brings a great deal of experience with her to Garland," says Garland Mayor Bob Day. "The City Council is excited about the opportunity to benefit from her background and new ideas."

Garland's current city secretary, Ranette Larsen, is set to retire at the end of this year, having spent the past 32 years in public service. Ms. Larsen was employed as City Secretary with the City of Garland in 1992. She also served as City Secretary in other Texas cities, including Corpus Christi, Lubbock and Big Spring.

## Knowing when to get a second doctor's opinion can be tricky deal

**HealthDay News**  
[www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)

If you've been diagnosed with a specific disease or health condition, you may be wondering if it's wise to consult another doctor for a second opinion. The Washington University School of Medicine offers these suggestions on when a second opinion is

warranted:

- If your doctor has recommended surgery.
- If your doctor's diagnosis or recommendation doesn't sound credible to you, or if you're not comfortable with any treatment prescribed.
- If your doctor diagnoses you with a

condition that's life-threatening.

- If your doctor recommends a particularly risky or invasive procedure, when a less complicated procedure is available.
- If you've been prescribed long-term medication or therapy.
- If your doctor can't make a diagnosis, or if the treatment prescribed isn't making you feel better.

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# Hanukkah has history rich with traditions

From the History Channel  
www.history.com

Hanukkah is celebrated for 8 days and nights, starting on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar (which is November-December on the Gregorian calendar). In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means "dedication."

The holiday commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem after the Jews' 165 B.C.E. victory over the Hellenist Syrians. Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria, outlawed Jewish rituals and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods.

In 168 B.C.E. the Jews' holy Temple was seized and dedicated to the worship of Zeus.

Some Jews were afraid of the Greek soldiers and obeyed them, but most were angry and decided to fight back.

The fighting began in Modiin, a village not far from Jerusalem. A Greek officer and soldiers assembled the villagers, asking them to bow to an idol and eat the flesh of a pig, activities forbidden to Jews. The officer asked Mattathias, a Jewish High Priest, to take part in the ceremony. He refused, and another villager stepped forward and offered to do it instead.

Mattathias became outraged, took out his sword and killed the man, then killed the officer. His five sons and the other villagers then attacked and killed the soldiers. Mattathias' family went into hiding in the nearby mountains, where many other Jews who wanted to fight the Greeks joined them. They attacked the Greek soldiers whenever possible.

Judah Maccabee and his soldiers went to the holy Temple, and were saddened that many things were missing or broken, including the golden menorah. They cleaned and repaired the Temple, and when they were finished, they decided to have a big dedication ceremony. For the celebration, the Maccabees wanted to light the menorah.

They looked everywhere for oil, and found a small flask that contained only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. This gave them enough time to obtain new oil to keep the menorah lit.

Today Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting candles in men-



Menorah

orahs every night, thus commemorating the eight-day miracle.

## Traditions

**The Menorah:** On each night of Hanukkah, the menorah is lit to commemorate a miracle which occurred after the Jews proclaimed victory over the Syrian armies in 165 B.C.E.

When Jews came to rededicate the Temple, which had been defiled by the Syrians, they found only one small flask of oil with which to light the menorah. This flask contained only enough oil for one day, yet the lamp burned for eight days (by which time a fresh supply of oil was obtained).

In Israel, the Hanukkah menorah is called the Hanukiyah.

Menorahs are in all shapes and sizes. The only requirement is that the flames are separated enough so that they will not look too big and resemble a pagan bonfire.

Ancient menorahs were made of clay. They consisted of small, pearl-shaped vessels, each with its own wick, which were arranged side-by-side.

Today's menorah, which stands on a base from which the branches sprout, resembles the holy Temple's menorah and started to appear towards the end of the Middle Ages.

**Latkes:** The most popular themes all throughout the Hanukkah dishes are the use of oil. The oil reminds us of the oil which burned eight days instead of one.

Latkes are potato pancakes made from grated potatoes mixed with eggs, onions, and flour, then fried in vegetable oil. The texture is crispy on the outside and tender within. They're served hot and often dipped in apple sauce or sour cream. The Maccabee soldiers ate latkes made from cheese, vegetables, or fruits brought to them on the battlefields. However, they didn't eat potato latkes, as potatoes weren't available until the 16th century.

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## Sometimes the best pest control measure is finding the pests early

By Kimberly Schofield  
Program Specialist, Urban-IPM  
k-schofield@tamu.edu

### New Invader: Chili Thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood

Just as a bowl of chili will warm your body, but chili thrips will also make you "heated," if they are found in the landscape. This thrips is commonly found in such areas as South Africa, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Australia, Taiwan, Japan, Hawaii, and Venezuela. It is also commonly found in the Caribbean.

However, they were spotted in south Texas within vegetable transplants this year. It will only be a matter of time before they are seen in North Texas.

Adult chili thrips have a pale body with dark colored wings and are less than 2 mm in length. The immature thrips are pale in color. Their lifecycle can be completed in 14-18 days, with the adults living about 11 days.

Chili thrips have a wide host range including many crops. They can be found on over 100 host plants, including beans, chrysanthemums, citrus, corn, cotton, eggplant, grapes, onions, peanuts, pepper, roses and tomatoes.

They attack the terminal growing points of plants, mainly feeding on young leaves, buds and fruits. This surface feeding usually appears shiny silver at first and then becomes yellow to greenish-brown in color. Dry conditions can cause population increases, and feeding damage appears more quickly when plants are water stressed.

Chili thrips are also capable of spreading tomato spotted wilt virus, peanut necrosis virus (PBNV), peanut chlorotic fan virus (PCFV) and tobacco streak virus. If large populations exist, total defoliation and potentially heavy crop loss can occur.

### Some Control Tactics

**Non-Chemical Control:** Inspect plant materials to prevent infestations. Preserve natural enemies, which include minute pirate bug, green lacewings, parasitic wasps, predatory mites and nematodes (*Thripinema spp.*).

**Chemical Control:** Monitor for thrips and treat at first sign of damage. The use of foliar insecticides is more effective at controlling this thrips, since they are usually feeding on exposed plant surfaces. Some foliar sprays can include such chemicals as azadirachtin, spinosad, novaluron, bifenthrin, permethrin. Systemic insecticides will also provide control, such as those containing imidacloprid.

### Noticing Early Populations of Spider Mites Helps with Control Measures

The two-spotted spider mite is a common pest of many landscape and nursery plants. Adult two-spotted spider mites are small, arachnids with dark spots on each side of their bodies. They feed on the phloem on the under-side of foliage, causing a speckled appearance. They will construct a web where all the life stages develop and are well protected.

The plant nutrients allow these mites to multiply rapidly. If large numbers of mites are feeding, the foliage will turn yellow and the leaves will drop.

Heavy infestations can even cause death to the plant. New generations will continue to develop until cool weather occurs, leading to a reduction of activity.

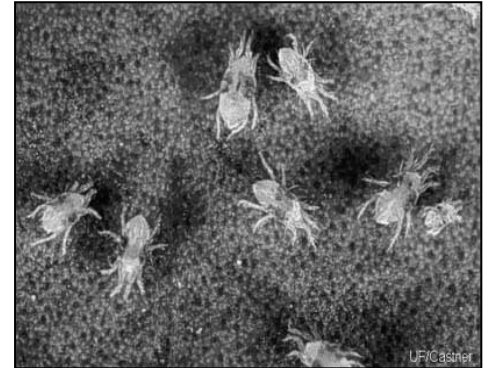
### Some Control Options

**Non-Chemical Control:** There are many predators of the two-spotted spider mite that can be introduced or conserved, such as the minute pirate bug, big-eyed bug, green lacewing, and a variety of predatory mites such as *Galendromus occidentalis*, *Phytoseiulus persimilis*, and *Neoseiulus californicus*.

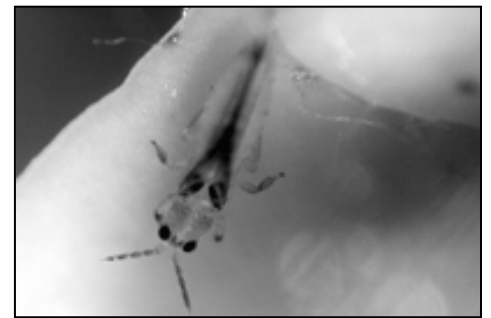
Some predatory mites require high humidity levels and are more effective indoors.

**Chemical Control:** Some options include dormant oils for use in the fall to early spring to kill eggs and dormant adults. Some other options include insecticidal soap, bifenthrin, cypermethrin, or a combination of imidacloprid and bifenthrin.

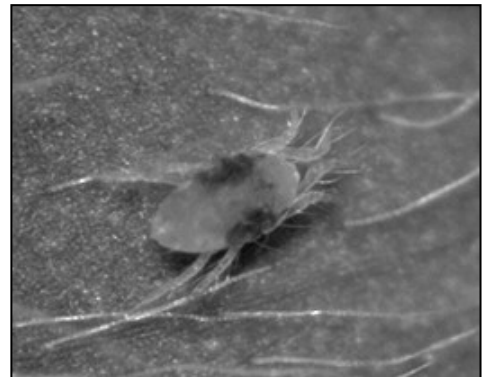
A thorough, repeat application of insecticides to the underside of the foliage is needed to gain control.



Twospotted spider mites, *Tetranychus urticae* Koch. Photo by University of Florida.



Picture of adult chili thrips. Photo by Dr. Lance Osborne, Univ. of Florida.



Two-spotted spider mites. Photo courtesy of Univ. of Kentucky.

*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. Insecticide label registrations are subject to change, and changes may have occurred since this publication was printed. The pesticide user is always responsible for applying products in accordance with label directions. Always read and carefully follow the instructions on the container label.*

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## Upcoming Events

Dec. 19 Daytimers Stitch and Chat,  
Book Club, Afternoon  
Bridge, and Weekly Canasta

Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!

Dec. 28 Daytimers Ladies Night Out

Jan. 1 Happy New Year!

### IN MEMORY

Oakridge has a lost a longtime neighbor and member of the ONA. John Spears of 2314 Lone Oak Trail died on Sunday, Dec. 10. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Elsie, and their family.



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