



Locally-based TV documentary discusses attributes of “community”

By Mike Dollar
ONA President

I received an unexpected e-mail and found this great article on the attributes of “community,” which I want to share with everyone this month. Thanks to Felisa Connor of the Garland Office of Neighborhood Vitality and *The Dallas Morning News* for the following.

The McMansioning of America

By CHRIS VOGNAR
The Dallas Morning News

Dean Terry grew up in the funky East Dallas enclave of Little Forest Hills, a neighborhood populated by artists, musicians and others who place a premium on the eclectic.

“I couldn’t wait to get out,” he recalls in his new documentary, *Subdivided*, which airs at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, on KERA-TV (Channel 13).

As Joni Mitchell once sang, you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s

gone. Little Forest Hills is still alive and proudly different. But Mr. Terry, a professor in the Art and Technology program at the University of Texas at Dallas, took flight: first to the University of North Texas in 1988, then outside Pasadena, Calif., for work, and then to a North Dallas subdivision near Frankford and the Dallas North Tollway in 2003.

There he found neighbors who didn’t talk to each other, a mishmash of massive McMansions, and a disinterest in community and public space.

“One of the things I really wanted at this stage of my life was some kind of community,” he says. “And there it was, where I left.”

The need to understand his jarring new sense of isolation inspired Mr. Terry to make *Subdivided*, a 48-minute rumination on the decline of public life and community in suburban America.

“The film is about hopefully trying to illuminate the question of why,” says Mr. Terry by phone. “Why does it feel this way? Why doesn’t anybody talk to

anybody? Why do I feel alone? And what can we do about it? I made the film to share those questions, and also to visually identify them by holding your attention to certain kinds of images.”

Those images include chairs and benches carefully placed in a community where no one ever sits in them. And cars as far as the eye can see. With the images come statistics: Since 1990, the number of people with a daily commute of more than 90 minutes each way has shot up 95 percent.

Mr. Terry isn’t interested in a blithe dismissal of all suburbs. He since moved to Richardson, where he can walk to campus, and where he’s gotten to know just about all of his neighbors. He’s more concerned about the effects of increasing sameness and development that disregard the sense of community engendered by neighborhood continuity and integrity of design.

So, as you might expect, he has

See Community on Page 2

I·N·S·I·D·E this issue

Get the scoop on the latest with the Oakridge Daytimers. Hint: it involves a holiday cookie exchange. **Page 2**

The Women’s Club had a whole host of Christmas activities — three in all, including two parties and limousine ride to Frisco and McKinney. **Page 3**

What do you give a person who has everything? The chance to give, says Keith Engler, who aided the Oakridge effort to provide local fire stations with Christmas dinner. **Page 4**

If you’re trying to get healthy this New Year, it’s important to have a plan of action. Follow these ten simple tips to keep your resolution in 2007. **Page 5**

See how the City is working on its water restriction plan. **Page 6**

Your home could be at risk to pests large and small this winter season, unless you have an array of techniques for keeping them outdoors. **Page 7**

City to soon begin downtown redevelopment

By Mark Monroe
District 7 City Councilman

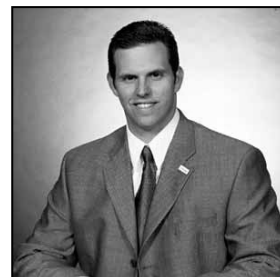
I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season — and if your family is anything like mine, then you are still buying batteries and making the returns.

The city council is currently working on several key issues that will impact the City of Garland for the better. First, council is working through the annual Capital Improvements Program, which is our debt-related instrument for putting projects on the ground.

I believe that beyond extending the projects that we have already begun, one of the most intriguing acquisitions is the land for the North Garland Library. I believe the time is right for the city to move in this direction, as I know that our current North Garland location is not meeting the needs of the citizens.

Council received an update on the extension of the George Bush Turnpike,

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and it appears the all of the interested parties are back from the table with an agreement to proceed.

Finally, the council will be working toward an agreement with Trammell Crow on the first phase of our downtown redevelopment efforts.

I was excited to see the progress of the city’s efforts to redevelop this area and the partnership we are forming with such a first class developer in Trammell Crow.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Community means "face-to-face connection"

continued from page 1

issues with the McMansions of America. "It changes the nature of the community," he says. "It creates a lot of turnover. It creates a lot of anger and division. People identify their community with a sense of place. When you change the sense of place, which you do through dramatic visual changes, you've changed the city."

The film's comparison of Little Forest Hills, in all its boho glory, and his impersonal subdivision would seem to leave a lot of room for middle ground. After all, plenty of suburbs are inhabited by people who talk to each other. The places in the film are chosen because the filmmaker called both home, and *Subdivided* is as much personal essay as documentary study.

But the film does a fine job of bringing in experts who expand the circumstances beyond Texas borders. Among the most eloquent is Robert Putnam, a public policy professor at Harvard and author of the acclaimed

2000 book *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*.

For Mr. Putnam, community is a matter of face-to-face connection, or taking the time to escape your bubble and participate in a group activity.

And if it all sounds like pie-in-the-sky idealism, Mr. Terry and others in the film, including a Dallas police officer, point out that the neighborhoods least susceptible to crime are those where residents know each other.

Mr. Terry recalls an increase in car thefts and car break-ins during his three years in subdivided no man's land.

"If I were a criminal, I would say, hey, here's a neighborhood where no one talks to each other, people have really high fences, no one will notice if I come in and out of this place, no one's looking," he says. "The leadership of the community needs to think about strengthening the bonds of the community itself."

And if that doesn't work, there's always Little Forest Hills.

Daytimers enjoy holiday cookie exchange

**By Dianne Winter
Oakridge Daytimers**

The Oakridge Daytimers met to celebrate the holidays together with a cookie exchange at the Oakridge Country Club on Dec. 12 — a day which the president Sally Weiss listed as Wright Brothers Day, and the most popular of all, National Ding-a-Ling-Day.

The Daytimers enjoyed a sampling of the cookies and visiting before the group was called to order for a few announcements. Sally introduced the guest of Gail Durbin and our newest member, Carolynne Franks. There were many comments on the decorating of the bridge, and the members were informed that the COP (Citizens on Patrol) group was responsible for the creative pine and bell décor. Sally thanked Chris Beyers for the good job she performs in creating the monthly calendars.

There were many birthdays announced by Audrey King, and concerns were voiced for the health of Jane Buchanan and Jackie Tucker. Shirley Mohler has also been ill. Ruby Nell Ormon announced good news concern-

ing the health of her husband.

One of the activities that Daytimers enjoy is singing Christmas carol, so Pat Cathcart, a former resident of Oakridge, returned to accompany them on the keyboard. Suzanne Snow led the songs, and the members were able to continue the tradition of singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas," with Ruby Nell Ormon as the star when she portrayed the "geese a laying."

Charlotte Vaughter reports that the Canasta Group celebrated the 60th birthday of Barbara Brunette at a wine tasting followed by a visit at Barbara's.

Before departing, the Daytimers exchanged cookies and thanked Gail Durbin for supplying Christmas decorated bags to collect the cookies in.

The Daytimers will enjoy meeting in January for coffee at the home of Betty Prickett. Everyone looks forward to winning the coveted door prize that has been selected by Jo Dietz. each month. Chris Beyers was the lucky winner this month.

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15 dues. Questions should be directed to Pres. Sally Weiss at 972-202-1140.

About the ONA

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Women's Club celebrates holidays with bevy of Christmas activities

**By Rebecca Chanez
Oakridge Women's Club**

Hello to all! I hope your Christmas and New Year's Day was filled with fun, family, and friends. With all that was going on in December for me, such as putting up two Christmas trees in our house, preparing to host two Christmas parties, traveling to San Antonio to spend Christmas with my family and to Cincinnati, Ohio for a wedding on New Year's eve, I completely forgot about submitting an article for last month! I want to take this opportunity to apologize to the Oakridge Women's Club as well as our readers. I am hoping to get back on track this month.

We did not have a meeting in December, but we did have some wonderful events. Unfortunately, I missed one of them. The girls gathered at Libby's house for the annual Christmas dinner and limousine ride. I heard it was quite an adventure. The limo took them to McKinny and Frisco to see all

the wonderfully decorated houses, one of which would light up to the beat of the music by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. I was told it was quite a sight.

We also had our couples Christmas dinner at Benihana's. We sure did enjoy watching the chefs cook their wonderful food as well as the exchanging of gifts for our white elephant gift exchange. Some of us made out like bandits while others received gifts that I am sure will turn up at next year's gift exchange.

The third event was our Christmas party for the children, which was held at my house. All the children dressed up in their Christmas attire and were ready to see Santa and get a gift from him. When he walked in, their eyes just lit up! Cameras were flashing everywhere! This was my son's second year to experience Santa up close and personal. He did much better than last year and loved the bat and balls Santa gave him! The spread of food was generous.

We had everything from apples to a wonderful pizza dip to coconut cake and flan. After Santa rode off in his sleigh,

the children enjoyed the beautiful weather in our back yard.

I think things will now get back to normal and we will all settle back in to our routines, which is what I am looking forward to. Preparing for the newest addition to our family is the next big event at my home. Our newest family member is due to arrive in June.

If you would like more information about the OWC, please e-mail Libby Morse at TOMLIB@comcast.net, or get in touch with me, Rebecca Chanez, at www.rypdallas@yahoo.com or 214-227-4181.

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

The Oakridge Women's Club meets the first Thursday every month at 7 p.m.

The Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women in the Oakridge neighborhood who share a strong and common bond in the love of our children and families. We welcome prospective new members at all meetings! Annual dues are \$20.

Spring preparation makes February most critical gardening month

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

February is probably the most important month in the year for gardeners. Get off to a good start and the rest is easier.

February in North Texas is the time

to clean up, fix up, prune, fertilize and apply pre-emergent weed control. A favorite Texas saying, "fixin' to git ready," applies here for spring gardeners. First half of the month, prepare vegetable garden soil by adding compost and composted manure.

Turn the new soil in to existing

shrubs, trees and roses and crepe myrtles. Do not prune oak trees between Feb. 1 through June.

To read the full article, please visit Bruce Miller's nursery's Web site at www.bruce millernursery.com. Others of his columns are at oakridgena.com.

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What do you give a person who has everything? The chance to give

By Keith Engler
ONA Vice President

What do you give a person who has everything? That is a question you hear often at Christmastime, and I think I found the answer. You simply give them an opportunity to give.

For many years Luanne Payne organized Christmas dinner for the fire stations which support Oakridge. She

did it for so many years that people in Oakridge just took it for granted. We thought that it would just get done even though Luanne told us that she had plans for this holiday season.

Once this fact finally settled in, Oakridge gathered together and created a very nice spread for Fire Stations No. 3 and No. 11. Beyond the food, enough money was collected to fund most of this event next year.

The firemen were warmly appreciative, and they seemed to feel the favor was unmerited. Their act of graciousness is honorable especially considering that they devote their lives to saving the possessions and lives of other people.

This gift to the firemen is from all of Oakridge and it truly fulfilled Christmas by giving us an opportunity to give.

Thank you Oakridge for your generosity!

Nicholson Library offers students free homework help via Internet

From the *Garland City Press*

You've got homework. We've got help. The Nicholson Memorial Library System now offers help from real, live tutors right at the Library, or your home computer, via the Internet!

The Nicholson Memorial Library System is pleased to announce a new service for students 4th to 12th grades and college-age students taking introductory level courses — Live Homework Help. Live Homework Help is an exciting online tutoring service featuring expert tutors from across the country.

Students connect to tutors for one-to-one homework help sessions in an Online Classroom. The Library provides the service free for all students with

a library card.

The tutors are certified teachers, university professors, and graduate school students, students at accredited colleges, and professionals who are experts in their fields. All of the Live Homework Help tutors have received a third party background check and have been certified through the Tutor.com Training Program.

Garland students with a public library card will have access to online tutors from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. daily. Spanish language tutors are available for math and science from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Live Homework Help is available from any of the Library's public access computers or from home via a high-

speed Internet connection. Students must simply go to the Library's web site at www.nmls.lib.tx.us and click on Homework Help to access Live Homework Help. Tutors are available in the following subject areas:

Math: elementary, algebra, algebra II, geometry, calculus, and trig.

Science: elementary, earth science, biology, chemistry, and physics.

Social studies: American History, World History, political science, etc.

English: spelling, grammar, book reports, essay writing, and more

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To read the full article, please visit www.ci.garland.tx.us.

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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Getting healthy this New Year? Here are 10 tips to help you in '07

HealthDay News
www.healthfinder.gov

Have trouble sticking to your annual "get healthy" resolution every New Year? Experts over at the International Council on Active Aging (ICAA) offer advice to help older Americans stay with the program in 2007.

To begin, schedule 15 minutes a day for the next four days to plan how you're going to get started. You can boost your motivation by getting a friend involved or by starting a club at your community center or place of worship.

Here are 10 tips for active, healthy aging:

1. Buy a good pair of shoes. Comfortable, well-fitting shoes are essential. Foot pain is not a normal part of aging, says the American Podiatric Medical Association.

2. Play games to keep your brain sharp. There are many different kinds of games — such as trivia, memory and math — and skill levels to suit all kinds of people. Games can be a fun way to spend time with others.

3. Go for walks, which will help improve lower body strength, maintain mobility, and help prevent cognitive decline. Start easy and gradually increase your speed and distance. If you rely on a cane, walker or wheelchair,

you can ask a friend to join you for outings.

4. Do balance exercises to help you with everyday activities, such as reaching into cupboards. Good balance also helps prevent falls. Many exercise classes for older adults include balance training.

5. Get your eyes checked. A study published this year in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that nearly all vision impairment in a large group of people older than 60 years could be improved with corrective lenses.

6. Increase your physical activity. This can include yard and house work walking to the store, or playing ball with the neighbor children. Make a weekly walking date with a friend, join a wellness center, community center, or a health club with programs geared to your interests and needs.

7. Nurture relationships with family, friends and neighbors. These kinds of social connections are good for your emotional well-being.

8. Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables.

9. Laugh a lot. Laughing increases circulation, immune system defenses, and mental function.

10. Get seven to eight hours of sleep per night. If you have trouble falling or staying asleep, make a few changes such as skipping daytime naps, adopting a



Getting seven to eight hours of sleep a night is part of healthy aging.

nighttime routine, or starting a regular exercise program. Changing habits does more to improve sleep than taking medications.

You don't have to do all these things at once, the ICAA said. Start trying them over the next few months.

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OSGA ends 2006 with tourney, "fun round"

By Jim Vineyard
Oakridge Senior Golf Association

The senior golfers only had one golf outing in November and December. The November event was our last pro-shop tournament of the year followed by a "fun round" in December. 2006 was a great year for the seniors, with 2007 expected to top that.

Results of the Nov. 16 Pro Shop Tournament:

1. Henry Stover, Tom Schaffner, and Jim Godwin.

2. John Agee, Felix Rotello, and David Winter
3. Bob Yen, Bob Markell, and Ralph Morgen
4. Ray Williams, Don Frauli, and Jim Tucker

Results of the Dec. 14 Fun Round:

1. Bill Gamble, Jim Vineyard, and Doc Howard
2. Steve Remington, Bob Figone, and David Winter

Long drive on No. 6: Doc Howard
Closest to hole on No. 5: Walt Capps

City tweaks water plan for drought conditions

From the *Garland City Press*

It's beginning to sound like a broken record: the North Texas region continues to be under severe drought conditions. Although the recent rains have helped, Lavon Lake is still about 15 feet below normal.

"Fortunately, we are in the low water usage season," says Jack May, Managing Director of City of Garland Water Utilities. "Rainfall totals for this region have been lacking for 18 months. We all need to continue to conserve through the winter months to help our resources catch up with demand."

All residents and businesses must still comply with water-use restrictions. The City of Garland is currently in Stage 2 of its Drought Contingency Plan. Stage 2 sets some specific guidelines for water conservation, such as designated watering days for lawn and landscape irrigation.

Homes and businesses with even-numbered addresses may water on Sunday and Thursday before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m. The designated days for odd-numbered street addresses are Saturday and Wednesday during the same hours.

Meanwhile, the City of Garland plans to update its Drought Contingency Plan by the end of 2006. Mr. May says the City wants to improve the plan's enforceability and efficiency.

"We were one of the first cities to adopt a plan more than five years ago, and this year marked the first time we've had to implement it. The plan



Water pressure drops heavily during watering days.

needs to be brought more in line with the NTMWD plan for the sake of consistency and to take advantage of lessons learned during the current drought."

For example, Mr. May says the even-odd watering schedule has a negative impact on the City's overall water delivery system.

"That's one of the issues we're reviewing in our updated drought contingency plan," says Mr. May. "The water pressure drops noticeably when half the residents turn on their sprinklers at the same time."

City residents are encouraged to follow and participate in the Plan revision process. City Council meeting agendas are posted to the City's Web site, at www.ci.garland.tx.us, under the City Hall tab at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

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Variety of techniques keeps pests large and small outside the house

By Kimberly Schofield
Program Specialist, Urban-IPM
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Pest Check: Watch Out For Whiteflies on Houseplants

More homeowners are moving plants indoors due to the cooler weather. This may be an open invitation for whiteflies to become nuisance pests indoors. Adult whiteflies are about 1/16 inch in length, with a white, wax-like substance covering their body and wings.

They are found in the order Homoptera, so they are not really flies. Adult whiteflies will flutter around when disturbed and they tend to be more active during the late morning and afternoon, compared to early morning and evening.

The silverleaf whitefly is the most economically important whitefly species in Texas, with a host range of more than 500 plant species including poinsettias. Adults have white wings and pale yellow bodies. Their wings are held in about a 45-degree angle over their bodies, causing the silverleaf whitefly to appear slender compared to other whiteflies.

The female whitefly will lay oblong, smooth, yellow-to-amber brown eggs randomly on the underside of leaves. The eggs hatch into flat, greenish-yellow, oval nymphs that begin to suck the sap of plants. Since nymphal and adult stages possess piercing-sucking mouthparts, they are able to remove the phloem from leaves.

This can cause leaves to turn pale and die or drop off. Since whiteflies remove phloem, they also excrete honeydew. This honeydew is a perfect media for sooty mold growth. In addition, plant disorders and virus transmission can result from whitefly feeding, and it is even a concern when whitefly populations are small. As a result, large whitefly populations can cause plant death.

Non-Chemical Control Options

Inspect new plants before purchase and treat any infested material.

Remove any weeds from the area.

Remove and destroy heavily infested plants from the landscape.

Introduce and preserve natural enemies, such as:

Predators: ladybeetles, green lacewings, minute pirate bugs, big eyed bugs and damsel bugs.

Parasitoids: minute wasps, such as *Encarsia formosa* and *Eretmocerus eremicus*, are about 1 millimeter in length. Female parasitic wasps lay eggs inside whitefly nymphs. When the wasp eggs hatch, the larvae feed internally in the whitefly nymphs, eventually killing the whitefly.

Pathogens: *Beauveria bassiana*, which causes white-muscardin disease, is formulated in insecticidal products.

Chemical Control

Several classes of insecticides are labeled for use against whiteflies. Insecticidal soaps and oils, such as horticultural and neem oils are lowest in toxicity. Also, systemic insecticides can be used such as those containing imidacloprid.

To reduce the impact of insecticides on natural enemies, avoid the frequent use of broad-spectrum insecticides.

Prevention of Larger Animals Entering Homes This Season

As we approach into colder weather, wild animals may move closer to or into our homes. They are ultimately in search of warmth and may invade under homes or in attics. It is always easier to prevent invasion than to remove them. This makes exclusion the key to the prevention of wildlife invaders.

Exclusion is the best way to prevent entry. Remember that rats and mice can fit through holes as small as 1/4 inch in diameter, so be sure to seal all areas where sunlight can be seen. Exclusion can be accomplished by using steel mesh in the attic to close off possible entry points.

The steel mesh can be stapled or nailed around whirly birds, vents and other openings in the attic. Weep holes and cracks and crevices can be sealed using steel wool.

If the outside brick is light colored, then non-rust copper steel can be used. Both steel wool and steel mesh can be found at hardware stores. Trees should also be trimmed away from structures. When tree limbs are touching houses, it



Picture of whitefly. Photo by Texas A&M University.

becomes a perfect bridge for the animals to enter homes.

Also, proper sanitation is important to prevent animals from approaching homes. All food containers should be cleaned and properly contained in closed bins, in order to avoid animals entering garbage or recycle containers. Bird seed and other food items should be stored in a sealed container.

Clothes, blankets and fleece should also be stored in sealed container, in order to avoid rats and other animals nesting in the materials.

If wild animals are living in or near your home, you must first figure out what animal it is before control should be taken. Mice and rats can be trapped using sticky or snap traps. These traps should be placed perpendicular to the wall, in areas where you see droppings, gnawing, urine stains, or scratch marks.

Call the city or wildlife department if larger animals are believed to be living in homes/structures.

Most departments will donate a live cage trap for a period of time and most cities will pick up the trapped animals when they are caged.

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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