

Oakridge News

Should the ONA increase dues to cover rising utility costs?

What's your opinion? onapresident@aol.com

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www.oakridgena.com

March 2007

ONA meets local political candidates at general members meeting

By Mike Dollar ONA President

We had a great general membership meeting on March 1 at the Oakridge Country Club! I want to welcome Pablo and Eva Garcia and Joyce Bell as new members who joined the ONA during the meeting. I also want to thank General Manager Eddie Anderson, Margaret Goff, and April Jehlik of the Oakridge Country Club for their efforts in creating the perfect setting for our meeting. The club introduced some great activeties and events and membership packages, especially for Oakridge residents. Please contact the club for more information, and be sure to thank them for

their help with the ONA.

At this meeting, City of Garland candidates for Mayor Lee Alewine, Ronald Jones, and Mike Rose, along with Garland District 7 City Council candidates Scott LeMay and Rick Williams, presented their outstanding quail-fications and unique visions for the city. ONA members took advantage of the opportunity during question-and-answer time to understand the candidates' perspectives on issues important to Oakridge and the city.

The ONA is a non-profit corporation and invited the candidates to inform and educate our members. We do not endorse any political candidate or participate in political activities. We wish each candidate the best and thank them for their time, viewpoints, and willing-ness to serve our great city.

Also at the General Membership meeting, a 2007-08 Nominating Committee was elected according to our bylaws. They are charged with selecting nominees for officers and directors for our next operating year. The committee consists of Margaret Fowler, David Winters, Dianne Winters, Sharon Carlton, Shirley Mohler, Ray Williams, and Sally Weiss. I want to thank these volunteers for accepting this important responsibility.

So far we have three open positions

See ONA on Page 2

City receives good financial report; crime down for third year in row

By Mark Monroe District 7 City Councilperson

Often times, I try to think of something interesting to write about, because I want you to get your money's worth out of me. The last couple of months, it has been slow and quiet around the city, which I think is a good thing. But now the council has received the first quarter results of our fiscal year. The financial performance report indicates the city is on track to meet its budgetary goals, and the economy is shaping up to be sufficient to meet the revenue needs of the city.

Recently, City Manager Bill Dollar began giving us monthly reports on critical areas in a report named the Dashboard Report.

The report essentially tracks performance and key indicators for various

departments throughout the city. From this report it is clear we are seeing a marked improvement in our effectiveness in the Garland Police Department.

Response times to all priority calls have been reduced to levels I have not seen in since I have been on the council. On that note, overall crime is down again across our city, which makes three straight years of reductions. I think Chief Bates and the Garland Police Department deserve a pat on the back and a thank you. So if you see one of our finest, please stop and express your gratitude. I am proud of their efforts.

Finally, the election on May 12 will contain charter provisions for the voters to decide. While most of the provisions are clarifications, some are extremely important to future elections. You can view the provisions on the city's web site at www.ci.garland.tx.us.

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



I also wanted to take this time to encourage you to be receptive to Scott Lemay and Rick Williams as they hit the campaign trail. Both will be working in the neighborhoods, and I know both are interested in what you think about the direction of the city. It is a tough process, but one that benefits all involved.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact me.

I·N·S·I·D·E this issue

The Daytimers had a fun time celebrating Mardi Gras at their monthly Coffee. Who won what? Page 2

In early May, the Oakridge Country Club will host a charity event U.S. soldiers injured on duty. Find out how you can help. Page 3

The seasonal calendar at the Patty Granville Arts Center has begun to fill up. Check your day planner. **Page 5**

One of the Daytimers has a nice new recipe to try out. Spinach-Cheese Dip, anyone? Page 6

The Oakridge Women's Club had a good time at their annual Progressive Dinner. Check out the menu, and see how a hot tub will be involved in the next meeting. **Page 7**

It's springtime, which means the annual Oakridge Picnic is coming up. Get the details. **Page 7**

ONA has three openings for 2007-08 board

on the board next year: Communications Director-at-Large, District 3 Director (an interim one-year term), and District 7 Director (an interim one-year term). Our Communications Director-at-Large heads a committee which publishes the newsletter and manages our Web site, working with Oakridge organizations and advertisers.

Our District 3 Director and volunteers are the voice for 141 homes on three streets around the Overview entrance off Buckingham. Our District 7 Director and volunteers serve the families on 6 streets and 221 homes adjacent to and northwest of the Big Oaks and Richoak entrances off Shiloh.

Please consider volunteering for one of these open positions. They are one-year terms beginning June 1, and we need you! We will vote on these and all Board positions at our general membership meeting in May.

The City of Garland Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods has been making progress. The city has formed an Oakridge Neighborhood Program Team.

The team is currently working on a schedule for completing an action plan that addresses our priority issues.

The creation of the Action Plan will involve a two-pronged approach. One team will look at city processes and programs, while another will look at neighborhood resources.

The completed action plan will be presented in June. Implementation will occur after review and approval by the city and Oakridge. With your support, we plan to continue our efforts in moving forward with the long-term goals of beautification and renovation, building community, and neighborhood involvement

ONA Special Events Director Sherri Rutherford has worked very hard to organize our annual picnic this year. It will be held on Saturday, April 21 in the Oakridge Country Club parking lot next to the swimming pool. We anticipate a large turnout, so mark this special date on your calendar.

Feel free to contact me anytime at onapresident@aol.com.

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	
$Commun. \dots \dots$. John, Nelson Prater	
Environmental	Don Pattie	
Crime Prevention and Safety		
Eric Morris and Carol Garrison		
Special Events	S. Rutherford-Franks	
Welcome Wagon .	Cecile LaBossiere	

Daytimers celebrate Mardi Gras at Coffee

By Gail Durbin Oakridge Daytimers

The Oakridge Daytimers had the February Coffee at the Mardi Gras-decorated home of Suzanne Snow. Food hostesses were Delaine Jerkins, Eleanore Nelson, Audrey King, and Monica Evans.

Upon arrival, members participated in identifying baby pictures of Daytimers who submitted photos of themselves at age 3 or younger. There were pictures from many time periods, often evident from dress and hairstyle. Most photos were in black and white or rustic brown. No color prints for this timeless group.

Shirley Mohler won the contest with 17 correct matchups of 23 photos, and Gail Durbin won a prize for "most recognized photo."

After succumbing to delicious table treats, the official meeting began. President Sally Weiss reminded the group February is also National Blah Month and Snack Food Month. The group unanimously requested Suzanne Snow divulge her spinach dip recipe

and maybe publish it in the ONA newsletter. Secret Pal participants were made aware that some Valentine deliveries were available at the coffee, and to be sure and check for names on any unclaimed gift bags. Audrey King announced the birthdays and mentioned we were having a healthy month, as she had not been notified to send out any get-well requests.

Before departing, nametags were returned, and the door prize was drawn by Vanita Bass, a visitor who became a member upon arrival. She drew Margaret Fowler's name, who in turn received a lovely tulip-sculptured crystal bowl.

It was slyly mentioned a vaudeville or burlesque revue may be coming to the Daytimers April Coffee. Be sure and come to the March meeting for more information and details about warming up your voice and dusting off your dance shoes. The March Coffee will be held at June Parks.

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



Oakridge golf tournament to support, entertain injured U.S. troops

News Release www.support-our-heroes.com

Plans are progressing for the Our Heroes Golf Fundraiser at Oakridge Country Club on Saturday, May 5. A patriotic parade will kick off the all-day event, which will culminate with an awards dinner that evening. The three goals of the golf fundraiser are to provide phone cards to the troops in the Dallas VA hospital, to support the Fisher House which will be built next to the Dallas VA hospital, and to provide a day of fun and relaxation for returning troops.

The Our Heroes Fundraiser planning committee received a big boost toward their goal of providing phone cards to our injured troops at the Dallas VA hospital. Glenn Wamble of the Greater Dallas Chapter of Military Officer's Association of America presented Fundraiser Chairman Tony Battaglia and District III VFW Commander

"Doc" Howard with 100 phone cards. The phone cards were immediately taken to the Dallas VA hospital and distributed to the injured troops. The fundraising committee goal of \$30,000 is well on its way, with Garland Power and Light as the event's title sponsor.

There is still a need for corporate sponsors at the gold, silver and bronze ring levels, as well as individual sponsors. The cost to sponsor a player is \$300. Clubs and organizations might wish to sponsor one or more troops. Lesser donations are also needed. A troop is sponsored in the golf event for every \$300 raised. Non-military personnel are also invited to play in the event.

What can you do to show your support of our troops? We will need many volunteers at the event to help "pamper" our troops. Also, we are looking for parade participants who would like to decorate their bikes, golf carts,



motorcycles, cars or themselves in patriotic colors.

Please contact Sherri Rutherford at <u>srutherford72@tx.rr.com</u> or 972-496-5454 to volunteer or to participate in the parade for this very worthwhile event.

Contributions should be made payable to: VFW-Our Heroes/Golf and sent to VFW Tony Battaglia, P.O. Box 451926, Garland, TX 75045.

To learn more on the event, please visit <u>www.support-our-heroes.com</u>, or you may also contact Tony Battaglia at <u>tonybattaglia@tx.rr.com</u> or 972-496-9637.

Crime Prevention committee receives calls about petty vandalism

By Eric Morris and Carol Garrison ONA Crime Prevention and Safety

CPS has received a couple of calls regarding some petty vandalism (rocks, golf balls, etc. being thrown at homes) in our neighborhood. Streets affected include Hickory Bend, Big Oaks, and Hearthside. If you have witnessed any vandalism, have information about the

thugs, or have experienced this problem, please call CPS at either (972) 530-1137 or cps@aithost.com so that we can report these incidents to the police and make sure these infrequent problems do not escalate. Watch out for your neighbors, and be sure to let them know if you see anything suspicious.

On a separate note, everyone is reminded to not block the sidewalk area on

your driveway.

Blocking this area forces our neighbors (and their pets) to walk around your vehicle and enter the street. Several of our Oakridge members have difficulty navigating around the cars and the incline of the driveway onto the street is not safe.

Please keep your neighbors in mind when parking in your driveway.

Philip Hanas

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10 Year Oakridge Resident

A desirable ant? Little black ant species not always such a nuisance

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

A Desirable Ant in Our Landscape?

Yes, this *is* true! There are many desirable ants in our landscape; in fact, many are able to compete with red imported fire ants. One of these competitor ants is the little black ant, *Monomorium minimum*. This ant is small, about 1/16 inches in length, and shiny black in color. All the workers are the same size, and they do not bite or sting, since their stingers are so small.

The little black ant is native to the United States and can be found throughout the country. It prefers to nest under stones/rocks, in rotting logs, in lawns, or in open areas. Nests look like small craters of fine soil. Colonies are moderately sized to large, containing up to 2,000 workers and many queens. They will feed on honeydew, plant secretions, and are predaceous on other insects.

Little black ants will form foraging trails along edges of structures and along sidewalks. This close contact with foundations causes them to sometimes enter structures. Indoors they will feed on grease, oil, meats, sweets, fruits and vegetables. They commonly nest

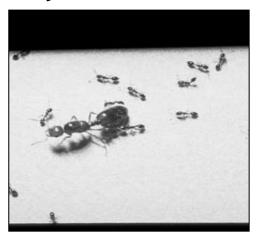
indoors under the edge of carpeting, in old termite galleries, or in wall voids.

Non-Chemical Controls Options: Seal all cracks and crevices on exterior of structure, so ants will have less opportunity to invade indoors. In addition, water sources should be reduced by fixing leaks and replacing rotting wood. Also all debris should be removed from around the structure so there are less potential nesting sites around buildings. Tree branches should be trimmed, so they do not touch buildings.

Chemical Controls Options: Remember that these ants are competitors with fire ants. If they are an extreme nuisance, then control should be taken. Baits can be used to control these ants and should be positioned where ant trails are seen. Sweet baits are usually most effective, but if acceptance is low, a protein bait should be used. Also, liquid sprays can be applied along foundations or around windows to kill nests outdoors before they invade indoors.

What exactly is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

Of the million insect species, only 2% of them are actual pests. In order to



Little black ants attack an imported red fire ant queen. Texas A&M Photo

control these pest insects, we recommend using an integrated pest management (IPM) approach. IPM is the management of pest populations using systems of control strategies to reduce pest populations to levels that can be tolerated by humans. The focus of IPM is on using control tactics that will prevent pests, rather than trying to reduce pests once they have occurred.

To read the full article, and to read past articles by Kim Schofield, please visit the official site of the ONA at <u>www.</u> oakrdigena.com.

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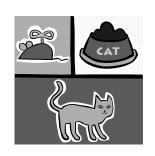
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References available







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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Seasonal calendar for Patty Granville Arts Center begins to fill up

From The Garland City Press

The Garland Summer Musicals Guild's 22nd Annual Roast will be presented March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center Atrium. Bob the Builder . . . starring in . . . You've Got to See It to Believe It!

That's the title of this year's music review honoring Mayor Bob Day. GSM Guild Chair Susan Jones will also be the Banquet Chair, Helen Kenney is the Raffle Chair, and Bonny Patrick is Invitation Chairman.

The show will feature Roast favorites including: Michael R. Hayslip, Tandy and Bill Dollar, Curtis and Gayle Culwell, Susan and Don Jones, Bob Erwin, Esther Lutzweiler, Tammi Omer, Joann Traylor, Sunday Sizelove, DeAnne Driver, Joe and Corrine Harn, Robert Wunderlich, Brad Boeke, Hope and Jim Green, Linda Brownlee, Vickie Brinkley, Martin Glenn, Hamp Holcomb, Donna Bentley, Maureen Diem, Bonny Patrick, Richard Snowbarger, Don Baynham, Stan Luckie, Felicia Leonard, and Bob and Reta Day. The show will be directed by Patty Granville Holcomb, and Janice Black will be the Stage Manager.

To purchase tickets for the Roast, call the Box Office at 972-205-2790.

The Garland Summer Musicals Chairman, Jerry Prater, has announced

new board members for the 2007 season. They include Linda Braga, Karen Griffith, Mark King, James Miller, and Robert Smith.

A new Advisory Board has also been created for the GSM and those members include Amy Walton, George Jensen, Sheilah Bowers, JoAnn Holt, Sue Watkins, Cheryl Huber, and Louis Gene Garner. Other Board members include Chairman Elect Stan Luckie, Treasurer Steve Huber, First Vice Chairman Dianne Nadolsky, Assistant Treasurer Karla Pajot, Secretary Tandy Dollar, Chairmen Emeritus Gordon Stone and S. Michael Boyd, Lee Alewine, Pat and Cathy Arrington, Don Baynham, Vickie Brinkley, Dr. Sherry Dean, Robert Erwin, Dr. Lisa Garner, Steve Hill, Don and Susan Jones, Dr. John McCoy, Tammi Omer, Maj. Gen. Don Payne, Tom Sadler, Chuck Sheffield, Richard Snowbarger, and Producer Patty Gran-

The GSM Board is pleased to announce their 25th Anniversary Season, *Something Old, Something New!* For the summer of 2007, GSM will feature the musical comedy classic *Hello Dolly!* and the recent Broadway song-and-dance spectacular *Thoroughly Modern Millie!* For *Hello, Dolly!*, the show will be presented on June 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* will be presented on July 20, 21, 22, 27, 28,

and 29.

These professional musical productions feature elaborate sets, costumes, and a full orchestra.

Season tickets will go on sale in March, with individual tickets available in May. For more information, call the Granville Arts Center Box Office at 972-205-2790.

Artful Designs Exhibit

Artful Designs Artists exhibition will be showing March 21 through April 30 at the Granville Arts Center. Highlights include Julie Cox Hamm's silk paintings and pastels, whose "Orchid" silk painting has hung in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum; inspiring contemporary art from J. Nathan White; nature photography by Max Buller; and poured watercolor over ink by Jennifer Spencer Ed.D.

Meet the artists at a reception Sunday March 25, 1 to 2 p.m., at the Atrium. An online gallery is available for viewing at www.artful-designs.com. You can also call 972-839-4031 for further information.

To read more from The Garland City Press and to see archived editions, please visit ww.ci.garland.tx or go to www.oakridgena.com.

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Official Web site of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

Are you looking for . . .

- past Oakridge News articles?
- recipes?
- important local dates?
- health tips?
- Oakridge bylaws?
- other useful information?

Spicy South of the Border Spinach-Cheese Dip by Suzanne Snow

1 chopped onion

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

1 clove minced garlic

1 (14.5 oz) can diced tomatoes, drained

1 (4 oz) can diced green chiles

1 (10 oz) pkg frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well drained

10 oz grated Pepper Jack cheese ½ cup half & half cream

1 (8oz) pkg softened cream cheese

1 T red wine vinegar salt and pepper to taste

Tabasco sauce to taste



- 1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large skillet, sauté onion and garlic in oil over medium heat until softened, about 4 minutes. Stir in tomatoes and chiles and let cook for 2 minutes.
 - 2. Stir in spinach, cheese, cream cheese, half and half and vinegar.
 - 3. Season with salt, pepper and Tobasco sauce to taste.
- 4. Stir until cheese has melted and mixture is well blended. Spoon into shallow baking dish and bake until the dip is bubbly and the top is light brown, about 35 minutes.

May be served warm or cold. Good either way.



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Book your next party or event at Oakridge Country Club! Call April Jehlik at 972-530-8008 x238

JOIN OAKRIDGE IN TIME FOR SPRING

Oakridge Neighborhood Social Membership

Members and their family enjoy full club privileges excluding golf. Includes participation in swimming, tennis, dining and all club events for a full 12 months. This is an Oakridge Only membership and does not include participation with sister clubs. Initiation Fee: \$500

Special Promotion: Sign up by April 1st and receive \$100 food credit in the dining room (excludes alcohol sales).

Oakridge Neighborhood Sports Plus Promotion

Members and their family enjoy full club privileges at Oakridge Country Club, Los Rios and The Shores. Membership includes golf access, tennis, swimming, dining and participation in events/tournaments.

Initiation Fee: Regularly \$199 - waived if membership is purchased before April 1st, 2007.

Sports Plus - Single: \$49.95/month plus tax Sports Plus - Family: \$69,95/month plus tax

Sign up by April 1st, 2007 and receive 4 guest passes for cart and green fees

Pre-Pay for 12 months and receive 1 month's dues free Total Promotion Value: \$400

For more details contact Margaret Goff @ 972-530-8008 x239

ADD THESE DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR

Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

April 8th

For details, please contact April Jehlik at 972-530-8008 x238

Tournament for the Troops

May 51

For details, please contact Margaret Goff at 972-530-8008 x239

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Women's Club enjoys food and conversation at Progressive Dinner

By Rebecca Chanez Oakridge Women's Club

Wow! It is amazing to me that it is already March. Our lives are filled with family and work responsibilities and trying to enjoy life in between. One of those times where the adults try to get together to enjoy some adult time was at our annual Progressive Dinner party.

It was held on Feb. 16 at 3 different members' homes. The way this works is that we start off at one member's home, where appetizers and drinks are serviced and there is some much needed social time. Rita's was the start of our traveling party.

Everyone dressed up for the occasion and looked very happy and ready to enjoy themselves This is where our husbands join us and get reacquainted with each other, some meeting for the first time. After about an hour and a half, we pile in our cars and head to the home of another member who has agreed to host the dinner.

Sheila's house was the site of our lavish dinner. She had the tables beautifully decorated and had gifts for each guest. The men received rose boutonnieres and the women each received an adorable candle holder basket.

There was plenty of food and wine and the turnout was great. We had to have two tables set up to accommodate everyone. After everyone enjoyed a wonderful chicken dish Sheila made, with sides such as mashed potatoes, carrots, salad and rolls provided by other members of the club, we got up and traveled to the dessert station. This was held at Tammy's house.

Cheesecake in various flavors and other goodies adorned her dining room table, and the bar was loaded with goodies as well. There were conversations about politics between the men and the women talked about fashion and how one of our club members was getting the chance to walk on the red carpet in Miami at the "Premio Lo Nuestro" Music awards show. We asked what she was going to be wearing and how she was going to do her hair and whether she should wear jewelry or not and so forth.

It was an enjoyable evening for all. I was unable to attend last year's dinner, but now plan to make it a point not to miss another one.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ladies of the Oakridge Women's Club. In June of last year I joined Mary Kay and am trying to build my business as an Independent Beauty Consultant. They have been very supportive in helping me build my business.

They have not only purchased products, but they came to my business debut, glamour clinics, and have offered to host parties in their homes. These women are very supportive and just downright friendly, willing to help out in any way they can with anything you may need. I greatly appreciate them! Thanks again, ladies! You are aces!

March 1 was the date of our monthly meeting, which was held at Libby's house. We started to plan our Easter

party, which will be on March 25 at a nearby park. Members decided who was bringing what to the party, such as snacks, crafts and entertainment, such as a possible bounce house and a piñata. This is another one of the many family events that we have within the club. Our children get to play with each other and get to run around the park and have fun. The first year I attended it was quite chilly, but last year's was sunny and festive.

Our next club meeting, if you want to call it that, will be held at Tracy's home — more specifically, in the hot tub. I don't think we will get much done, but we sure will get to relax and enjoy the soothing warm water.

If you are a new mom in the neighborhood looking for a family friendly organization to join where your children can play with others their age, along with wanting some girl time for yourself, or if you are a veteran to the neighborhood and want to make some new friends, please give us a call.

We would love to have you come to one of our meetings. They are held the first Thursday of each month, either at one of our homes or at a particular restaurant in the area at about 7 p.m.

To find out where our next meeting is, please contact Libby Morse at 972-495-9034 or at TOMLIB@tx.rr.com or please contact me, Rebecca Chanez, at www.rypdallas@yahoo.com or 214-227-4181.

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

ONA prepares for upcoming third annual Spring Picnic in April

By Sherri Rutherford-Franks ONA Special Events Coordinator

Mark you calendar for the 3rd annual ONA Spring Picnic on Saturday, April 21 from 3 to 6 p.m. Let the smell of grilling hot dogs lead you to the North end of the Oakridge Country Club parking lot. Plans are being finalized for the picnic, but you can bet there will be fun activities for the whole family.

You will have the opportunity to learn more about the various neighborhood clubs, organizations and upcoming events. Visit with your ONA officers and district directors. Learn more about the priorities for the City Vitality

Program and the plan to make improvements to our neighborhood. Since the Garland City elections will be in early May, you will probably see a few candidates shaking hands and kissing babies.

This will be an excellent time to visit neighbors you haven't seen all Winter and to meet the many new Oakridge residents. Dust off that lawn chair and bring it to the Spring Picnic for the best free hot dogs in town.

If you would like to have a booth or volunteer for the many activities of the picnic, then please send me an e-mail at srutherford72@tx.rr.com, or feel free to call me at 972-496-5454. See you there!



A clown handed out balloons at the 2006 ONA Spring Picnic. The ONA will again host the event this year on April 21 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Oakridge Neighborhood Association P.O. Box 450145 Garland, TX 75045-0145

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upcoming events

Sundays Nicholson Memorial Library open, 2 to 6 p.m.

April 5 Oakridge Women's Club April Meeting

Oakridge Neighborhood

April 21 Spring Picnic, Oakridge Country Club parking lot,

3 to 6 p.m.

