



# Oakridge News

Summer crime prevention tips from CPS  
See page 3 for details.

Vol. 15, No. 15

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www.oakridgena.com

August 2007

## ONA sees lots of changes, progress

By Mike Dollar  
ONA President

This summer has been a busy one. Our annual membership drive is underway. Invoices have been mailed to all Oakridge residents, and the association is growing. Cecile LaBossiere has become very proficient in her new position as Membership Director, and we are getting a great response from the neighborhood.

Our new communication team leaders, Ben Moss and Keith Engler, have been busy with the newsletter and website. The extent of involvement required in preparing a periodical can be quite significant. Please show them your thanks. They are doing such a great job! Also, please don't forget to check out the services of our advertisers.

Now that the rain has subsided, work on the Diamond Oaks and Buckingham entrance can continue. Preparing the soil, repairing broken sprinklers, and selecting plants had all been

delayed. Usually we wouldn't want to plant in August, but because the weather has been so unusual, we believe landscaping this late in the summer shouldn't present a problem.

Please check out the latest information about Oakridge and the City of Garland's Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods. Go to [www.oakridgena.com](http://www.oakridgena.com) and click on the Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods link. From here a PDF file will provide information on actions proposed for the neighborhood. I am forming a team to address these proposals. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on this committee ([onapresident@aol.com](mailto:onapresident@aol.com)).

I'm always pleased to hear about a courageous and selfless act of a fellow "Oakridgeite", and we have had quite a few lately. It seems difficult for criminal elements to comprehend someplace where neighbors know and look out for each other. Consequently their usual tactics attract suspi-

cion, and they get themselves caught. So was the case of some unsuspecting burglar wannabes. Leaving through an open garage door, and followed from a distance by an Oakridge resident (on his cell phone with Garland police), these poor fellows were soon surrounded and arrested. This resident, and the others who noticed some unusual activity, should be commended. This also deserves a big round of applause for our Garland Police Department! What great communication and quick reaction they have! It's no wonder we live in one of the safest cities in all of Texas.

Please get to know your neighbors, and thank you for supporting the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Our purpose is simple.

"The purpose of the Association is to assure the beauty, safety, and stability of the area and the surrounding community; and to promote neighborliness and pride among the residents." (Ref: Association Bylaws)

### I•N•S•I•D•E this issue

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## Tidbits from City Hall

By Rick Williams  
District 7, City Council

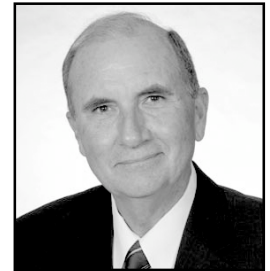
I had a nice meeting with Police Chief Bates, his two NPO lieutenants Gregory and Bryan, and the new NPO for the Oakridge area John Capers. Chief Bates explained that there was a time when being an NPO was just sort of a public relations job with the officer attending crime watch, homeowner associations meetings, etc. Consequently, it was not a position sought by police officers. However, Chief Bates changed the job description a couple of years ago, and now the NPO mission is (drum roll please) "fighting crime." NPOs are now given a lot of latitude in their working hours and in investigating leads and crime. Officer Capers says he wants residents to be his eyes and ears, and if you think something "looks fishy," then call 972 205-2740 and report it. You can also email Officer Capers at [capersj@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:capersj@ci.garland.tx.us).

Rick Williams

District 7

214 535-2648

[rickwilli@gmail.com](mailto:rickwilli@gmail.com)



As you may have read, the City Council and City Executive staff had a 2-day retreat at Garrett Creek Ranch July 19-21. During the meeting, we had a lot of discussions about goals for the City of Garland. Further, since the Council has 4 new members, this meeting was a great way of getting to know each other better on a personal level. The two council members with the most council experience have both told me that they think we have a really good group on the Council now. We will, of course, not always agree on every issue, but everyone seems to genuinely get

*continued on page 6*

# ONA membership drive has fantastic turnout

**By Cecile Labossiere  
Membership Director**

What a response we have had to our membership application question "Would you like to volunteer." With this kind of response from our members we have a wonderful opportunity to make progress this year with our goals. We do not want to loose this kind of momentum so mark your calendars for our VOLUNTEER SOCIAL PARTY.

**When:** Saturday September 8th

**Time:** 7:00 pm until ???

**Where:** Cecile's House  
3218 Bending Oaks Trail

**RSVP:** 972-414-8057

Volunteers and their guests are invited. And if you decided initially to stay out of volunteerism but have changed your mind and want to join in just give me a call. All the volunteers that have signed up will receive an invitation in the mail and I sincerely look forward to meeting all of you. Our ONA mission focuses on our community being "A Place for All Seasons". We strive for community involvement, continued beautification and landscape maintenance and working in conjunction with the City of Garland to leverage

their neighborhood revitalization programs, financial grants and city services for the betterment of all neighbors in Oakridge.

For membership, we continue to push towards our goal for 700 members. We have 392 members as of August 1st – so I encourage those of you that are members to speak to your Oakridge friends and neighbors about the importance of the ONA and for those of you who have not renewed yet... I encourage you to reconsider and give some thought to our Oakridge community without a neighborhood association. If you no longer have your dues application – you can log into our website and print out a new copy. If you have questions or concerns about where your ONA Membership Dues are spent, please call any of the ONA board members or you can call me directly at 972-896-9413 and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

We need your financial support – Let's make August the month we achieve our membership goal !

## 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 & Beth Fagan  
District 2 .....Jim Norris  
District 3 .....Sandra Stevens  
District 4 .....Joan & Dan Nichols  
District 5 .....Tony & Tillie Battaglia  
District 6 .....Phil Hanas  
District 7 .....David & Sharon Parrish

### COMMITTEES

Membership .....Cecile LaBossiere  
Communication....Ben Moss & Keith Engler  
Environmental.....Don Pattie  
CPS.....Eric Morris & Carol Garrison  
Special Events .....S. Rutherford-Franks  
Welcome Wagon .....Cecile LaBossiere

## Let Sue Do It

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*Kitty and Rover won't go to the kennel?*

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## Summer suggestions for crime prevention

### Crime Prevention and Safety (CPS)

by Carol Garrison, Eric Morris

Summer has finally arrived, and CPS has a quite of lot to say to help keep our neighborhood safe and secure for the rest of the summer. First: if you see anything or anyone acting suspicious around your house, call 911 for the police, not the non-emergency number. Recently one of our neighbors witnessed a suspected break-in of the house next door. While the neighbor waited on hold with the non-emergency police number, a few neighbors banded together and aided the police in chasing down the thieves who had a stolen TV! 911 is the appropriate number for calling in any suspicious activity in the neighborhood. If you're not sure if the call to make is 911 or non-emergency; call 911.

The one major exception to calling 911 is suspected mail theft. The local postal station in addition to the police must be contacted concerning any mail theft. The incidence of mail/identity theft problem is serious in

Garland and particularly our area, so please be observant of your mail box and the neighbor's too!

On a different note, keep reporting those pesky door-to door salespeople to the police. Two weekends ago a man came to our door and within moments of Eric answering the door, the police arrived to obtain his ID, permit, etc. Kudos to the Garland Police for making sure this gentleman had legitimate business in Oakridge!

Speaking of police calls: a police report must be made by the witness. Informing the COP or the CPS is a great supplement to calling in the police report yourself, but neither the COP nor CPS can make a police report on someone's behalf.

Last but not least-the statistics for last month...we'll keep repeating our CPS motto: If your car is empty and locked (with nothing of value in sight), then the car is less likely to be broken into! Also, if you buy some new electronics do not put the empty box out front; break it down and put it in the trash can.

5 vehicular burglaries were reported last month. Two houses were broken into and had televisions stolen.

We need to do everything we can to prevent crime – if the word around town is that our cars are “slim pickings”, maybe our cars and therefore our community will be safer. Keep your eyes open and say hello to at least 3 of your neighbors today.



Philip Hanas  
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**CARPENTRY:** Repair Soffits & Fascia  
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## Handi Gals

*Tired of those minor household jobs that never get done?*

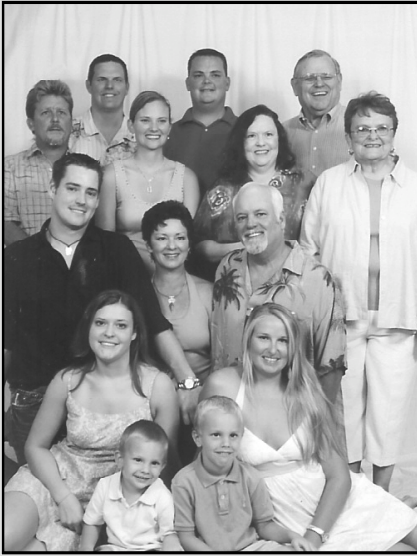
- **Plumbing:** faucets, disposal, toilets, sinks
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 972-896-9413 or 972-414-8057  
 e-mail: [cmleks@verizon.net](mailto:cmleks@verizon.net)

**NO JOB IS TOO SMALL**

# Congratulations to the Mohlers on their anniversary!



Shirley and Grosse Mohler celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary in June with their family who joined them on the beach in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Three generations gathered from many locations to honor them on this occasion. Their five children include Colette Singleton, of Belle Plaine, Ks; Adette Irish and her husband, Kent from St. John, US Virgin Islands; their children Carody from Kansas City, Mo, and Brandon, from Johnson City, Tenn; Alan Mohler and his daughter, Chutney, from St. John, USVI; Rick Mohler from San Antonio; and Tami Monroe and her husband, Mark, and their children, Hunter and Case from Garland. This reunion observed the occasion with a wonderful time together – lots of fun, and sun with good food and good memories.

## Harvey Martin Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit the Achievement Center of Texas October 8, 2007

The Achievement Center of Texas will hold its first annual Harvey Martin Memorial Golf Tournament at Brookhaven Country Club on Monday, October 8, 2007, with a shot gun start at 8 a.m. This will be a unique golf tournament with lots of celebrities, games, contests, door prize drawings and a silent auction.

As part of the famed Doomsday Defense, "The Beautiful" aka "Too Mean" led the Cowboys in sacks seven times. Martin went to the Pro Bowl four times and was Super Bowl MVP in Super Bowl XII. He still holds team records for most sacks as a rookie (8), in a season (20), and career (113). Former Cowboys GM Tex Schramm stated "He'll be remembered as one of the great Cowboys of the golden years... He was a great player, one of the first great pass rushers."

The first Harvey Martin Humanitarian award will be presented to the Martin family by former teammate, Ed "Too Tall" Jones at a ceremony following the golf tournament. Memorabilia will be available for viewing at the event.

The Achievement Center of Texas is a licensed non-profit day care and day habilitation (life skills training) center for children and young adults with disabilities. Information about the Achievement Center of Texas is available on their website: [www.achievementcenteroftexas.com](http://www.achievementcenteroftexas.com).

For additional information or to sign up to play or sponsor the event, please contact Pat Nichols at 214 477-2852 or 972 414-7700 or by email: [sidekickfan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sidekickfan@sbcglobal.net).

Yes, I would like to be a Sponsor for the Harvey Martin Memorial Golf Tournament, Benefiting the Achievement Center of Texas at Brookhaven Country Club 10-8-07.

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 \$100 GIMME Individual Sponsor   
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  \$500 Putting Green Sponsor   
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 I cannot play this year, however, I would like to make a donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_   
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Player 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_ Player 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this form to: Pat Nichols • Achievement Center of Texas • 2950 N. Shiloh • Garland, TX, 75044  
 Telephone: 972-414-7700

## Mosquitoes potentially carrying West Nile virus soon to appear

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

The recent heavy rains caused many pools of water to occur in Texas. This means we are encountering more of the floodwater mosquitoes, such as *Aedes vexans* and container-breeding mosquitoes, such as *Aedes albopictus* (the Asian tiger mosquito). Also as the weather warms and things begin to dry out, we can expect to see more of the southern house mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*. This mosquito is the main mosquito responsible for transmitting West Nile Virus.

We can reduce some of the mosquito populations, especially the container breeding mosquitoes by simply emptying containers. It is important to walk around your home and landscape to make sure that wheelbarrows, wading pools, and any other backyard items that collect and hold water are emptied. Also if water must sit in containers, such as in bird baths or pet's dishes, then remember to change the water at least once a week.

If outdoor activities can not be avoided, then it is important to apply insect repellents as a precaution. There are many different products that can be applied in order to prevent mosquitoes from biting. One choice is N,N-diethyl meta-toluamide or commonly known as DEET. Picaridin is another synthetic insect repellent that can be found at any retailer. Also oil of lemon eucalyptus is an example of a natural insect repellents.

### Are Azalea Bark Scales Attacking Your Crape Myrtles?

The azalea bark scale, *Eriococcus azaleae* Comstock, is not a new pest since it was discovered on outdoor azalea plantings throughout the South in 1881. However, it was found in Dallas attacking crape myrtles three years ago. This seems to be a new host plant for the azalea bark scale and the population seems to be expanding year after year into new areas.

These scales appear white in color, since they will be covered with waxy secretions. They can be found anywhere on the plant, but tend to be found mainly in the branch crotches and pruning wounds. The females can lay

around 50-250 reddish eggs and they will protect them under their bodies. Once the eggs hatch, the nymphs (crawlers) are light yellow in color and will crawl to a new location to begin feeding. This scale usually has two generations per year and overwinters in the egg or nymphal stage.

One of the first signs of infestation to look for is the presence of sooty mold that will appear on the trunk and branches of crape myrtles. You will also notice the presence of honeydew on limbs and leaves.

Unfortunately these scales are hard to control and control recommendations for Texas are still being developed. One suggestion is to mix dishwashing soap with water and wash the trunk and branches with a brush. This will remove many of the female scales and eggs. It will also remove some of the sooty mold. Systemic insecticides such as something containing imidacloprid or acephate can also be used to control these scales. In addition, insecticidal sprays containing such chemicals as malathion or bifenthrin will provide control when the scale is in the crawler stage. It is believed that March to mid-April will be the best time to spray. Also in the winter, dormant oil applications to the bark and crotches will provide control. Remember that the plant must be thoroughly covered when treating with oil.

Please visit <http://citybugs.tamu.edu> for more information.

### Attack of the Cicada Killers

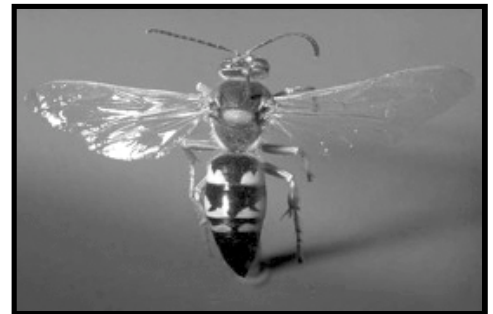
Cicada killers are active during July and August, coinciding with the appearance of cicadas which they sting and paralyze. Cicadas are large insects that "sing" in trees during late summer. The female cicada killer stings the cicada, then turns the cicada on its back, and drags the cicada into a burrow. The female cicada killers usually dig burrows in areas that are sandy, bare, and exposed to full sunlight. They prefer to nest in areas of little vegetation, compared to thick areas of turf. Each female cicada killer will capture at least one cicada and a single egg is laid in the cicada before being sealed off. Even though an area may contain many burrows, female cicada killers are solitary. This means that each



**Asian Tiger Mosquito, *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse) (Diptera: Culicidae).** Photo by Bart Drees, Professor and Extension Entomologist.



**Azalea bark scale, *Eriococcus azaleae* Comstock,** on crape myrtle. Photo by Michael Merchant, Professor and Extension Entomologist, Texas A&M University.



**Cicada killer, *Sphecius speciosus* (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae).** Photo by Bart Drees.

female constructs a burrow and captures her own cicadas to serve as food for her developing young.

The cicada killer develops through complete metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupae and adult stage. In two to three days, the egg hatches. Depending on the number of cicadas in its burrow, the cicada killer larva can feed for 4 to 10 days. Pupation occurs in the spring and then the adult emerges in mid-June to early July. Adults will continue to emerge

### City Hall (continued from page 1)


along well, and I don't see any cliques forming which have had negative effects in the past. One part of the Garrett Creek meeting involved each council member explaining what the number one issue was in his/her district. When my turn came, the answer was easy: code, code, and more code. Other members also mentioned code, and my understanding is that following the meeting, the City Manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget now has more staff for code. Speaking of staff, I continue to be impressed with Garland City officials. It really is amazing when you see how many employees the City has to run cer-

tain departments (e.g., Park & Recreation, Traffic, etc.) when we compare ourselves to neighboring cities. Garland runs a lean and efficient City government. Never tell me that we need to "cut the fat" from City government — there is none.

I saw two recent demonstrations that show how the City is using technology to get more bang for the tax payer buck. First, the two municipal judges now run a 100% paperless court system. No longer do we have lost paper work and stacks of paper. Garland is getting lots of inquiries from other cities who might want to follow our lead. Second, on July

30 Garland's new Water Operations Center on Apollo (just east of Jupiter) had a ribbon cutting. Again, we saw an amazing web-based system that tracks jobs, crews, locations of vehicles, and even how fast a truck is driving. This new system saves time, staff, and even gas since the dispatcher knows where the nearest truck is located to a water emergency.

As always, to represent you, I need to hear your concerns and issues. The best way to do that is via my E-mail address of rickwilli@gmail.com.



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**References available**



## Mosquitoes (continued from page 5)

throughout the summer until mid-August. There is only one generation a year.

Adult cicada killers feed on flower nectar and sap. The female wasps are usually non-aggressive and rarely sting unless touched or disturbed. Male cicada killers are usually aggressive and tend to defend nesting sites. However males lack a stinger, so they are harmless.

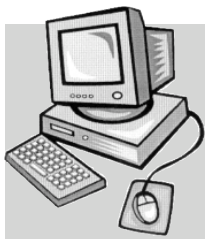
### Non-Chemical Control Options:

Apply fertilizers and water to promote growth of turf. Also place mulch in flowerbeds and around shrubs to cover exposed soil.

### Chemical Control Options:

Control is usually not recommended, since this is a beneficial insect. If control is necessary, locate the nests during the daylight hours. Then at night or before dawn, sprinkle about 1 tablespoon of insecticidal dust such as those containing carbaryl into the burrow and then close the entrance of the burrow with your foot. Other suggestions for spray treatments that are labeled for wasp control include acephate, allethrin, cyfluthrin, cypermethrin, permethrin, and resmethrin as active ingredients. Repeat treatments may be needed for two to three weeks as new wasps move into the area.

*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.*



## Have experience with desktop publishing or layout programs? Are you a wiz with Word? We need YOU!

The *Oakridge News* is looking for design volunteers.  
If interested, please email Keith Engler: [keithengler@verizon.net](mailto:keithengler@verizon.net)



Book your next party or event at Oakridge Country Club!  
Call Margaret Goff at 972-530-8008 x239

### Pool Membership

Pool Members and their families enjoy use of the swimming pool with access to all social events and dining hosted in the main clubhouses at Oakridge Country Club.

Annual Fee – \$300.00  
*Memorial Day to Labor Day*

### Social Membership

Social Members and their families enjoy use of the outdoor, lighted tennis courts, swimming pool and access to all social events and dining hosted in the main clubhouse at Oakridge Country Club.

Annual Fee – \$500.00

*Family includes member, spouse, and unmarried children under age 23 residing in member's household.*

### Sports Plus Membership

Sports Plus Memberships are non-transferable memberships. Members and their family enjoy golf privileges, unlimited use of the outdoor lighted tennis courts, swimming, fitness, and access to all social events and dining hosted in the main clubhouses at Oakridge Country Club, The Shores Country Club, Los Rios Country Club and The Golf Club at Twin Creeks.

Initiation Fee: one time fee of \$199.00  
Single Membership \$49.95 monthly  
Family membership \$69.95 monthly

*Family includes member, spouse, and unmarried children under age 23 residing in member's household.*

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

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### upcoming events

Sundays                   Nicholson Memorial  
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August 27   Garland ISD school year begins  
September 3                   Labor Day



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