



Oakridge News

<http://www.oakridgena.com>



Vol. 15, No. 17

October 2007

Volunteers and Vitality

By Mike Dollar, ONA President

Volunteerism is the willingness of people to work on behalf of others without the expectation of pay or other tangible gain. Volunteers may have special training as rescuers, guides, assistants, teachers, missionaries, amateur radio operators, writers, and other positions. But a majority of the work is on an impromptu basis, recognizing a need and filling it, whether it be the dramatic search for a lost child or the mundane giving of directions to a lost visitor. In economics, voluntary employment is unpaid employment. It may be done for altruistic rea-

sons, such as charity, or as a hobby, community service or vocation, or for the purpose of gaining experience. Some go so far as to dedicate much of their lives to voluntary service. One way in which this is done is through the creation of a Non-Profit Franchise. (Ref: Wikipedia)

As we've done for the past few years now, we threw a party for those members who checked the "willing to volunteer" box on their membership invoice. The party was

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Oakridge Daytimers

By Diane Winter

Behold the September meeting! Many Daytimers had obviously been looking forward to the first get-together of the 2007-2008 year, since over 40 of them gathered at the home of Betty Prickett on September 11th.

Although several of the members see each other at activities during the summer, the first meeting in the fall brings friends and neighbors together with great anticipation of

the activities to come. The food hostesses were Jo Deitz, Becky Parks, Shirley Mohler, Sue Pauley and Sally Weiss.



Becky Parks, Sue Pauley, Shirley Mohler, Jo Dietz, Betty Prickett, and Sally Weiss

In the absence of the treasurer, JoAnn Williams, Frances Morgen collected dues and distributed name tags. Calendars made by Mary Pattie were also distributed.

After much visiting and food sampling, Cecile LaBossiere, president,

called the members together to make announcements and to encourage them to sign up to provide either a home or food.

Norma Blumm, Jeanie Duncan, Sherri Rutherford, Helen Bruss and Becky Thomas, who came as guests but joined as new members, were introduced. ONA future activities, including the ONA Night Out, Chili Cook-Off, and Christmas Caroling, were discussed by Cecile LaBossiere and Sherri Rutherford. Shirley Mohler and Sharon Carlton,

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Check out these Oakridge Services!

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- Let Sue Do It, p.2
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Thoughts from City Hall

By Rick Williams, District 7 City Councilman



I have read with interest the stories and indictments emanating from Dallas City Hall where it is alleged that certain Council members and Plan Commission members took bribes from a low cost apartment builder, so he could get the contract to build in the City of Dallas. My immediate question was how just a couple of members of the large Dallas City Council could have that much influence. If, for example, the City of Garland were involved in having some low cost apartments built (and we are not!!), sealed bids would be sent to City staff who would evaluate them. Then, staff would present to the entire council a list of bidders including their bid amount, and the entire Council

would select the winning bid. This is generally the lowest bid. So, a single Garland council member could theoretically be offered a bribe (ala the allegations in Dallas), but that's just one vote when it comes time to award the bid. Of course, to my knowledge, a Garland City Council representative has never taken a bribe.

So, how does this work in Dallas? After all, Dallas and Garland both have a Council/City Manager form of government. Apparently, in Dallas, each Council district is basically a little fiefdom where, if a project is to be developed in a Council representative's district, the council member in conjunction with the Plan Commission representative

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A Bilton Sweep!

The ONA congratulates **Tim and Jacquie Bilton** on their recent championship wins! Tim and Jacquie participated in the Men's Sr. Club Championship and the first Sr. Ladies Club Championship (respectively). Both champion-



Tim and Jacquie Bilton

ships were held on the same Saturday and Sunday, during which Jacquie shot 84-85 and Tim shot 72-76. By the end of the weekend, Tim and Jacquie each won their respective championships by 4-5 strokes. Congratulations!

Let Sue Do It

The repairman is coming, but you have a meeting?

Let Sue do it.

Kitty and Rover won't go to the kennel?

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Things Financial and Personal

By Dave Morgan, CPA, Mortgage Broker, Real Estate Broker, and Investor

The Other CPA Corner: Estates, Trusts, and Gifts, Part 1

This is perhaps the most confusing and misunderstood area of taxation.

Yes, that is saying a lot when talking about things IRS. My opinion is that this tax is government greed in action since,

in some cases, it taxes wealth that has previously been subjected to income taxation and even estate taxation. But, it exists and we have to deal with it. Let's take a moment and learn some basics that will help simplify things. What I say below is in generalities as there are many exceptions that are applicable and available.

Dave Morgan
 CPA, Mortgage Broker, Real Estate Broker, Investor

800-471-1289
 davelmorgan@verizon.net
<http://www.dlmmortgage.com>


1. The net assets owned by an individual at the date of death, less certain deductions and exemptions, are subjected to State and Federal taxation. Again, this is

not a tax on income – it is a tax on the assets of the estate as modified.

2. Following this tax on net assets owned at the date of death, the estate lives on as if it were an individual person. There is a Federal income tax return due on earnings that those assets generate after the date of death until those estate assets are completely distributed to the trust and/or individual beneficiaries.

3. There is a Federal tax return due for any taxable gifts given by a taxpayer. In addition, if a spouse has given a "split" gift from jointly owned assets, that other spouse will need to file a separate Federal gift tax return as well – there is no such thing as a "joint" gift tax return. Currently, each person can give away \$12,000 to an individual recipient in 2007 without a gift tax being imposed on the person making the gift. For example, a husband and wife could give, tax-free, to each of their children a combined \$24,000 each in a single year for 2007 - \$12,000 from the husband to the child and \$12,000 from the wife to the child. If the child is married, an additional \$24,000

Continued on Page 5



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 e-mail: cmleks@verizon.net

NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Thoughts from City Hall *(Continued from page 2)*

can approve any contractor's bid without any staff oversight and without any review by other Council members. Wow! Just amazing.

On October 4, James Ragland wrote an article in the Dallas Morning News explaining all this. Although I agreed with many of his remedial suggestions, I certainly disagreed with one and fired off the below letter to the editor. As of this writing (on October 8), the letter had not been published, and it may or may not be at a future date. I will say that as a group, I am very proud of the other 8 council members with whom I work. Sure, we do not agree on all issues, but we all have the same goal of working together honestly with Garland's

best interest being our single purpose.

—LETTER—

Re: "Council needs a good watchdog," Thursday Metro

Mr. Ragland provided several suggestions to reduce corruption among Dallas City Council representatives, and I certainly agree with most of them such as far more internal oversight of this legislative body. However, his suggestion that increasing the salary of \$37,500 per year might reduce the temptation to take money under the table is without merit. There is nothing to suggest that corruption decreases as legislative salaries increase as

evinced by the fact that U.S. House and Senate representatives earn \$165,200 per year. Rather than increasing Dallas Council salaries, I'd suggest decreasing salaries, say to the salary level of Council members in Garland (the 10th largest city in Texas) of \$400 per month!

A salary of \$400 per month eliminates any financial incentive to run for council and attracts only those candidates who chose to serve for the right reason—public service. When's the last time you read about an elected Garland official involved in financial scandal related to city business? Don't waste your time researching the question.



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

Things Financial and Personal *(Continued from page 3)*

can be gifted, tax-free, from the husband and wife to that child's spouse for a \$48,000 total. Four checks should be written to do this – not a single check. If giving interests of property such as a home, have your attorney draft the proper transfer documents. If, in this manner, the husband and wife gave a \$48,000 interest at the end of December 2006 and another \$48,000 at the start of

Disclaimer – *You should consult with your professional before acting on any of the recommendations or ideas that follow. The author is not an attorney and does not profess to be providing legal, tax, financial, or personal advice. Dave will be happy to meet with you to see if your personal facts and circumstances would warrant any action on your part.*

January 2007, a total of \$96,000 could have been transferred, tax free, in a matter of a few days. Gifts to qualified charities such as your church are not generally subject to gift tax.

4. Gifts and Estates are linked together through a cumulative Unified Tax Credit. In other words, you cannot give away all your estate assets over time and still receive a full exemption credit on your estate's net asset return. Note, this ap-

plies to taxable gifts only, whether reported on a tax return or not!

Next month, read Part 2 of "Estates, Trusts, and Gifts".

Join Dave here every month for his ongoing financial advice column!

The above items are intended to entertain and to spur your thought processes through just being aware of opportunities. Please consult with your group of professionals before proceeding forward with any idea presented.

Volunteers and Vitality *(Continued from page 1)*

held at Cecile LaBossiere's this year. It was a great time to meet the volunteers who make up the ONA board of directors and learn what the association, and each committee, is doing.

Our Communications Director, Ben Moss, has gotten very busy with his work and cannot continue working on the newsletter. He did such a great job these last few months. We will miss him. However, we are very fortunate to have a replacement in Heather Englebretson. Heather has been very active in editing the newsletter and has volunteered to take over as Communications Director. Heather and Cecile have put together another great membership directory for this year. Members should receive them in the mail this month.

The City's Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods has proposed action items and a plan for the Oakridge Program area. I have asked Mark Monroe and Joe Fagan to look at the plan and provide advice on developing a neighborhood revitalization strategy in conjunction with the City's Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods. While we are developing an Association strategy, we have submitted an application for a City of Garland Neighborhood Vitality Grant. The grant will be

used to replace our diverse types of streetlights with a single uniform design, similar to the original developer's plan. Landscaping of all entrances and the perimeter are also on the application. The effort to meet the city's eligibility requirements will be significant, but the reward worth it.

Please feel free to email me at onapresident@aol.com.

Be safe and have a great fall season!

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association
is on the Web!!

<http://www.OakridgeNA.com>

Chili Cook-Off Plans Underway

By Sherri Rutherford, Special Events Director

Please mark your calendar for Saturday November 3rd, 2:00 – 5:00 for the ONA Chili Cook-Off. Oakridge Country Club has generously agreed to let us use the North end of the parking lot for this sure-to-be-fun event.

The Parade of the “Haute Dogs” will kick off the event at 2:00. So gussie-up Fido to participate in the parade. A prize will be awarded for the top dog. Let’s just remember to keep our pets polite by having them on a leash at all times.

Our committee is planning games for both adults and kids to participate. For those who don’t want beans in their chili, you can just count the beans in the jar. The person closest to the correct number of beans is the winner. Some of the games will get you up and moving, but *all* of the games will be fun.

Rules of chili cooking – Have

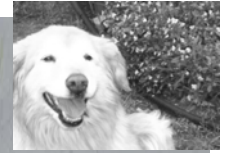
your team bring their chili ready-to-eat at the event. We will have tables set up for serving. No cheating – our astute judges will know if you are trying to pass Hormel chili off as your secret recipe. Give us a creative name for your team and costumes are optional. Originality will get you some points with the judges too.



We will furnish the tasting cups, cornbread, drinks, a treat for your sweet tooth and Roloids. Get your Oakridge groups or neighbors to form chili cooking teams. Your participation will make this a great social event. Best of all – it’s FREE!

Please call me at 972-496-5454 or email me at srutherford72@tx.rr.com to register your team for the cook off or for more details. As always the ONA depends on volunteers. If you would like to help with this event please contact me.

Loyalty



You can't buy loyalty,
they say,
I bought it though, the other day
You can't buy friendships, tried and true
Well just the same, I bought that too.
I made my bid and on the spot
Brought love and faith and a whole job lot
Of happiness, so all in all
The purchase price was pretty small
I bought a single trusting heart,
That gave devotion from the start
If you think these things are
Not for sale
Buy a brown-eyed puppy with
A wagging tail

Author: unknown

Saturday, November 3rd, 2:00 PM

Enter your dog in the “Parade of Hot Dogs” at the Chili Cook-Off. Prize for best dressed/most unique dog. Event starts at 2:00, Saturday, November 3rd.

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References available






Oakridge Daytimers *(Continued from page 1)*

Special Events Coordinators, will be involved organizing Daytimers for these events.

Book Club: Betty Thomas, meets on the 3rd Friday

Bridge: Dot Mohler, Options available

Canasta: Chris Byers, Options available

Girls Night Out: Meet at the Country Club to visit, 4th Thursday

Late Bloomers: Suzanne Snow, Special activities to be announced

Secret Pals: Mary Jensen, February-May

Stitch and Chat: Norene Murphy and Mary Musseman, 3rd Tuesday

Sunshine: Audrey King announced birthdays



ONA Presidents
Current-Cecile LaBossiere
Past-Sally Weiss

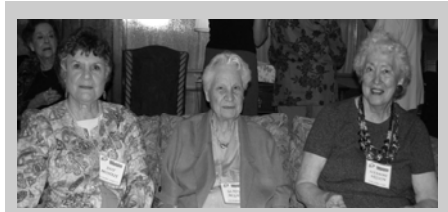
Cecile reported on the success of the ONA membership drive and other statistics related to the neighborhood.

Margaret Fowler proposed a Game Night and urged members to sign up if interested.

Congratulations to Clara Mae Meurer who won the door prize.

The next meeting will be held on Oct 9th, 10 am, at the home of Cecile LaBossiere and the Daytimers will be in costume! Don't miss it!

Daytimers is a social organization



Dot Mohler, Gladys McGhee, Eleanore Nelson

that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15 dues. Daytimers promotes the Oakridge Community and the ONA. Questions should be directed to President, Cecile LaBossiere, at 972-896-9413.

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