



Oakridge News

<http://www.oakridgena.com>



Vol. 15, No. 18

November 2007

President's Letter

By Mike Dollar, ONA President

I had a really good time at the 5th Annual Neighborhood Summit on October 27th at the Atrium, Granville Arts Center, in downtown Garland. Keith and Karen Engler, and Martha Dollar, also attended. This year's theme was "(Garland Neighborhoods) Built to Last". You should plan to attend next year. They had some very interesting workshops.

I learned some good news at the "Nonprofit Status and Neighborhood Associations: To Be or Not To Be?" workshop. It was taught by Susan Hill of Texas Neighborhoods Together. Briefly, our association may qualify for a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(4) federal tax-exempt status. We have looked into this before because 1) we are non-profit, 2)

we could save about \$2,000 per year in sales tax, and 3) members might be able to deduct ONA dues from their income tax. It appears our bylaws would require editing to create a membership type for participants outside our neighborhood. Tax-exempt status requires community-wide availability. We should discuss what levels/types of membership we may want to offer if we want to pursue tax-exempt status. Susan suggested there could be non-voting memberships for businesses, organizations, non-residents, etc. Other than that, Susan thought we would not have to file the State forms since the state of Texas usually honors the IRS's decision. I have read these forms and

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Things Financial and Personal

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

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.

The Other CPA Corner: Estates, Trusts, and Gifts, Part 2

Everyone needs a Last Will and Testament at the very minimum to let your heirs know what your intentions are. This is especially important when you have minors for which to provide. Strongly consider that the Custodian for

your minors and the Executor of your estate be unrelated individuals that can handle those duties within their personal skill sets. Also, ask to make sure they will accept those responsibilities, and provide for alternates. Make sure the Last Will and Testament is properly executed and dated.

If you have a Trust set up as the sole or as one of multiple beneficiaries, make sure your Trust documents are prepared and properly executed. It is advisable to discuss these documents

with your family and trusted friends in a loving, adult manner. We've probably all seen families break into pieces after the death of a loved one because things

were kept secret. DO NOT PLACE your original Last Will and Testament and your Trust documents in a safe deposit box or other storage place that can-

not be accessed without Probate Court order – leave them with your attorney or the Executor, Administrators, and alternates for them. Copies of the originals should only be placed in the safe de-

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Check out these Oakridge Services!

- Billy Jack Sprinkler Co., p.7
- Handi Gals, p.3
- Let Sue Do It, p.2
- MR. FIX-IT-ALL, p.2
- Oakridge Country Club, p.4
- Oakridge Paint & Paper, p.6
- Pet Pals Plus, p.6
- U-Stor Self Storage, p.3

The ONA Congratulates Andrew Honas!

Andrew, a member of Troop 145 in Garland, **achieved his Eagle Rank** on August 28, 2007.

For his Eagle project, Andrew collected food and supplies for the Second Chance SPCA where he and other scouts donated a day of caring for the animals.

Andrew is 16 years old and is a Junior at North Garland High School. He is on the drumline in the NGHS Marching Band where he plays the snare drum. Besides band and scouting, Andrew enjoys playing football, baseball, and basketball.



Things Financial and Personal

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posit box as a back-up.

While in this arena, there are four documents that are needed by each person especially as you get older. These are (1) a Durable Power of Attorney that will appoint someone of your choice to manage your financial affairs should you become incapacitated, (2) a Medical Power of Attorney that will appoint someone of your choice to manage your medical affairs should you become incapacitated, (3) a Physicians Directive that will provide for your wishes as guided by the recommendations of two independent physicians should you reach the point of being kept alive only by medical life support equipment, and (4) a Guardianship Directive that will provide for your personal care wishes should you reach the point of being unable to care for yourself.

Death and incapacity are really tough to ponder, and planning for them can be hard to do. But, do that planning so the grief of family and friends can be focused on you rather than the mess you could leave behind for them to clean up.

Mark Your Calendars!!

ONA Caroling Party

Sunday, December 2nd



Please call Sherri at 972-496-5454

or email srutherford72@tx.rr.com to join us for caroling or if you know someone we can carol to that evening.

Let Sue Do It

The repairman is coming, but you have a meeting?

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Oakridge Daytimers

By Dianne Winter

There were many treats but no tricks as the Daytimers gathered at the home of Cecile LaBossiere on Tuesday, October 9th, at 10am for the **October Coffee**. The food hostesses, Jeannie Duncan, Mary Musseman, Becky Thomas and Suzanne Snow, found that they were serving a high school drum major (Sally Weiss), a scarecrow, (Jo Dietz), Charlotte's Web, (Charlotte Vaughter), Judge Judy, (Margaret Fowler), a kind witch, (Clara Mueller), a platinum blond witch, (Chris Beyers), Jack O Lantern, (Suzanne Snow), T-shirt costume, (JoAnn Williams), kitty cat, (Jeannie Duncan), school girl, (Agnes McGhee), farm girl, (Audrey Golden), and Halloween motif clothing, (Audrey Castleman and Martha Boyette). About 35 members enjoyed the costumes and food and fellowship.

Cecile kept the tradition alive that she initiated last year by serving biscuits and gravy along with the good recipes that were served by the hostesses.

Cecile began the business meeting with a thanks to all those who dressed in costume. Daytimers will never be too

old to incorporate fun and entertainment into the schedule.

New members, Sallie Lang and Kim Gengerich, were introduced.

Other discussion revolved around community changes. The main issues were the new and closing businesses in the area. Other topics included safety in the community.

Sherry Rutherford announced ONA events. She encouraged Daytimers to participate in the **Chili Cook-Off on November 3rd** and the **Haute Dog Contest** along with other entertainment. She also asked that Daytimers put the **Caroling Party** (December 2nd) on their calendars.

Cecile announced the **Christmas luncheon**, to be held at the Oakridge Country Club, but noted the change in dates. The luncheon will be on **Thursday, December 13th**, with program by



Audrey Golden


Gale Brewer.

There were no new group announcements, but the Daytimers missed Audrey King, who was unable to attend. Birthdays were acknowledged and concerns were expressed for Jane Buchanan, Ruby Nell Ormon's husband, Harry, Mary Reed, and Norene Murphy, most of whom have illnesses.

The **November meeting** will be at the home of Sally Weiss on **Tuesday, November 13th, at 10 am**. Payment for the December Luncheon will be accepted at this meeting by JoAnn Williams, treasurer.

See more Daytimers costumes at <http://www.OakridgeNA.com>.

Daytimers is a social organization 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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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Council Report

By Rick Williams, District 7 City Councilman

It was really sad to see Minyards at Arapaho and Jupiter close on September 23rd. I continue to get emails regarding the Wal-Mart rumor, but there is no truth to that rumor.

I've now switched my grocery store allegiance to Tom Thumb at Shiloh and Arapaho (got to stay within District 7), but I hate having to carry around a Reward Card. Guess I'll get used to it, but I refuse to attach the miniature one to my key ring.

As mentioned in last month's article, I had asked that the Council look into Garland's smoking ordinance. I had received a couple of requests from Oakridge residents that we follow some other local cities that had basically passed rules precluding smoking in almost all buildings and restaurants. The Administrative Services Committee (Chick, Lathen, Cox) looked at this issue, and I attended that meeting even though I am not a member of the committee. Meetings are pretty informal

and non-members can participate if there is an interest. Also attending were the City Attorney, Health Department staff, and other City staff. Here is what I learned:

- The current smoking ordinance was passed February 21, 2006.
- With exceptions, smoking is generally prohibited in public and retail buildings. Retail or service establishments, exclusive of food establishments, may designate smoking areas although restrictions apply such as public restrooms, elevators, & over the counter sales areas.
- The use of tobacco is prohibited in all City facilities and vehicles.
- Food establishments built after February 21, 2006 may establish a non-smoking area, but must have special air purification systems. So far, no restaurant built after that date has made such a request (i.e., they all prefer to be a non-smoking restaurant).
- Food establishments built on or before February 21, 2006 may continue to allow smoking without providing a smoking area unless renovations/alterations exceed more than 50% of the net floor area.
- During FY 06/07, the Garland Health Department recorded one formal complaint related to smoking in a food establishment.
- After much discussion, the Administrative Services Committee did not believe any further changes to the smoking ordinance were needed. Even Barbara Chick, the chairman who had lost her husband to lung cancer, said she saw no reason to change even though she is keenly aware of smoking dangers. She and the other two Admin Services Committee members basically feel that

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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

President's Letter

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am relieved to know we do not need them.

Feedback on our Neighborhood Grant Application is "BE PATIENT." The city had \$800,000 in grant applications this year and there are a lot of steps to the review process. Each grant must be approved by the city council. If we receive this grant, it will provide us with consistent and stylish streetlights throughout the neighborhood, plus renovation and landscaping of every entrance, and around the entire neighborhood perimeter. I am already looking at ways we can raise the \$12,500 cash we need for the matching fund. We have a Beautification Fund which will provide some help with this. An additional \$12,500 is required in either cash, or labor (\$10/hr), equipment, material, or professional service donations. I have already received a generous offer from one of our board members which is a tremendous step in getting us to the goal. If you can help out, please step forward and let me know (onapresident@aol.com). This is a great opportunity to beautify the neighborhood and boost the appearance of surrounding communities.

Christmas is just around the corner and we will soon hear the Oakridge carolers in the neighborhood. Don't forget to sign up with Sherri Rutherford, our Special Events Director (972-496-5454 or srutherford72@tx.rr.com), to sing or to schedule a concert from the carolers in your front yard.



Chili Cook-off: HOT! HOT! HOT!

By Sherri Rutherford, Special Events Director

A picture perfect day provided the backdrop for the ONA Chili Cook-off on Saturday, November 3rd. A pet parade featuring seven canines in various costumes kicked off the event. "Top Dog" honors went to "Beemer" Thompson who sported a biker outfit complete with hat and goggles.

Games of "Who Am I", a cake walk, and a candy toss game got the Oakridge residents on their feet and moving around to win various prizes ranging from baked goods to gift certificates and gift bags. Kristen Wange and Sofia Villamil were winners in the children's candy game. "Guess the number of beans in the jar" generated a lot of interest with Debra Pandak guessing the closest number to the beans in the jar. Debra won a gift certificate from Goldmine Restaurant. Lois Golbeck won a Mary Kay gift bag donated by Rebecca Chanez. Starbucks provided bags of coffee to game winner Vince Golbeck and Carol Garrison.

The main event featured seven pots of chili entered by six teams. All chili entries were tasty with various degrees of "heat." The judge's panel of District 7 Councilman Rick Williams, editor of Garland's NeighborsGo publication Courtney Flatt, and the City of Garland Revitalization Department's Felisa Conner. The judges declared a tie between Neta Rohr's "Butt Good Chili" and the Oakridge COP's "Running Code Chili." A coin toss determined "Butt Good Chili" the winner.

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Oakridge Night Out

By Sherri Rutherford, Special Events Director

About a dozen Oakridge residents enjoyed "Oakridge Night Out" at the Parlour Café and Wine Bar on Saturday, October 13th. This full service eclectic restaurant, located at The Shire in Richardson, features American Cuisine with a focus on fresh, seasonal ingredients. The wine list covers a little bit of something for everyone. The staff will eagerly make suggestions based on your taste in wine.

Julie Bonk Trio provided smooth jazz sounds at a volume that allowed Oakridge residents to visit with one another. Julie Bonk is an accomplished pianist and former music instructor of Norah Jones. Joe and Beth Fagin along with Keith and Karen Engler offered wine tips to our table which included Diana Edwards and Debra Pandek. Roger and I shared a decadent chocolate dessert called "in-flight." Sharon Parrish enjoyed an appetizer of mussels. Her husband David and son enjoyed the music along with Jim and Delaine Jerkin while Monica Evans made a great food choice with the seafood cakes. As always Margaret Fowler sees other acquaintances dining.

At the end of the night all agreed it was a wonderful evening. And best of all, home was only a few minutes away. A special "Thanks" to Margaret Fowler for organizing this event. If you have a suggestion for an "Oakridge Night Out" please call me at 972-496-5454 or email me at srutherford72@tx.rr.com.

ARTIST OPEN STUDIO SHOW

OAKRIDGE AWARD WINNING ARTIST, **BECKY PARKS**, WILL BE OPENING HER HOME/STUDIO FOR A SHOWING OF HER LATEST WORKS.

THE SHOW WILL BE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH,
FROM **1:00-4:00 PM,**
AT HER HOME/STUDIO LOCATED
AT **2921 OAK SPRINGS DRIVE** IN OAKRIDGE.

BECKY'S ORIGINAL OIL PAINTINGS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO MANY JURORED SHOWS WHERE SHE HAS **WON NUMEROUS AWARDS.**

THE SUBJECTS OF HER PAINTINGS VARY FROM STILL LIFE TO ARCHITECTURAL LANDSCAPES INCLUDING SOME OF HER FAVORITE PLACES IN EUROPE.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CALL BECKY AT 972-495-8776 FOR A PRIVATE SHOWING.

Let's Talk Turkey about Holiday Safety

By Carol Garrison, CPS Committee

Winter is around the corner, and safety should be on everyone's mind to assure that we all have a happy holiday season. The main sources of danger for the holidays are turkeys, fireplaces, lights, and trees. According to the Home Safety Council, **not one turkey fryer has received the UL stamp of approval** (mostly due to the high number of fires related to their use). So, if you're frying your turkey: keep the fryer outside at least 3 ft. from the house, do not place the fryer on a wooden deck or under any type of covered porch, keep the fire extinguisher handy, keep 2 ft. between the propane tank and the fryer, monitor the oil temp closely, and do not place a partially frozen turkey in the oil. Follow the instructions and don't overfill the fryer. For tips on how to safely thaw, cook, and save your dinner, go to <http://www.homefoodsafety.org>.

Before it gets cold enough for a nice fire, don't forget to have a licensed chimney sweep inspect and clean your chimney. Make sure vines or bird nests are removed from the top of the chim-

ney and that the fireplace is cleaned. Open the flue before every fire, and close the flue to prevent heat escape after the fire is extinguished. Wood burning fireplaces should only burn seasoned hardwood, using safety screens and fire proof carpets to catch embers. Gas fireplaces should be inspected annually for any leaks.

right here).

Trees are a major safety concern. Live trees should be fresh. Keep them watered to lessen drying, and sweep up dropped needles. Never decorate fresh or artificial trees with candles & make sure all garland and ornaments are fire retardant. Avoid stacking tissue

or paper near the lights since the lights can get hot enough to cause tissue paper to combust. Do not let your tree block an exit, and keep your tree 3 feet from any heat

source such as fireplace, stove, heater, etc.

Check all the smoke detectors this weekend, make sure the flashlights in each room have good batteries, and review the fire exit plan with your family. All of us have seen holiday fire disasters on TV so let's work together to make sure Oakridge is only on TV with our beautiful light displays! We'll discuss how to prevent holiday criminal activity next month. Until then, Happy Turkey day from CPS!

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association
is on the Web!!
<http://www.OakridgeNA.com>

Now that we're full and warm, let's discuss holiday decorations. Inspect all holiday lights before installation. Green UL tags on the cord are for indoor use only. Red UL tagged cords are safe for outdoor use. Do not string more than 3 light strings together, and do not overload extension cords. Timers are an excellent way to ensure lights are not left on, but make sure to unplug all lights including the timer if you are going out of town. Make sure all replacement bulbs are equal or lesser wattage than the original bulb (major fire hazard

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References available






Council Report *(Continued from Page 4)*

we don't want to be one of those Councils that dictates personal choice (despite the fact that personal choice can adversely affect others), and the free market should resolve issues like this. Citizens have many non-smoking alternative restaurant sites in Garland now.

I appreciated the opportunity to be a Chili Cook-off judge at Oakridge on October 3rd. Channel 11 even carried a little 15 second blurb on this event on the 10:00 pm news that evening. Not only were all the chili entries very good, I also had an opportunity to meet more very nice Oakridge residents.

Although I have lived in Garland for 28 years, I am embarrassed to say that I had never attended Garland summer musicals, plays, or symphonies at the Performing Arts Center. Since being elected, I have become a regular and as I have mentioned on several occa-

sions, I now realize how foolish I have been by missing all these events for many years. A few weeks ago I attended my first Garland symphony performance with the 5th Dimension, and it was great. If you are like I used to be and don't attend, I encourage you to start. You will not be disappointed.

As always, if you have a concern, please email me at rickenwilli@gmail.com.

Chili Cook-off *(Continued from Page 5)*

Other chili entries included "E&C Chili" by Carol Garrison and Eric Morse; "Jeff's Chili Chili" by Jeff Morse; "Road Kill Chili" by Joe Fagin; "Matthew's Raider Chili" by Sharon Parrish and "Beer Belly Chili" by Oakridge COP.

If you missed the chili cook-off in person maybe you caught the highlights on the 10:00 pm KTVT newscast. A CBS news photographer filmed much of the event's activities thanks to a call from ONA President Mike Dollar.

The goal of this ONA sponsored activity was certainly fulfilled with an afternoon of fun and, most of all, Oakridge neighbors meeting neighbors. There are many volunteers to thank for this event ranging from those who donated baked goods to those who helped set up and then tear down at the end of the event. I would like to personally thank committee members Margaret Fowler, Tom and Libby Morse, Sharon Parrish and Martha Dollar.

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Oakridge News

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ONA Board Meetings: Third Thursday of each month.

ONA General Membership meetings (for 2008): March 6th and May 1st. Meetings are held at the Oakridge Country Club. Social at 6:30. Meeting at 7:00.

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Oakridge News is a publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

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