



Oakridge News

<http://www.oakridgena.com>



Vol. 16, No. 03

Apr. 2008

President's Letter

By Mike Dollar, ONA President

Let me begin by expressing a big THANK YOU for the generosity shown by everyone who has contributed to the Vitality Grant so far. On page 3 of this newsletter, you will find a list of the Oakridge residents who, as of April 5th, have made contributions to the Neighborhood Vitality Grant. Again, thank you for your generosity!

I also want to express my appreciation for all the volunteers who took time out of their day to distribute fliers and spread the word about the Vitality Grant. We couldn't have spread the word so successfully without you!

That being said, please note that **it is not too late to make your** donation. The number of contributing residents so far only represents 217 of the 1166 total

households in Oakridge. It is our hope that every household will give at least \$20 to help renovate the neighborhood.

In addition to our contributing residents, some local businesses have also shown their support of Oakridge by donating to the Vitality Grant. These businesses, as well as any others that wish to contribute, will be listed as "Preferred Businesses" in our newsletter and on our website (<http://www.OakridgeNA.com>). Let's all show our appreciation by patronizing these companies.

With the generosity of our residents and local businesses, we have already been able to move forward in using roughly \$125,000 for landscaping and streetlight

"It is our hope that every household will give at least \$20 to help renovate the neighborhood."

Continued on Page 2

Council Report

By Rick Williams, District 7 City Councilman

One of the things I have enjoyed, since retiring from the Social Security Administration on January 3, 2007, has been sleep. For years, my alarm woke me up at 5:00 am after having a 6 or 7 hour sleep. Now I wake up, without an alarm, usually after about 8 ½ hours sleep – with the exception of the week prior to April 1, 2008. That was the date the City Council was to consider a request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) on a large Race Trac store at the SW corner of Shiloh and Arapaho, and I literally lost sleep thinking about this request. SUPs are required for all gas stations, and if the SUP is denied, then the gas station will not be built. Normally, an unattractive Race Trac would have been a slam dunk denial, but the plan for the Shiloh/ Arapaho site was going to be a new

style store which included fabric awnings, a standing seam metal roof, decorative street lighting out front, brick all over including a brick enclosed dumpster, lots of landscaping, and in general an attractive exterior which looked more like a nice restaurant. When I watched the Plan Commission meeting, almost without exception, each commissioner seemed conflicted on how he/she should vote, but they eventually voted 8-0 to deny the SUP.

The Plan Commission decision was appealed to the City Council. I know I am only one vote in 9 on the Council, but the normal rule we use on the City Council is that we follow the lead of the Council representative in whose district the property lies unless there is a com-

peiling reason to do otherwise. My initial inclination, when I first spoke with the Race Trac people and saw their very much improved design, was to allow the SUP. They had also worked hard with the Planning Department to remedy traffic/safety concerns.

On the other hand, what I really would like to see is a plan for that site with a larger project more compatible with a residential setting, perhaps with a bank anchoring this corner. I emphasize that is what I would like to see because this 21 acre lot is currently zoned Shopping Center (except for a portion on the south section) which allows many uses such as minor automobile repair shops, laun-

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Check out these Oakridge Services!

- Billy Jack Sprinkler Co., p.7
- Handi Gals, p.6
- Let Sue Do It, p.2
- MR. FIX-IT-ALL, p.2
- Oakridge Country Club, p.4
- Oakridge Paint & Paper, p.6
- My Storage Space, p.5
- Thys Jones, State Farm, p.7

President's Article *(Continued from Page 1)*

renovation - accomplishing two of five neighborhood priorities identified through the City of Garland Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods Program.

As I said, it is not too late to make your contribution. We are still actively collecting donations and we plan to publish a full list of Vitality Grant sponsors next month. So, if you or your place of business would like to support the continued beautification of the neighborhood, please send us your donation. We would love to add your name to the sponsor list!

Before I close, I want to remind everyone to attend the next General Membership Meeting on May 1st at the Oakridge Country Club. At this meeting, I will provide an update on the Vitality Grant projects. In addition, we will vote on new ONA Officers and Directors for 2008-09. Listed below are the names of the nominees for consideration. If you are interested in volunteering as an Officer or Director, please contact me at onapresident@aol.com, or Dianne Winter, Nominating Committee Chair, at (mdkwinter@verizon.net).

Running for ONA Officers/Directors

- President** - Mark Monroe
- Vice President** - Dr. James Chanez
- Secretary** - Open
- Treasurer** - Jo Ann Williams
- District 1** - Joe Fagan
- District 3** - Sandra Stevens & Barbara Harvison
- District 5** - Felix Rotello Jr.
- District 7** - David & Sharon Parrish

Member of the Nominating Committee:

Shirley Mohler, Sonny Parks, Sally Weiss, David Winter, and Dianne Winter

Preferred Businesses

Knowledge Engineers
Granny's Discards
Sun Building

Vitality Grant Donations

Please send checks to:
Oakridge Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 450145-0145, Garland, TX 75045-145



Coming soon! Be on the lookout for the **Block Party** coming to your area of Oakridge! Check the ONA website (<http://www.OakridgeNA.com>) for the latest Block Party information!

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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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Endless possibilities and reasonable pricing:

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- BATHROOM TILE & CAULKING

Neighborhood Vitality Grant

Sponsors as of April 5, 2008

Suggested Sponsor Levels:

Gold Sponsor: \$250

Silver Sponsor: \$100

Bronze Sponsor: \$50

Fair Share: \$20

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Jim & Dana Hopkins
George & Mary Jensen
Barry & Linda Johnson
Gary & Teresa Klembara
David & Sharon Parrish
Bruce & Pam Trutna
Lloyd & Nancy Whitson

SILVER

John & Lanette Bedinger
Mike & Janet Black
John & Norma Blumn
Kenneth Bolls
Darla Bonham
Kerry Cicconi
Keith & Karen Engler
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Javier Soto & Richard Gaylor
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Cecile LaBossiere
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Scott Mayberry

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Glen & Deborah Smith
Mark & Marjorie Smith
Dr. Gary & Vera Smith
Bruce & Carol Stallings
Kenneth & Ruby Steponaitis
Glen & Connie Suhren
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Gordon & Arlene Tovey
Oanh Tran
Andrew & Linda Tucker
Patricia & Dorothy Turnball
Chip & Mary VanPelt
Tom & Mari Vassar
Dave & Sheila Wange
Orville & Sally Weiss
Charlie & Dottie Wheat
Robert & Lori Williams
Ron Williams
David & Dianne Winter
Donald & Hyun Yoo

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Nell Burt
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Melvia Coppedge
Vicki Corbett
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Gary & Barbara Curtis
Steve Dang
Dill & Marialyce DeLoach
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James & Frieda Douglas
Henry & Jeannie Duncan
D. R. Edwards
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Gerald & Mollie Turner
Victor & Tina Verble
Robert & Cyndi Wagner
Harry & Deniz Whitsell
Clark & Sharon Wood

Oakridge Daytimers

By Christine Beyers

The dense fog on the morning of March 11th did not deter people from attending the March Daytimers' Coffee, held at the home of June Parks. Over 40 ladies visited and enjoyed the delicious brunch items provided by the food hostesses: Charlotte Vaughter, Beverly Pierce, and Christine Beyers. The French Toast casserole, prepared by our hostess June Parks, was a scrumptious hit with numerous requests for the recipe.

Gail Durbin, former Oakridge resident and long time Daytimer, made a surprise visit to our meeting. Gail currently resides in St. Louis, but a brief business trip to Dallas allowed an opportunity for her to visit with her Oakridge friends.

During our business meeting, President, Cecile LaBossiere, explained that she will soon be looking for people to serve on the nominating committee for new officers and group leaders.

At the April meeting, money will be collected from members who plan to attend

the May Luncheon. Also, a "field trip" is scheduled – including lunch - to view the Richardson Civic Art Show at the Eise-mann Center, where a painting by Day-timer, Becky Parks, is on display as part of the exhibit.

Name tags were collected and the drawing held for the door prize. Our March winner was Sally Weiss, who will surely enjoy the lovely Easter themed platter selected by Margaret Fowler, Hospitality Coordinator.

Several Daytimers or their family members currently have health issues or upcoming medical procedures ... please keep these individuals in your thoughts as they face these challenges.

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

Interested in Advertising your business in the ONA Newsletter?

Want to make changes to your current ad?

Email Heather Englebretson at Heather@EngleSupport.com.

Visit the ONA Website (www.OakridgeNA.com) for more information on:

Neighborhood Vitality Grant
2008 Nominees for ONA Board

Block Party Details

Missing Pets

...and more!



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

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.

Things Financial and Personal

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

PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FINANCES

There are many credit monitoring services available these days. They will let you know if there are changes to your credit that negatively impact your credit scores and have the possibility to increase the interest rate you might pay on a new mortgage loan or consumer purchase. In addition, these negative changes could even impact the prospects

Dave Morgan
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800-471-1289
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for certain individuals regarding the ability to obtain a new job or enter into business ventures.

Credit monitoring can alert you if the growing epidemic of identity theft has hit you. If you listen to Paul Harvey, each American has had his identity information stolen

seven times on average – it probably has not been used against many folks, but some bad person likely has your information at his disposal. Mr. Harvey advertises for a company called Life Lock that, for \$10 a month, intercepts identity theft and stops unsolicited credit offers from coming to your mailbox. Their website www.lifelock.com can be accessed to learn more. Regardless, I can help you stop most of the unsolicited credit offer mailings if you just give me a call.

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.



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“Top 10” for Springtime

By Carol Garrison

Spring has finally arrived in Oakridge, and CPS has great news! According to the US Dept of Justice, personal property crime has reduced 29% since 1975 (of course internet related crime has more than made up for this difference). The main reasons for the reduction: *Neighborhood Watch programs, home security systems, and Neighborhood Police Officers!* Just goes to show that stepping out of the house and getting to know your neighbors - rather than spending time in front of the computer monitor - really is the safest choice!



And now, since we will all be spending more time outside, here is the “Top 10” list for ways to make Spring safe for all of us:

10. Before resuming your rides through the park, **check screws/bolts on bikes** for looseness, wear, etc.
9. **Begin wearing sunscreen now.** The sun’s rays are just as harmful during the mild sunny days of Spring as they are during the triple-digit heat of the Summer.
8. While cleaning gutters, trimming trees, or checking the roof, **set the base of your ladder one foot from the wall for every 4 feet of ladder height.**
7. **Skip the headphones.** Walkers/joggers wearing headphones are twice as likely to be a crime victim, since they are less aware of their surroundings. (They also get hit by cars because they cannot hear the screeching tires or horns).
6. Before beginning the BBQ season, **check the gas grill** for leaks, loose seals, and broken parts.
5. Spring means plant growth - and not just harmless weeds. Learn to identify and how to **eliminate poison ivy, sumac, and poison oak.**
4. Make sure your Spring Cleaning ritual includes **removing old prescriptions** from the medicine cabinet - flush drugs; do not throw them away. Don’t forget to **check smoke detectors too.**
3. **Practice safety around power lines.** Do not attempt to remove a kite tangled in electrical lines. Contact GP&L (972) 205-2671
2. **Carry personal identification** with you during walks in case of emergencies.
1. **Report any suspicious activity** in the neighborhood to the police immediately; no one ever complains about having too much information when it comes to Crime Prevention and Safety!

Council Report *(Continued from Page 1)*

dromats, etc. without any council involvement...unless a SUP is required.

I wondered whether plopping down an industrial strength size gas/convenience store on that corner set the wrong "tone" for future development and might even preclude a larger, more desirable project in the future. In discussions with the Planning Department, it was their very learned opinion that the Race Trac would not adversely affect future development on that property. So, what direction should I go with this request?

If you saw the April 1st council meeting, you saw me argue that we should deny the SUP, and the vote was 7-2 to deny. What was the #1 factor that led me to

argue for a denial? Citizen input. I had about 15 emails/calls from residents opposed to the SUP, and there was public testimony at the meeting opposing the SUP. No one contacted me supporting it. Do these 15 emails/calls represent what the majority of the residents in District 7 think? I don't know, but that's the only feedback I got. Was the SUP denial the best decision? Again, I don't know. Only time will tell. But I do know one thing—your input is important. It made a difference in this case.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please email me at rick-willi@gmail.com.

DWI Patrol Results

GARLAND POLICE - NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA RELATIONS – 972-485-4868
 ISSUE DATE March 19th, 2008
 RELEASE #2008-17



RESULTS OF STEPPED UP DWI PATROLS

After two weeks of increased DWI patrols, March 7th – March 16th, Garland Officers arrested 13 people for Driving While Intoxicated, issued 33 citations and made six non-alcohol arrests.

The additional patrols were funded by the IMPAIRED DRIVER MOBILIZATION GRANT which is sponsored by TXDOT. The grant's aim is enforcing DWI laws for all drivers with a special emphasis on Driving Under the Influence by Minors. There were no minors arrested during this enforcement time.

Statistics in Texas show us someone is hurt or killed in an alcohol related crash every 19 minutes and drunk-driving claims 5 lives every day. This year Garland has had three fatality crashes with the most recent one being alcohol related.

Sunday night, March 16th, as the enforcement came to close a P/U ran a red light on Glenbrook at Ave B causing a collision with a Garland squad car. The driver of the P/U was intoxicated and charged with DWI.



Is your department environmentally responsible? What are you already doing to promote sustainable, environmentally-friendly business practices? Do you have information or services that will help Garland citizens live greener? If so, your department needs to show off its green side at Garland Goes Green!

The City of Garland and the Garland Chamber of Commerce are working together to host the Garland Goes Green Environmental Expo on Saturday, April 19, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Firewheel Town Center. The event will feature demonstrations, exhibitors, and presentations intended to show citizens how even the simplest changes in daily routines can help the environment.

[source: City of Garland Water Utilities]

Philip Hanas
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Oakridge News

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Oakridge News is a publication of the
Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

ONA Officers

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Vice President..... Keith Engler
Secretary Karen Engler
Treasurer Joann Williams

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District No. 2 Jim Norris
District No. 3 Sandra Stevens
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Environmental Don Pattie
Membership Cecile LaBossiere
Special Events Sherri Franks
Welcome Wagon..... Cecile LaBossiere

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**We are still
accepting
donations for
the Vitality
Grant!**

ONA Board Meetings: First Thursday of each month.

NEXT ONA General Membership meeting: May 1st.

Meetings are held at the Oakridge Country Club.

Social - 6:30, Meeting - 7:00.