



Oakridge News

<http://www.oakridgena.com>



Vol. 16, No. 05

June 2008

President's Letter

By Mark Monroe, ONA President

Well, well, well! I thought my days of writing articles for the ONA were over, but, by the good graces of my mother-in-law and my seemingly sparse free-time, I have accepted the challenge of being the ONA president for this year.

As many of you know, I always discuss how the family is doing because after serving as a council member for this area, I've met many, many people who know Tami, Hunter and Case, and I wanted you to know they are doing extremely well. Both boys are growing extremely strong and eating me out of house and home.

I've always held the ONA with highest regards. Associations, such as the ONA, that are not mandatory yet still carry close to 50 % membership are few and

far between. This truly speaks volumes about the people who are dedicated to ensuring our neighborhood is a safe, friendly environment for family and friends. Serving as great examples of this are the past executive officers of the ONA, from Nelson Prater to Mike Dollar. They have been committed and visionary in making our neighborhood what it is today. Many thanks to these gentlemen for leading us in the right direction.

Our current board consists of seasoned veterans and some newcomers like myself, James Chanez, and Kim Fuentess. I am excited to be working with these people because they truly are people who make things happen.

Continued on Page 6

Council Report

By Rick Williams, District 7 City Councilman

One of the things the City Council does is try to pass ordinances which will have positive effects on Garland. Currently, we are working on two. The first is one I introduced a while back which deals with so-called payday loan businesses. Not only do these businesses have a well-deserved reputation of preying on those who can least afford to pay, but there have also been some studies which have shown that they can adversely lower property values. What caught my attention about this problem were newspaper articles explaining that both Richardson and Mesquite had passed ordinances regulating these businesses, and since Garland is between these two cities, my

concern was they might be chased into Garland. Anyhow, more to come on this, but I don't want Garland to be known as a haven for payday loan businesses!

The other ordinance we are currently working on deals with scrap metal. As everyone knows, thieves often steal metal such as copper from air conditioners, and then sell it to those who buy scrap metal. In Garland, there are four such businesses. This initiative was started by the member cities in the 16-county North Central Texas Council of Governments, and NTCOG is encouraging all member cities to pass a similar law to one adopted in Dallas, about 2 years ago, and in Mesquite recently. The ordinance

would require the seller to provide identification, to be driving a vehicle, etc. Additionally, money for the metal would be mailed to the individual in the form of a check. For such a law to work will require all the cities in this area to pass a similar law, otherwise the thief will just go to the City where selling stolen metal is accomplished without any questions asked. We want to do our part to discourage thieves from stealing metal.

The City Council is looking for individuals who might be interested in serving on the newly created Utility Advisory Board (UAB) which will deal with the City's elec-

Continued on Page 6

Check out these Oakridge Services!

- Billy Jack Sprinkler Co., p.7
- Engle Support Services, p.5
- 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.5
- My Storage Space, p.3
- Thys Jones, State Farm, p.7

ONA Communication

By Heather Englebretson

With the arrival of summer, I will have completed—no, *survived* my first year on the ONA communications committee. Of course, I say this with a touch of humor because it has actually been an awesome experience to work with and witness the dedication of the ONA board members. They are so motivated that, at times, I must remind myself they are volunteers, not paid employees. (We couldn't afford to *keep* them if they were paid!)

It has also been a privilege to hear from you, my fellow ONA members. The genuine care and concern for the neighborhood and the residents within is precisely what makes Oakridge such a wonderful place to call home.

As we head into a new year for the ONA board, I plan to continue serving you as the newsletter editor. That being said, one of the first items of business is to adjust the newsletter printing date. A number of you have commented that the

newsletter is "old news" by the time it hits your mailbox. At the recent board meeting, we agreed on a timeline that will hopefully get the newsletter to you before its "expiration date". This change will be in full effect by August.

Before I close, I want to mention another important piece of the ONA communication: the ONA website (<http://www.OakridgeNA.com>). Keith Engler has graciously offered to continue as the ONA webmaster. Having a current website is very important and Keith is the person that makes it happen. Take some time to visit the website!

Finally, if you have an interest in serving on the communications committee, I would love to hear from you.

Heather@EngleSupport.com
<http://www.EngleSupport.com>

Vitality Grant Update

Your Vitality Grant contributions at work!

The upcoming newsletters will have a "Vitality Grant Update" box (just like this one) to provide you with information about the ongoing Vitality Grant projects. Many of you have already seen some of the changes in progress at the Oakridge entrances as the new landscaping has begun. Still to come are replacements for the light posts that currently don't match. When all is said and done, our light posts will display a uniform appearance throughout Oakridge.

Stay tuned...



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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Oakridge is Turning Pink

By Cecile Labossiere

Thanks to everyone who has sent in their membership dues applications for the 2008-09 calendar year. Your contributions have kept our volunteers busy this month. We have had a flurry of activity in the neighborhood as our volunteers drive the neighborhood and post the ONA MEMBER FLAGS in the yards of those that have joined. I have been impressed with the number of flags that have been posted and the buzz it has created among the residents of Oakridge.

I also wanted to provide you with the latest tally! As of June 13th for our 2008-09 membership campaign we have received 358 dues applications and we have posted a flag in each member's yard... Yes - we have been busy! Again, our goal is to achieve a neighborhood participation rate of 50% which would be a total of 583 members. I like to look at percentages so with 358 members for this year **we have**

358 membership applications received so far!

achieved 60% of our membership goal of 583 members. We are continuing with our membership drive through the end of July and second invoices will be sent out the last week of June to those that have not joined.

What can you do to help the membership drive?

If you haven't joined yet - why not? For \$60.00 a year, your contribution keeps Oakridge in tip top shape. **Your annual dues \$\$\$\$ are spent on** maintaining the neighborhood. The Oakridge Neighborhood Association has taken responsibility for **landscape maintenance, mowing, lighting and sprinkler systems for all the Oakridge entrances and common median areas.** If we didn't do it - Who would??? And what would the neighborhood look like without us?

If you have joined and know someone who hasn't - why not spread the word

about the value of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. We need our members' voices to reach those who are not participating. I have had an opportunity to speak to neighbors and many of them did not realize the magnitude of the contribution the ONA brings to Oakridge. Once they understood what their \$60.00 contribution was supporting they were more than happy to join. As one person, I can only reach a few residents in the neighborhood. But with all of our voices spreading the news about the ONA, we can reach out to more residents and help create a closer community through participation.

Let's try to post an ONA Member Banner in everyone's yard this year! Our volunteers are ready and willing—so let's try to get them busy this month with new banner postings.

Continued on Page 4



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972-896-9413 or **972-414-8057**
e-mail: cmleks@verizon.net

NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Garland Youth

Every year, each City Council representative appoints one student to the Garland Youth Council. I recently got a stack of about 20 applications and not one was from a student who lived in District 7. So, if you know a sophomore high school student, who will be a junior beginning in September, who would be interested in serving on the Garland Youth Council, please go to <http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/Home/City+Hall/Boards+and+Commissions/BC800+landing.htm> for an application form and other information.

I can certainly choose someone from outside the district, but I'd prefer one of our own District 7 students. It would also be helpful if you would email me (rickwilli@gmail.com) to alert me that an application is being submitted.

Turning Pink

Special thanks to our membership volunteers: Kim Gingerich, Lori Oswald, Helen Bruss, Martha Dollar, Diana Edwards, Deb Pandak, Mary Pattie, Sharon Parrish, Margaret Fowler, Tony and Tillie Battaglia, Harold and Betty Stevens and the countless others that have helped me along the way.. I couldn't do it without you !

Cecile LaBossiere
Membership Director



JULY NEWSLETTER

In mid-July, you will receive a newsletter that looks a little different from normal. Instead of offering several articles, it will provide all the names of those who have contributed to the Vitality Grant for the Oakridge neighborhood. There are so many names it will take a full newsletter issue to display. What a wonderful "problem" to have!! Thank you to everyone who has contributed!



The Oakridge Country Club has a new ad with new information!

Check it out!



SUMMER MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Membership Promotion

Full Membership - No Restrictions in Play: \$2,095 plus tax
Get 1 year Free Carts, Get 1 year Free Range,
Get 1 year Free Guest Passes

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 - \$350.00 plus tax
Memorial Day to Labor Day

Sports Plus Membership

Sports Plus Memberships are non-transferable memberships. Members and their families 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, Timberlinks, The Golf Club McKinney and The Golf Club at Twin Creeks.

Initiation Fee: one time fee of \$199.00

Single Membership: \$49.95 monthly

Family membership: \$69.96 monthly

ASK HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE TRIP FOR TWO (Airfare & Hotel Included). CALL TRECIA FOR DETAILS - 972-530-8008 EXT. 239 or email thamilton@irigolfgroup.com.

Things Financial and Personal

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

The Invention Corner

The US Patent Office was on the verge of closing their operations in 1904 because “everything that could be invented has been invented”. Aren’t you glad they did not close their doors?

Did you know that your modern day car has (and has had for many years) more computer power than the Apollo lunar spaceships did in the 60’s and 70’s?

Did you know that Liquid Paper was invented by a Dallas, Texas secretary many years ago? She was also the mother of Michael Nesmith of the singing group created for TV, “The Monkees”.

Did you know that Post-It notes were the result of a failure by a 3M Company scientist in Brownwood, Texas? In a search for creating a good super glue formula, one of the mixtures was accidentally spilled by the scientist onto the papers covering his desk. To his surprise, the glue mixture did not permanently seal his papers into a messy lump. Instead, the substance kept the papers together, but could be separated without physically destroying or discoloring them.

Around the House

Do you have a favorite coffee cup that now has a coffee stain that cannot be removed with normal cleaning? Well, rub a slice of lemon on the stain and, a drum roll please, the stain is gone. Rinse and wash the cup as normal.

The Recipe Corner

It’s unique and it’s fun. The next time you are in your favorite restaurant, see how their menus are organized. Take the time to design, number your selections, and print a menu for your home “bistro” to hand out to visitors that come to your home. Put in your family’s top three favorites each for appetizers, breakfast entrees, lunch entrees, supper entrees, desserts, drink concoctions, and such into your personalized menu. Then, expand the menu item by putting the recipe under the description so that you can share the preparation secrets!

Did You Know?

We still live in the greatest country in the world. No one is scheming on how they can escape from the United States – people are coming here (legally and illegally) for the opportunities that this country has to offer. Sure, we may not agree with one another all the time, but we have the freedom to be that way.

Get involved with your neighbors and participate in the governmental affairs that interest you. Learn your political candidates and the issues of the day, and vote every time you can. People have died protecting your right to vote – it’s your duty – get beyond the “inconvenience”. Thank a soldier, policeman, firefighter, and any other folks you admire any time you can.

Try to volunteer when you can. If you need ideas, contact the Oakridge Neighborhood Association, your neighbors, or even me. Someone needs your skills and efforts. Change from living as a “human being” into living as a “human doing”.

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(s) presented.

If you need some referrals or want to discuss things with me, I can be reached at 800-471-1289 or at davelmorgan@verizon.net.

My website is www.dlmmortgage.com.

Interested in writing an article for the ONA newsletter?

Email Heather Englebretson—Heather@EngleSupport.com

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President's Letter

(Continued from Page 1)

I have some goals and objectives for the upcoming year in the ONA, the most important goal being the continuation of implementing the neighborhood vitality grant. I will be setting up a committee that includes Mike Dollar, Keith Engler, and someone soon to be named . . . most likely the person who doesn't show up to the next board meeting. This committee is very important and Mike's presence is particularly critical since he started the neighborhood vitality process last year and it is important for us to maintain the continuity of this program. In my next article, I will elaborate on the goals and objectives for the ONA for the next year.

By the time you are reading this, we are in the process of or finishing up our neighborhood block parties. I was excited to see these events return this year because our family had a tremendous time at our block party two years ago. We have to remember this association was formed not only to promote our neighborhood by providing maintenance to our landscapes, but also to provide a way for family and friends to come together.

I look forward to visiting with you throughout the upcoming year and, if you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mark Monroe
mtmonroe@msn.com

Environmental Committee

These are busy and exciting times for the Environmental part of the ONA. The redoing of the entrance landscaping, replacement of the street lights, replacement of the Oakridge entrance signs, and summer watering are all going on at once. As Environmental Director I should be monitoring all of this, looking for sign makers, etc., but because of a family medical crisis, I am simply not able to devote the time to ONA required to get it all done.

Never Fear! This is the ONA and we are a team. Cecile Labossiere and Joe Fagan have volunteered to do my job until I can do it again. They have already taken down the old signs (to keep more of the signs from being stolen), Cecile has checked out the sprinklers and the lights, and Joe is getting bids from sign makers for new signs.

I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to Cecile and Joe for taking over for me. It's people like you that make living in Oakridge so great.

Don Pattie

Council Report

(Continued from Page 1)

tric utility (GP&L) and not other utilities. Unlike most boards with 9 members, this one will have 7 and the members will be selected by the Council as a whole rather than each Council member making one appointment. Each position on the UAB must have specific qualifications:

One member shall be a residential customer of GP&L (Position 1)

One member shall be a commercial customer of GP&L or employed by a commercial customer of GP&L (Position 2)

Three members shall be or shall have been employed within a professional field such as accounting, finance, marketing, law, engineering, or commercial development (Positions 3, 4, 5)

Two members shall be or shall have been employed within the energy industry (Positions 6, 7).

The UAB generally meets once each month although it can be more frequently when special purpose meetings are needed. If you have the background and are willing to serve, I encourage you to complete the UAB application form which is available on the City's web site www.ci.garland.tx.us or by contacting the City Secretary's Office at 972-205-2000. Anyone interested should submit the application before July 1, as the screening and selection process must be completed before formal selection is made on the August 19 City Council meeting.

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

Would you like to purchase Ad space in the ONA newsletter?

Now is the time! Pricing is about to go up!

Current pricing is available on the ONA website at <http://www.oakridgeNA.com>. Just click on the "Newsletter" link (left side of the web page). Rates are shown half-way down the newsletter page.

Mail payment to the P.O. Box provided with the Ad rates on the ONA website.

Contact Heather Englebretson with questions or to purchase Ad space.

Heather@EngleSupport.com.



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Inside this Issue

President's Letter	1
Council Report	1
ONA Communication	2
Vitality Grant Update	2
Oakridge is Turning Pink	3
Garland Youth Council	4
Things Financial	5
Environmental Committee	6

ONA Board Meetings: completed for 2007-2008 year.

ONA General Membership meetings TBA
Meetings are held at the Oakridge Country Club.
Social - 6:30, Meeting - 7:00.

What are you recycling?

In your red recycling bin...

- *Aluminum, steel & tin cans*
- *Aerosol cans that do not contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)*
- *Glass bottles & jars*
- *Plastic containers #1 & #2*

Be sure to rinse containers & throw away detached lids.

In a separate container next to your red bin...

- *newspapers, junk mail, advertising inserts, magazines, white & colored paper*

Place these items in a separate container (box, grocery bag, tied bundles, etc.) next to your red bin. On rainy days, protect them from getting wet. (They will not accept wet or sunburned papers.)

See the City's website, <http://www.ci.garland.tx.us> for more information.

