



Oakridge News

<http://www.oakridgena.com>



Vol. 16, No. 06

July/August 2008

President's Letter

By Mark Monroe, ONA President

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

EVENT UPDATE!!!!!!! After asking Rebecca Chanez to head up the special events efforts for the ONA, she has already earned her pay, by bringing to my attention that the National Night Out event in Texas is October 7th. Obviously, I would prefer to have the event in October instead August. We will continue to work in conjunction with Oakridge Country Club on this event and we are expecting a terrific turnout for our "pick'en and grin'en" party. Besides this gives all of you guitar heroes time to practice (including you Nelson Prater)!

Our Neighborhood Vitality Grant improvements are well on the way to com-

pletion, which I am sure Mike Dollar will provide an update this newsletter, but I started thinking about what are the most important features that our neighborhood offers. While there are many reasons why we have such a desirable community, our backbone of our success lies with

**Texas's
National Night Out
October 7th**

[Oakridge Country Club](#). I firmly believe the club provides more than just recreational opportunities. It provides an open atmosphere that all of our residents enjoy and I believe that allows our community to get out an about whether that be for a jog, walk or bike ride. I also think the

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Council Report

By Rick Williams, District 7 City Councilman

Like most people, I'm not fond of losing, but on July 1, I was on the losing end of a 6-2 City Council vote which passed a metal recycling ordinance in Garland. I shall not rehash all the details of the ordinance, but basically it requires all metal recyclers in Garland to take a photo and get a fingerprint of those selling metal (other than aluminum cans) for recycling. The idea is to stop or reduce metal thieves who may steal \$35.00 worth of copper tubing from an air conditioner unit while doing \$2,500 in damages. I did not and do not believe this law will be effective, but I am certainly not going to criticize my 6 colleagues whose opinions differed from mine for several reasons.

First, I gave my best arguments during debate, but in the end, the ordinance passed. This is the democratic process, and who can argue with that?

Second, this council works very well together, and one of the reasons is that we don't criticize each other. Disagreements are a natural part of the legislative process, and when one ends up on the losing side of a vote, you simply move forward. If you want to read about Council bickering, read the Metro section of the Dallas Morning News where frequently council members in other cities are jabbing at each other in the press. We don't want to be like that in Garland.

I mentioned in last month's article, that I was leaning toward NOT voting for an ordinance which would ban cell phones in school zones, but I encouraged readers to e-mail me with opinions. I received a total of 6 opinions, and like me, none supported this proposed ordinance. When it came up for a vote on the July 15 Council meeting, not one City Council person made a motion to pass the ordinance (i.e., all 8 of us just viewed it as a "feel good" ordinance which served little practical purpose). Thus, we obviously did not pass this ordinance.

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Check out these Oakridge Services!

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Decade of Daytimers

By Dianne Winter

The Oakridge Daytimers are preparing to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the organization that met for the first time on September 15th, 1998.

Roberta Jones had lived in Oakridge for a long time before she decided to act on a need that she identified for the Oakridge Community - more neighbor interaction. She placed an article in the ONA newsletter for interested neighbors to meet at her home and on September 15th, 1998 the first official Daytimers meeting was assembled in her home with seventeen attendees, the organization currently numbers sixty-eight.

The purpose of the organization would be to provide opportunities for fellowship and the development of friendships among women in the neighborhood. The social club would promote the Oakridge Community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

The officers for the coming year 2008 – 2009 are:

President	Sharon Carlton
Vice-President	Jo Dietz
Treasurer/ Membership	Mary Pattie
Name Tags	Jo Ann Williams
Newsletter	Dianne Winter
Calendar & Book Club	Peggy Crenshaw
Messaging/ Web	Sally Weiss

Messaging/ Phone
Hospitality
Sunshine
Sunshine
Special Events
Program Director

Charlotte Vaughter
Kim Gingerich
Audrey King
Becky Thomas
Shirley Mohler & Sharon Carlton
Suzanne Snow

Meetings with food, fun and fellowship are held on the **second Tuesday of each month – September – May**. The first meeting of the organization to celebrate the 10 year anniversary will be in the home of Cecile La Bossiere at 3218 Bending Oaks Trail at 10 am on Tuesday, September 9th.

Sharon Carlton, President, along with Vice President, Jo Dietz, and other officers and group leaders have been working diligently this summer to prepare for an exciting year. You will not want to miss these special meetings. Come join the group and meet your neighbors!

Dues of \$12.00 will be collected at the September meeting by treasurer, Mary Pattie.

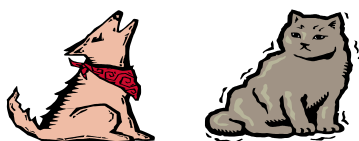
Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$12.00 yearly dues. Daytimers promotes the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Any questions should be directed to Sharon Carlton at 972 530 4317.

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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Pest Check—Cicada Killers

By Kimberly Schofield,
Program Specialist-Urban IPM

During the warmest days of summer, we will be joined by a rather large insect, known as the cicada killer. Cicada killers are active during late July and August, coinciding with the appearance of cicadas which they sting and paralyze. Cicadas are large insects that “sing” in the trees during late summer. The female cicada killer will search tree trunks and lower limbs for cicadas, which she will sting and drag back into her 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 captures at least one cicada (some collect two or three) 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 female constructs a burrow and captures her own cicadas to serve as food for her developing young.

The cicada killer develops through complete metamorphosis, with four life stages: egg, larva, pupae and adult. In two to three days, the eggs will hatch. Depending on the number of cicadas in its burrow, the cicada killer larvae can feed for 4 to 10 days. Then the larvae will pupate and the adults will emerge from July to August. This insect only has one generation a year.

Continued on Page 6

President’s Letter

(Continued from Page 1)

well taken premises sets a tone for our community. While I am not associated with the club in any way, I understand the importance they play in our neighborhood. So I would encourage you to play the course, tennis or go swimming because it is important to support those that support us.

Finally, I would be remised if I did not mention our efforts in our membership drive. Please continue to talk and visit with your neighbors about the ONA and what we can achieve when we work together.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments,

Mark Monroe

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article for the ONA
newsletter?



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Heather@EngleSupport.com

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Council Report

(Continued from Page 1)

One thing we did pass on July 15 was an increase in solid Waste collection. Specifically, the monthly charge increased (effective August 1) from \$16.25 to \$18.09 per month--a \$1.84 increase. Of course, the reason is due to the price of gas—as the solid waste collection trucks use a lot of gas. We will start a series of budget meetings (most held on Thursday evenings in August) FY 09 (i.e., Oct 08 – Sept 09), and all these budget meetings will be televised. If you care to tune in and provide me with feedback, that would be appreciated. For example, I know for a fact Garland’s Star Spangled 4th celebration has been cut from the FY 09 budget since this will save the City about \$230,000. How important to you is this annual celebration? I know some other fee increases will be part of the proposed budget presented by the City Manager to the Council. As always, we will be doing our best to keep taxes as low as possible while at the same time, providing the level of city service that residents of Garland expect.

On July 24, Garland had its first confirmed case of West Nile Virus...in Oakridge on Rocky Trail.

Garland recently created a Citizens request Center, accessible on Garland’s home page <http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/Home> (in the left column). This site allows you to find information or ask questions about City services. In addition, you may request certain City services online. At this time, service requests are limited to a few departments, but the City is adding new departments as quickly as possible. Another feature on Garland’s home page is a link (in the far right column) asking your thoughts about how to save money, since the budget is going to be very tight. That link is scheduled to come down on August 28. You can provide your thoughts there, or if you prefer, email me directly.

On July 24, Garland had its first confirmed case of West Nile Virus, and it was a district 7 resident who lived in Oakridge on Rocky Trail. This human case was a surprise since the City of Garland has tested over 2,000 mosquitoes thus far this summer and has not seen any virus activity. Notices were sent to surrounding neighbors, and the City sprayed for mosquitoes on July 28.

It is natural to be concerned about the effects of spraying on you, pets, the environment, etc.; however, the City of Garland sprays Aqualuer 20-20® which has an active chemical agent called Permethrin. Mixed with water it is applied at 5.0 ounces per minute with the truck driving at 10 mph. Thus, only 5/100ths of a teaspoon of active agent in a microscopic mist lands on a typical residential lot (1/4 acre). It has the lowest toxicity to mammals of any insecticide on the market. Typically, the City only sprays areas where a mosquito has been found carrying the virus or where an individual lives who became infected.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to call me (214 535-2648) or email me at rickwilli@gmail.com.

Book Club

By Dianne Winter

The Oakridge Daytimers’ Book Club met at the home of Mary Pattie to end the 2007 – 2008 session. The attendees were treated to a creative display to help visualize the book to be discussed, [The Lighthouse](#) by P D James.

The display featured the outline of the fictional Combe Island with the locations of the structures and other landmarks. The members were grateful for this concrete representation of the island. This was the first book by the author, Baroness James, that has been read by the members of the club. A great deal of discussion included the difficulty in solving the mystery and the development of the characters of the book.



The members also thanked Betty Thomas, who has led the group for several years, for all the direction and motivation that she has given to the members. Peggy Crenshaw will be the new Book Club leader.

The Book Club meets on the third Friday of the month. Come join the group.



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Pest Check—Cicada Killers

(Continued from Page 4)

Adult cicada killers feed on flower nectar and sap. The female wasps are 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:

- 1) Apply fertilizers and water turfgrass to promote growth.
- 2) Also place mulch in flowerbeds and around shrubs to cover sandy soil to help reduce cicada populations.

Chemical Control Options:

Control is usually not recommended, since this is considered a beneficial insect. However these wasps can become a problem in high traffic areas around homes and in commercial areas such as around swimming pools, flower beds, and golf course greens.

If control is necessary, first the nests should be located during the daylight hours, while the female is foraging. Then at night or before dawn, sprinkle around 1 tablespoon of carbaryl dust into the burrow and then close the entrance of the burrow. Other suggestions for spray treatments that are labeled for wasp control include acephate, allethrin, cyfluthrin, cypermethrin, perme-

thrin, and resmethrin. Repeat treatments may be needed for two to three weeks as new wasps move into the area.

[Photo: Cicada killer, *Sphecius speciosus* (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae). Photo by Bart Drees, Professor and Extension Entomologist, Texas A&M University.]

Mention of commercial products is for educational purposes only and does not represent endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension or The Texas A&M University System. Insecticide label registrations are subject to change, and changes may have occurred

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

GARLAND

The City of Garland wants YOUR input!

Visit their website today!

<http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/Home>



Announcements

Citizen Input Needed
The City of Garland is soliciting input from Garland residents about City government cost-saving measures.

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