



# Oakridge News

<http://www.oakridgena.com>



Vol. 16, No. 09

November 2008

## President's Letter

By Mark Monroe, ONA President

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

I could not think of a better way to describe our National Night Out Event other than WOW! I know those that were involved with this event were excited about the possibilities of having 200 neighbors and friends attend but we were blown away. It is hard to estimate the number but on a conservative estimate there were 500 participants. We formulated this estimate with a precise instrument of measurement...The Oakridge Country Club donated hot dogs and buns. They provide 250 hot dog buns and 250 hamburger buns. We went through those in a quick fashion!

There are many people and organizations to thank but I need to start with Brenda and Bill Olive which donated time and money to the cause. Without their hard work, we would not have been this successful. The entire Citizens On Patrol gang helped with the logistical set and tear down. I would also like to thank the Oakridge Country Club for their participation and contributions. The Oakridge Women's Group as well as the Daytimer's provided support and contributed to this success.

I must also thank all of our local busi-

*Continued on Page 2*

## Council Report

By Rick Williams, District 7 Councilman

Due to printing deadlines, we were unable to include Rick Williams' article last month, so this month we are pleased to offer a double issue!

### OCTOBER ISSUE:

I write these little monthly articles at the end of each month, so here I am at the end of September and thinking back, it's been a relatively slow month. We passed the budget last month, and although there were some tough decisions, the process went smoothly. The same cannot be said for the Dallas Independent School District. Wow! How can you "suddenly"

discover a \$64 million shortfall? Could something like this happen in Garland? Not a chance as long as we have Bryan Bradford as the Managing Director of Budget and Research. He and his staff do an incredible job of providing council with budget information in the form of briefings and 3-ring tabbed binders with beautifully laid out charts and clear explanations of the many facets of what makes up a complicated City budget. Some of you might recall that a few months ago, I mentioned how the City of Garland got its bond rating upgraded, and this was largely due to Mr. Bradford's manage-

ment of the budget, excellent long-range planning, and knowing what money is coming in and what's going out.

And while I am praising Mr. Bradford, let me just say in general that although I have only been on City Council for 16 months, I have been more than impressed by Garland City staff. I won't start naming names because it would be a long list and I might leave out someone I should not. However, I just want you to know that residents of this City are very fortunate to have many really top quality

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### Check out these Oakridge Services!

- All In One Construction, Inc., p. 8
- Billy Jack Sprinkler Co., p. 9
- Engle Support Services, p. 4
- Handi Gals, p. 3
- Let Sue Do It, p. 2
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- My Storage Space, p. 4
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- Oakridge Paint & Paper, p. 4
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## Officer Keith Prinz Memorial Fund

Earlier this month, the Garland Police Department lost an officer due to a tragic set of circumstances. On November 4, 2008, this information was released in the paper: Officer Keith Prinz died Friday while hunting with his son. He fell out of a tree and onto a fence post, and died a short time later. This is a tragic and difficult time for his family and our department as we lost a good friend and hard-working officer. Please pray for his family's comfort and encouragement. Thanks.

Many of you have already expressed sympathy and have contributed to the memorial fund. However, if you still wish to contribute cards of sympathy or donations to the fund, please send them to:

Lakeside National Bank  
 Keith Prinz Memorial Fund  
 P.O. Box 9  
 Rockwall, Texas 75087

Please keep them in your thoughts during the upcoming holiday season.



## President's Letter

(Continued from Page 1)

nesses that help sponsor this event either through a donation or participation. The list is long (see page 6) but well worth the recognition. As you drive by these businesses, please return the favor in stopping and saying thanks or spending a few of your hard earned dollars with them. I know they will appreciate hearing from you.

Finally, I would like to thank those first responders that attended our event. The Police, Fire, Animal Services Departments as well as Carelite provide us with the best services in the Metroplex. These men and women with their training and compassion make our community a place to live, work and raise our families. Many thanks for what you do for us.

I am hopeful that you were able to attend the event, meet some of your neighbors, and enjoy the night while walking away thinking "Oakridge is a great place to be."

Regards,  
 Mark Monroe

## Let Sue Do It

*The repairman is coming, but you have a meeting?*

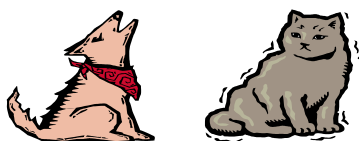
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*Kitty and Rover won't go to the kennel?*

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A BIG Thank You to our ONA newsletter printer, **Sir Speedy**!

Due to a number of ongoing projects with approaching deadlines, the October newsletter had to be produced quicker than usual. When we asked **Sir Speedy** to accommodate our tight schedule, they came through with flying colors! A job well done!

The next time you need some printing services, we encourage you to visit our friends at **Sir Speedy**.



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**NO JOB IS TOO SMALL**

## Oakridge Daytimers

By Dianne Winter

More than thirty of the Oakridge Daytimers met at the home of the hostess, Suzanne Snow, on October 14, to check calendars, hear announcements and be entertained with music, food and fellowship.

Thanks to those hostesses who provided the food - Becky Thomas, Audrey King, Sally Weiss, Margaret Fowler and Doris Autrey. Many of the recipes for the food were chosen from a collection that the Daytimers are gathering from members and then sharing them through email. The first group was appetizers and the next section will be beverages. If you have a recipe that you want to share, please send it to Sharon Carlton.

The president, Sharon Carlton, welcomed everyone and thanked those who had been instrumental in making the Oakridge National Night Out so successful. She recognized Brenda Olive for her contribution in coordinating the function and thanked Janice Schadeegg and Margaret Fowler for their work in registering 517 attendees. Hats off to Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

Sharon also read the thank you note from Roberta Jones, founder of Daytimers, expressing her gratitude for the gift that had been presented to her to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the Daytimer organization.

Treasurer, Mary Pattie, announced that there are 54 members in just the second month of the Daytimer year and to be sure to join by next month to be included in the membership roster. Three new members have been added – Betty Cosgray, Emily Krause and Brenda Olive.

Becky Thomas announced the concerns of the club. She communicated that she had talked to Pat Tharp who has been ill and is anxious to return next month and that Henry Pauley thanked everyone when she spoke to him.

Audrey King announced the names of those who had birthdays in November.

Peggy Crenshaw passed out the calendars that she had prepared and as Book Club leader also, she announced the upcoming meeting to discuss the book, *The Amateur Marriage*, by Anne Tyler. Next month, they will discuss, *The World Below*, authored by Sue Miller.

Jo Ann Williams, Fun on the Run leader, announced the upcoming event. The members who wish to go to the Arboretum for the fall festival will meet at the Oakridge Country Club at 10 am

*Continued on Page 9*

Philip Hanas  
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### Council Report

(Continued from Page 1)

managers who are not only very knowledgeable/professional, but also are really good people on a personable level.

I continue to receive calls and emails about the Dallas Morning News delivery of small newspaper called Briefing to selected neighborhoods. This little paper is delivered in a yellow plastic bag on Thursday through Saturday, and too often we see them lying in the gutter or on lawns where they have not been picked up. The City Council will be addressing this issue in October. Of course, there's always the free speech issue that precludes banning such a paper in Garland, but the City Attorney has explained that the Council can regulate the time, place, and manner of delivery, so that may be an avenue we pursue. In the mean time, if you want to stop receiving it, call 214 977-8333 or go to [www.dallasnews.com/briefing](http://www.dallasnews.com/briefing) where you can cancel delivery at your address.

Of all the calls and emails I receive, the majority deal with Code Compliance issues (e.g., high weeds, broken fence, junk cars, etc.). I am always glad to help when I can, and generally this means getting hold of Code staff and having them check out the situation. However, if you prefer to cut out the middle man (i.e., me), you can always call Code 972 485-6400 or email them [codenfc@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:codenfc@ci.garland.tx.us). Sometimes, there's reluctance for fear of retribution; however, all calls or emails to Code are 100% anonymous. Code staff is limited and they can't be everywhere, so they count on citizens to help. You may not see immediate results after your call/email because there are legal requirements to issue notices, provide time for correction, etc. before a citation is issued or a contract crew is called to mow.

#### **NOVEMBER ISSUE:**

In last month's article, I explained that the Council was planning on dealing with the Dallas Morning News delivery of small news-

paper called Briefing that is delivered unsolicited to homes in many neighborhoods. This little paper is delivered usually in a yellow plastic bag on Thursday through Saturday, and too often we see them lying in gutters or on lawns. Despite testimony from four DMN officials and their attorney during the public hearing a city hall, we passed (9-0) an ordinance basically saying that unsolicited publications must be placed within 5' of the front door. The DMN attorney said there was no precedent for such a requirement, so he state it would be decided in court. As of this writing the DMN has not filed a civil suit, but it's probably coming. The City is looking for a good "test case," so if you get such a delivery outside of 5' from your door and would like to file a complaint, contact me. The best complainant would be someone who has a no solicitation sign and who has "opted out" of the DMN delivery. Preferably, the complainant would need to testify that the paper was delivered on the front lawn--not that it just showed up in the yard.

I had an inquiry regarding fire engines accompanying ambulances and suggesting this was a waste of gas, personnel, etc. I discussed this with the Fire Chief who explained that the only time an engine goes with an ambulance is for car accidents and when there is a case of an unconscious person. During an incident of an unconscious person, there are IVs to start, drugs to administer, CPR to perform, airway ventilations, talking with the doctors, etc., and the two personnel on the ambulance cannot handle the situation adequately. This is standard operating procedure for most fire departments.

With the financial crisis, there was a concern about the City's ability to issue debt to fund capital projects using commercial paper (CP). The Council received a presentation at a work ses-

*Continued on Page 7*

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## Christmas on the Square!

Christmas on the Square plans are well underway, and downtown Garland will soon be ablaze with wonderful holiday lighting displays. This year's event is set for **Thursday, December 4 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.** One significant change to Christmas on the Square is there will not be a Parade of Lights. The annual event will, however, feature a free sled ride down a snow hill. Yes, there will be real snow in Garland! Patrons can also enjoy free horse-drawn carriage rides through Garland Power & Lights "Avenue of Lights." In addition, the event will showcase holiday music performed by Garland ISD students and a special performance by Erica Lane. Ms. Lane has been featured on soundtracks of more than a half dozen film and television projects. To learn more about this talented performer, visit [www.ericalanemusic.com](http://www.ericalanemusic.com).

Christmas on the Square highlights include the official tree lighting ceremony and free photos with Santa. Patrons can also enjoy great festive foods as they stroll through the Christmas Bazaar shopping for special hand-crafted gifts made by local artisans.

No holiday festival would be complete without the opportunity to give to those less fortunate. Garland Firefighters Association has been providing toys to needy children in Garland for more than twenty years. Firefighter Jerry Click, coordinator of the toy drive, states, "If it wasn't for our community's help, some of these children wouldn't get anything for Christmas." **Please bring a new unwrapped toy to the event and help the Garland Firefighters Association bring the joy of Christmas to all Garland children.**

Additional parking will be available at the DART parking lot at Fifth and Walnut. Christmas on the Square is sponsored by the City of Garland, Garland Power & Light, Baylor Medical Center and Ahern Rentals.

Since no parade is scheduled, no inclement weather date is set. For more information about Christmas on the Square: [www.christmasonthesquare.com](http://www.christmasonthesquare.com) or call 972-205-2749.

## Oakridge Night Out—Those who made it happen!!!

### DOOR PRIZE DONORS

- ◆ Oakridge Country Club – Golf
- ◆ Oakridge Country Club –Tennis
- ◆ Sam's Club
- ◆ Wal-Mart
- ◆ Target
- ◆ Albertson's
- ◆ Tom Thumb
- ◆ Ci-Ci's Pizza
- ◆ Citi-Bank
- ◆ Dickey's Barbeque
- ◆ Black-Eyed Pea
- ◆ Spring Creek Barbeque
- ◆ Car Spa Car Wash
- ◆ Royal Car Wash
- ◆ Chili's Restaurant
- ◆ Marino's Service Station
- ◆ David's Meats
- ◆ Mary Kay (Rebecca Chanez)
- ◆ GRAND PRIZE- Garland Police Department

### BUSINESSES REPRESENTED

- ◆ Sam's Club
- ◆ Lowe's
- ◆ CitiBank
- ◆ Brinks Security
- ◆ City of Garland
- ◆ Clifford from Animal Control
- ◆ Joe Harn, with antique police car
- ◆ Patrol (motorcycle) Neighborhood Police Officers, SWAT & K9 teams
- ◆ Fire Department (truck) & Paramedics (Ambulance)
- ◆ Street Department/transportation- for signs & barricades
- ◆ CareFlite Services Helicopter
- ◆ Wayne Shoemaker - for DJ services



### OTHER DONORS

- ◆ Cass Gannon –paper for fliers
- ◆ James Chanez- printed fliers
- ◆ Restaurant Depot
- ◆ The Party Store

- ◆ Oakridge Women's Club, Bounce House & kids items
- ◆ Oakridge Daytimers – Cookies and manning registration desk
- ◆ Oakridge Country Club – Trecia Hamilton, membership sales, use of parking lot, iced tea & getting their vendor, U.S. Foods, to provide the hot dogs, buns and chips as well as cooking the hot dogs
- ◆ Citizen's On Patrol, banners, meat, tables, soda, cole slaw, vegetables, plates, cups, napkins, decorations, traffic control & gathering door prizes
- ◆ Oakridge Neighborhood Association- meat & Mark Monroe for smoking it, members who helped clean-up after the event & distribution of flyers to all residents

### Council Report

(Continued from page 5)

sion during October, and it was very positive. In 2005, Garland started using commercial paper to fund capital projects that were previously funded by selling general obligation bonds. We work through First Southwest as our financial advisor, and this CP funding saves about \$3 million a year compared to the slow and inefficient process of selling GO bonds. Much of CP market dried up during the financial crisis, and this included a German bank we had been using for CP. However, the City of Garland was very fortunate that First Southwest has a history and a good relationship with Bank of America (one of the few very financially sound financial institutions), so we will be able to continue with our commercial paper program through B of A.

Garland recently received \$2,040,196 as part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act passed 7/31/08. We have several options on using the money such as establishing financial mechanisms for purchasing foreclosed homes, demolishing blighted structures, redevelopment of demolished or vacant properties, etc. We just got a quick overview of this toward the end of October, and staff will bring recommendations at the next meeting.

For more than a decade, Garland’s animal shelter has fed impounded animals exclusively with food donated from local businesses. As economic times worsen, food donations have dropped to the point where the animal shelter will soon be forced to purchase food to feed animals held at the shelter. Citizens wishing to help the animal shelter care for animals can donate cash, dry dog or cat food, or any other pet care items by dropping them off at the Garland Animal Shelter at 600 Tower Drive. All donations, both money and supplies, are used exclusively for the care of animals. If you wish to mail a small donation, please send it to City of Garland Animal Services,

PO Box 469002, Garland, Texas 75046. The shelter is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

I spent 3 days in Austin at the annual Texas Municipal League meeting. TML is made up of 1,098 member cities in Texas, and they support cities in many ways. The number one way is through lobbying in Austin. I sat through 4 very interesting sessions dealing with legislation, and I was very impressed with the job TML does. They spend most of their time fending off potential legislation that would have a detrimental effect on cities. The TML director said that in most states, cities go to their State

legislators saying, “Give us money.” In Texas, we say, “Leave us alone.”

Anyone have a interest in LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)? The City Council is forming a citizen committee to explore the feasibility and advisability of establishing LEED energy conservation standards in the State Highway 190 (i.e., President George W. Bush Turnpike) corridor. Only council districts 1 (Doug Athas) and 7 (that’s me) border SH 190. Councilman Athas already has some citizens identified who have an interest in serving on this committee, but I don’t. If you have an interest, please contact me.

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

#### Oakridge Neighborhood Association Information Request Form

As an all-volunteer organization, the ONA depends on you for help in many areas. Help us keep the Oakridge Community a wonderful place to live. Checkmark the areas that interest you and mail the form to:

Oakridge Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 450145, Garland, TX 75045-0145  
or email us at onapresident@aol.com.

Please send me more information on:

- Landscape Oversight
- Welcome Baskets
- Flyer Distribution
- Membership Committee
- Website Design/Maintenance
- Newsletter Design/Layout
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### Oakridge Daytimers

*(Continued from Page 4)*

on Monday, October 20th.

The entertainment for the meeting was performed by the accomplished pianist, Mimi Guten, who played classical compositions that had been transformed into popular songs. She gave a brief history of the song, named the composer and the singers who had made the songs popular and then played the music while the members, with song sheets, sang along. Her humor and talent combined to make enjoyable entertainment. Then Mimi drew for name for the door prize and Audrey Golden was the lucky winner.

The next meeting will be held on Veterans Day, November 11th at 10am at the home of Chris Beyers. Be sure to be there and wear your red, white and blue to honor the day.

*Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15.00 yearly dues. Daytimers promotes the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Any questions should be directed to Sharon Carlton at 972-530-4317.*

Know of any Unsung Heroes in our Neighborhoods? Let's remember to thank those volunteers in the background that help make Oakridge the great place it is. This month we'd like to thank **Betty and Harold Stevens** for their help whenever we have flyers to distribute.



**THANK YOU from the whole ONA!**

*If you know of someone long overdue for a "thank you", please let us know. onapresident@aol.com*



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# akridge News

Published by the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

**November 2008 Vol.16, No. 09**

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## Code Compliance—Did you know?

- 1) You can contact them directly  
phone: 972-485-6400  
email: [codenfc@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:codenfc@ci.garland.tx.us)
- 2) Be patient. Code Compliance involves legal requirements, notices, and other regulations prior to resolution.
- 3) All calls and emails to Code are 100% anonymous.