



# Oakridge News

<http://www.oakridgena.com>



January, 2009

## President's Letter

By Mark Monroe, ONA President

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

I hope all of you enjoyed a blessed Christmas and safe New Years. Hunter and Case made out like bandits this year for Christmas which prompted Case to say "I must have been really good!" There is nothing more special than a child's innocence.

I must start of the New Year by apologizing for not getting out the ONA newsletter. There was a failure to communicate on my part. I know the importance of the newsletter for the neighborhood and to those that advertise with us, so I hope you accept my apology.

## Council Report

By Rick Williams, District 7 Councilman

Some of you might recall that last summer the City Council raised the cost of solid waste pick up by \$1.84 per month. The reason was that at the time, gas prices were at a record high price and the trucks that pick up green cans and brush use a lot of gas. A very astute constituent asked what we planned on doing now that gas prices had plummeted. Good question. I checked with City staff, and it was explained that fuel budgets will be reworked at the end of December, and staff will bring forward an updated budget and rate recommendation to the Council based on fuel price trends. This information will most likely be ready for Council's review in late January.

We will also begin to update our website over the next month. What we missed in the December newsletter were items like, the Christmas decorations contest, caroling in the ONA, Garland Firefighters Christmas dinner, and so on.

I thought I would provide you with a quick recap. City employees drove our neighborhood and selected the following winners of the decoration contest:

**1<sup>st</sup>** : Ed & Norma Hester on Lone Oak Trail

**2<sup>nd</sup>**: Harold & Judy Whittington on Oak Point

**Honorable mention:** Richard and Barbara Clark

*Continued on Page 3*

One of my frustrations is homes that have habitually "high grass/weeds" (i.e., at least 12"). Code Compliance staff have to inspect, send a notice giving the individual 7 days to cut the grass, and the resident generally complies. Then a few weeks later, the same problem reoccurs at the same home, code inspects, another notice is sent, and the resident cuts the grass again. This inefficient and ineffective cycle happens again and again and again. Based on a recommendation I made about a year ago, Code will start issuing "annual notices" for high grass violations. Basically, on the first offense, the resident will receive both a mailed

notice and (to comply with State law) a door hanger notice, and both notices give the resident 7 days to comply. The next time (within 12 months of the first notice) the grass gets high, the City will not send another notice. Instead, they will send a contract mowing crew to cut the grass, and the individual will be billed—usually around \$175.00. If the bill is not paid, then a lien is placed on the home. I'm hoping this will send a message to those who don't maintain their lawns—**WE DON'T WANT HIGH GRASS/WEEDS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!!**

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## Check out these Oakridge Services!

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## WE DID IT!

By Mike Dollar

In 2005 ONA President, Keith Engler, put together a plan of Beautification and Renovation, Building Community, and Neighborhood Involvement. As co-director of the Membership Committee at that time, I remember the plan was an effort to encourage neighborhood improvement through defining and implementing long-term goals. These goals were important because changes in leadership and the small budgets inherent in voluntary associations made it difficult to implement any major projects which took sustained effort and assets.

The two goals of Building Community and Neighborhood Involvement were quickly addressed through formation of the Special Events Committee (led by Sherri Rutherford and carried forth today by Rebecca Chanez), and the Welcome Wagon/Volunteer Parties (led by Cecile LaBossiere).

The goal of Beautification and Renovation was begun at the same time with planning and request-for-quotation phases. Karen and Keith Engler, Martha Dollar and I made site visits to developments in Allen and Frisco, and took photos to capture ideas for incorporation in Oakridge. Landscape architects and contractors were interviewed to create an Oakridge beautification plan. We quickly realized that the cost made the project unattainable. At about this same time, however, the City of Garland began experimenting in a Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods program in which Oakridge was selected as a pilot area. The City held local public meetings where input was gathered to understand the issues important to Oakridge residents. This provided us a clear understanding of our neighborhood's interest in this project.

Our eligibility for a City of Garland Neighborhood Vitality Grant became available a few months later. We hurriedly applied for the maximum allowed, which also required a \$31,076 match from Oakridge.

Your application was accepted and you came through with the funds/donations we needed (and more) for the full grant amount, as the below record indicates.

December 12, 2007 – Date Vitality Grant Agreement was signed (1 year completion deadline)

\$37,000 – Amount raised to meet (exceed) Vitality Grant match requirement.

349 – Number of Oakridge neighbors who donated to Neighborhood Vitality Grant.

185 – New ornamental trees planted around the Oakridge perimeter walls.

134 – White standard streetlights replaced with new black streetlights of gas lamp design.

25 – White streetlight poles replaced with new black ones.

20 – New entrance landscapes (all entrances with new Oakridge signs).

\$93,228 – Amount City of Garland funded to support Oakridge Neighborhood renovations.

December 11, 2008 – Date Vitality Grant project was completed (on time and on budget).

Over the next few years the new landscaping will continue to grow and mature, and the full impact of achieving our Beautification and Renovation goals should be realized. As a result of implementing this project, unmistakable progress was made toward our other goals as well. Building Community and Neighborhood Involvement became obvious while conquering this large but necessary project...together. May we continue to grow and mature in this capacity!

Please allow me to thank all the volunteers and donors who worked so hard to enable the Neighborhood Vitality Grant project to succeed. I want to especially thank, Felisa Connor of the City of Garland Neighborhood Vitality Program; Dave Collins of DLS Landscaping; Scott Lancaster of Garland Power & Light; our new ONA Environmental Director, Joe Fagan; and our own ONA Treasurer, Jo Ann Williams. Thank you all! We did it!

**President's letter**

*Continued from page 1*

Thank you to all of those that made the effort this year to spread the cheer. Margret Fowler and Rebecca Chanez spearheaded the caroling effort in Oakridge this year. I understand that 10-15 of our neighbors hit the streets and some high notes along the way. Thanks to all that participated this year. Finally, Keith Engler took on the challenge of organizing Christmas day dinner for Fire stations 11 and 3. There were many people that participated in pulling this off and many thanks to you. As a matter of fact, I ran into one of our Firefighters and he made the comment that they were thankful to be working at a station where the community appreciates their efforts. Way to go!

On the horizon is our general membership meeting that will be held March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Oakridge Country Club with the social at 6:30 and the meeting starting at 7:00. I will fill you next month on our guest speakers and our agenda but please mark this date down. As always if you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Mark Monroe

**OWC Celebrated the Holidays in a Special Way**

By Tami Monroe

The most wonderful time of the year has come and gone, and our holiday parties were once again a success! The Oakridge Women Club couples shared a white elephant exchange and dinner at the Bavarian Grill. Once again, Old St. Nick made an appearance at Tracy's house and put both children and adults in the Christmas spirit!

We'll start the New Year with a hot tub party at Tracy's house on Jan. 23. On February 5, we will have our regular meeting at Sharon's house to plan for the Progressive Dinner. This year's dinner is on February 14, and includes appetizers at Sheila's, main course at Rita's and dessert at Pam's.

If you are interested in joining the club- we are looking for new members. The Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women in the Oakridge neighborhood who share a strong and common bond in the love of our children and families. We welcome prospective new members at all meetings! Annual dues are \$30.00, which pays for holiday parties and sunshine fund. Come join the fun! We would love to meet you and your family!

If you would like more details about the upcoming events or joining the OWC, please contact Libby Morse at [tomlib@tx.rr.com](mailto:tomlib@tx.rr.com) or 972-523-3069.

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Annual Fee - \$350.00 plus tax  
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##### 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.

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## Sir Speedy

620 N Glenville Drive  
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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**.

## Handi Gals

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**NO JOB IS TOO SMALL**

## Oakridge Daytimers

By Dianne Winter

The Oakridge Daytimers welcomed the New Year with a new venue, new entertainment and a new member, Ann Comath. Members arrived at the Holford Recreation Center at 11 am on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 and were greeted by Janice Schadegg, Sally Weiss, Dianne Winter and Mary Jensen. The hostesses had arranged the room for good seating and eating and bingo playing.

Sharon Carlton opened the meeting by greeting guests, Ann Comath, Linda Moore and Myra Plett and thanking hostesses who had put forth extra effort for this meeting. Announcements were made that included Fun on the Run and Book Club. Jo Ann Williams is planning a trip to the King Tut exhibit at the Dallas Art Museum on Tuesday, March 31. The trip is in the planning process so call 972-530-2938 for info so Jo Ann can work out the details. Book Club is at the home of Nell Burt to discuss the book, *Tallgrass*, by Sandra Dallas.

Send in your vegetable dish recipes to Sharon soon for distribution. Everyone is enjoying the monthly recipes.

Brenda Olive is supplying the information to us to keep our community safe. Sharon announced the situations that Daytimers can help with.

The hostesses were prepared with seven different, delicious soups for the members to sample. Those hostesses were Betty Cosgray,

Kim Gingerich, Brenda Olive, Mary Pattie, Suzanne Snow, Pat Tharp and Jo Ann Williams.. Sharon Carlton, Shirley Mohler and Mary Jensen supplied the cornbread and crackers.

At the end of the meeting the Daytimers played Bingo for gifts gathered by Kim Gingerich with beans supplied by Charlotte Vaughter and special cards from Sharon Carlton. Several gifts were won and the lucky two time winner was Audrey Golden.

Nothing but complimentary comments were made about the innovative meeting.

Look forward to next month when the Daytimers will meet at the **Oakridge Country Club for Lunch and a Fashion Show** presented by Coldwater Creek. The date is **Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**, and the cost is \$10.00. Your reservation needs to be sent to Mary Pattie by Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Don't miss this one!

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15 dues. Daytimers promotes the Oakridge Community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Questions should be directed to President, Sharon Carlton at 972 530 4317.

Philip Hanas  
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## Council's Report

Continued from page 1

Many of you are aware that the City will pay half the cost of sidewalk repairs. However, there's always been a concern that if you call the City for an estimate and after getting the estimate you can't afford it, the City may insist that the sidewalk be repaired. If you go to the City's web site [www.ci.garland.tx.us](http://www.ci.garland.tx.us) and click the "Request Center" icon, you will go to a location where you can search a variety of questions. One answer dealing with sidewalk repairs explains: "You are not obligated to have your sidewalk replaced simply because you requested an estimate. It is strictly up to you. However, the price quoted is subject to change. You may contact the sidewalk coordinator at 972-205-2930 for further assistance." So, if you have ever considered having your sidewalk or curb repaired, call the sidewalk coordinator for a free, no obligation estimate. You will get a written estimate

I am the chairman of the audit committee, and I have found that position very interesting and informative. The City auditor and his staff conduct lots of audit of various departments and processes, and recently they completed a P-card audit. The P-card is a city-issued credit card that almost half of city employees use to make purchases. From a purchasing perspective, this is much more efficient and cost-effective compared to the cumbersome process of issuing and processing a purchase order. However, you might recall that a couple of years ago DISD had a huge scandal where many school district employees were using a similar credit card for all sorts of inappropriate non-school purposes. During the December audit meeting, there were a few minor findings/recommendations made by the Auditor's office, but I was pleased (and somewhat relieved) that there were no inappropriate purchases made by city staff. Unlike DISD, at the end of each month, a supervisor carefully reviews all purchases made by his/her staff, and this helps ensure that P-card purchases are for appropriate purposes.

The City publicizes government-related events, meetings, programs and services through various resources including the bi-monthly *Garland City Press*, the cable channel, utility bill inserts, and the City website. The City is interested in citizen feedback on the effectiveness of these and other resources, and there is a survey accessible from the home page at the city's website at [www.ci.garland.tx.us](http://www.ci.garland.tx.us). If you want your opinion to be considered, complete the survey. It will take less than 5 minutes, but it will only be available at the web site through the end of January.

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



### Bobcat Sighting in Oakridge

Submitted by Keith Engler

A bobcat attacked and injured a small dog at the home of 2710 Winding Oak Trail in the Oakridge neighborhood of Garland. The adjacent homes on this street back up to a creek which is heavily wooded and the Bobcat is known to inhabit wooded areas, urban edge, and swampland environments. Bobcats prey typically includes insects, rodents, birds, fish, squirrels and rabbits but at times it may prey even on foxes, small dogs and house cats. Prey selection depends on location, habitat, season, and abundance.

Bobcat activities are confined to well-defined territories, which vary in size depending on sex and the distribution of prey. The home range is marked with feces, urine scent, and by clawing prominent trees in the area. In its territory the Bobcat will have numerous places of shelter: usually a main den and several auxiliary shelters on the outer extent of its range, such as hollow logs, brush piles, thickets, or under rock ledges. Its den smells strongly of the Bobcat.

Information and picture from Wikipedia



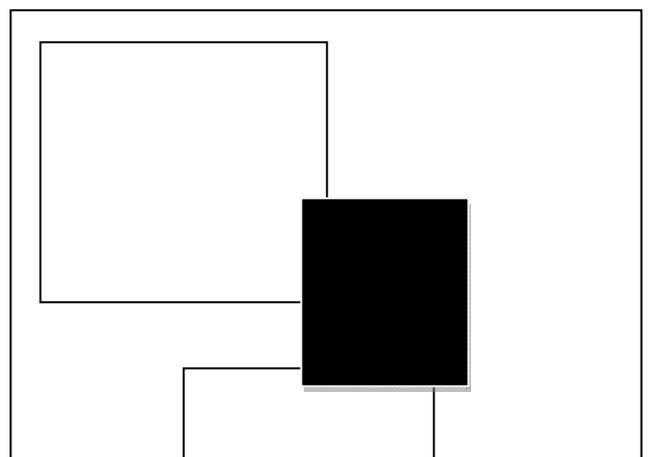
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## **FLU VS. THE COMMON COLD**

by James Chanez, M.D.

Presbyterian Hospitals of Dallas

I wanted to start off by introducing myself. My name is James Chanez. I'm a board certified Internal Medicine doctor and have been practicing medicine for nine years, six of which have been at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. My wife and I have lived in Oakridge for five years. We have a four year old son and a twenty month old daughter. I'm currently the Vice President of the ONA and have wanted to write a medical article for the paper that would be helpful to our community. It's now my New Year's resolution to do so. Just to warn you, this is my first attempt at writing an article of this nature. Always talk to your personal physician if you have any questions.

I thought I would start my first article by talking about the flu and the common cold. It's winter time and there has always been confusion in regards to diagnosis and treatment of both, with my patients.

From the CDC, the flu (influenza) is an infection that is caused by the influenza virus. Most people with the flu are sick for about a week. The symptoms are typically exhaustion, fever (usually high), headache, dry cough (can last two or more weeks), sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and sore muscles. Some, especially children, may also have stomach problems and diarrhea. Healthy adults may be able to spread the flu from 1 day before getting sick to up to 5 days after getting sick. A flu vaccine is the best way to protect against the flu. Your doctor should have a rapid flu test in his office that will let you know if you have been exposed. There are antiviral drugs that can make you feel better and get better sooner. They should be started during the first 2 days that you are sick for them to work best. Over the counter medication is usually given in addition.

The common cold, also known as a viral upper respiratory tract infection, is a generally mild and self-limited contagious illness that can be caused by more than 200 different types of viruses. The first symptoms of a cold are often a tickle in the throat, a runny or stuffy nose, cough, headache, mild fever, fatigue or loss of appetite. High fever, severe aches and extreme exhaustion are more common with the flu. The symptoms of a cold usually resolve after about one week, but can last up to two. Over the counter and symptomatic medications are the drug of choice for treatment. There are no prescription drugs, antibiotics or vaccinations against the common cold.

No known vitamins, Echinacea, zinc or any other "cold or flu remedy" have been approved by the FDA. Many studies have shown that they simply don't work. The best defense against the flu or common cold is to wash your hands thoroughly and often, eat healthy, get plenty of exercise and rest.

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Jo Ann Williams, Treasurer

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District 2: Jim Norris  
District 3: Sandra Stevens &  
Barbara Harvison  
District 4: Dan & Joan Nichols  
District 5: OPEN  
District 6: Phil Hanas  
District 7: David & Sharron  
Parrish

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Membership: Cecile LaBossiere  
Special Events: Rebecca Chanez  
Welcome Wagon: Cecile  
LaBossiere

**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](mailto:onapresident@aol.com).

Please send me more information on:

- Landscape Oversight
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- General Administration
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