



# Oakridge News

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Vol. 17, No. 04

April 2009

## President's Letter

By Mark Monroe, ONA President

Hello Friends and Neighbors:

All of you know that I like to brag on people, and especially my family. But I must take time to recognize the kind spirit of Mr. Henry Pauly. This week, Hunter, Case, Tami and I were at the Oakridge Country Club parking lot to fly the kites that the Easter Bunny brought the boys. A man stopped and asked us if we were going to be there much longer—he wanted to bring us something. He returned with the most beautiful kites (much higher quality than the Easter Bunny's!) He spent time explaining his past hobby of being in kite clubs in the Northeast, showed us how to put the kites together and left wanting to pass this enjoyment

on to a new generation. It is this kind of gesture that makes our neighborhood such a friendly place to be. Thank you Mr. Pauly—we will pay it forward.

May is an important month for our Neighborhood Association. First on our agenda is the general membership meeting. At this meeting, we will be electing officers for the 2009-2010 year. The nomination committee has met and made their suggestions for the new offices. Please see page 2 for the names and offices. Also know that if you are interested in serving, nominations will be taken from the floor. I am hopeful that

*Continued on Page 2*

### Check out these Oakridge Services!

- All In One Construction, Inc., p. 6
- Billy Jack Sprinkler Co., p.7
- Handi Gals, p.3
- Let Sue Do It, p.2
- Lone Star Remodeling, p. 5
- MR. FIX-IT-ALL, p.2
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## Council 7 Update

By Rick Williams, District 7 Councilmember

I'm one of those people who occasionally writes letters to the editor of the *Dallas Morning News*. "Inspired" by recent scandals in other cities, I wrote the below letter to the DMN published on March 9:

**Re: "Office budget busted -- Neumann overspends by \$8,000, annoying more frugal members" and "Inquiry to focus on officials' trips -- Full-scale internal probe promised of pricey N.Y. travels," Feb. 28 Metro.**

*"What you don't read about Garland are stories like the one in Saturday's Metro section regarding Mesquite council members taking lavish trips at taxpayer expense. What you don't read about Garland are stories like the one in Saturday's Metro section regarding a council member in Dallas*

*far exceeding his \$16,400 office budget. The eight Garland City Council representatives don't have an office budget or an office. What you don't read about Garland are articles frequently appearing in the Metro section where a local municipality has "suddenly" discovered a huge budget shortfall -- and now drastic cuts will be necessary.*

*Garland's managing director of budget and research does not let surprises happen. What you don't read about Garland are stories of internal bickering and petty jealousy. What you don't read about Garland are stories of credit card abuse a la DISD. In sum, Garland citizens have a right to be proud of their city and how it is run."*

*Rick Williams, Garland City Council member*

And as further evidence of how well your tax dollars are being spent, the City of Garland Water Utilities Department was recently named the 2009 Outstanding Municipal Utility in Texas by the Texas Municipal Utilities Association. And not to be outdone by the water utility, Garland Power & Light is one of 60 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities to earn Reliable Public Power Provider (RP<sub>3</sub><sup>®</sup>) recognition from the American Public Power Association for providing consumers with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. Paul Allen, vice president of engineering at Nashville, Tenn., Electric Service and Chairman of APPA's RP<sub>3</sub><sup>®</sup> Review Panel, presented the designees the award on March 23 during the association's annual

*Continued on Page 5*

## Spring Block Parties

By Rebecca Chanez

Plans are underway for the annual spring block parties! The dates are as follows:

- ◆ Districts 1, 3, & 5 May 16th
- ◆ Districts 2 & 4 May 30th
- ◆ Districts 6 & 7 June 6th

Parties will be from 5pm-8pm. Come for food and fun!

Please contact Rebecca Chanez at 214-227-4181 or rypdallas@yahoo.com for more information or if you are interested in helping with the block parties.



## President's letter

(Continued from page 1)

we have another great turnout because this is an important issue for the ONA as we try to carry momentum forward.

As you see to the left, our block parties are coming up. These events have had a positive impact on our neighborhood. I have truly enjoyed getting to meet all the people at these venues. It is a great way to get to know your neighbors better and I hope you will be able to attend.

The following people are suggested by the nominating committee for the ONA Board, 2009-2010:

- ◆ Mike Rose, President
- ◆ James Chanez, Vice-President (returning)
- ◆ Ken Fentress, Secretary (returning)
- ◆ David Thomas, Treasurer
- ◆ District 2, Becky Thomas
- ◆ District 4, Dan Nicholas (returning)
- ◆ District 6, Mark Edwards

Thank you to the nominating committee for the suggestions. Again, nominations may be taken from the floor. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 972-495-8028 or mtmonroe@msn.com.

## Let Sue Do It

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

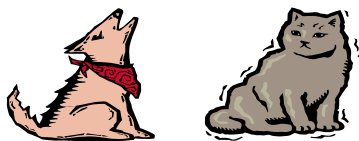
**Let Sue do it.**

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

**Let Sue do it.**

### Endless possibilities and reasonable pricing:

- pet sitting or house sitting
- mail and paper pickup (nominal charge)
- errands (bank, cleaners, pharmacy)
- grocery shopping (especially for homebound)



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# City Council Report

(Continued from Page 1)

Engineering & Operations Technical Conference in Austin, Texas.

The deadline for filing for the May 9 election has passed, and I did not draw an opponent in District 7. In fact, the council representatives in Districts 3, 6, 8 also did not draw an opponent. The Mayor does have two opponents for the May 9 election. Someone asked me how much an election costs the City of Garland and it varies depending on how many other entities (cities, counties, school districts) are also having an election. There's a large fixed cost incurred by the Dallas County Election office during an election, and the fixed cost is essentially divided among the locations holding the election. For the May 9 election, the cost for Garland is \$46,723.39. If there happened to be a run-off election for Mayor, the cost of the run-off would be higher as there would be fewer entities to divide the cost. For example, the run-off election in 2007 between Ron Jones and Lee Alewine in 2007 was over \$100,000.

I may have mentioned this before, but it's worth repeating. For some elderly or disabled individuals, moving the large green trash containers for pick up can be very difficult. If that applies to you or someone you know, there's a form which can be completed and submitted to Environmental Waste Services. If approved, EWS personnel will retrieve the container on trash day, empty it into the truck, and return it.

On March 9, the Council attended a water and waste water briefing conducted by a consultant who does work for many municipalities in the DFW area. His bottom line in the 1 1/2 presentation is that in the next 5 to 10 years, the cost of water and waste water will likely be rising at a faster rate (perhaps 5 to 6% per year) than inflation. This was not a televised presentation, and we requested that this presentation be repeated in a council work session so all can see it.

You may have heard, read, or seen some confusing reports about Garland's safelight program toward the end of March. A story in the March 24 edition of the *Houston Chronicle* said that Garland had "lost" \$350,000 in fiscal year 2008. L. P. Phillips with KRLD called me, and I did a recorded radio interview on the story. WFAA television also did a short blurb again saying Garland "lost" \$350,000. Then in March,

the amount was \$0. Confused? You should be. The truth is that Garland has a contract with an organization that installs and maintains red light cameras. The contract calls for them to make a certain amount of money each month, and if they make more than that, this profit goes to Garland and we have to give half of that profit to the State. Garland uses any profit only for public safety purposes. But, if the cameras earn less than the contracted amount, that deficit is NOT made up by tax dollars. It is just a deficit amount that can be paid to the contractor only by future amounts collected by the red light program. The \$350,000 amount may have been correct for FY 08 since we had shut down several intersections and were waiting on TxDOT to approve some intersections; however, Garland did not "lose" that money. The bottom line is that Garland's safelight program is designed to be pretty much cost neutral while improving public safety. Those who scream that it is a subversive money-making scheme by the City to make money do not know what they are talking about, but it never stops them from talking.

The Trammell Crow mixed use development and the Richland College campus (both near Walnut and 5<sup>th</sup> Street) are both rapidly nearing completion. Further, this Transit Oriented Development project has been selected to be one of only four projects showcased at a workshop presented by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) on April 2nd in Dallas. ULI is a nonprofit education and research organization with over 40,000 members worldwide whose mission is "to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities." Their membership is made up of development professionals, business and civic leaders and urban planners. It's an honor for Garland's project to be selected for this presentation.

I reported in last month's article that we were debating the placement of green trash containers, and we did have a lively debate on that subject in March. We sent the issue to the Citizens Environmental and Neighborhood Advisory Committee for their input, but it will be coming back to Council for further discussion. Stay tuned.

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).

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## Restaurant Review

By: Joe Fagan

### Nolan McGee's Eatery

Located in the Albertson's strip center at the far North corner, or directly across from Home Depot. Hours are 8:00AM to 3:00PM Monday-Friday, 8:00AM to 2:00PM Saturday. They offer a wide variety of breakfast and lunch items, for a very reasonable price. Carry out is available if you prefer. The service is counter style; place your order, pay, and the order is delivered to your table.

Their notable breakfast, (in my opinion) is only served on Saturday morning, biscuits and sausage gravy. This is sausage gravy as it should be, prepared with the sausage in the gravy, and a hint of seasoning. Not (Texas style) a patty chopped up and white gravy on top of it.

Gertie's Garden offers salads made fresh daily, for those of us who should be eating healthy. Rotisserie chicken is available, along with hot and cold sandwiches.

For a quick inexpensive breakfast or lunch I recommend Nolan McGee's whole heartily.

Two burp's out of four.

## Oakridge Women's Club

By: Libby Morse

The **Oakridge Women's Club** is changing its meeting night! Please join us on the Third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. starting in June.

We are having an evening out at the San Martino winery in Rockwall on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Please contact Sharron Smith at Smith.Sharron@verizon.net.

On May 31st, we will enjoy a Catamaran Sailing Sunset Cruise on the "Seawolf." Please email Sharron about making reservations right away!

The next official meeting will be a hot tub party at Tracy's. It is May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. **NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

We welcome our newest member: Lori Holmes!

If you would like more details about the upcoming events or joining the OWC, please contact our President, Sheila Wange at 972-496-3161 or you may e-mail Libby Morse at TOMLIB@tx.rr.com.

OWC is open to all women who share a love of our children and families.



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**Joe Wrinkle**

**972-530-4145**

# Humane Interest

Sherri Rutherford

Ah Spring! The flowers are blooming, the bees are buzzing and dogs are escaping. Ok, so that is not how the saying goes but dogs *are* escaping from their homes. After a winter of few lost/found pets, spring has sprung some dogs from their owners.

Oakridge residents love their pets and are always concerned about pets found wandering the neighborhood. Most of the time, we are successful with reuniting pets with their worried owners. On several occasions, pets that could not reunited with their owners have found wonderful new owners within our community; such is the case of Chloe, the cute little Pomeranian that wandered into the hearts of Gordon and Sharon Carlton last year. That's a story for another day.

The following are a few things we can do to help our pets find with their owners.

1. Remember to update your pet's tags and microchips contact information.
2. Send me a picture and description of your pet at [srutherford2313@yahoo.com](mailto:srutherford2313@yahoo.com). I keep a file of with your pet's pictures and owner information.

3. If you have a missing pet, please call me at 972-496-5454 to report it. We will get the information on the Oakridge Neighborhood Association website. I can't take a pet that is found but want to facilitate getting it to a safe place until the owner can claim it.
4. Don't forget to call the Garland Animal Shelter at 972-205-3570. With our close proximity to Richardson, please try the Richardson Animal Shelter at 972-744-4480 as well.

Be sure to check out next month's newsletter to learn more about our Garland Animal Services.



### PET FOUND

If you know who owns this pet, contact Sharon Carlton at 972-530-4317 or Susan Mathis at 972-496-1501.



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# Oakridge News

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**Oakridge General  
Membership Meeting**  
*May 7, 2009*  
*6:30 Social*  
*7:00 Meeting*  
**Oakridge Country Club**  
  
**Officer Elections**