



# Oakridge News

Vol. 17, No. 012

December 2009

<http://oakridgeNA.com>

## Observations

By Mike Rose, ONA President

I hope you are not getting tired of this opening sentence – it may be like a broken record – but as has been stated before by many a folk repetition is a solid form of learning. Check it out

[www.oakridgena.com](http://www.oakridgena.com)

as our webmaster is doing an excellent job of keeping our web site current and certainly informative.

Have you noticed the construction barricades, cones and markers on Belt Line and Jupiter? The City of Richardson received stimulus money to rebuild this intersection so that it moves traffic more smoothly. At least it will when the work has been completed. If you are familiar with the intersection of Belt Line and Coit Road you will discover how Belt Line and Jupiter will look approximately twenty-four months from now. There will be two left turn lanes in all directions; a right turn lane in all directions and three lanes of traffic as well. A major undertaking to say the least – patience will be a virtue while traversing this intersection for some time!

By the time this arrives at your home, the Oakridge community

will have fed both Fire Station No. 3 (located on Jupiter Road) and Station No. 11 (located on Belt Line Road) a sumptuous Thanksgiving meal. We certainly do appreciate both stations service to the Oakridge community. Rumor has it that some police officers may have dropped in to savor a taste.

Your ONA Board is working on a few ideas to further enhance the desirability and uniqueness of our community. Shortly you my notice an addition to one of the straight black streetlight poles located on Diamond Oaks. The Board in cooperation with Garland Power & Light is working out the details to perhaps have these devices installed on many of the straight black streetlight poles. Stay tuned for more information.

The ONA is looking for an individual to serve as Editor of this publication. Do you know of someone who would like to hone their skill in using Microsoft Publisher? Writing articles is not a prerequisite. There will be help in acclimating how our newsletter is put together. Drop me a note or send a note to the ONA webmaster and let us know of that person.

## District 7 Council Report

By Rick Williams, District 7 City Councilman

The Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) program has been an effective and popular initiative in Garland. Basically, the City has one NPO assigned to each of 16 NPO districts in the City. The NPO's job is sort of like the old time policeman who walked a beat, got to know the people, and learned who the trouble-makers were. NPOs don't walk a beat anymore, but they still appreciate and count on information about suspicious activities, locations, and things that "just don't look right." Such information may not be something that would otherwise cause you to contact the police, but it might be a little tidbit of information, when associated with other information, that would be useful to the NPO. In my Council District 7, there are two NPOs. If you live north of Apollo Road and east of Shiloh, your NPO is Matt Rumatz whose email address is [rumatz@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:rumatz@ci.garland.tx.us), and for all other District 7 residents, your NPO is John Capers whose email is [capersj@ci.garland.tx.us](mailto:capersj@ci.garland.tx.us). There are a lot of residents who are hesitant to contact the police, but remember it is information that helps these NPOs do their job, and all information is absolutely, and positively, 100% confidential. Finally, one bit of clarification

on when NOT to contact your NPO. If you see a crime in progress or a suspicious person, call 911. If you want to report a crime (e.g., someone broke into your garage while you were away), call the GPD administrative number at 972 485-4840.

As many of you know, traffic on Jupiter Road can get pretty congested, but things will be getting better. By the end of next year, at the following intersections (Jupiter/Arapaho, Jupiter/Beltline, Jupiter/Buckingham), you should see in all 4 directions at each intersection a dedicated right turn lane and two dedicated left turn lanes. The City of Richardson has the lead on this construction, and this is primarily being paid for with Federal dollars with some County, Richardson, and Garland money. Work has just started at Arapaho/Jupiter where the traffic signals are being moved inward to allow room for the turn lanes. After signals are installed, then the road work will begin.

A new video store is coming to District 7 called "Family Video," and they are the largest privately owned movie and game retailer in the U.S. and third largest overall. They employ over 5,000

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## 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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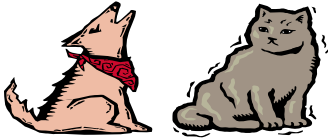
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## Oakridge Daytimers November Coffee

*By Dianne Winters*

The leaves were falling and the sun was shining as the Daytimers gathered at the home of Ruby Nell Orman on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Janice Schadegg and Sally Weiss welcomed everyone who gathered to chat until they discovered the festively decorated table with brunch items. These goodies were provided by hostesses Chris Beyers, Betty Cosgray, Sallie Lang, Mary Pattie and Bette Taylor.

After a time of visiting, Ruby Nell Orman, president, introduced Mel Crews from his boutique in Preston Center Plaza in Dallas who presented a fashion journey of "What's in and What's Out" with the aid of model, Elaine Crisler, and moderator/buyer, Dana Young. What a delightful time everyone had as they viewed the fashions and accessories that were presented!



There were oohs and aahs as the model toured the room with a classic suit, slacks and jackets all accessorized with purses, jewelry, belts and stoles as the moderator commented to the group on textures, fabrics, colors and balance of design. Later Mel Crews answered questions concerning home decorating.

See more pictures of this gathering at  
[www.OakridgeNA.com](http://www.OakridgeNA.com)

## District 7 Council Report

*Continued from Page 1*

people across 18 states with more than 600 stores. They will be moving into the existing video store located on the north side of Arapaho between Jupiter and Shiloh, and they told me they expect to be moved in by Christmas. Unlike the video store moving out of that location, this video store is truly a family-oriented video store. As a way of giving back to the communities that have supported them, they will be donating 24,000 turkeys and hams between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In last month's article, I mentioned I'd have some new information on the old Minyards Store at Arapaho and Jupiter. However, a couple of issues have recently arisen, so maybe next month I'll have more to say. If you would like to see and hear what has been proposed, you can always view via video the presentation before Garland's Plan Commission. Simply go to Garland's home page <http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/Home/>, click the big square which reads "CGTV Video Streaming," go to the Plan Commission video dated October 26 and view the last item listed on the agenda.

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).

The business meeting consisted of the following announcements:

- Audrey King wished happy birthday to all those with November and December birthdays.
- Peggy Crenshaw announced the upcoming Book Club meeting.
- Becky Thomas reported that everyone was healthy and that more Mah Jongg players would be welcome.
- Peggy Crenshaw handed out calendars to all those who need printed copies.
- Mary Pattie collected dues for membership.
- Daytimers is planning a **caroling party** to begin at the home of Margaret Fowler on **Sunday evening, December 13<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Ladies Night Out** will be **Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>** at 4 pm at the Oakridge Country Club.
- The **next meeting** will be held at the home of Ann Conrath, 2131 Windy Ridge. Bring a white elephant to exchange.
- Kim Gingrich held the drawing for the door prizes.

Thanks to everyone who made this meeting a success.

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15 dues. Daytimers promotes the Oakridge Community and the ONA. Questions should be directed to President, Ruby Nell Orman, at 972 414 4775.

## Winter Safety Tips

By Bill Olive

There is a great deal of information on the net regarding safety tips for the fall/winter seasons so I've included a bit of that info along with other tips I got from Captain Pollard's A shift at Garland's station 4 (these are the guys who were the instructors at the Citizen Fire Academy last year). Sometimes we just need a quick reminder, and obviously, I can not include everything in detail so I'm asking that you to please use common sense and read directions (yes, men that's for us). It's usually the best way to go.

**Gas heating systems--** Have a reputable heating expert check your gas heating system to make sure everything is in operating order. Many companies offer bi-annual checkups - air/cooling system checked in the spring and furnace system in the fall. This can add to the life of your system and usually the company will give you a break on any repairs and will place you at the top of the list for a visit if needed.

**Chimney's--** should be checked for soot, ash or bird/squirrel nests each year, especially if you burn wood. It may be more economical for several neighbors to have their chimneys checked on the same day to get a price break from the "chimney sweep". Keep things that can burn away from the fireplace and place a glass or metal screen in front of the opening so that embers etc. can not pop or blow out onto the floor and make sure the flue is opened before using a fireplace. Carbon monoxide is odorless and it can kill quickly, opening the flue is critical. Please install CO (carbon monoxide) detectors (follow directions on the box) in your home preferably near sleeping areas. Turn off the gas to the fireplace when finished using it and then re-close your flue. If you smell gas in your home-- DO NOT turn on any electrical switches, not even a cellphone. GET OUT and call 911 from a safe distance--Some places advise you call the gas company, but it may take some time for them to arrive--calling 911 will ensure that the proper fire unit responds and fortunately, here in Oakridge, the response time is usually within 3 minutes. They will assess the problem, do what's necessary, and call the gas company.

**Space heaters--** (always look for a label such as ETL, UL, or CSA (which means they are safety tested) and make sure the cord and plug are not damaged. These small units can bring additional heat to a room but be careful where they are placed, they need space! Keep them at least three feet away from anything flammable, such as curtains, bedding, furniture or stacks of papers and never leave children or pets in the room alone where there is a space heater. Never try to dry clothes or other items while holding them over a space heater. Always turn them off when leaving the room or going to bed and never use an extension cord. Another point; many of us take medication at bedtime which may make us drowsy so it's best to turn off and take care of fireplaces and heaters before taking medication. If needed, make a bedtime check list.

**Kitchen stoves--** Never use a kitchen stove as a source for heating your home.

**Candles--** use sparingly, firefighters suggest using them only on the dining table at Thanksgiving and Christmas and then they should be extinguished after the meal. There are many new products that produce faux candle light using batteries rather than a flame and some of them are quite nice, offering different styles and designs.. Check them out!

**Cigarettes and cigars--** declare your home "A Smoke Free Zone" and send guests who want to indulge on a nice walk--not only is it safer--it will help keep your home furnishings fresher smelling and less likely to become yellowed.

**Christmas Tree Safety Tips From The State Fire Marshall--** If you are buying an artificial tree, it should bear the "Fire Resistant" label. While this type of tree can catch fire, it will resist burning and should extinguish quickly. If buying a natural tree, buy the freshest you can find. A fresh tree should have green needles that are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break. The trunk butt should be sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles. Watch out for trees with a greenish cast to their trunks and branches; many growers spray trees with green paint to make them look more appealing. (fresher looking). As soon as you get the tree home, cut at least one inch off the trunk base to expose fresh wood for better absorption. A tree will absorb as much as a gallon of water or more in the first 24 hours and one or more quarts a day thereafter. A seal of dry sap will form over the cut stump in four to six hours so if water drops below the base of the tree, the dry sap will prevent the tree from absorbing water later when the tree stand is refilled. If a seal does form, another fresh cut will need be made. To maximum freshness and minimize fire risk, keep the tree outdoors for a few days in a bucket filled with water before bringing it indoors to decorate. The tree stand should hold at least one gallon of water. A six foot tree will absorb about one gallon every two days. Put your tree away from fireplaces, portable heaters, heater vents, and TV sets. Place it out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Use lights tested for safety (UL), check each set, throw out damaged sets, miniature lights are preferred for their cool-burning bulbs, use no more than three standard-sized sets on any extension cord (only one extension cord per outlet). Before leaving home or going to bed turn off lights.

**Fire Extinguishers--** It's better to have some and not need them than need them and not have any. Firefighters advise homeowners have at least one in the kitchen and another in the garage and that it be type ABC, which will put out fires of most kinds. The extinguishers should be large enough for home fires and in good condition. Most have gauges on them with an arrow pointing to green or red. If yours is not pointing to green consider it useless. Get a new one. Take the fire extinguisher and turn it upside down at least twice a year (do this the same time you set clocks back/forward) to stop chemicals from settling at the bottom. Do not place the extinguisher in the back of a cabinet where it will be difficult to reach in an emergency. If a fire does occur in your home and you can't put out the fire in a matter of 20-30 seconds call 911 immediately. Even if you do put out the fire call 911 and have them send out the GFD so they can make sure there is no further danger from hidden fire or hot spots. When using an extinguisher, never place yourself with the fire between you and the exit door. Develop an exit plan for your family in case of a fire and practice with your children/grandchildren. Make sure smoke detectors are in working condition and if your home is being monitored by an alarm company, test with the company on a regular basis.

## Termite Identification and Prevention

By Keith Engler in cooperation with Kimberly Schofield, Program Specialist-Urban IPM  
Texas AgriLife Extension & Urban Entomology Center at Texas A&M

I was called over to a good friend's house this week where she was in a panic because something had eaten the picture off her wall. The termites had come in through the weep hole in the foundation, up the wall, ate through the sheetrock and then ate the cardboard backing off the painting.

I had seen termites with wings as shown here when they were swarming in my house. But, I had never seen the white ones before which were eating her painting.



The white ones resemble white ants to me as shown in the picture to the left.

It turns out that the white ones are the workers and the winged ones are the reproductive males and females. I guess my house was more conducive to loving than to working.

It may be obvious now that Sir Fixalot is not your best source for bug identification and treatment. Therefore, I contacted Kimberly Schofield and she sent me the following information. The photographs were supplied by the Urban Entomology Center at Texas A&M. Go to [www.OakridgeNA.com](http://www.OakridgeNA.com) for more information.

There are two subterranean termite genera that cause most of the structural damage in Texas. One genera Reticulitermes will become noticeable as the reproductives begin swarming during the day. Termites are social insects and have a caste system consisting of workers, soldiers, and winged reproductives. Each caste member within a termite colony has distinct physical and behavioral characteristics.

Termites feed on any cellulose material, such as roots, paper, and cardboard. They are important to our ecosystem since they decompose cellulose. However, subterranean termites become economic pests when they invade human dwellings and structures.

Subterranean termites live in colonies underground, in order to avoid sunshine and outside air. The workers build the shelter tubes from tiny pieces of soil, wood, and debris that are glued together using secretions and fecal material. Termites tend to have an extensive tunneling system underground that allows them to carry food resources back into the colony.

Termite damage may be detected by the presence of mud tubes, damaged wood, and the swarming of winged termites. Termite damage may also be apparent on door frames or window sills, or dead termites might be visible along window sills or baseboards.

### Some Preventative Practices

Eliminate contact between the wooden parts of the house foundation and maintain at least 6 inches between the soil and porch steps, lattice work, door or window frames.

Stumps, scrap wood, grade stakes, foam boards, cardboard boxes, and newspapers found around structures should be removed.

Firewood, landscape timbers, compost piles should not be stored around foundations.

Minimize moist areas by grading the soil and installing gutters, down spouts to allow water to drain away from the building.

Do not allow shrubs, vines, tall grasses and other dense vegetation to grow against structures. Thick vegetation makes it hard to inspect for termite activity, and these plants tend to trap moisture.

Use mulch sparingly and do not allow the mulch to contact wood siding or framing of the doors/windows around the structure.

### Some Chemical Approaches to Termite Control

In new construction, pretreated wood with liquid termiticides can be used. The termites will ingest the treated wood, by grooming each other or by exchanging nutrients, to cause death within the population.

If termites are found around structures some measures, such as applying liquid termiticides and installing baiting systems, can be taken. Soil termiticides provide continuous chemical barrier around the structure.

Termiticides should be applied in such areas as under slabs, by drilling and injecting vertically through the slab, or treating horizontally through the foundation from the exterior. There are both repellent and non-repellant liquid termiticides that can be applied around structures. The termites attempting to tunnel into the treated area will either be killed or repelled, thus preventing them from entering the structure. Termite baiting systems can also be installed around structures and in conducive conditions within the area. The stations will initially contain a piece of untreated wood until termite activity is detected. Once termite activity is observed, then the untreated wood is replaced with a plastic tube containing a termiticide. The termiticide in the bait systems is found within the cellulose matrix. The worker termites feed on the cellulose matrix and then exchange this material with other members of the colony. This results in death of colony members.

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### Home Updates

By Phil Hanas: Oakridge Paint & Paper

First off I would like to wish everyone in Oakridge a Happy Holiday Season.

One of the hottest trends going in home update and improvement is acoustic or popcorn removal. For many reasons including style, resale, and maintenance, the popcorn ceiling texture is now being removed more often.

The process is one that involves wetting, scraping and sanding with minimal mess. The final look is achieved with new texture, usually a splatter drag or a smooth finish. Both finishes look very clean and fresh and will add value to your home.

**Next month:** Wallpaper removal and texture options.



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## Things Financial and Personal

By Dave Morgan, CPA - ONA Treasurer, Mortgage Broker, Real Estate Broker, Investor

Disclaimer – You should consult with your professional advisor before acting on any of the recommendations or ideas that follow. The author is not an attorney and does not profess to be providing legal, tax, financial, or personal advice. Dave will be happy to meet with you to see if your personal facts and circumstances would warrant any action on your part.

With the true abundance of acorns from all of our oak trees, we also have a bumper crop of squirrels it seems along with the many other varmints (I watched too much of the Beverly Hillbilies growing up) such as rabbits and even skunks now. I witnessed something I have never seen as a result. Across from house in my neighbor's tree (a Bradford pear tree a year or so old), a squirrel was doing his squirrel thing when suddenly a Peregrine falcon swooped into the tree. Suddenly, there was a flurry of activity with the squirrel running up and down the small, mostly undeveloped tree trunk and branches with the falcon in close pursuit with wings flapping wildly in attempt of catching a nice breakfast. I thought the squirrel was a goner when it climbed to a very top branch, but it instinctually reversed course into heavier coverage areas of the tree. As suddenly as the chase began, the falcon then flew away without the squirrel in tow.

With that in mind, let's talk tax! I'm going to be blunt, and tell it like I see it. The tax planning decision direction you take unfortunately involves a high degree of reaction to federal government actions in play currently and suggested for in the future, and I have to discuss that head-on. I apologize in advance if I step on anyone's toes.

Our federal government has been spending like drunken sailors (and my apology as well to all sailors for even remotely pulling you into this discussion), and they are spending money that we don't even have. It's like a kid with a credit card that has no limit that is going to be billed in the future for his kids to pay and also for his kid's kids to pay. The focus of the federal government change is to put the productive folks (that employee people) into their place, take from folks that accumulated any kind of reserves as a part of responsible savings and investing, and to take over most all business in the United States (it kind of reminds you of statist societies such as the old Soviet Union, Communist China, Venezuela, and so on). We've moved into a statist society where "equality of opportunity" is being transformed into "equality of results". Business growth and employment are mostly negative now because there are no consistent rules – there is only fear of the ever continuing attack to make the profit rewards of productivity, through hard work and risking of personal capital, a very painful thing financially.

The end game of attacking health insurance companies is to put them out of business, and the federal government will seize their assets "so that they can pay for health claims". Some of you may remember that before the election, there was talk of also seizing (confiscating) all 401(k) and other retirement plan assets from all of us, and then "rolling them into a Social Security Part II plan that would guarantee a 3% return on lock box accounts". You remember the lock box that used to exist for the original Social Security plan – it disappeared and all the accumulated funds were spent on pet projects that also bought votes. And, I don't recall prior discussions if the principal could be withdrawn upon request, and I don't recall if all of the princi-

pal would be forfeited just like in the principal in the original Social Security plan. Again, this was just talk by one of the folks that is one of the higher ups in the current federal government. The END GAME in my opinion is that the federal government is seizing current cash to cover up prior cash grabs for programs that are now bankrupt and to temporarily fund new projects and grab power by being able to buy votes.

The new proposed health care takeover plan alone will have taxes that will be collected for three to four years before the plan even starts to go into effect. Why the delay? Could it be so that the 2012 elections are over before the chaos hits? We've already seen the rationing of care preemptive shot when a government panel (without any oncologists or other like experts) recommended that mammograms not be done until the age of 50 because it was too costly to start them at the age of 40 – not enough lives saved to justify the cost. It is also so that the plan's 10 year cost can be lowered with unethical collections for the three to four years without any of the new massive costs being incurred.

The Bush tax cuts will expire and will not be renewed costing the average family over an estimated \$2,700 in extra taxes per year. Businesses will also be hit hard and they will have to raise prices on their products and/or fire employees. Finally, the known defect in the revised withholding tables implemented earlier this year that the federal government touted as cutting taxes for 95% of all Americans will actually cost taxpayers more money because they made a mistake that was known but never reported by the media.

So for us tax paying squirrels, what do we need to do now and with an eye for the near future? It seems to be very apparent now that taxes will be raised SIGNIFICANTLY to pay for all the spending in addition to the tax rates going back up when the Bush tax cuts expire – this includes the lower capital gains tax rates (should you be fortunate enough to have any capital gains at all) and the inheritance tax by eliminating most of the exclusion available for the taxable estate. AFTER CONSULTING WITH YOUR PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS, you may want to IGNORE the previous tax planning standards of (a) accelerating your deductions (like charitable contributions or property taxes) by paying them before year-end, and (b) deferring income (such as asking your employer to pay your current year bonus after January 1) by receiving it after year-end. The end goal was always to minimize taxable income in the current tax year. THUS, it may be time to accelerate taxable income including taking any capital gains in the current year. Consider making your charitable contributions and property tax payments after December 31. Consider asking your boss to go ahead and pay your current year bonus in the current year.

If your taxable income is low enough, you may want to consider converting tax deferred assets into tax paid assets completely outside of a retirement plan. This is done by "selling those assets and recognizing income on those sales". Your broker can, in essence, just do this on paper by setting up a new normal tax paid investments account, and selling some or all of your deferred investments from the deferred account into that new account. For example, if you sold some of your IRA investments and they were taxed (when added to your other

(Continued on page 7)

2009 income) at a rate of 15%, that could end up being less tax costly (even when considering the low time value of money cost) than some draconian tax rate in the future. Plus, your funds would not be in accounts that could be potentially confiscated. Some of my clients have been doing this for a few years but may be accelerating their conversion rates significantly this year.

What about converting my IRA into a Roth IRA? Personally, I would not convert a normal IRA account into a Roth IRA account at this time since these would also be potentially subject to confiscation if the federal government chose to do so, and the tax deferral on earnings that a Roth IRA provides may not be appreciable in amount.

All this being said, this is ALL UNKNOWN as to what is going to happen from this point forward. The tax deferral account confiscation is JUST WORDS, JUST TALK, but other rumors have surprisingly turned into reality. You should definitely talk to your tax advisor for suggestions and to decide on the direction to take, and watch him or her stammer on this too! We are just each like the squirrel in the tree. Which direction is the correct direction to take? I, and anyone else that professes to know, really have NO IDEA. Like the squirrel, be alert and ready to react!



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# Insect Pests

By Kimberly Schofield, Program Specialist-Urban IPM , Texas AgriLife Extension

## Abundance of Hackberry Gall Nipple Makers

Many residents that live in neighborhoods with hackberry trees have been noticing many small cicada looking insects, about 3/16 inches in length with spotted wings on their window screens and doors. These insects are adult hackberry gall psyllids or also called hackberry nipple gall makers. In the fall, these insects invade indoors looking for an overwintering site. Normally, they will overwinter under the bark of trees, but will also come indoors through any cracks and crevices such as around windows and doors usually at night since they are attracted to indoor lights. However, those that come inside are going to die.

In the spring, the adult psyllids will emerge and lay eggs in the leaves of hackberry trees. When the egg hatches, the developing psyllid begins feeding and the leaf begins to form a small pocket around the psyllid as the insect develops, forming a gall. The galls that are produced vary in size from 1/8 to 1/4 inch and are found on the leaves and petioles. The adult gall will then emerge in the fall. Even though the galls can be unsightly on the leaves and sometimes cause premature leaf drop, they do not appear to affect tree health. This means no chemical treatments are recommended.

Hackberry psyllids are not harmful to people or pets and will not attack indoor plants or furnishings. Since they are a seasonal annoyance, residents can vacuum them to remove them as needed. As the temperatures fall, so will the hack-

berry gall psyllid population!



Photo of hackberry gall psyllids, *Pachypsylla* sp. (Homoptera: Psyllidae), adults. Photo by C.L. Cole, Texas A&M University.

(Continued on page 9)



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## Insect Pests

### Invasion of Squash Vine Borers

Squash vine borers are the most common and most damaging pests of squash. The larvae are borers so they will cause damage as they tunnel into the stems. They usually feed on squash and related wild plants but also can feed on melons and cucumbers.



Southwestern squash vine borer, *Melittia calabaza* (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae), adult. Photo by G. McIlveen, Jr, <http://insects.tamu.edu/images/insects/common/images/cd-43-c-txt/cimg251.html>

The adult moths resemble a wasp, with a red abdomen surrounded with black bands at each segment; their front wings are covered with metallic brown scales and their back wings are clear with a brown band. Adult females lay eggs on the

leaves and stems of primarily squash. The larvae hatch and begin burrowing into host plant stems. The larva is white in color with a brown head and grows to be an inch in length. The larvae will produce sawdust like frass near the base of the plant which may cause the stems to wilt and die. The larvae then climb from the stems to pupate in the soil. Some Control Suggestions:

#### Some Non-Chemical Controls:

Keep natural enemies in the garden such as parasitic wasps that will attack squash vine borer eggs and larvae. Also adult ground beetles (Family Carabidae) will attack squash vine borer larvae. Split vines should be covered with soil immediately after the larvae have been removed. Also remove vines soon after harvest to destroy any larvae still inside stems.

#### Some Chemical Controls:

Some chemical suggestions include such active ingredients as pyrethrins, permethrin, or carbaryl. Apply the chemicals to the base of the plant, underneath the foliage and underneath the stems of the plant.

Southwestern squash vine borer, *Melittia calabaza* (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae), adult. Photo by G. McIlveen, Jr, <http://insects.tamu.edu/images/insects/common/images/cd-43-c-txt/cimg251.html>.

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 since this publication was printed. The pesticide user is always responsible for applying products in accordance with label directions. Always read and carefully follow the instructions on the container label.



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# The North Garland High School Theater

By Keith Engler



Take the time this year and go see a play at North Garland High School. It is fun evening out and it supports a fine group of young people who work hard and have a great deal of talent.

The Christmas Carol is playing December 3, 4 and 5. The remaining 2009-2010 Theater Season Productions are listed below:

You can get more details on other plays in the area and direct links to North Garland High School theater department at

[www.OakridgeNA.com](http://www.OakridgeNA.com)

Photo of Judith Dollar  
courtesy of North Garland High School

2009-2010 Theater Season Productions				
<b>December</b>				
3	<b>Christmas Carol</b>	7:30 p.m.	NG Auditorium	Tickets \$7 in advance
4		7:30 p.m.		
5		7:30 p.m.		
<b>January</b>				
21	<b>Aladdin</b> NG Children's Theatre performance	TBA	NG Auditorium	Tickets \$3 at the door
22		TBA		
23		TBA		
<b>March</b>				
25	<b>UIL One Act Play</b> Public performance	7:30 p.m.	NG Auditorium	
31				Granville Arts Center
<b>April</b>				
1	UIL OAP District Contest	TBA	Granville Arts Center	



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# Oakridge News

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### ONA General Membership Meetings:

- March 4, 2010
- May 27, 2010

### ONA OFFICERS

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Vice President	Dr. James Chanez
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District 4	Dan Nichols
District 5	Herman Dade
District 6	Mark Edwards
District 7	David & Sharon Parrish

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Communications	Keith Engler
Environmental	Joe Fagan
Crime Prevention & Safety	Bill & Brenda Olive
Special Events	Rebecca Chanez

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