



Oakridge News

Vol. 18, No. 04

April 2010

<http://oakridgeNA.com>

Observations

By Mike Rose, ONA President

It is nice to know that your Oakridge Community newsletter is read by its members. I have an apology to make or at least I must clear up information I communicated to ONA newsletter readers in the March issue. Because there is extensive work underway by a GP & L subcontractor it was felt that at least those affected by that work should be made aware of what was underway. Information regarding the work to be performed in Oakridge for GP & L was requested and presented in the October 2009 ONA newsletter. Additional information (the maps) was included in the March 2010 issue in order to further inform (via the maps) those to be affected by the work underway. The error made was to include the repeat of the last paragraph talking about the work to get underway "next year". Sorry about the confusion.

The ONA elections for officers listed on the front page of the March newsletter will be conducted at the **May 20th General Meeting**. This meeting will, of course, be held at the Oakridge country Club. A side note regarding the Country Club – see the article in this issue which talks about the restaurant being opened to all Oakridge community residents. This is exciting news.

With the ongoing help of our Councilperson Rick Williams and the varied Garland staff members, the brick wall that defines our

community is once again without damage, or at least it is at the time of the printing of this issue. Additionally, our Councilperson has assisted in getting the green posts that were located on either side of the bridge going over Duck creek removed. At the same time the damaged chain link fence was removed. The city person doing all this work did an excellent job and, in my opinion, the removal of these "things" greatly improved the looks of our community. Your ONA Board is now looking to repaint the bridge. When we received our first Neighborhood Vitality Grant part of that initial grant included the painting of the bridge. A condition of the Grant is the responsibility of recipient to maintain what was funded, thus the board is proceeding with the repainting.

Finally, because of the massive work underway by the City of Richardson to improve traffic flow at the intersection of Belt Line and Jupiter, a unique opportunity exists for the Oakridge community and the City of Garland to work together and create an appealing entry feature to Garland and Oakridge. As stated in our by-laws "1.2 Purposes: The purposes of the Association are to assure the beauty, safety and stability of the area and the surrounding community and to promote neighborliness and pride among the residents.", this feature should promote pride and assist in the stability of our Oakridge community. Stay tuned for what may be an exciting addition to our community.

District 7 Council Report

By Rick Williams, District 7 City Councilman

Housing Affordability

A recent report from the Texas A&M Real Estate Center explained that Texas leads the rest of the country when it comes to housing affordability. Within Texas, the City of Garland was ranked #1 as having the most affordable homes in the State. This calculation of "affordability" reflects the ability of a median-income family to purchase a median-priced existing home in its area. Following Garland in affordability were Sherman-Denison, Fort Worth, Brazoria County, Palestine, and Paris.

Green Bollard & Chain Link Fence Removal

After discussion with the Oakridge Neighborhood Association board and the Oakridge golf course staff, the City of Garland removed the green bollards on either side of the bridge on Diamond Oaks crossing Duck Creek. Neither the City nor the golf course could recall who originally installed them, but many were

missing or knocked over. We suspect they were the responsibility of the Oakridge golf club, but they didn't have the budget to keep replacing, painting, and keeping them upright. Further, the bollards were only on one side of the road, and they were on the "wrong side" if one considers where a car would likely go taking the curve too fast (i.e., the physical forces would pull the car to the side of the road where there were no bollards). Additionally, the chain link fence that was on one side of the bridge was also removed as it had missing sections. Like the bollards, the fence was a maintenance headache, and it really did not serve any purpose since a chain link fence is not protection from an out of control car.

Other Appearance Issues

And while on the subject of maintaining the appearance of the Oakridge neighborhood, Oncor replaced the light standard which

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District 7 Council Report

Continued from Page 1

had been knocked over at Ridge Oak and Jupiter. Further, the brick wall along Shiloh toward the south end had been damaged, and it has now been repaired.

GP&L Energy Audit

I have received several calls about electric bills. If you are a GP&L customer, they will do a free Energy Audit. Just call 972-205-2671 or 972-205-2615. Unlike a lot of advertisements for "free" energy audits from insulation or window companies, GP&L will not be trying to sell you anything.

Gardening

Here's a plug on behalf of a former teacher of mine at Richland College who now teaches at Naaman Forest High School. On Saturday, April 3 from 8:00AM to 4:00PM at the Special Events

Center (4999 Naaman Forest Blvd), there will be a plant sale with bedding plants, hanging baskets and vegetables all grown by high school students. I know last year I bought a couple of hard to find plants such as Copper Plants that love the Texas sun. If you are like me, I'm itching for this dreary winter to end and start gardening. Supporting the local high school is a good way to start the gardening season.

We're talking trash today

Glenna Brown: Environmental Waste Services

Virtually every home in the Oakridge Neighborhood Association participates in an ordinary ritual once a week—a ritual done for the common good of the neighborhood. That ritual? Taking out the trash. Texans generate an astonishing 7.4 lbs. of trash per person, per day! Where does all the trash go? We know it goes away on Tuesday, but where is "away"?

Once your trash is picked up by a professional driver in Garland's Environmental Waste Services (EWS) department, the first stop is the Transfer Station, located at 1426 Commerce St. Once a truck has a full load of garbage, the driver travels to the Transfer Station, weighs the load, dumps it at the Transfer Station, and continues on his route. Each driver has an average of 959 homes on a daily route, collecting three loads per day, or 19.2 tons daily. Collectively, the drivers collect more than 300 tons daily.

The trash is then put into larger transport vehicles and hauled to Garland's landfill, the C.M. Hinton, Jr. Regional Landfill, located at 3175 Elm Grove Rd. in Rowlett. The Landfill is the final resting place for Garland's household trash.

The Hinton Landfill, opened in February, 2002, was designed to have a 50 year life span. It is permitted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to take in municipal and commercial solid waste. The Landfill charges a tipping (disposal) fee based on weight of each vehicle, for using the site and to pay site operating costs. Trash is deposited into designated areas called "cells." Garland's Landfill was designed for approximately 20 cells, and trash is currently being deposited into Cell 4. Construction has begun on Cell 5, which is scheduled to open in the summer of 2010. Only bring waste from the household where you reside

Jain Society

Some of you may recall that a little over a year ago, the City Council passed the zoning for the Jain Society on property at the S.E. corner of Arapaho and Shiloh. Plans at that time were to build a Jain Temple toward the back of the property and perhaps build some retail along Arapaho. Looking at the Jain's web site <http://dfwjains.org/>, it now appears they plan on building their temple on Webb's Chapel Road in Dallas. I've emailed them regarding the plans for the Arapaho/Shiloh property, but no response as of this writing.

New Nursery

A little over a year ago, Skinners Wholesale Nursery moved from its new location behind the fire station on Holford Road. That property has now been leased (with an option to buy) by Sho-Scape Wholesale Nursery (972 414-3200). I talked to the manager Ben Harrell, and he said that even though they are primarily a wholesale business selling to landscapers, etc., they will also sell to the public. As I've said before, support your local Garland merchants!

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

Approximately 150 to 160 vehicles, containing more than 1,200 tons of garbage, go across the scales each day. The Landfill is open M-F, 8am to 5pm and Saturday, 8am to 3pm. Garland residents can drop off normal household waste at the Transfer Station or Landfill for free with proof of residency in the form of a valid Texas driver's license or current utility bill.

The Landfill does not accept, among other items, motor driven vehicles, hospital waste, household chemicals, or tires. For a complete list of unacceptable items, please visit the EWS web-site at www.garlandenvironmentalwaste.com.

Environmental Waste Services also operates the Wood Recycling Facility at the Landfill site to take in clean brush, which is ground into mulch. Garland residents are required to keep yard trimmings and tree limbs separate from other bulky waste items so that the brush crew can transport the clean brush to the grinding facility. Approximately 52 tons of brush are brought to the grind site daily. Mulch is available free to Garland residents at the Landfill site or at the Recycling Center, located at 1426 Commerce St.

Trash deposited at the Landfill will stay there a very long time. Because each day's trash is compacted with heavy equipment and covered with a 6-inch layer of compacted soil, it is deprived of oxygen and moisture and does not decompose quickly. The long-term solution to adequate landfill space lies not in building a bigger landfill but in our ability to manage our resources, reduce waste disposal and benefit the environment. Stay tuned for the next installment to learn how you can help extend the life of the Hinton Landfill.

Oakridge Daytimers Style Show

By Dianne Winters

Forty Daytimers and guests gathered at the Branding Iron Restaurant at Firewheel Golf Course on March 9th, in anticipation of the upcoming spring season. A well prepared, tasty lunch was served by the staff as everyone enjoyed the view and visited with friends.

To inspire Daytimers with ideas for their spring wardrobe, Draper's and Damon's Clothing Store presented a style show of fashions that had bold colors in many fabrics of various weights and textures. The lovely ensembles with accessories drew favorable comments from the audience who were prepared to make some immediate purchases.

Each model made several wardrobe changes and everyone enjoyed the contribution each model made to the enjoyment of the show. Many thanks are given to these friends whose smiles and personable attitudes added an extra dimension of fun to this special event.



To enhance the lovely fashions the models were Daytimers – Monica Evans, Margaret Fowler, Nell Burt, Mary Pattie, Beth Fagan, Sally Lang and Jo Dietz.

President, Ruby Nell Ormon, had opened the meeting with some announcements and dates that can be found on the Daytimers' calendar and the meeting was closed with a drawing for the gift of a summer handbag from Draper's and Damon's.

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15.00 annual dues. Daytimers promotes the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Any questions should be directed to president, Sally Weiss, 972-202-1140.

Let Sue Do It

The repairman is coming, but you have a meeting?

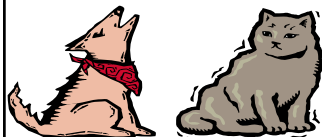
Let Sue do it.

Kitty and Rover won't go to the kennel?

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Citizens on Patrol (COP) Report

By Bill Olive

Incidents for the past 30 days up through March 15

- On 2/24 Theft of wheels off vehicle at 3306 Ridge Oak
- On 2/24 Stolen vehicle from country club 2800 Diamond Oaks
- On 2/25 Burglary-Vehicle at 2115 Overview (\$50 - \$500)
- On 2/25 Attempted Burglary Vehicle at 2809 Winding Oak

Slow Down Signs:

We have placed "slow down signs" along Diamond Oaks and Big Oaks in the hope drivers would see them and drive at a safer speed. So far we have not been too impressed with the outcome, although a few residents think the signs are working. We will continue to place these signs out at other locations around Oakridge. Recently we purchased a "sports radar" gun which will enable us to do spot check vehicles during times when there is high traffic. We have been instructed by our C.O.P supervisor on how to use this gun. After its use we will be talking with our NPO, C.O.P supervisor, and shift Lieutenant regarding how the police and C.O.P can work together regarding enforcement.

Solicitors:

It's almost Spring (even though the weather may say different) and it seems we are encountering a rise in door to door solicitors. On Friday, March 19 we got a call from a "shook up" resident complaining about a solicitor who approached her in her front yard trying to sell some liquid cleaning material. He also wanted to use her bathroom and when she asked him to leave he called her a few names. We went over to the street location and observed the man going door to door while we waited for a unit from the Garland Police. The officer came within a few minutes (we called 911), talked to the seller, "ran" him for warrants (he had traffic

warrants out of Florida but the state did not want to extradite him), checked his city soliciting permit (he had one), then proceeded to "chew" the guy out for his rude behavior. There was not much more the officer could do so he had to let him go. This seller is about 6ft tall, gray hair (sort of crew cut), had on a purple shirt with long white sleeves, age about 40, sneaker type shoes. I can't tell you to send him away, but, I certainly would. The sad part of this is that I believe another resident a few houses down **did** let him into her house.

Wheels:

Last week I asked Garland Assistant Police Chief in charge of the Criminal Investigation Division about the many cases of high dollar wheel theft in our city. He said the GPD recently made an arrest of four suspects who it is hoped are responsible for many of the incidents. The problem, according to the A/C is these wheels are usually gone within a day or two of being stolen. Unfortunately, victims are not likely to get their property returned.

Important numbers:

- NPO John Capers 972-205-2740
capersj@ci.garland.tx.us
- COP: Patrol Bill Olive 972-495-3402
indexva@verizon.net
- City Secretary 972-205-2000
- Mayor's Office Beth Dattomo (Executive Assistant)
972-205-2471
edattomo@ci.garland.tx.us

Have a blessed Easter



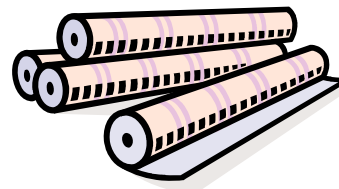
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THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTER OF TEXAS
2010 SPRING GALA
 SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010
By David Parish

Once again, the Achievement Center of Texas (ACT), our neighbor at 2950 North Shiloh Road, will host its Annual Spring Gala at the Brookhaven Country Club on Saturday, April 10, 2010.

The 2010 ACT Gala will feature the Benchmark Loving Cup Casino. ACT will honor Ira Terrell, former SMU and NBA great, with its Champion Who Cares Award. Mitch Carr of KRLD radio will emcee.

Currently, the ACT Gala committee is selling tickets (\$100) and tables (\$1,000) and soliciting auction items.

The proceeds from the Gala will benefit ACT and its programs including day care and life skills training to our children and adults with special needs. The Benchmark Loving Cup Casino helps families struggling with the current economy by providing student scholarships based on financial need.

For more information please contact
 Linda Rasmussen
 972-516-9611
 lindalee3440@hotmail.com

<http://www.actgala.com/>

Home Updates

By Phil Hanas: Oakridge Paint & Paper

Painting Woodwork:

No one likes the job of painting woodwork. Woodwork comes in many varieties including doors, baseboards, crown, cabinets, and is either already painted or stained. We use the following steps to insure a great and durable look.

1. Cover the floors, and counters with plastic before starting.
2. We sand woodwork with a 180 or 220 grit. You need to use fine sandpaper otherwise the woodwork gets scratched.
3. Clean the woodwork and prime any bare spots with a spray primer.
4. Apply 2 coats of oil based enamel. The best quality enamel paint is either Sherwin Williams Pro-Classic or Benjamin Moore's Satin Impervo. We also paint with ox-hair brushes and use penetrol to thin the paint.
5. If we paint over stained cabinets or doors the steps are the same except we use an Oil based primer before painting.
6. You have to use paint thinner for clean-up.

Since most of our homes are around 25 years old, a fresh coat of paint on the woodwork is a great way to update your home.

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The Green Thumb Doctor – April 2010

By Michael LaBelle – President, MightyGrow, Inc.

Fall was the time to prepare for your spring gardening

1. Mulch all leaves into your grass (do NOT mulch pine straw).
2. Save the leaves and mulch your garden (4"+) (See below).
3. Have your soil tested and add lime / manure / compost as needed.

But, you say, "I didn't know to do that. It's not my fault!" It's okay. Just perform the previous tasks as soon as you can, then proceed to building your raised beds.

Prepare/Build Raised Beds for Spring Planting in Late Winter / Early Spring

1. Raised beds are easier to maintain and grow more produce per foot.
2. Beds do not have to have a border around them, but it can be easier.
3. Mix compost / manure / gypsum into the soil before it is mounded up.
4. Cover beds with Leaves / compost / straw (wheat – not pine). This time of year you can often find old hay that farmers are not going to feed.

In the spring when you plant your raised beds, simply move the cover back enough to allow for planting and move it back around your plants. There will be some weeds the first year, simply pull up and lay back down as mulch. Next fall, rather than pulling up your old plants, cut them off at the top of the ground and lay the remainder of the plant on top of the ground. That way soil life can feed off the roots by releasing the nutrients so they are available next spring.

Weeds are your friend

Weeds serve three primary purposes:

1. They are pioneer plants that are used by nature to break up compacted/dead soil and prepare the soil for other plants to follow
2. They are indicators of problems in the soil – for example, dandelions are indicative of low Calcium
3. They are mineral concentrators – dandelions concentrate calcium from deep in the soil and move it to the surface. When calcium levels rise to a given point, dandelions no longer will germinate.

Hint: What do you do if you have low calcium levels in your soil? First thing is NOT to panic. I am a professional and I am here to

help you. Take a seat, take a drink of ice tea, and relax. Better? Great! Now even though the Dallas area is sitting on a huge shelf of limestone (calcium rock), this typically means that the soil is alkaline and, strangely, this soil is usually deficient in calcium. The best calcium source that will not raise the pH of the soil is gypsum or calcium sulfate. Any good nursery will have this in a powder form.

First rule of gardening – NEVER put ANYTHING on your soil that will kill an earthworm.

Feed the soil – NOT the plant

Life in the soil (worms, nematodes, fungi (mycelium), mycorrhizae, bacteria, ants, etc.) will prepare both the soil and nutrients for your plants. Most fertilizers (chemical) and minerals must be broken down by the life in the soil before your plants can use them.

Mycorrhizae inoculation on the roots of your transplants will increase growth and production by increasing the nutrients made available to the plant through the root system. Mycorrhizae inoculation can increase the root area 1000X when compared to non-inoculated plants. The key here is to get the inoculant in touch with the roots, because the mycorrhizae spores actually "infect" the roots, taking sugar from the roots and in return supplying minerals and water back to the plant.

So, the two ways to use mycorrhizae is to either put a small handful under the root ball of any plants or shrubs you are setting out or, if you are planting seeds, put a teaspoon around the seeds when you put them in the ground. That way the mycorrhizae will "wake up" when the new root contact them so that they can get to work on improving the growth and outcome of your planting. Hint: If you have milk that has either gone bad or you want to give you soil biology a boost, mix it with warm water and drench the soil around your plants with it.

Organic Fertilizer: There is much debate over the type of fertilizer to use. Organic only enthusiasts insist that synthetic chemical fertilizers are poisons that destroy the earth. Conventional farmers insist that you can't grow veggies with the very low nutrient amounts found in typical organic fertilizers. Who's right? Well, in a manner they both are. Let me explain. It is true that chemical fertilizers can harm the soil, especially the delicate microbial life that your plants depend on. On the other hand, most organic fertilizer is pretty anemic. So, what is a home gardener to do? If you insist on using chemical fertilizers, you can take them and either dissolve them in water or mix them into a high-carbon organic fertilizer to get the best of both worlds. This is just between you and me, but don't tell the organic police. I'm in enough trouble already.

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Spring is Here

By Joe Fagan

With spring finally with us it is time to replant the entrances. This year we plan to plant Zinnias, ("Zinnia angustifolia"), the narrow-leaf zinnia is a smaller version which should complement the existing shrubs.

Planting will start the latter part of April, there are approximately 900 Pansy plants currently in the beds, therefore it will take a couple of weeks to replace them.

In the past we have planted Begonias and Sweet Potato vines and thought it was time for a change.

If anyone would like to offer input on the beautification of Oakridge, do not hesitate to contact me and let me know what you think. fagan1234@verizon.net



Scientific Name:	Zinnia angustifolia
Common Name:	Creeping Zinnia
Light Requirements:	Sun to partial shade
Flower Color:	Orange, yellow, white
Height:	6 to 12 inches
Spacing:	6 to 12 inches
Comments:	High drought tolerance



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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.

Well, here it is the first day of Spring as this is being written, and we're supposed to have some snow again. As a life-long Texan, the weather can still be surprising and chilling! To celebrate, let's have some trivia on US Presidents! What do the middle initials for (a) Harry S. Truman and (b) Rutherford B. Hayes stand for?

Being Spring, that means that the April 15th tax filing deadline for personal returns is just around the corner. If you cannot get your return completed in time because you do not have all the necessary information to file an accurate return, you can file Form 4868 on or before April 15th to get an automatic 6 month extension. NOTE – this does not extend the time for when your payment is due. If you cannot pay your 1040 tax bill, send what you can spare, if anything, on April 15th, and then work out a payment plan. I can help you with what you need to send in to the IRS if this is the case for you.

What if you're a little – OK, a lot – tardy on prior year filings and/or tax bill payments. If you watch any TV or listen to the radio, the commercials often are for folks that do what is called "Offers in Compromise". Enrolled Agents, lawyers, CPA's, and you (see my article entitled Building Your Dreams herein for a discussion of do it yourself dentistry) can all do these offers for you with the IRS. Just know that you must first get "current"

with the IRS – that means you have to file all past due and currently due income tax returns so that you can be assessed for your taxes (including penalties and interest) that are due. The offer can then be eligible for submission. The offer is a disclosure of your financial status (it's in a very detail and "intimate" manner), and there is a formula to calculate what you can pay. This offer must be done with due care and complete disclosure. The calculated initial and perhaps total payment (there's no negotiation as some perceive) and the offer go to the IRS for review. They have two years to accept or reject the filing for due cause; otherwise, the offer stands as filed. In the interim, tax filings must remain current, and payments made as if the offer is accepted. In my opinion, you need someone like me that is detail minded, experienced in dealing with the IRS, and considerate about the stress this situation is causing, to properly chart these waters.

Another deadline is April 30th for the Home Buyer Tax Credits of up to \$8,000 for married first time home buyers and up to \$6,500 for existing home buyers both selling their current home and buying another one. The purchase contract must be in place by the deadline – the home purchase must close by June 30th.

TRIVIA ANSWERS: (a) The "S" stands only for "S" – nothing more - to please both his grandfathers who had a name starting with "S" in their names; (b) "B" stands for "Birchard". Rutherford B. Hayes won the presidency by ONE electoral vote over Samuel Tilden – the election was the only one decided by a congressional commission.



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Joe Wrinkle

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Does Attic Insulation Make a Difference?

By Keith Engler

I had Scott Trepinski with CHES add insulation to my attic. I have to admit that I was skeptical it would make a difference. But, GP&L advertised a \$500 credit on my energy bill; which I was also skeptical of.

My attic has 2x6 rafters and the original insulation had settled so much that it barely covered them. Scott blew in about 18 inches of this pure white insulation over what I already had. Just having the white insulation was really nice even if it made no difference on my energy bill. I recently added more lights to my attic so I can see every inch of my attic now and that white insulation glows!! Sorry, but finally having a well lighted attic gets me excited. Also, this new insulation is not itchy like the old fiberglass stuff.

Well, my skepticism was unfounded. I have not analyzed my energy bill yet, but as you can see in the photo; my house is still covered with snow but my neighbors house is completely melted. This was the same for the other houses around me. Also, I faxed in the paper work that Scott carefully prepared for me and GP&L gave me the \$500 credit.

I have no affiliation with CHES but I know a good deal when I see one. Scott shares the same level of customer satisfaction that I do in my business. Also, you can feel safe to have Scott in your house especially since American Airlines trusts him to fly their airplanes.

Therefore, I recommend you give Scott a call to a least get an estimate on what it would cost you, especially while GP&L is giving rebates for a limited time.



CHES

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Your Oakridge
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Solution

While the money lasts, Garland Power and Light is giving homeowners an energy Credit up to \$500 when insulation is installed!

Average out of pocket installation cost for an Oakridge home after Federal Tax Credit, and GP&L credit is only \$400.00. How can you not Afford this one time cost that will save you up 30% on your energy bill forever...

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ONA Member

City of Garland Budget and Research Department

By Brian Bradford

While invisible to much of the public, the City's Budget and Research Department touches every service provided to Garland citizens. The department is responsible for the development and administration of the Annual Operating Budget and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Passage of the City's budget is governed by State law, the City Charter, and established professional standards. Ultimately, the budget serves as a means for allocating scarce resources to programs and services that reflect the community's values and priorities.

The internal process of developing the Operating Budget begins in February of each year and culminates with the City Manager's Proposed Budget being presented to the City Council prior to August 15th. The City Manager must present the Council with a balanced budget. Arriving at this point is a lengthy and arduous process that involves forecasting over 500 different sources of revenue received by the City and reviewing at length each department's staffing levels, expenditure needs, and performance measures. Often, the focus of the budget process becomes attempting to maintain or enhance current levels of City services while wrestling with fewer available resources. As a result, there are active efforts year-round aimed at identifying and implementing practices that will lead to greater efficiencies and cost savings. The Operating Budget must be adopted by the City Council, after their review and modification, no later than September 20th of each year.

Even before the Operating Budget has been approved by the City Council, the Budget and Research staff is at work developing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP includes planned infrastructure projects for the upcoming five years together with the expected costs and appropriate methods of financing. The City Manager's Proposed CIP is presented in January of each year, with the City Council completing their review, modification, and adoption in February.

While compiling and reviewing voluminous amounts of financial data is required for the development of municipal budgets, key to the process is policy deliberation by the City Council regarding community needs and priorities. Equally important is input from Garland citizens through the public hearing process. A minimum of two public hearings are held for each Operating Budget and CIP before their adoption.

In addition to preparing and administering the Operating Budget and CIP, the Budget and Research Department is actively involved in the continuous development and monitoring of local economic indicators and is also active in developing long-term financial forecasts and strategies, special research studies, and assisting in economic development activities.

The City's annual Operating Budget, CIP, and monthly indicator reports can all be found on the City's web site at www.ci.garland.tx.us by going to "Departments", "City Administration" and clicking on "Budget".

Some facts you might find interesting about Garland's budget:

Garland is one of the few cities in Texas to have its own Water, Wastewater, Landfill, and Electric Power Utility.

Annual Combined Operating Budget	\$569 million
Average Cost Per Day (Combined)	1.5 million
2010 Capital Improvement Program	142 million
General Fund Operating Budget	131 million
City Property Tax Paid (Average Home)	\$68 per month
City Property Tax Paid – (Avg. w/ Senior Exemption)	\$38 per month

Distribution of Each Property Tax Dollar (In Cents)

Debt Service - CIP	\$0.45
Public Safety	\$0.34
Public Works	\$0.07
Culture and Recreation	\$0.06
General Government	\$0.05
Neighborhood Development	<u>\$0.03</u>
Total	\$1.00

Helpful Phone numbers (Emergency 911)

NP Officer John Capers 972-205-2740	Health Department 972-205-3460	Water/Sewer 972-205-3210
CRIMESTOPPERS 972-272-TIPS	Municipal Court 972-205-2330	Poison Control 1-800-222-1222
City Hall 972-205-2000	Parks & Recreation 972-205-2750	Texas Dept of Public Safety 972-861-2000
City Manager 972-205-2370	Recycling 972-205-3500	Library Central 972-205-2524
Mayor 972-205-2400	Street 972-205-3555	Library North Garland 972-205-2802
Animal Services 972-205-3570	Tax 972-205-2410	Library Ridgewood 972-205-2580
Building Permits 972-205-2300	Transportation 972-205-2430	Library South Garland 972-205-3920
Code Compliance 972-485-6400	Signal/Sign Repair 972-205-3255	Library Walnut Creek 972-205-2586
Fire Department 972-205-2250	Evenings/Weekends 972-205-3210	

Calendar Of Upcoming Events



Granville Arts Center Facilities

The Theatres At The Granville Arts Center – 300 N. Fifth Street, Garland
 The Atrium At The Granville Arts Center
 300 N. Fifth Street, Garland
 Rental 972-205-2780
 Box Office 972-205-2790
Box Office Hours
 Monday thru Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm
 and two hours before each performance



Plaza Theatre

521 W. State Street, Garland
 972-205-2782

Picture

Garland Arts resources

- www.GarlandArts.com
- www.garlandcivictheatre.org
- www.corptheatre.com
- www.garlandsymphony.org
- www.GarlandTexasOpry.com

More Art Information: 972-205-2782

More GSO Information: 972-926-0611

Garland Arts Snapshot for April

Apr. 1-30 Photo Exhibit Featuring Works of Jim Bird
Granville Arts Center Gallery

Apr. 1 2010 UIL One-Act Play Contests - District
1:30 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

Apr. 2 & 3 Zion Church presents “The Ransom”
7:30 pm Plaza Theatre

Apr. 3 & 5 2010 Garland Summer Musicals Auditions
Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

Apr. 8 & 9 at 7:00 pm “Romeo to Go” Apr. 10 at 2:00 pm
Plaza Theatre

Apr. 9 Vocal Concert by Sudha Raganathan
7:30 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium
<http://cities.sulekha.com/dallas/upcomingevents.htm>

Apr. 10 “Honor Thy Mother”
7:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

Apr. 15-May 8 “Funny Girl”
Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre

Apr. 16-18 “Lion, Witch and Wardrobe” Plaza Theatre

Apr. 16 Garland Symphony Orchestra Concert
8:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

Apr. 17 Jiaping Shi Dance School
7:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

Apr. 22, 23, 24 “Southern Belles on the Silver Screen”
7:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Main Auditorium

Apr. 22 Ms. Senior Garland Classic Pageant
6pm Plaza Theatre

Apr. 23 Garland Opry Southern Gospel Music Show
7:30 pm Plaza Theatre

Apr. 24 “Stigma 2 Final Episode”
7:00 pm Plaza Theatre

Apr. 25 Lakeshore Symphonic Winds Concert
7:30 pm Plaza Theatre

Apr. 29 & 30 “Alice in Wonderland”
7:00 pm Plaza Theatre

Pest Check

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

Time to Treat for Fire Ants

Red imported fire ants, *Solenopsis invicta* Buren, are an invasive species that has infested over 360 million acres in the southern United States, and they are continuing to spread. The use of chemicals is needed to manage their populations, in order to allow the native ant species back into the landscape. Fire ant baits, drenches, dusts and contact granular insecticides may be applied to control fire ants. It is advised to treat the individual fire ant mounds directly if less than 5 mounds are found within a 1/4 acre or less than 20 mounds within 1 acre, since this is not considered an infestation. However, if more than 5 mounds are present within a 1/4 acre or 20 mounds within an acre, then a fire ant bait or contact insecticide should be broadcast over the entire infested area. Fire ant baits are made up of defatted corn grit covered with insecticide and soybean oil. Before broadcasting the fire ant bait, foraging activity should be assessed, by placing a potato chip or hot dog next to the mound. If fire ants find the chip or hot dog within twenty minutes, then it is a suitable time to broadcast the bait. Fire ants will typically actively forage when the soil surface temperature is between 70 and 90° F, which is between May and September. Fire ant baits should never be watered into the soil and they should not be applied if they smell rancid. On the other hand, contact granular insecticides can also be broadcast over the entire infested area and need to be watered into the soil. Control using contact granular insecticide generally lasts for 6 to 12 months, depending on the active ingredient within the insecticide.

Both fire ant baits and contact insecticides can be broadcasted using a hand-held spreader for small areas or a Herd Seeder can be mounted onto a truck or ATV for larger areas.

For more information, please visit the fire ant webpage at

<http://fireant.tamu.edu>.



Photo of fire ant workers tending to a queen. Photos by S.B. Vinson, Professor of Entomology, Texas A&M University.

Midges or Mosquitoes?

Large numbers of non-biting midge flies (Family Chironomidae) are being reported this time of year. These midges can be easily confused with mosquitoes, since these midges are small, between 1/8- 1/2 inches in length. However midges lack scales on their wings and do not have a piercing mouthpart, like mosquitoes. Adult midges are humpbacked, are brown, black, or gray in color, and male midges have very feathery antennae. Sometimes in urban environments, where structures are built next to lakes, rivers, stagnant ditches and ponds, adult midges can emerge in extremely large numbers. These swarms tend to occur just after sunset, as the adults become active and fly towards outdoor lights. Adults are attracted to lights and may accumulate in large numbers on window screen, around porch and street lights. Swarms of

(Continued on page 13)



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Pest Check

adults may be so dense that they interfere with outdoor activities and can stain walls and other surfaces when they rest. They can also enter into structures through small cracks or deep piles of dead midges can accumulate underneath outdoor lights.

Chironomid midge eggs are laid on the surface of the water, and then the eggs sink to the bottom and hatch. The larvae burrow into the mud and construct small tubes to live in. The organic matter in the water and in the mud serves as food for the developing larvae. Some larvae are known as "bloodworms" due to the presence of hemoglobin in the blood that allows the larvae to breathe in low oxygen conditions in the mud. Larvae transform into pupae while still in their tubes and then the pupae swim to the surface where the adult emerges. Adults mate in swarms soon after emerging. The males swarm at dusk and mating occurs after females enter the swarm. The adults only live for a few days since they do not feed.

Some Non-Chemical Control Options:

- 1) Fertilizer run-off from residential lawns and garden, golf courses and agricultural fields are sometimes responsible for the development of larger populations of midges; so the proper use of fertilizers can avoid excess run-off into lakes, ponds and streams.
- 2) Locating the source of breeding is advised so all areas of standing water should be eliminated. Midges may fly as far as a quarter of a mile from the breeding site such as a drainage ditch, standing water, lake or pond.
- 3) High intensity white light has been found to be highly attractive to adult midges so by keeping blinds closed and porch lights off will help to reduce the number of adults attracted to these outdoor lights.

Some Chemical Control Options

Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis (Bti), is registered for use against chironomid midge larvae. Also insect growth regulators such as methoprene can be used to control midge

larvae. In addition, applications of residual insecticides such as those containing permethrin can be applied to porches, carports, under the eaves of structures to control adult midges.



Photo of a midge, Family Chironomidae. Photo by Marilyn Sallee, Master Gardener Entomology Specialist, Tarrant County.

Why Female Moths Are Bigger Than the Males

In most animal species, males and females differ in body size. Male mammals tend to be larger since a bigger and stronger male will win a fight over a female. Since there is no difference between the male and female genes, no one has figured out exactly why there are differently sized males and females. By studying the giant hawk moth (*Manduca sexta*), researchers from the University of Arizona have discovered that the key to unraveling this mystery lies in the early development, where the sexes begin to grow apart and where females can respond to size nearly twice as fast as males. The sexual dimorphism observed more likely has to do with differences in the time the two sexes spent as growing larvae. The researchers followed more than 1,200 caterpillars from the time they hatched, all the way through four molts and until they pupated. They weighed and measured the caterpillars at different times during development. For most of the caterpillars' lives, the females and males do not appear different. However, they found that the females tend to pupate later than the males. So by the time the female caterpillars pupate, they are larger so they are larger moths when they emerge.



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Oakridge Country Club Adult and Junior Tennis Clinics

By Pierre Craig

Head Tennis Pro at Oakridge Country Club

214-697-7009

Oakridge Country Club Adult Tennis Clinics

Each Clinic is 5 Weeks long

\$80.00 (paid week in advance) or \$85.00 (paid day of)

Start Weeks March 29th, May 3rd. June 7th

Beginner:	Tuesday	7 - 8:30 PM
Intermediate:	Monday	7 - 8:30 PM
Advanced :	Thursday	7 - 8:30 PM

Oakridge Country Club Junior Tennis Clinics

Each Clinic is 4 Weeks long.

\$65.00 (paid week in advance) or \$70.00 (paid day of)

Start Dates: April 5th, May 3rd

Ages 7 and Up:	Tuesday	5:30 - 7 PM
Ages 7 and Up:	Monday	5:30 - 7 PM
Ages 7 and Up:	Thursday	5:30 - 7 PM

6 weeks of Summer Camp for only \$199.00 per week (Ages 7 and up)

Week 1	June 7th	Tennis & Swim	9AM - 2PM	Monday - Friday
Week 2	June 14th	Tennis, Golf & Swim	8AM - 2PM	Tuesday - Friday
Week 3	June 21st	Tennis & Swim	9AM - 2PM	Tuesday - Friday
Week 4	June 28th	Tennis, Golf & Swim	8AM - 2PM	Tuesday - Friday
Week 5	July 5th	Tennis & Swim	9AM - 2PM	Tuesday - Friday
Week 6	July 12th	Tennis, Golf & Swim	8AM - 2PM	Tuesday - Friday



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Tankless Hot Water

Dave Morgan President, RCD Luxury Homes, Inc.

Hot water heaters – they are wonderful when they work, but they can be more than an inconvenience when they don't. Traditional hot water heaters typically have a life of from five to seven years before they break down if you maintain your hot water heater properly. What, you don't do your maintenance? Well, if you have ignored the maintenance, starting it can actually cause problems. So, it's better usually to keep doing nothing.

What do you need to have with a traditional hot water heater? First, it is preferable if the hot water heater is in the garage. Why? Well, if you have a leak from the body of the tank or the pressure relief valve decides to give way or the fittings develop a leak, you do NOT want water leaking inside of your house. Next, regardless of where your hot water heater is located, it needs to (a) set inside a bath pan designed for hot water heaters, and (b) that pan needs to have a sealed PVC drain line that properly directs any leaked water away from the inside of the house. This PVC drain line needs to be periodically checked to make sure there are no clogs and leaks anywhere in that process. You may

want to consider attaching an old hose to the end of the PVC drain line if it dumps into your garage where you might have articles placed that may be subject to damage should they come into any contact with water. Use caution to make sure that this is (a) out of the way of any traffic, and (b) it is periodically tested to make sure it drains properly

When your hot water heater is at the end of its service life, you really need to give some thought to replacing it with a tankless water heater. Even though it costs quite a bit more, a tankless water heater pays for itself eventually because (a) there is no tank full of water that has to be heated over and over especially when it is not being used (most people utilize the hot water heater typically for a few hours once each day – maybe twice – otherwise, its use is dormant), and (b) because they last much longer than traditional water heaters. Plus, it is an endless source of hot water – oops, there go your savings if you have kids in the house taking endless baths and showers!



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RCD Luxury Homes does residential and commercial construction, remodeling, rehabbing, and repairs to your specifications. We utilize our employees and trusted local contractors to work on your home or business, and those individuals (including any skilled laborers employed) are all verified checked as being United States citizens and background checked for your peace of mind.

So if you need construction from the ground up, or if you only need one or more specific things done, we are here for you with our decades of experience. And, no job is too small or too large, and we do work with a perfectionist's eye. We clean up after ourselves too!

Starting from the outside, we can do landscaping projects and maintenance (including irrigation); greenhouses, raised flowerbeds, raised gardens, and hanging vegetable and flower baskets using the best organic materials; exterior makeovers and repairs; windows and doors (including storm doors); floors, walls, and ceilings (including tiling with backsplashes, carpeting, texturing, painting, wallpapering, frames, fixtures, ceiling fans, baseboards, chair rails, and crown molding); plumbing, electrical, appliance delivery and installation, and HVAC (heating, venting, and air conditioning); insulation and weatherproofing (includes coordination with the City of Garland to get a rebate back on your electric bill); and cabinets, countertops (our granite with sink and appliance cuts, base sink, finishing, and installation starts at \$27.50 a square foot – specialty sinks are extra), built-in and portable shelving, and storage solutions for closets, kitchens, and garages. Yes, we help you design, and then do your kitchen and bathroom makeovers!

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ONA General Membership Meetings:

- May 20, 2010

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