



Oakridge News

www.oakridgena.org



Vol. 18, No. 08

August 2010

District 7 Council Report

by Rick Williams, District 7 City Councilman

The City of Carrollton recently passed a city ordinance which precludes tree stumps in the front yard. There are some days I think this is a good idea, and there are other days I think this may too much like a “homeowner association” rule. What do you think? Send me an email, and help me make up my mind on whether I should pursue a similar ordinance in Garland.

When someone fails to correct a high grass, low limb, etc. violation after receiving a notice from Code Compliance, the City will typically send a contract crew to remedy the situation. Then the resident is billed the cost of the service plus a \$125.00 administrative charge. Thus, mowing high grass typically results in a bill around \$175 to the city. If it is not paid, a lien is put on the house. I recently asked the Managing Director over Code whether we could demand that such a lien be paid on rental property when tenants change. When tenants change, the City does a rental inspection and then will issue a new rental permit to the rental home owner. The City Attorney did some research and found an existing ordinance, specifically Section 10.18, which says: “Granting permits, licenses, privileges, etc., to persons obligated to City is prohibited.” Consequently, the Code Department will start checking for outstanding liens, in addition to doing their inspection, before issuing a new rental permit. Perhaps that will make landlords more careful about renting to individuals who don’t maintain their property.

Only July 12, the City Council had its annual retreat. This is the one that used to be out of town, but to save tax dollars, we now have it locally. As in the past, we received an excellent briefing on the financial status of the City and the local economy. Then staff presented an overview of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011 (i.e., Oct 2010 – Sep 2011). Even though Garland continues to be a relatively “poor” town compared to most of our DFW neighboring cities, outstanding long-range forecasting/budgeting by our budget department means that there will not be “surprises” like some cities are experiencing (see you local TV news) with the resulting drastic cuts in staff/services. I shall not try to summarize a 3-hour presentation in this little article, but I have extracted a few little tidbits I thought you might find of interest.



Garland’s residential property value in May 2010 is unchanged from May 2009, but still down 9.9% from the peak in 2007. Since October 2008, rental houses in Garland have increased from 8.0% to 11.1% of all homes. Clearly, this is the result of foreclosed homes being purchased and converted

The value of new construction building permits though May in FY 10 is about \$41 million which is about the same as in FY 09. In FY 08, that number was \$109 million through May, so new construction is significantly affected by the economy

The cumulative sales tax revenue through May 2010 is down 4.4% compared to May 2009, and down 9.8% from the peak year prior to the economic downturn. However, the good news is that the sales tax revenue in March, April, and May 2010 was more than the same months in 2009. Basically, the freefall we have seen in the last 2 years seems to have come to an end, and we have “found the bottom.” The question is how soon will the recovery take place, and no one is prognosticating a fast recovery. I saw one national forecast recently suggesting 5 or 6 years.

Despite the reduction in sales tax and property tax to the City of Garland, staff presented a draft budget proposal with *no tax increases*. In fact, since the average value of a home has decreased since last year, the average homeowner will see a \$33.25 decrease in their City property tax bill. Despite no proposed tax increase, there is a proposed \$1.50 Emergency Medical Services fee per month to be added to the water bill. Last year, all city staff took a 1.15% salary decrease, and the plan for FY 11 is to restore that reduction. *continued bottom of page 3*

Treasurer's Corner – August 2010 ©

by Dave Morgan, CPA – ONA Treasurer

There is not much to report for this past month other than we are on track as it relates to our preliminary expenditure budget. However, we are very behind on our membership revenues as only 275 folks as of this writing have sent in their \$60 membership dues. Fortunately, we are in excess of budgeted revenues for the extra contributions targeted towards beautification expenditures. A big THANKS to everyone who contributed these extra dollars!

I have a request from all of our active members. If possible, can you talk to a few our neighbors to see if they are members? If not, please gently encourage them to join our voluntary membership. Their effective contribution of \$5 per month will go a long way in our entry and perimeter maintenance and beautification efforts, neighborhood “meet and greet” gatherings, and the printing and mailing of this page expanded, information packed newsletter. If they need a membership form, they can go to the website or they can give me a call at 972-824-7499 and I'll get them one.

North Texas Tollway Authority Update as of June 30, 2010 © by Allen Clemson – Executive Director

The NTTA wants to keep you up-to-date on changes that may impact you on your travels on the Dallas North Tollway and other NTTA roadways in the near future.

This December, the Dallas North Tollway, the Mountain Creek Lake Toll Bridge in Grand Prairie, and the Addison Airport Toll Tunnel will transition to cashless or all electronic toll collection (known as all-ETC) thereby making the entire NTTA system of roadways cashless. The President George Bush Turnpike was converted to all-ETC last summer, and other new projects have opened using the all-ETC technology.

Cashless tolling is easy for NTTA drivers. High speed cameras capture license plate numbers of customers without TollTags, and the NTTA sends a ZipCash invoice to the registered owner of the vehicle for tolls incurred at the higher ZipCash toll rate. Cash and ZipCash customers pay 50 percent more than TollTag customers to offset the administrative cost to mail and collect of collecting tolls.

It's very important for drivers to keep their vehicle registration records up-to-date with the State and the NTTA to avoid bills for vehicles they no longer own. (this is an addition by Dave Morgan – if you sell or trade-in your car, you need to make sure that is registered with the State – **DO NOT TRUST THE BUYER OR THE DEALER TO DO THIS REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY SAY.** While we're here, make sure that any electronic equipment (such as your garage door opener) is reprogrammed so that the new owner does not have easy access to come rob you at a “touch of the button”.) *continued top of next column*

During the construction period that is already underway, three traffic lanes in each direction will always be open during high traffic periods on the Dallas North Tollway. Please stay alert while driving through construction zones. Posted signs and message boards will notify drivers of lane changes, reduced speeds, and intermittent ramp closures.

After the switch to all-ETC on December 10th, drivers entering or exiting the roadway shouldn't stop or slow down. They should keep moving as the NTTA cameras are capable of capturing multiple images at any speed.

The change to an all-ETC will enhance safety, improve mobility, improve air quality, and increase fuel efficiency on NTTA roadways. We are sure that you will appreciate the convenience.

ZipCash customers will benefit from the convenience of “driving now and paying later”. In addition to paying by mail or at our NTTA offices, ZipCash customers may also pay their bills online and at area ACE Cash Express locations.

TollTag customers keep the option of managing their accounts online. They may also continue to use their TollTags for parking at both DFW International and Love Field airports, as well as on all toll roads in the State of Texas.

Documents explaining how all-ETC works are available on the NTTA website – www.ntta.org. You may visit our website to sign up for a TollTag to save valuable time and money

Daytimers by Dianne Winter [mdkwinter@verizon.net]

Summertime is slipping by so the Daytimers' Officers, Group Leaders and Committee Chairwomen have already been planning for the coming year. They picked up the tempo as they made plans for an exciting year and have totally had their “Focus on You”. President, Suzanne Snow, has implemented some changes that have been suggested by members. New programs and venues will add harmony and melody to the usual activities of fun, food and fellowship. Plan to come to the first meeting and bring a friend to discover some interesting facts about your neighbors. This Daytimer organization is so unique and valuable to our neighborhood. You won't want to miss it. *continued top of page 3*

Daytimers continued from page 2

The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. You will be welcomed to the first coffee at the home of **Betty Prickett on Tuesday, September 14th at 10am.**

2010 – 2011 Officers and Leaders:

President – Suzanne Snow

Vice president – Peggy Crenshaw

Treasurer – Mary Pattie

Calendar – Brenda Olive

Sunshine:

Birthdays – Audrey King

Concerns – Becky Thomas

Email and Name Tags – JoAnn Williams

Hospitality – Mary Jensen

Program – Ann Conrath and

Betty Cosgray

Special Events with Fun on the Run:

Sharon Carlton and Shirley Mohler

Phone messaging – Lillian Dalton

Newsletter – Dianne Winter and

Chris Byers

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, Suzanne Snow, 972-414-3747.

Councilman Williams continued from page 1

Another proposal deals with solid wasted pick up. I had mentioned this in an earlier article, and the specific proposal is that if you own only one green trash container, your monthly fee will decrease from \$17.33 to \$16.58. However, if you own two green trash containers (like me, and to my amazement, 30% of Garland homes), you will pay an additional \$6.10 on top of the \$16.58.

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

Things Financial and Personal – August 2010 ©

by Dave Morgan, CPA - ONA Treasurer

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.

WARNING – it's vacation season! Yes, you're off to relax and have fun, and I'm going to tell you that you need to take a magnet on vacation (and when you're otherwise away) AND to always use it. What? Let's back up a minute. How many hotels and motels use the electronic card door openers? I have not seen any in many years that do not use them. Well, these cards can open your door, but some hotel and motels also load some of your personal information on them too. It's enough information at times to give a criminal a fast start to stealing your identity. ALWAYS take and wipe your magnet near the magnetic strip of that door card to erase all the information on it when you are on your way out. If the door does not open when it is re-inserted, your job is done. Do not count on the clerk to do a prompt erasure as most returned key blanks are not altered until the next guest's data is put on them. Oh, and never mail it back without it being erased if you forget and take it with you by accident.

Now, let's talk about the new tidal wave of increased taxes that will be assessed to virtually ALL people that had any Federal income tax liability these past several years. Yes, for all taxpayers – not just those bad wealthy people who already pay 94% of the Federal income tax in this country. First, the current death tax (properly known as the estate tax) is at 0% - this is where it should be because the death tax taxes items (such as your home, your cars, your personal goods, your investments, and so on) that were bought/acquired with money – please note this – that has already been taxed. Why should that same money be double taxed? Well starting in 2011, this tax goes to 55% with a \$1,000,000 estate value exclusion.

Not planning to depart just yet? Well, there are more tax increases. The actual tax brackets go up. Let's start with the lowest one – it goes from 10% up to 15% - a 50% increase – this is a huge increase on these poor people. The second bracket goes from 25% up to 28% - a 12% increase – this is a large increase on these people that are probably struggling to get by too. The third bracket goes from 28% up to 31% - an 11% increase – this is a big increase on these moderate income folks. The fourth bracket goes from 33% up to 36% - a 10% increase – this is a significant increase on these people that are living comfortably on their income. The fifth bracket goes from 35% up to 39.6% - a 13% increase – now that's socking it to the really rich people. *continued top of page 4*

Things Financial continued from page 3

You say you're living on just your investments and Social Security now? Well, the tax on dividends goes up from 15% to 39.6% - a whopping 164%! If you need to sell some of those investments to make ends meet, the maximum tax on those gains are going up from 15% to 20% - a paltry 33% increase.

The marriage penalty is back – yeah! Once again, two single people living together unmarried will get more of a tax break than a two people (yes, living together) who are married. Further, the standard deduction for singles and joint filers will be the same. Again, tax policy encourages traditional family values! And for those with qualifying children, that \$1,000 per child tax credit you so enjoyed will be dropping to only \$500 per child. After all, it's much cheaper to raise kids these days. Speaking of kids, that tuition and fees deduction is going away, and the education tax credits will be severely limited. Oh, the deduction available for teachers to deduct their out-of-pocket classroom supplies is going bye-bye too.

Yes, there are taxes due for our new free health care that we get to pay for starting in 2013. If you gross (not net) over \$200,000 as an individual (\$400,000 if you are two singles living together unmarried) or \$250,000 for joint filers (could this be another marriage penalty?), you get to pay a 3.8% Medicare surtax on your income tax bracket taxes and capital gains taxes. Super!

There are many tax hikes headed for businesses that will take dollars out of their pockets that could be used to maintain their current level of employees, and for those with AMT tax issues that we'll discuss them next month. One, however, that needs to be discussed is targeted for the companies that employ over 60% of our work force. The earnings of Subchapter S Corporations will now be subject to self employment taxes of around 15% on a little over the first \$100,000 of those earnings, and then about 2.9% of those earnings in excess of the former. How many jobs will be cut because of this? Somebody has to pay.

We Need Your Vote – It is only a mouse click away! by Cecile LaBossiere

The Gleaning Network of Texas is asking for your support in our effort to achieve a grant! Visit our website: www.gleantexas.org and look for the link to the Pepsi Refresh Grant Voting. Click on the link and log in at the Pepsi Refresh Everything website. Vote everyday during August! Just vote to let us know you care about hunger in Texas and help us receive our grant. It is that easy!!!

The Gleaning Network of Texas brings together:

Local Farmers (Growers)

Gleaners (volunteers to harvest what is left in the fields)

Agencies (food banks, church pantries, etc.)

So that produce that would otherwise go to waste can be collected and distributed quickly to the hungry.

As a nonprofit organization, funding has been very difficult due to the current economic climate. We are not asking for any money from you – we will not solicit you, and we are not gathering any information that we will sell, use or otherwise abuse. All we are asking for is a few minutes of your time so that we can receive the most votes which will enable us to receive a total of \$30,000 through two PepsiCo Refresh Grants. These grants are crucial to our continued efforts in “connecting resources and alleviating hunger”.

The Gleaning Network of Texas is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to alleviate hunger...we are an all volunteer organization and I have been an active board member for the last several years. I can honestly tell you that every penny we raise is spent wisely to support our efforts to feed the hungry. Just read these facts for a real eye opener...

Hunger in Texas: The average poverty rate for the state of Texas is 17.6%

Could you stand to go without eating for an entire day and still be effective?

Of Texans receiving food assistance:

33% [choose](#) between food and medicine

41% choose between paying utility bills and buying food

74% live below the Federal Poverty Guideline (\$20,000 annually – family of 4)

68% are food insecure (not enough – meal skipping – quality – balanced diet) *continued top of page 8*



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**Information Gathered from the
“Neighborhood Chatter” e-newsletter**

contact : Neighborhood Vitality
[fconner@ci.garland.tx.us] to receive their e-newsletter.

The *Garland City Press* is published bi-monthly and mailed to every residential address in the city. The *City-Press* contains news about important City Council actions, Neighborhood Vitality activities, and a wide range of City services, programs and events. It is also available on the City's website at www.ci.garland.tx.us. Look under the "News" tab at the top of the page and select "Garland City Press."

[CGTV](#) is the City's government access cable channel. CGTV broadcasts City Council and Plan Commission meetings live and as re-broadcasts during the weeks between meetings. Other programs feature news and information about such items as pet adoptions at the City animal shelter, energy and water conservation, crime prevention tips and much more.

CGTV is available on Time Warner Cable channel 16 and Verizon Fios-TV channel 44. CGTV is available via video streaming (live and video-on-demand) on the City's website at www.ci.garland.tx.us. Click on the "CGTV Video Streaming" icon on the left side of the page.

In the case of an emergency or urgent notification, the City of Garland now has the capability to notify residents via the telephone through [CodeRED](#). The system is geographical-based and allows the City to alert citizens based on their location and telephone numbers. To register, go to the City's website and click on the "CodeRED" icon on the left side of the home page.

Subscribe to "[Garland E-News](#)" to receive City news releases and other announcements via email. Subscription options include general news releases, notification of City Council agenda postings and much more. Look for the "Garland E-News" icon on the left side of the City's home page.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police & Fire Emergencies	911	Poison Center	1-800-764-7661
Police Non-Emergencies	972-485-4840	Water & Sever	972-205-3210
Atmos Gas	1-800-460-3030	Rick Williams	214-535-2648
Solid Waste & Recycling	972-205-3500	Street Light Repair	972-205-3483
Code Compliance	972-485-6400	Animal Services	972-205-3570
Electricity Emergency	972-205-3000	N P O John Capers	972-205-2740



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Membership Update: Membership Invoice will be sent in the Mail in August

We tried to change our method of sending out invoices this year and the results are less than what was expected. I am sure that many of you missed the invoice that was attached to our May, 2010 newsletter. Current membership is at 264 which are below our historical average for this time of the year.

As a result, we will be mailing out membership invoices in August so you can expect to receive those soon!

Please take the time to send them in so we can meet or exceed our goal of 500 members for 2010-2011. The Oakridge Neighborhood Association needs your support in order to continue with the progress we have made with improvements. You may have noticed the recent changes:

Laurel Oaks and Beltline Rd Entrance Landscape Updates; Diamond Oaks Bridge Painting; Sprinkler Improvements at Big Oaks and Shiloh; Spring Fling Party at the Country Club

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association is here because of you and we are willing volunteers trying to do our best to preserve Oakridge and retain its sense of community, beauty and neighborliness.

If you have already joined, THANK YOU!

If you haven't joined, LET'S DO IT TODAY!

If you have any questions about the Oakridge Neighborhood Association, you can reach me at 972-896-9413.

Thanks for your continued support, Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

Crime and Safety by Bill Olive

Top Story: Another "Peeping Tom"?

Yes, there may be another (or the same one that we had 3 years ago) out there in the early morning hours looking into homes in the Oakridge area. Garland police have received several calls regarding a person looking into homes, mostly along the golf course. Because this is the same mode of operation used by the previous "tom", and given the fact he got out of prison and moved back into his parents home over in the Holford Park area, he seems to be the prime "person of interest". Our NPO along with other GPD officers and undercover police have been watching Oakridge. If you see someone looking into your window or a neighbor's window-- **call 911** immediately and also email Officer Capers immediately at capersj@ci.garland.tx.us. The subject is a white male, balding, aged around 40, perhaps wearing glasses, average size, may be riding a green bike, or driving a red Nissan Frontier pickup w/tag 04LFP1. This guy's favorite "viewing area" seems to be bathroom windows, but he doesn't hesitate to take advantage of other locations. We suggest that anything that can be used to climb on, such as storage boxes, chairs, etc. be kept away from windows AND if you notice that a chair, table, box, etc. has been moved to a spot under a window at your home, please let Officer Capers or myself know. We also suggest that you "frost" any bathroom windows that are located on exterior walls. Material for frosting can be found at Lowe's or Home Depot.

Incidents for July through the 16th:

Burglary-Building at 2800 Diamond Oaks on July 8 (more regarding this below)

Burglary-Habitation at 2845 Stoneridge on July 8

Burglary-Building at 2722 Stoneridge on or about July 8

Burglary-Habitation (attempt) at 2933 Big Oaks on July 8

New Scam:

This came to us from a friend who recently traveled to the east coast and returned. She ran into a deputy sheriff while at a Cracker Barrel Restaurant who told her about this scam. A baby stroller with a baby doll is placed along the highway where it attracts motorists. When drivers stop and get out to see what happened to the baby they are robbed, assaulted, or raped. See something suspicious along the highway, call 911 and use common sense! *continued top of page 7*

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"Fixing broken relationships between you and your home"

Crime and Safety continued from page 6

Out Walking:

We see people out walking dogs or just walking for exercise and it's a great way to discourage bad guys from coming into our area. However, please always carry your cell phone to call in anything suspicious. This will give officers more time to get out here before the suspicious person or vehicle exits Oakridge. Don't hesitate to call the police, that's their job, and believe it or not they get upset when they are not called. You may actually help catch a burglar, robber or worse. When you call advise you're calling about a suspicious

person or vehicle and simply answer the questions the call taker asks you. They are very well trained and know their job. One of the most interesting parts of the Citizens Police Academy is sitting with the emergency dispatch people and listen to 911 calls for a few hours (quite a learning experience).

Neighbor Needs Help:

One of our best neighbors needs some help from

all Oakridge-ites. This neighbor always has the lawn cut and in top condition, allows us to throw parties, walk all over his yard, and even puts up with some of us who allow our dogs to go on his grass. Yes folks, it's the Oakridge Country Club. Over the past several months the club has been a victim of several break-ins and vehicle burglaries. The manager has requested help from residents to keep a watchful eye out for any strange behavior or suspicious people, especially during late night and early morning hours. On July 8 burglars broke in by way of an upstairs window and stole a big TV, whiskey (almost \$500 worth), and cash. They exited using the back door. The night before the club closed around 10pm so the break-in must have occurred between then and the next morning. GPD detectives are working on this case and have some good leads along with DNA left when the subject(s) cut themselves. The club has upgraded their security, but if you see a car/truck at the club late at night take note and if possible get the tag # and other information-- there should be no vehicles left in the lot overnight-- there are signs in the lot advising of this. Anything suspicious call 911. When out walking, running, or biking take a quick look around, not just the club vicinity,

continued on page 8



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Joe Wrinkle

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Crime and Safety continued from page 7

but elsewhere in Oakridge. Every resident can help by being eyes and ears for the police department and help prevent crime in our area.

Soliciting Update:

Today we spoke with the Garland Police Dept. regarding their progress dealing with solicitors without permits. There have been a few of these folks placing hangers on doors recently but it seems less than last year. We provide any solicitations we receive to the police department and the police actually call the vendors and tell them to stop and explain that all commercial solicitors in Garland must obtain a permit. This new way of dealing with solicitors appears to be making some headway.

Websites Found:

For news around Garland----www.thegarlandtexas.com
For the Tea Party----www.garlandteaparty.org

Bill Olive, Coordinator John Capers, Officer
Citizen's Patrol Garland Neighborhood
972-495-3402 Police Unit

Did you know — it is a State of Texas law that one must not park ones car any closer than 20ft. of an intersection?

Did you know — that one must not park ones car any closer than 30ft. from a stop sign?

And finally — one must park ones car at least 15ft. away from any fire hydrant?

Garland Arts resources

www.GarlandArts.com

www.garlandcivictheatre.org

www.corptheatre.com

www.garlandsymphony.org

www.GarlandTexasOpry.com

More Art Information:
972-205-2782

We Need Your Vote continued from page 4

The Gleaning Network of Texas

- Spends only about 8 cents per pound to glean and transport produce

- Provides the produce to local food assistance agencies at no cost

- Increases the quality of [nutrition](#) at food banks and distribution centers

Interested in doing more check out the website.....

Remember to log on to www.gleantexas.org for the links to vote.



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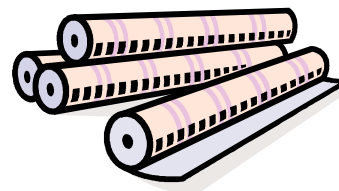
PAINTING: Interior, Exterior, Cabinets, Doors, Faux finish

CARPENTRY: Exterior Soffit and Fascia Repair, Install Crown Molding, Chair Rail, Baseboards, Remove Paneling, Hang Doors, Replace Exterior Siding

DRYWALL: Repair, Replace, Textures, Skip Trowel, Acoustic Removal

WALLPAPER: Hanging and Removal

OAKRIDGE RESIDENT SINCE 1996
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Dog-A-Poolooza Dog Swim Day

Aug 21, 2010 9:00 am | Saturday
9AM-1PM Holford Park Pool
2322 Homestead Garland, TX 75044
\$5/dog plus \$1/human

Proceeds benefit Garland City Shelter off-Site Adoption Events. Join us for a fun filled dog splash and swim day at Garland's Public Pool! All Dallas Metroplex Citizens and their friendly dogs are welcome! All dogs must have proof of current rabies vaccination.

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
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Picture

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ONA Member

Field Crickets Out and About Early This Year

by Kimberly Schofield Program Specialist-Urban IPM k-schofield@tamu.edu

As you may have noticed, the field crickets are showing their faces a little earlier this year. Crickets are normally an outdoor insect, usually found under rocks, logs or any crack or crevice. However, they can sometimes enter our homes, mainly under doorways and windows. Crickets feed on all organic matter, including decaying plant material and fungi. Since crickets breakdown plant materials, they are considered beneficial by renewing soil minerals. They are also a food source for many animals such as spiders, ground beetles, birds, lizards and small rodents. However due to their large populations and the male's mating song, some people wish to control them.

Some Control Options:

Non-Chemical Suggestions:

- 1) Caulk or seal cracks and gaps that are found in the foundation, around doors, windows, and garage doors.
- 2) Trim weeds and tall grass growing near the foundation.
- 3) Remove firewood, brush, rotting wood, boxes, bricks, stones and other objects from around the structure, in order to reduce the number of harborage areas.
- 4) For crickets found inside the home, vacuum or sweep up and then discard them.

Chemical Control Suggestions:

If a severe infestation exists, there are granular products that can be used for control, such as those containing hydramethylnon. There are also chemicals that can be sprayed outdoors to provide a barrier around homes, such as those containing pyrethrins or bifenthrin. There are also products that can be applied in indoor and outdoor cracks and crevices, such as those containing boric acid. Remember to dispose of dead crickets to reduce the smell and decrease the likelihood of ants feeding on the dead crickets.



A field cricket, *Gryllus* sp. (Orthoptera: Gryllidae). Photo by Dr. Bart Drees, Texas A&M University.

Earwax as an Insect Repellent?

Earwax, or actually the chemical cerumen found in earwax, could be soon made into an organic insect repellent. Cerumen is produced by glands that are located on the outer ear canal and it has a bitter taste. Some advantages of this insect repellent will be ease of production and the non-toxic effects on adults, children and animals. For more information, please visit: <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/discoblog/2010/07/13/nabi-rofl-nothing-like-a-thin-coat-of-earwax-to-keep-the-bugs-away>.

in accordance with label directions. Always read and carefully follow the instructions on the container label. *continued on page 12*

Patty Granville Arts Center Schedule 972-205-2790

Date	Time	Event
Aug 18 – Aug 22	7:30 pm	Related Organizations
Oct 22	8:00 pm	Garland Symphony Orchestra, Austin / Grieg, Glazunov, Vaughan Williams, Brahms
Nov 19	8:00 pm	Garland Symphony Orchestra, Austin / Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven, Piazzolla
Dec 17	8:00 pm	Garland Symphony Orchestra, Austin / M. Haydn, J. Haydn, Finzi, Vaughan Williams, Tyzik

Plaza Theater Schedule 972-205-2782

Date	Time	Event
Aug 5—8	call 972-977-7710	Seussical The Musical
Aug 13	1:00 & 7:00PM	Anne of Green Gables
Aug 15	3:00 * 7:30PM	I Prayed and Stayed
Aug 21	Call 972-494-3835	Garland Opry Reunion
Aug 22	3:00 & 7:00PM	Mirror Mirror



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Large Numbers of Bagworms Found on All Sorts of Hosts

This insect is usually first detected by observing the larval bags made up of bits and pieces of host plant leaves and twigs that are woven together with silk. As the larvae grow and feed in the spring and summer, so do their bags. The bags can vary in length from ¼ to 2 inches. Many broadleaf and evergreen trees and shrubs can serve as hosts for bagworm species, including arborvitae and other ornamental conifers, cedar, cypress, elm, fruit and nut trees, juniper, oak, locust, maple, persimmon, pines, sycamore, willow and many other ornamental plants.

Although bagworm species vary slightly in habits and life cycle, the bagworm usually spends the winter months in the egg stage within the bag produced by the female from the previous fall. Very small larvae spin strands of silk and are carried by the wind onto other plants, or larger larvae can crawl to adjacent plants. Full grown caterpillars pupate within their bags usually in the late summer. The male moths emerge out of the bag. The male moths are black in color with ½ inch clear wings and feathery antennae. The male flies to mate with a female. The females remain inside their bags and do not have eyes, legs, mouthparts or antennae. After mating, the females produce between 500 to 1,000 eggs inside their bag and then die.

Infested plants develop more bagworms each year since the female stage does not fly. When there are large populations, the larvae can defoliate plants. Heavy infestations over several years, especially when added to other environmental stresses, can lead to plant death.

Some Control Options:

Non- Chemical Controls:

If only a few small trees or shrubs are infested, handpicking and destroying bags is recommended. During the winter months, the bags contain eggs and during the late spring and summer, the bags will contain a larva.

Chemical Control Options:

When many small bagworms, less than ½ inches are present, then it is recommended to treat with an insecticidal spray such as those containing acephate, azadiractin, spinosad, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, permethrin, or bifenthrin.

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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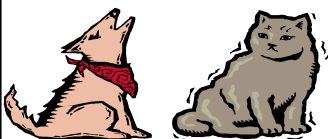
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Visit www.DFWStoneworks.com, and go to "Projects" tab to see a small sampling of their wonderful finished projects. As you will see in the "Pricing and Styles" tab, the pricing starts at \$29.95 per square foot for one grade, but it realistically starts at \$34.95 per square foot for the better grades that are actually sold. Large, but not too large, orders have a lot of items and services tossed in at no charge – ask me about that. Remember, there are no hidden charges that the others tack onto your final bill – we disclose everything up front!

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DON'T OVERLOOK THESE DORM ROOM ESSENTIALS**Storage**

MARGIE CRAWFORD [mailto:MARGIEC@GROOMANDSONS.COM]

Your new college freshman can't wait to bolt from home and begin to enjoy independent dorm life. But in preparing for college move-in day, he or she probably hasn't given any thought to those many "extras" needed to make that spartan room more livable. Before leaving for school, a trip to the local hardware store often is essential to stock up on some very important, yet often overlooked items. In addition to the computer, CD player and mini-fridge, try making room in the car for the following:

Tools

A hammer and a box of nails or drywall anchors make hanging pictures and calendars on the walls easier. Double-sided tape or poster putty makes removal of posters from walls less damaging.

A flashlight and multiple packs of batteries come in handy if dorm electricity goes out. Extra batteries can also be used for all those extra electronics.

Standard or cordless screwdrivers make putting together furniture easier and help bookshelves and nightstands stay sturdy.

Extension cords and multi-outlet surge protectors are a must. Not only do they help expand room layout possibilities, but they also help protect valuable electronics, like computers.

Electrical wiring, extra cables and splitters are essential for multiple high-tech systems in a room like the stereo, TV, DVD player, computer and video game console.

Shelf boards and brackets expand storage capabilities and make a small space look larger. Use them to hold books, picture frames and CDs.

Large plastic storage containers that fit discreetly underneath the bed are perfect for stowing away clothing and extra blankets.

Appliances

Many hardware stores carry small coffee makers, toaster ovens and small microwaves for when hunger strikes during those late-night study sessions.

A small desktop or standing fan helps cool off a tiny dorm room.

For quick pickup of dry spills, a small cordless handvac that can be conveniently stored against the wall and out of sight does the dirty work.

A small reading lamp and extra light bulbs give eyes a break from overhead florescent dorm lighting. For a fun twist, pack some colored light bulbs.

Extras

A long mirror visually makes a small room look bigger.

A dry erase board is great for hanging outside on a dorm room door so friends can leave messages. A corkboard also works as a place for posting photos of family and friends, class schedules and notes.

A stepstool makes it easier to reach high shelves in typically tiny dorm closets.



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Editor's Note—these articles are from the DMN Garland Blog

Budget outlook: Tracking Garland's economic trends

4:17 PM Tue, Jul 13, 2010 | [Permalink](#)

Ray Leszczynski/Reporter [Bio](#) | [E-mail](#) | [News tips](#)

Bryan Bradford, city budget and research director, shared the following economic trend information with the Garland City Council at its Monday budget retreat:

Residential property values in Garland in May were unchanged from May 2009 and down 9.9 percent from their peak

Smaller homes have taken the biggest percentage hit in value; about 30 percent of Garland's housing stock is classified as small

From Oct. 2008 to May 2010, the city saw a 26 percent increase in rental properties

Garland had five commercial foreclosures in May, only one in April and had less foreclosed commercial property value than Arlington, Carrollton, Frisco, Grand Prairie, Irving, Mesquite, Plano and Richardson those months

New construction permits are slightly ahead of fiscal 2009, but still less than 40 percent of fiscal 2008

May was the third consecutive month of sales tax revenue increase over same month in fiscal 2009; sales tax is still down 4.4 percent from 2009 and 9.8 percent from the city's peak, but offi-

Preliminary numbers indicate city

2:14 PM Tue, Jul 13, 2010 | [Permalink](#)

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Garland is heading into the budget season with an eye toward reinstating employee pay and civil service step raises lost in 2009-10, absorbing a loss in property tax revenue, and funding the opening of the Hollabaugh Recreation Center. All without a need to increase the tax rate, budget director Bryan Bradford said at the city council retreat on Monday.

Garland residents pay 70.46 per \$100 of property valuation. With property values in the city projected to be down another 4.2 percent, the preliminary numbers point to a five-cent lower tax-rate equivalent value as compared to 2008.

But a city has other ways of making you pay. Storm-water fees will be bumped 24 cents for the average size home as part of a three-year plan to increase those rates 25 percent. The typical residential user's Garland water bill will go up \$3.77 per month. And the biggest hike -- \$6.10 per month -- will be for those who use more than one trash container. [L blogged separately on that.](#)

The adoption of the budget is scheduled for Sept. 7.

Garland in position to charge for second trash container

3:27 PM Tue, Jul 13, 2010 | [Permalink](#)

Ray Leszczynski/Reporter [Bio](#) | [E-mail](#) | [News tips](#)

Garland is proposing a 75-cent decrease in monthly solid waste rates in its 2010-11 budget. But those who use a second trash container are likely looking at a new \$6.10 per month charge. And that's about 30 percent of the residents, city officials said.

Garland currently charges \$57.91 for a second container, but you can also find them in stores. That one-time fee would go away in lieu of the new charge.

Those who don't use the second container will be happy to see the cost diverted to the real users, as happens in many other cities. Perhaps it'll also encourage recycling.

The city plans an aggressive notification program prior to the new charge, which would go into effect Oct. 1.

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ONA General Membership Meetings - mark your calendars:

September 2010; March 2011; May 2011

Check the ONA web site for current information

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