

Oakridge News



www.oakridgena.org

January 2011

Vol. 19, No. 1

ONA Update

Beltline & Jupiter turn lane

We recently found out it was Dallas County that purchased the SE corner area of Beltline and Jupiter so that a right turn lane could be added. The contract between the county and the IRI Golf Group that owned Oakridge at that time was that the fence would be replaced, but there was no mention of replacing the photinias. We contacted the City of Richardson regarding possibly replacing the photinias since Richardson is responsible for all the construction contracts at the intersection. They explained "...it would be best not to complicate the issues we have with the current roadway contractor. We really need to finish this project without any additional change orders." It is unclear now who will pay for the replacement of the photinias, but ONA will be discussing options once the construction is completed and perhaps there is a new owner of the golf course.

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ONA General Membership Meetings:

March 2011; May 2011

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Membership	Cecile LaBossiere
Communications	Keith Engler
Environmental	Joe Fagan
Crime Prevention & Safety	Bill & Brenda Olive

City Council *Rick Williams*

As I had written in an earlier article, Garland recently began charging \$6.10 for a second green trash container. During budget discussions in September, it was estimated that about 25% of residents who had a second container would return it rather than pay the additional \$6.10. As of November 30, the 27.3% had been returned, so the 25% estimate was pretty accurate.

With the Oakridge golf course being shut down, a number of Oakridge golfers are now playing at Firewheel golf course. I had a complaint that some of the carts were breaking down and generally in poor condition. When I checked with the City, I found out that we are planning on replacing them next year, so hopefully they'll last a little longer until we buy new ones.

Another Oakridge resident expressed concern

about how long it took the light to change at Laurel Oaks and Beltline, and asked why the City couldn't install a "smart" light like the one at Big Oaks and Shiloh. In checking with the city, I found out that both lights are synced with the lights at nearby major intersections so that traffic flows smoothly in the area; however, the light at Big Oaks is "double cycled" which means that an opportunity to serve Big Oaks comes twice within the cycle length at the major intersections. So exiting Oakridge via Big Oaks is likely going to be faster than exiting via Laurel Oaks. I'm told the "double cycle" cannot be used at Laurel Oaks without affecting the smooth progression of traffic along Beltline. The double cycling technique which has been used at some intersections within Garland has gotten a lot of attention within

(Continued on page 8)

Owner of closed Garland, Rockwall country clubs hopes for deal that will allow sale
Ian McCann The Dallas Morning News (printed here with permission from Ian McCann)

The owner of two shuttered suburban country clubs and its lender are working toward a deal that would allow for the sale and reopening of the clubs.

Jeff Silverstein, chairman of IRI Golf Group, said that he believes a sale can be worked out and that there are potential buyers for both Garland's Oakridge Country Club and Rockwall's The Shores Country Club.

"I think it'll work out well for everybody involved," said Silverstein, whose company operated both clubs and is a partner in each one's ownership group. "There's a lot of moving pieces."

How a sale would be structured is unclear. An order signed by a bankruptcy judge in the Shores case and a similar order proposed in the Oakridge case say that lender Hillcrest Bank could post each course for foreclosure sale as early as January.

Attempts to reach officials at Hillcrest Bank were unsuccessful.

Silverstein said he did not have a timeline for working out a deal with the bank and prospective buyers.

Oakridge has been closed since mid-October, while The Shores golf course closed this summer. Separate bankruptcy cases were filed about the time of each closure. The city of Rockwall, which controls part of the land on which The

Shores is built, has also ended its lease with the company.

Nearby residents, whether they're golfers or not, fear that long closures could hurt their home values. They hope the right buyer can be found as quickly as possible.

That's Rockwall's goal as well, said City Manager Julie Couch. Her city, unlike Garland, is involved in dealing with the golf course operation, and for years it has sparred with IRI over course management and maintenance issues.

"Our goal is to get an operator out there that will be a good golf course manager," Couch said.

"We're certainly open to working with the lender on the transaction of with prospective purchasers as well."

Mike Rose, a former Oakridge Neighborhood Association leader who has continued to follow the case, said he wants Hillcrest Bank to find a buyer that would be able to sustain a strong, well-managed operation.

Rockwall has continued to maintain its section of the course and has done some maintenance on the privately owned land. Little maintenance has been done at Oakridge, and that ultimately could affect the value of the property. Silverstein said his company's priority is to complete a sale and reopen both The Shores and Oakridge.

"There's a number of buyers out there," he said.

See this full blog with comments at the link below:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/121510dnmetgolfcourses.32aa38b.html>

The December Oakridge News article on the country club inaccurately stated that the new owner of Hillcrest bank owns the country club. This is only the proposal to the bankruptcy judge but has not been approved yet. You can see in the latest filing reports on the Oakridge bankruptcy at Oakridge Neighborhood Association Website: <http://oakridgena.org/>

A New Year Begins – Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

It is hard to believe that 2010 is behind us and we are beginning a new year. I want to thank everyone for joining the Oakridge Neighborhood Association and continuing to support us. For many, 2010 was a year of challenges as the economy took its toll on jobs, housing prices and retirement portfolios. I am always grateful to hear the kind words of support that we receive from our membership in the form of letters and notes that magically appear along with your annual dues contribution. Those words of encouragement have kept us going as we move into the New Year! I am also forever grateful for those members who have volunteered throughout the year to help me with everything from membership flags, invoice stuffing, nominating committee, welcome basket delivery, etc.... I have always had such a great response when I send out my pleas for help...and I want each of you to know how much I appreciate you being there for me!!! The camaraderie and the fun make everything a little bit easier.

For the last several years, our % Membership has been averaging 40% to 42%. And you will see that this year we had a slight drop in mem-

bership. As noted in a newsletter in September, we tried a few different things with invoice mailing and that may have impacted membership. I think the combination of the invoice mailings and the tough economy took its toll on this year's participation rate. I realize many of you may think this is very low and it begs the question, why are so many homes not participants in the ONA? If you have a chance to talk to your neighbors that can help to spread the word about the ONA and the valuable role we play in keeping Oakridge a vibrant place to call home. I also want everyone to keep this in perspective as Oakridge has the largest participating membership of any Voluntary Association in the City of Garland. So although we would like to see better participation, for a voluntary organization, we are seeing success in retaining our existing members and bringing on new members. We are also going to move into some form of electronic payment system for our next membership drive and I believe that will help with overall participation. Many of us still like to write checks but more and more people are using online bill payment and no longer

(Continued on page 7)



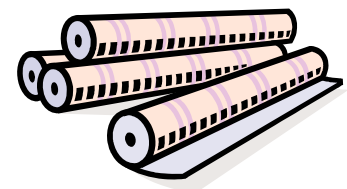
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DayTimers *Diane Winter*

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer made an exclusive appearance at the festively decorated home of Ann Conrath on December 14th, and greeted with glee all the Daytimers who attended. Beneath the antlers and shiny nose was the spirited member, Beth Fagan, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. Food hostesses who had covered the table with goodies were Margaret Fowler, Audrey King, Ruby Nell Ormond and Beverly Pierce.

Many were dressed in Christmas attire and everyone was enjoying beverages and fellowship until Ann Conrath rang the Christmas bell for Suzanne Snow, president, to begin the meeting. Suzanne welcomed everyone and introduced the guest, Mildred Boxwell. Audrey King announced the birthdays and concerns and Peggy Crenshaw

recruited volunteers for hostesses for the January meeting and announced the upcoming Book Club meeting.

Margaret Fowler reviewed the plans for the Christmas party and Ruby Nell Ormond announced the upcoming plans for the Blackout Game and Tuesday Bridge.

Sally Weiss graciously invited the Girls Night Out participants to her home on December 30th since the Country Club is no longer available.

The highlight event of the meeting was directed by Ann Conrath and Betty Cosgray as everyone exchanged gifts. The gifts that Lillian Dalton chose were very popular so they were exchanged by many gift takers. Nell Burt got to choose from all the previously opened gifts so she chose the gift that Jo Ann Williams was trying desperately to claim. Suzanne Snow and Sharon Carlton wrestled over one gift, but Suzanne had to relent and then chose the favorite gift of Chris Beyers. Dottie Moseley was con-

cerned that she wouldn't have a ride home if she took the gift of Bette Taylor's, her chauffeur, but the group insured her of a ride. Beth Fagan is still trying to determine the use of her gift and Sally Weiss wonders just how many recipes she can prepare from her *Taste of Home* magazines. Then there were the antlers that several members paraded around. There was no gift of large, red intimate wear this year but there was an adult bib. There were many laughs and some friendships may have been jeopardized as the game progressed but it was all in great merriment.

Suzanne Snow had written familiar words relating Daytimer memories to the tune of "I'll be Home for Christmas" so everyone joined together to sing and then left the get together with a genuine Christmas spirit.

The next meeting will be a Bunko and Beans meeting held at the First Methodist Church at 10 am on Tuesday, January 11th, 2011. Invite a neighbor and come enjoy the fellowship of the Daytimers. There are many notable members in this group. One of the tidiest members is Chris Beyers. If you ever visit Chris' home, check out the bathroom. Ruby Nell Ormond has written a book she would like to publish and there are also two well known artists, Becky Parks and Beverly Pierce. There are many other talented members, so come meet your neighbors and welcome the New Year at the January meeting.

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15.00 annual dues. Daytimers promote the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Any questions should be directed to president, Suzanne Snow, 972-414-3747.

Santa Came Early for Me This Year *Bill Olive CP&S Director*

Thursday December 15th I received one of the best Christmas gifts ever; I got to meet "Uncle Bill", the uncle of one of Garland's police officers. I've ridden along with Officer Gloria before so I knew about "Uncle Bill" and his bout with early stage dementia. So getting to actually meet him was a surprise and a definite treat.

When you "ride out" with a Garland police officer you never know quite what to expect, but, the 8 hour shift is always rewarding, enjoyable, and very enlightening. We had many of the "usual" calls for alarms, domestic fights, backing up other officers, looking for stolen vehicles, helping Florida law enforcement find a suspect and responding to older citizens needing help. One of our first calls was to respond to an elderly lady who thought she was locked in her home and couldn't get out to walk her dog. On our way we learned via our computer that this was not the first call for help from this particular woman. Gloria and the other responding officer knew this lady from previous visits and we all knew she needed help. Upon arriving we learned the lady's daughter was on her way from work so we wouldn't have a long wait. In the meantime, Gloria made sure the dog was walked and afterwards she sat down and comforted the woman while explaining that she needed to have someone with her so she wouldn't be alone in the daytime. The topic of a nurs-

ing home came up and Gloria dealt with it in very tender terms. When we attended the Citizen's Police Academy Chief Bates explained that the main purpose of the Garland Police Dept. is to "help people", and on Thursday, I saw just that. Now don't get me wrong, Gloria is no softy. I've been with her when she's been firm and placed people under arrest. She can be quite tough when she needs to be.

Unlike our last "ride out" when we didn't have time for a lunch bite, things were quiet enough for us to grab a Sonic and stop by Uncle Bill's home so I could meet him. Of course, I've heard

about this wonderful gentleman and how "thick headed" he can be with almost everyone except Gloria. Uncle Bill lives in a small home in Garland and relies on Gloria for managing his meds and other affairs. He was sitting in his recliner watching a game show when we arrived. He knew Gloria was coming with his hamburger and that they would spend a few minutes together for lunch. Uncle Bill welcomed me and the three of us sat at his small kitchen table, and after Gloria

(Continued on page 10)

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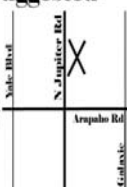
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Feb. 3-19 "The Sugar Bean Sisters"**Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre**

Garland Civic Theatre brings "The Sugar Bean Sisters" to the Granville Arts Center January 27-February 19, 2011. This exuberantly fresh and wacky comedy set deep in the mists and myths of the Florida everglades. Come with us on this Southern gothic comedy of romance, murder, and alien abduction, as the Sugar Bean sisters unravel a web of extraordinary events and secret family betrayals as they struggle wildly to escape spinsterhood and alien abduction! Performances are Jan. 27, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 28, 29, Feb. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 at 8:00 pm; and Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13 and 19 at 2:30 p.m. All tickets are \$20 which includes service fee. There are discounts for KERA members and groups of 10 or more. Tickets for the preview on Jan. 27 are \$15. Tickets are available at the Arts Center Box Office or by calling 972-205-2790.

Feb. 3-5**"Annie, Jr."****Plaza Theatre**

The Canyon Creek Christian Academy presents "Annie, Jr." In the depths of the 1930's, Annie is a fiery young orphan girl who must live in a miserable orphanage run by the tyrannical Miss Hannigan. Her seemingly hopeless situation changes dramatically when she is selected to spend a short time at the residence of the wealthy munitions industrialist, Oliver Warbucks. Performances run February 3 at 7pm, February 4 at 1p.m. & 7p.m. and February 5 at 7pm. Tickets are \$10. (Students and Daycare pricing available on February 4 at 1pm.) Tickets are available at Canyon Creek Christian Academy, 2800 Custer Parkway, Richardson, TX. 75080 or you can be purchase them at the door. (Cash or Check only.) Group ticket discount available. For additional information call Ms. Covington at 972-977-7710.

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Joe Wrinkle

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ONA Membership Update Cecile Labossiere

have checks. We have recognized that need and we will be providing opportunities for other payment features. You will soon be receiving the Oakridge Neighborhood Association Directory in the mail. The directory is currently being printed and we will be taking them to the post office (Thanks Sue Hageland and Kim Gingerich) as soon as the holiday mail rush is over.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR 2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR

District	Renewing Members	New Members	Rental Members	Total Members	Total Houses	% Membership
1	79	4	0	83	185	45%
2	81	4	0	85	152	56%
3	27	3	0	30	142	21%
4	70	1	0	71	52	47%
5	52	6	0	58	189	31%
6	21	4	0	25	122	20%
7	75	4	1	80	224	36%
TOTAL	405	26	1	432	1166	37%

**Feb. 18
8:00 pm**

**Garland Symphony Orchestra Concert
Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium**



Paul Silverthorne

The GSO moves through the season with the classics on February 18, performing Goldmark's *In Spring (Im Frühling)*, Op. 36, Charles Ives' *Washington's Birthday* from *New England Holidays*, Sibelius' *Spring Song*, Johann Strauss II's *Frühlingsstimmen (Voices of Spring)*, Kenneth Fuchs' *Divinum Mysterium (Concerto for Viola and Orchestra)* with soloist Paul Silverthorne, Principal Viola for the London Symphony. This concert features the U.S. premiere of Fuchs' viola concerto *Divinum Mysterium*. Single tickets are available at the Granville Arts Center Box Office or by calling 972-205-2790. For additional information visit www.garlandsymphony.org.



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ONA Member

City Council *continued*

the traffic engineering profession.

As many of you may be aware, Garland recently eliminated using humane carbon monoxide gas for euthanizing feral and aggressive animals. This has been controversial to say the least, but I have steadfastly defended this methodology after I twice witnessed the sad, but peaceful death of dogs in the chamber. Animal Services management has now convinced me that with the experience they have gained in injecting most animals and with new equipment and techniques developed by staff veterinarian Dr. Bob Osborne, that staff will be safe even when euthanizing feral and dangerous animals. Consequently, I am now comfortable with going to 100% injection methodology.

In the December 5, Community Opinions section of the *Dallas Morning News*, the question was, "What's the worst thing that happened in your community in 2010?" The opinion from a Garland resident (whose name I shall not repeat) was that the "worst thing" to happen in Garland in 2010 was that the "Mayor wants to turn the city over to homeowner associations..." which is not "...in the best interest of the working-class citizens." I fired

off an indignant letter to the editor basically explaining what an ill-informed opinion that was, but my letter wasn't published as I suspect The News protects the volunteer community writers. Nonetheless, the opinion was devoid of any merit.

Shortly after becoming a councilman about 3 1/2 years ago, Patricia Leathers, a former risk management adjustor for the City of Garland, was arrested for stealing close to \$2 million dollars. She recently pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit theft concerning programs receiving federal funds. It was disappointed to find out that after having waited for over 3 years for the Feds to move on this case, she only faces a maximum sentence of 5 years plus a \$250,000 fine and restitution. She is scheduled to be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Sidney Fitzwater on March 18, and Garland attorneys will be there encouraging the judge to give her the maximum sentence. She had co-conspirators who were not Garland employees, and their cases are still pending.

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



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ONA Update *continued*

Property Address conflict

The ONA article last month showed Oakridge Country Club owning property at **2926** Oak Point drive. It turns out that this is the same address as Doug Ditto. Doug was somewhat concerned about this especially with the club going into foreclosure. After the ONA contacted DCAD they changed the property address of the commercial property from **2926** Oak Point to **2622** Oak Point. Doug was probably thinking that just because his name is Ditto does not mean that his address should be the same as the vacant lot next door. The change is now reflected in the website.
<http://www.dallascad.org/AcctDetailCom.aspx?ID=65033452510010700>

Free Chlorine Maintenance

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has scheduled a free chlorine maintenance that will be conducted on the NTMWD Wylie water transmission system and customer's distribution systems for a 28-day period from January 6, 2011 to February 3, 2011.

The free chlorine maintenance does not affect water quality and remains safe for use. During this period, consumers who are sensitive to taste and odor changes in drinking water might notice a change during this period. This palatability change does not alter the quality of the drinking water provided to consumers.

Mayor's Good Neighbor Award

Residents owners are encouraged to nominate their neighbors for this award. Nomination packets are available on the City's website,

(Continued on page 11)

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Crime Prevention & Safety *Bill Olive*

said a prayer of thanks we enjoyed our food. I don't know how much of our conversation Uncle Bill understood but he seemed happy to see us. He did mention to me that he might have to go into a nursing home soon and that he and Gloria often talked about it. He said "it might not be so bad". The love Gloria has for this uncle is wonderful to see. How she treats this elderly gentleman with such dignity and respect is a sight to behold. I only wish many of our younger folks could see the chemistry that these two have together. Whether it be a stranger or relative, the main duty of Garland's finest is to "help" the people of our city. On Thursday I got to see that twice. **Yes, the 15 minute lunch with Uncle Bill will be my best Christmas gift this year!**

On a more somber note, a Garland Police Officer was struck by a vehicle last night (12/18)

on 190 while he was making an arrest. Both he and the woman he was arresting were injured by the vehicle. He was airlifted to Parkland Hospital and has numerous broken bones but is expected to recover. DPS is investigating the incident and will release the names of the officer and the individual who was driving the car later. Please keep this officer in your prayers.



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ONA Update *continued*

www.garlandtx.gov, or Call 972-205-2400. The awards are issued quarterly. The December winner will be announced January 18, 2010 at the city council meeting.

Environmental

Joe Fagan had the landscaper prune the trees

around the perimeter of Oakridge. They also placed bark mulch at the base of each tree. The mulch will protect the roots during the colder months along with keeping in moisture and working as a weed block.



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Oakridge News

January 2011, Vol.19, No. 1

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