

Oakridge News



www.oakridgena.org

February 2011

Vol. 19, No. 2

ONA Update by Keith Engler

General Meeting Dates

The ONA Board has set the dates for the two remaining General Meetings for Thursday March 10 and Thursday May 19. The March meeting will be to accept the nominating committee and the May meeting will be to vote in the new ONA Board members.

Nominating Committee

The general membership shall elect a nominating committee consisting of a minimum of five (5) members. Their purpose will be the selection of nominees for officers and directors for the next operating year. The names of the Officer/Director nominees shall be provided to the membership through publication in the March Newsletter prior to the March 15th Meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated by any member of the Association at the Annual meeting .

(Continued on page 9)

ONA General Membership Meetings:

March 10, 2011 May 19, 2011

ONA OFFICERS

President	Jack Lang
Vice President	Larry Grisham
Secretary	Sylvia Rhode
Treasurer	Dave Morgan

ONA DIRECTORS

District 1	Deb Pandak
District 2	open
District 3	Lori Oswald
District 4	Dan Nichols
District 5	Felix Rotello Jr.
District 6	Mark Edwards
District 7	David & Sharon Parrish

ONA COMMITTEES

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

City Council by Rick Williams

The City has a garage sales ordinance which essentially says there is a maximum of three at the same location in any calendar year. I was contacted about enforcing this ordinance at a specific address, and my response was this. Code enforcement staff does not have the time to monitor every garage sale in the City on every weekend, so this is one ordinance that is wholly dependent on resident reporting. If you know an address that routinely violates this ordinance, send an email to codenfc@ci.garland.tx.us (all reports to Code via phone or E-mail are confidential) with the address. When a garage sale at the same address happens again, send another E-mail preferably on top of the prior E-mail(s). By the way, everyone holding a garage sale should call 972 485-6400 to get a permit number.

The Council recently received a year-end briefing, and here are a few tidbits that I found interesting. Code response time to calls is now between 4 to 5 hours. I can recall that a number of years ago response time was measured in multiple days. Technology has helped as has good management. Last year Garland tested 4,635 mosquitoes for West Nile virus, but none were positive and there were no human cases of West Nile in Garland. Currently, 70% of water meters in the City are "radio-read" (i.e., the water usage is read each month via a transmitter), but it will be 4 more years before all have been converted.

Amazingly, Animal Services received 8,584 (this is not a typo) calls last year for stray dogs and 7,177 were apprehended. There were also 58

(Continued on page 8)

Oakridge Country Club Update *by Keith Engler*

Many members of the Oakridge Country Club and Oakridge Community feel that Jeff Silverstein and the IRI Golf Group should be brought up for criminal investigation as they allege that he manufactured a very elaborate scheme collecting millions of dollars and potentially causing home values in the Oakridge Community to decline.

The allegations are that Mr. Silverstein, through a series of carefully designed limited partnerships, has owned, operated and seemingly mismanaged several golf courses, including Oakridge Country Club. Mr. Silverstein has been selling very attractive long term memberships since 2003. Many memberships were sold, allegedly in the hundreds, ranging from a one-year membership for \$800 to a lifetime membership for \$15,000 to \$20,000. Mr. Silverstein allegedly skimmed all of the funds from these memberships and diverted them through his corporate shells and into his own personal accounts. Funds to maintain and improve the golf course and club were very limited and as a result:

- Allegedly taxes were not paid.
- Allegedly employees were not paid for approximately 3 months
- Allegedly checks bounced regularly and service companies had to file work liens.
- The grounds were not maintained at the quality most members had grown to expect.
- Member requests were repeatedly ignored.
- The roof on the club house leaked.
- The kitchen was shut down by the health department several times
- The grill and dining area was shut down
- Utilities were not paid and power and water were shut off on numerous occasions
- The cable TV and phone service were also disconnected on numerous occasions.
- Allegedly lease payments on golf carts were not made.
- Employees were fired.

On October 13, 2010, Oakridge Golf Club, L.C. filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U. S. Bankruptcy code. At a creditors meeting November 19, 2010, Mr. Silverstein did not show up but,

was represented by an attorney and Mr. Eric Sims his regional manager. It was announced that Oakridge would be amending their filing to a Chapter 7 status which occurred on January 3, 2011. This paves the way for foreclosure and would allow the course to be sold if there are any buyers. The next Bankruptcy Court hearing is scheduled for February 7, 2011.

The Shores Country Club in Rockwall, TX was shut down in July, 2010 and remains vacant. While both Oakridge and The Shores remain in bankruptcy, Mr. Silverstein announced the purchase of The Golf Club at Visoto, an upscale daily-fee course in Tuscon, Arizona, for \$3.7 million in July, 2010.

Mr. Silverstein, through an entirely different partnership, has begun the same process at The Golf Club at Twin Creeks in Allen, TX. According to the Twin Creeks web-site, they are now offering 3 year memberships for \$7,495 and 10 year memberships for \$14,995 which sounds very familiar to the beginning of the end of Oakridge Country Club. Twin Creeks is no longer considered a prestigious top ten course in the DFW area which it once was.

Other character references to note about IRI and Mr. Silverstein includes:

- IRI lost their club management agreement with The Golf Club of McKinney.
- Elm Grove Golf Course in Lubbock was managed by Silverstein and it went bankrupt. Silverstein somehow obtained a \$1.2 million loan from a Kansas bank in 2005 using the course and clubhouse as collateral. The owner of Elm Grove said Silverstein didn't have his permission to mortgage the club. This was according to: http://lubbockonline.com/stories/012910/loc_556221217.shtml
- The Better Business Bureau has given Oakridge Country Club a rating of "F" for not having responded to several requests by the BBB for information about their business practices according to: <http://dallas.bbb.org/>

(Continued on page 3)

Oakridge Country Club Update *continued*

- San Ignacio, a semi-private Arizona golf course is drying up and lifetime memberships have been sold in the 100's similar to Oakridge. According to the following website: http://www.gvnews.com/news/article_ee8f747b-6324-5b2c-b302-7af1ab3a6299.html

Consumer complaints from citizens help the Texas Attorney General monitor trends and determine enforcement priorities as they work to protect Texans from deceptive trade practices. Thus, every member of Oakridge and the Oakridge community has the privilege to send a letter

to the Texas Attorney General describing their personal experience with the IRI Golf Group, Jeff Silverstein or any other issues of concern.

Many people have witnessed IRI engage in what they considered deceptive trade practices, but they are not sure what to do. Well, if there are enough letters sent to the Attorney General then they can allocate the resources to substantiate these allegations. If your voice is not heard then nothing will be done. Periodically monitor <http://oakridgena.org> for more information on this and other neighborhood events.

The Texas Attorney General can be contacted in writing at the following address:

**Consumer Protection and Public Health Division
Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas
1412 Main Street, Suite 810
Dallas, TX 75202**

Re: IRI Golf Group/Oakridge Golf LP D357295401



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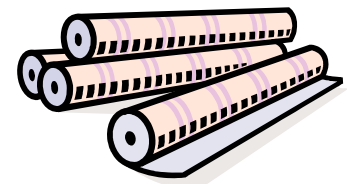
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DayTimers by Diane Winter

The cold weather limited the attendance of the January 11, 2011 Daytimers Meeting to the brave ones who bundled up to savor the homemade soups and play Bunco at the First United Methodist Church in Garland. About two dozen members gathered for the "Beans and Bunco" at the brightly decorated area in the church where Ann Conrath, Betty Cosgray and Mary Jensen had arranged tables and organized everything for the event.

The food hostesses, Chris Beyers, Peggy Crenshaw, Sally Weiss, Mary Pattie and Betty Cosgray each contributed a homemade soup for the group. Lucy Brock, Mary Powell, and JoAnn Williams brought the desserts and Mary Jensen and Dianne Winter added the chips, bread and crackers. There were rave reviews for the soups which consisted of Chicken Enchilada, Cheesy Vegetable Chowder, Zuppa - an Italian soup, 2x4 soup, and Monterey Chicken soup.

Suzanne Snow, president, led a short meeting that consisted of reports of:

- The Fun Christmas Caroling get together by Margaret Fowler-
- Concerns about Grosse Mohler and Brenda Britton-
- Special upcoming events plus a call for a wig shopping day-
- Ladies Night Out announced - to be at Chris Beyers home

With the completion of the business meeting the games began. Mary Jensen announced the rules and everyone joined in the fun of the Bunco game. After the exchanges of the boa and 5 games the winners were announced and the prizes were awarded.

The big winners were:

- Most Wins: Ruby Nell Ormon Least Wins: Betty Cosgray
- Most Buncos: Mary Pattie and Ann Conrath
- Last Bunco: Mary Pattie

The meeting closed as everyone harmonized singing "Harvest Moon".

Thanks to everyone who made this such a fun meeting. The next opportunity to get together will be:

February 8th, 10 am, at the home of Ruby Nell Ormon. The theme is "Name that Tune"- Romance in the Air. Bring a neighbor and join the Daytimers for fun and fellowship. Please inform your neighbors of the importance of The Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Info at www.oakridgena.org

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.



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Crime Prevention & Safety by Bill Olive

Fire Stations 3 and 11 were so happy to receive Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners from the ONA, you can see the pictures on the ONA website. Thanksgiving dinner consisted of a complete Turkey meal with all the trimmings along with some fantastic desserts from several Oakridge "pastry chefs". We served lasagna on Christmas day. Sicilianos gave us a good price. We added rolls and an antipasta Italian salad. Again, several Oakridge "pastry chefs" made delicious desserts including key lime pies, cookies, cakes, etc. The guys all expressed their thanks to everybody in Oakridge. Thanks to all ONA members for making these firefighter's holidays cheerful. Special thanks to the chefs Margaret, Brenda, Cass, Dorothy, Mary, Kim, Ruby, Sue and Estelle

Incidents for January

- Burglary-Building 2800 Diamond Oaks (club) on 1/12/2011 - theft of air compressor and golf cart.

- Burglary-Habitation at 2317 Diamond Oaks on 1/4/2011
- Info-Burglary at 2614 Big Oaks on 1/4/2011
- We have also received a call regarding a vehicle burglary on Hickory Bend which was not reported and a habitation burglary on Peakwood that has not yet entered the reporting system.

Year 2010 statistics

We had a 25% increase in incident activity with 61 reported incidents. This compares to 48 for the year 2009. Oakridge Country Club accounted for 12 incidents. Here is the breakdown:

Burglary Building	8
Theft	12
Burglary Vehicle	18
Criminal Mischief	7
Burglary Habitation	12
Stolen Vehicle	4

This past week Officer Capers and myself set

(Continued on page 10)



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Plaza Theatre

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

Mar. 2-28 GISD Senior Art Show Granville Arts Center Gallery
This year marks the 23rd year for the annual GISD High School art competition sponsored by the Garland Cultural Arts Commission Inc. Viewing hours are Monday thru Friday, 9am-5pm and during all performances.

Mar. 5 Garland Chorale Concert 8:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium The Garland Chorale presents “Sing a Song of Sixpence: Rhymes for the Young at Heart” Choral Concert. Tickets are \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors, Children 12 and younger are free. Tickets can be purchased online at www.thegarlandchorale.com. For more information please email Laura Diaz at garlandchorale@thegarlandchorale.com.

Mar. 5 Pilates Squared - “Lights, Camera, Action!” 8:00 pm Plaza Theatre a revue featuring dance professionals and their advanced students. The evening will include refreshments after the show and an opportunity for audience members to join the cast in general dancing. Tickets will be available at the Plaza Theatre on the evening of the show for \$30. Advanced tickets are \$25 at Pilates Squared, 3122 Swiss Avenue, # 214/828-0100.

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Mar. 10-Apr. 2 Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird” Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre. Witness one of the most popular books of all time brought to life for you on stage by Garland Civic Theatre. The productions runs March 10 and 17 at 7:30pm; March 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, April 1 and 2 at 8:00 p.m.; with matinees on March 13, 20, 27, and April 2 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.

Mar. 11 GCMA Presents “Crazy ‘bout Patsy” 7:30 pm Plaza Theatre produced by CB Luce of the Garland Country Music Association. Tickets are \$20 for general admission. Children 12 and under are \$12. Sherrill Douglas is the #1 world acclaimed Tribute Artist of Patsy Cline music.

Mar. 12 GCMA Presents Elvis Tribute Artist Kenny King 7:30 pm Plaza Theatre The Garland Country Music Association and C.B. Luce are excited to present Award Winning Elvis Tribute Artist, Kenny King at the Plaza Theater. Opening the show for Kenny King will be Jerry Page portraying the “younger” 1950’s Elvis. Both Kenny and Jerry will be backed by the spectacular “Fever, the ultimate tribute band”. Ticket are \$15, \$30 for the first 3 rows up front. For information & tickets call 469-831-5851.

Mar. 18 Garland Symphony Orchestra Concert 8:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium The GSO will be performing Copland’s Appalachian Spring, Robert Schumann’s Symphony No. 1 in Bb Major (“Spring”), and Vivaldi’s “Spring (La primavera)” from The Four Seasons featuring violin soloist Victor Rupert. www.garlandsymphony.org.

Mar. 19 “A Man Of All Seasons” 7:00 pm Plaza Theatre A compelling love story that unfolds into a train wreck waiting to happen. Each of us deals with the loss of a loved one in our own way, but what happens when we refuse to seek God's direction and his will? Tickets available at call 214-722-7566. Tickets are \$22-presale, \$20-online, and \$25 general audience. Doors open 6:30p.m. www.tylerproductionsgospelstageplays.org

Mar. 26 4th Annual Jim Paul Miller Memorial Bluegrass Show 5:00 pm Plaza Theatre This will be a great evening of bluegrass music performed by local area groups. Open ‘jamming’ begins at 5pm with ‘on stage’ performances starting at 6pm. Tickets are \$5. For further information, please call 972-571-3942.

Mar. 30-Apr. 1 District 10 5A UIL One Act Play competition. Zone performances will be held on Wednesday, March 30th. Zone contest performances begin at 9am with McKinney Boyd, followed by North Garland HS, South Garland HS, and Rowlett HS. Afternoon zone begins at 2:30 PM with Naaman Forest HS, then Garland HS, Lakeview Centennial HS, ending with Sachse HS. The schools that advance out of the zone contest will compete at the District level on April 1st beginning at 1:30 PM.

Mar. 31 2nd Annual Ms. Garland Senior Classic Pageant 6:00 pm Plaza Theatre An opportunity for ladies age 60+ to change the image most people have of aging - beauty is what you stand for and who you are as a person. From singing and dancing to oil painting, flower arranging, reciting poetry and interpretive readings – the pageant is fun and exciting! The public is invited and the admission is free. For additional information contact Rusty Maxwell at 972-205-2881.

Events Celebrating the Special Abilities of Special People Honoring Oakridge's Matthew Parrish

Special Arts Festival for Garland
Presented by the Achievement Center of Texas
& the Garland ISD
February 12, 2011 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.
GISD Special Events Center
4999 Naaman Forest Blvd.
Garland, TX 75040

Our mission is to provide opportunities for people with special needs to perform, exhibit, or demonstrate their artistic talent and to inspire others to find self expression through the arts. Marilynne Serie at (214) 282-7066
<http://www.exploringspecialarts.com/>.

MDA Muscle Walk Mar 5, 2010
Unite with Mathew's family for he MDA Muscle Walk Saturday March 5. See details at their website:
<http://bit.ly/dRzRO6>

**MAKING MUSIC FOR MATTHEW!
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Thursday March 3, 2011, 6:30-9:30 PM
Richardson Civic Center
411 West Arapaho Road
Richardson Texas 75080

Matthew Parrish, Oakridge resident and son of district directors David & Sharon Parrish, was in the band at North Garland HS from 2007-2010. Four days after graduation, he passed away peacefully. The North Garland High School Raider Band and the Muscular Dystrophy Association-Dallas are hosting an event to honor his memory, raise money for the MDA and fund the Matthew Parrish Grant, benefitting individual music instruction at North Garland HS.

The celebration will feature live music from the North Garland HS Steel and Jazz Bands. Singer Songwriter, Victor Rosario (NGHS Raider Band 2006) and Irish Band, 5 Second Rule and Local Honey. There will be a silent auction, door prizes and tons of fun, all hosted by Allan Peck of KSCS FM & NGHS Raider Band Alum.

Contacts:
Todd Toney JTToney@garlandisd.net
Katie Shields kshields@mdausa.org
David & Sharon Parrish okcanoe@tx.rr.com

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ONA Member

City Council *continued*

major bites and 312 minor bites. Needless to say, keep your dogs in a safe, secure environment and make sure all have name tags!

I have reported on this previously, but it will soon be a reality. Specifically, Garland should be a "quiet zone" in about 3 to 6 months, which means that trains will not be blowing their whistles before passing through a street intersection. No longer will plays, concerts, etc. at the performing arts center in downtown Garland be disrupted by a train whistle...nor will council meeting.

The new Trammell Crow developed apartments with ground level retail near the downtown DART station are about 90% full. That's a good thing, and speaking of good things, Garland will start a "single stream" recycling pilot this year. What that means is that selected homes will put all their recycle materials in one big container (similar to the current green containers, but a different color). We expect this to be implemented in stages, and in about 2 1/2 years it should be available to all Garland homes. We'll be getting a full briefing on this in the near future to learn more. Hopefully, plastics beyond #1 and #2 will be acceptable.

Part of the recent capital improvement projects (CIP) budget presentation including plans for pur-

chasing 100 new golf carts for Firewheel Golf Course. I have received several complaints from former Oakridge golfers, who are now playing at Firewheel that the carts were breaking down in the middle of a round of golf. We are not scheduled to formally approve the new CIP budget until February, but I asked, and received, a special exception to put these on the fast track. Consequently, we approved the purchase of these new carts on January 18, and I'm told it takes about 6 weeks for them to be delivered.

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*

ONA Board Elections

The election of officers and directors shall be held during the May 19th General Meeting. Newly elected officers and directors shall assume office on June 1 of 2011.

ONA Bylaw Changes

A special committee has been appointed to make needed updates to the ONA Bylaws. The proposed changes are listed in detail at the ONA Website www.oakridgeNA.org.

Christmas Caroling

Perfect weather blessed the evening on December 19 and everyone was in the Christmas Spirit

at the "Annual Christmas Caroling" party. Beth Fagan led the caravan in her convertible with Mannheim Steamroller booming through the speakers as we drove through Oakridge. Sixteen Daytimers and ONA members joined in the fun as everyone sang Christmas carols at the following homes: Clara Mae Meurer, Peggy and Kent Crenshaw, Mary Reed, Mary and George Jensen, Dianne and David Winter, Irene and Wally Arbuckle, Suzanne and Howard Pelton, Charlie and Dottie Wheat, and Jeannette and Mac McFarlin. After caroling, the merrymakers returned to the home of Margaret Fowler where everyone enjoyed a potluck supper. A good time was had by all!

(Continued on page 11)

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Crime Prevention & Safety *continued*

down to discuss the increase in crime not only here in Oakridge but also in areas adjacent to us. He has been actively patrolling both in marked and unmarked cars, detectives are doing investigations trying to put together people arrested and outstanding crimes, and other assets of the Garland Police Department are in use. Officer Capers has asked us in the COP to patrol as much as possible between the hours of 8a.m. and 3 pm. We will be doing so with or without the Citizen Patrol signs on our vehicles. Garland dispatch will be informed as to the times we are patrolling. Residents can be helpful by continuing to be watchful for any suspicious persons, vehicles, or activity and calling 911.

Citizen on Patrol and Citizen Police Academy classes:

The Garland Police Department will be holding its "Spring" Citizen Police Academy class starting on Feb. 28th. If interested please call me for an application and information. The class runs for about 12 weeks every Thursday night from 6:30 - 10pm. Also, there will be an opportunity for the class to have instruction in "driving" a patrol car, shooting various weapons, observing the city jail,

sitting with dispatch officers, and participating in "riding out" for an 8 hour shift with one of Garland's finest. It is an eye opening course and will provide a whole new outlook on police work. Because there are no "make up" sessions its important that you not miss a class. Citizen on Patrol class will be held sometime soon in March or April depending on when applications reach the appropriate number. This class only takes one meeting (usually on a Tuesday night) from 6 - 10 pm and covers topics ranging from how to patrol, gangs, graffiti, dispatch, NPO unit, etc. We can always use extra patrollers and hope some will join our group. If anyone is interested please call us for an application or if you have questions.

The Citizen Police Academy instructor is Captain S.P. McCully. The COP instructor is Officer Barineau and the NPO unit members.

Spring brings bad weather:

The National Weather Service will be having its annual "Skywarn Program" to be held at The Granville Arts Center on Saturday Feb. 19th from 9am to 4 pm. The program is free and requires no registration, just show up.

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ONA Update *continued*

Environmental

We have finished trimming and mulching the trees and shrubs. It appears that the construction on Buckingham has ended and we will be able to clean up the mess left by the construction signs.

The flower beds are in the process of being fertilized, which should improve the blooming.

Christmas Decoration Committee Volunteer Opportunity

The ONA is looking for " Personal Shoppers" to help us with our Christmas Decorations. We would like to replace/upgrade our Holiday Decorations that are placed at each entrance and throughout the neighborhood. We would need a committee formed that could provide the following:

1. Determine the style and design of the entrances, bridge, stop signs, etc...and what would be needed for decorations.
2. Assess the decorations we currently own and determine what should/could be salvaged for future use. **Metro Storage** generously gives the ONA a storage space for ONA stuff.

3. Propose a decorations plan to the ONA board with a projected cost for preliminary approval.
4. Complete the shopping list and firm quote to the ONA board for final approval.
5. Purchase the decorations, sort by district and provide a layout/plan for the installation of the decorations during the holidays.

If you are interested in helping us with this committee, please send an email to cmleks@verizon.net. We would like to get the committee formed with a chairperson by the end of February.



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Oakridge News

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February 2011, Vol.19, No. 2

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergencies	911
Poison Center	1-800-764-7661
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

Sir Fixalot LLC

Keith Engler

Handyman Services

Oakridge Resident & ONA Board Member

Electrical, Lighting, Painting,

Websites, Honey-Do lists...

See website or call for more details

972-414-3272

www.SirFixalotLLC.com



"Fixing broken relationships between you and your home"

www.OakridgeNA.org