Gakridge News



www.oakridgena.org

September 2011

President's Message by Larry Walters

Well we did not break the consecutive days of 100 plus temperatures, but we have a chance of the record for the most days over 100. I think if we make it until the first weekend in September we will have a record for 2011. Let's hope we do not set that record.

I am sure that all of our members know that we are under Stage Two water restrictions and can only water two days a week. We can all hope that we get rain soon and can get away from these restrictions.

We have a date of September 16th for our general membership meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Achievement Center located at 2950 Shiloh Rd. Please make sure that all of you keep up to date by monitoring the website for any updates for

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Membership Cecile LaBossiere Communications Dana Hopkins Environmental Joe Fagan

Crime Prevention & Safety Brenda Olive

City Council by Rick Williams

Dallas Morning News explaining that because of a change in the State law, City elections on the second Saturday in May might have to be changed to the November general election date because the County may not have enough time to provide the voting machines for both the City election and a new date (the 4th Tuesday in May) for primary run-off elections. In my opinion, that would have been a disaster, but fortunately, there was a big meeting with the County and they will be able to provide voting machines for both City elections as well as any primary run-off elections. It will cost the city a bit more money, but disaster averted!

The City of Garland welcomes the return of the Mosaic Multicultural Festival of Art, Dance and Music on Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The City's Community Multicultural

You may have read an August 10 article in the Commission (CMC) will stage this event at the new Hollabaugh Recreation Center and Pavilion. located at 3925 West Walnut Street between Jupiter Road and Plano Road in Garland. The CMC is seeking food caterers, vendors, artist, performers, and dance groups to perform during the Mosaic Multicultural Festival. Anyone interested in participating should contact the chair of the Mosaic Multicultural Festival, Minerva Moreno at 972-271-1913 or email gm-

> moreno5@verizon.net no later than September 15, 2011.

> Garland will host another Neighborhood Summit this year on Saturday, October 22 at the Atrium at the Granville Arts Center in downtown Garland. This is an excellent opportunity for

> > (Continued on page 4)

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2011

Tuesday October 4th - just before sunset

By Bill Olive, COP Coordinator for Oakridge

This year there are no funds and more importantly, no place where we can have a large event to mark National Night Out here in Oakridge. But, we're not going to let this opportunity pass us by, therefore, we will do a "parade" similar to what we did in 2010—with all C.O.P. vehicles, along with a fire truck, maybe an ambulance and as many police vehicles as we can get to join us. If you'd like to "parade" with us, please give me a call so we can assign you a number, make a note of the vehicle you'll be using, etc. {972-495-3402} We will have to limit the number of vehicles, so it will be first come, first served. We're asking that no bikes be included due to safety concerns. While it won't yet be fully dark, it won't be light either, and visibility could be an issue. If you're planning on using a golf cart, please bear in mind that it needs to have front and rear lights. You might want to tape a little red, white and blue, or fall colored crepe paper on your vehicle to give a little added visual bonus for our viewers. We'll be lining up at the country club parking lot, and for those who will be traveling with us, you will be given the time to arrive when you call to get your "float" number. Just think, it's a chance to blow your horn, flash your lights, wave like crazy at people and have a little fun. COP members will be tossing out wrapped candy and small goodies to viewers along the way. Please come outside, sit on the sidewalk, on your lawn, or just stand there and wave at us as we make a spectacle of ourselves. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors--maybe you can make a churn of ice-cream, or

set up a grill and throw on some hot dogs, or perhaps pop some corn. Invite the neighbors to bring something too, and relax, mingle and wait for the "crazy people" to come down your street. Meeting your neighbors is really what National Night Out is all about anyway. Now, I will warn you, if we happen to spot some "good eats" --- maybe we'll stop by and grab a bite, you never know! It might be prudent to listen for the horns, sirens, bells, whistles or whatever and watch for the lights—and quickly hide your food! Rain or shine, we'll be out there and hope to see you there too. Remember, it's Thursday night, October 4th, mark it on your calendars now so you won't forget!!!!



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President's Message (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

that meeting.

Joe Fagan reported that all of the costs for the accident at Beltline and Laurel Oaks were paid by the insurance company that insured the driver of the vehicle.

Cecile has really done a great job on our membership. As of August 19, we have 392 signed up and dues paid. If any of you know of a neighbor of yours that is not a member please contact Cecile or myself and we will visit with them about joining ONA.

I hope that all of you saw the flyer on our website about Operation Medicine Drop. That takes place on September 24th during the Healthy Living Expo at the GISD Special Events Center 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd Garland, TX. 75044 from 9 AM until 1 PM. For more INFORMATION, please check out our web site www.oakridgena.org.

I hope to see all of you at our general membership meeting. It will be my first as president of our association. I look forward to meeting everyone.

Please be careful out doors in the heat!



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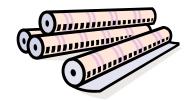
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OAKRIDGE RESIDENT SINCE 1996

ONA MEMBER/FORMER BOARD MEMBER QUALITY WORK DONE BY THE OWNER

INSURED



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City Council by Rick Williams (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

neighborhood leaders to learn more about the city and how to improve neighborhoods. Conference activities begin at 8:00 AM and include workshops and a keynote speaker. The theme this year is "Principles & Practices of Neighborhood Transformation." I know I'll be there and if you are interested, contact Felisa Conner with the City of Garland Neighborhood Services office at (972) 205-3864 or email at fconner@garlandtx.gov.

At the risk of this council article sounding like a trash pickup) for an average Garland resident series of public service announcements, I want as a percentage of average wages for a Garto bring one more event to your attention. Mark land citizen. That percentage has ranged from your calendar for Garland's annual Healthy Liv- a low of 4.1% in 2001/02 to a high of 5.1% in ing Expo set for Saturday, September 24, 2011 2005/6. Currently, that percentage is 4.5% and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Garland ISD Spe- is expected to be the same next year. cial Events Center. The Expo will provide important information about healthy lifestyles for both people and the environment in which we Organizers are planning a new twist this live. year by adding exhibits and demonstrations focusing on safety issues such as fire prevention, safe driving tips for teens, bicycle safety and much more. In addition, the Expo will offer health screenings and immunizations, as well as information on stress reduction, fitness, recycling, conservation, energy efficiency, gardening, alternative fuel vehicles and much more. The event will be free and is hosted by the City of Garland, Baylor Medical Center at Garland, Garland Independent School District, and the Garland Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit www.GarlandGoesGreen.org

On August 24, Garland went to drought Stage 2 due to lower lake levels that supply the North Texas Municipal Water District of which Garland Council disis a member. Like Stage 1, watering is restricted to twice per week, but it is now mandatory rather than advisory. The twice a week watering can be on any day of the week. It is not until Stage 3 that there is a mandate to water on tion fairly certain days based on your house number. As always, watering is restricted between the hours discussed of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

Speaking of water, Garland paid the North Texas Municipal Water District \$0.72 per thousand gallons in 2001. For 2012, we will pay \$1.49 per thousand, and it is projected in 2020, the price will be \$2.47 per thousand. Somebody once said that one day water will be more valuable than oil, and I'm beginning to think they were right.

Garland's budget department maintains an interesting "Cost of Government" chart which tracks the cost of government (i.e., city taxes, electricity, water, waste water, storm water, and

The Garland City Charter (essentially, the "Constitution" for the City) provides in Article III, Section 1 that "the Council shall redivide and readjust by ordinance the boundaries of the eight Council districts of the City for the purpose

of keeping such districts as nearly equal in population as is practical." This is the redistricting provision which directs the Council to look at the tricts every 5 years to try to keep the populaequal. We



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Oakridge resident 18 years.

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City Council by Rick Williams (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

this during the August 15 work session, and decided not to change boundaries as all 8 districts were still fairly close in population. The demographics for District 7 (based on 2010 Census) are 29,402 residents with 41% White, 15% Black, 19% Asian, 22% Hispanic, and 3% other. Interestingly, for the entire City, Hispanics are 38% and Whites 37% of the total population.

I think we are making progress on the Oakridge golf course/club/pool/courts becoming a viable entity again. Too long a story to put here, but I'm hopeful.

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

Hot weather can leave your house with shrinking paint.

Cracking and Alligatoring

Old layers of paint may be so brittle from age that the paint cannot expand with temperature fluctuations. Instead, hairline cracks form. When this happens, small openings in the paint film allow rainwater to seep in, ultimately resulting in flaking. The flaking paint should be scraped off, and the surface sanded.

Alligatoring is a cracking pattern that is visible in the top layers of a multi-layered paint film (most often oil-based). It often resembles the hide of an alligator. If the surface is not peeling, it is probably sound and does not require removal of the cracked paint. Smooth surface by sanding. In cases of either cracking or alligatoring, the surface should be reprimed with Ace Royal Shield Exterior Oil-Based Primer. In those cases where some peeling has occurred, it may be advisable to completely remove the paint.

Peelina

To avoid paint peeling, prepare the surface properly and eliminate sources of moisture before painting. Note the temperature restrictions on the label. Cold weather prevents the paint film from forming properly. Very hot temperatures or strong winds dry the paint too quickly.

Another source of peeling is moisture build-up inside the house. If inadequate ventilation is present, the trapped moisture will migrate to the outside of the structure and, in many cases, cause blistering and peeling down to bare wood. To help prevent moisture caused peeling, be sure exhaust fans and an adequate number of attic louvers and roof vents are installed in your home.

Be sure that roof overhangs, gutters, downspouts and flashing are in good working order and that the carry the rain away from the building.

The surface to be painted must be clean, sound, dull (sand existing satin, semi-gloss or gloss paint) and dry.

Peeling on gutters and downspouts can be a result of the substrate not having been properly cleaned or primed prior to topcoating. If peeling occurs, scrape to bare metal. Be sure to feather or smooth out the edges of remaining paint. Make sure no trace of oil, grease, detergent film or moisture is present before priming non-ferrous metals with Ace Galvanized and Aluminum Primer. For ferrous metal use Ace Rust Stop Primer.

Chad Groom



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Crime and Safety Report

By Brenda Olive

Unfortunately, we had several incidents during the month of July, and then started off August with 4 more in the first 5 days of the month.

7/19, 2410 Lone Oak, theft

7/19, 2705 Big Oaks, Burglary Habitation

7/21, 3206 Bending Oaks, Theft

7/24, 2821 Grand Oak, Criminal Mischief

7/24, 2800 Diamond Oaks, Burglary Bldg

8/04, 2211 Overview, Criminal Mischief

8/05, 2210 Rolling Oak, Burglary Habitation

8/05, 2130 Windy Ridge, Criminal Mischief

8/05, 2213 Moss Trail, Criminal Mischief

We haven't yet received the latest stats from GPD, but we have seen and heard numerous reports of "egging" of homes and cars in the area. Everyone should be aware of this and if you see something or someone who appears to be "preparing" for such an action, please let the parents know, call us, and/or call the police. Cleaning dried eggs off anything in this heat is not an easy task, trying to scrub dried eggs off a brick mailbox can be very frustrating, and also trying to clean dried eggs off a car, especially since you have to take the car to a car wash to avoid damage to the paint, can be very infuriating.

So far, we've only had one report of our "water tester" people this month, and no reports of any one asking about "security systems". Once again, a reminder: GPD does not send companies around to ask residents what type of alarm they own, digital or dial up? They do not have anyone knocking on doors and asking if they can come in and check your system. Call the police if you get these types of individuals coming to your door.

2nd reminder: Garland's water is checked regularly, and you can obtain a copy of the latest report from the water department. There are specific Federal

Regulations (we all know about Federal Regulations don't we?) that must be met and our water is as good as or better as any surrounding city, and in many cases actually better quality than some of the bottled water you buy. Don't get "hosed" by these clowns!

This is a **THANK YOU**, from the COP members. Recently during our patrols we've noticed that many, many people have heeded our warnings and while they are leaving a small crack at the bottom of the garage door, they aren't leaving the doors open high enough for a child to roll under, or for someone to reach in and trigger the emergency opener on the garage door, thereby raising the door completely. This is a big step in the right direction and helps cut down robbery and burglary in our neighborhood.

By the time you read this, children will be back in school and we all need to remember that kids don't always look before dashing into, or just walking into the street. This puts an extra burden on drivers to watch for this type of behavior since far too many children ignore the cross walks.

This brings to mind another concern for all parents and the reminder to ask you. Have you had a talk with your children or grand-children about the danger of talking to strangers? Oakridge is one of the safest areas when it comes to sex offenders, however, there are numerous offenders living in surrounding neighborhoods. Now is the time to teach, even your youngest child, what to do and how to react if they are ap-

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proached by a stranger. Remember, your child's safety is your responsibility, don't pass this off on the school to handle. Children, especially the younger ones, can totally misinterpret video messages often shown at school or kindergartens. I am reminded of an incident that happened when our daughter was in pre-school. We and boys, and asked for help finding a lost had talked with her numerous times about not taking candy or anything else from a stranger, not talking to strangers, and all the things that parents normally say. We thought she understood completely.

Shortly after the school year began, we heard about several incidents regarding possible assaults or attempted assaults in the neighborhood where the pre-school was located. The school, in a noble attempt to teach children about the possible danger of talking to strangers, decided

to show a video, entitled "Stranger Danger". Some of you may have seen the same video in the past. Parents were shown the video during a regular parent's meeting. We all agreed that it was an excellent film. Unfortunately, we were looking at it from an adult's viewpoint, not a child's viewpoint. In the video, different men and a woman approached young children, both girls puppy, or offered them a ride, or gave them candy, etc. In the video the "stranger's" faces had been blocked out by a black band across the eyes and nose area, of course, this was done to prevent anyone from identifying the actors. Adults viewing the film didn't really notice the black band: we were more attuned to what was said and how the children reacted. A couple of weeks after the film was shown at school. I was running a little late in picking our daughter up from school. An ice-cream truck had parked

(Continued on page 8)



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Crime and Safety Report (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

at the curb across the street from the school and kids ran across to buy ice-cream. My daughter didn't have the 50 cents needed to buy an ice pop, but the driver offered her one, "free, this time," and she took it. I drove up just in time to see her removing the paper wrapper and asked her, "How did you get that?" She replied, "The man gave it to me." I was beside myself and immediately demanded "Why did you take it; haven't we told you to never take anything from a stranger?" Her reply—"But, mom, he's not a stranger," and when I asked how she knew him, she simply said, "He's not wearing a black line on his face like a stranger." Have you ever tried to deal with the total trust and logic of a 4 year old who simply wants an ice cream? Couple that with the impact of a video depicting a stranger with a black band on his face. I immediately spoke with the manager of the school about her misinterpretation of the video image. This prompted questioning of other students and we quickly learned that almost all of the kids described a stranger as someone with a black band on his/her face! Of course, we immediately began re-teaching our children about strangers and alerted the producers of the video so that they could make changes. We didn't suspect the ice cream trucker driver of doing anything wrong, assuming it was our fault for not realizing that children looked at things literally.

Shockingly, a few weeks later, we learned that same ice-cream man was arrested and charged with several cases of child molestation in another neighborhood. Now, we all know we can't protect our children 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but we must do everything we can to

teach them how to protect themselves. One way we can do that is to teach them that videos aren't always perfect and strangers don't wear black bands across their faces. Teach your child to "run away", teach them to scream, teach them not to go up close to a car's window, teach them to look at a license plate and remember numbers or letters. We've found that a good way to do this is simple-- As you're driving to school, or grandma's, or to the store, ask them to tell you what color a particular car is, teach them the difference between a car, or a van, or SUV, let them learn what kind of vehicle it is. Tell them about any damage you may notice, ask them to look at that item, ask them to look at how many headlights the car has. How many doors does it have, 2 or 4, if it's a van, ask them if it has any windows, how many, where are they, point out things like luggage racks on top, broken windows, tinted windows, not only will this help teach your child to be more observant, but it will give you an opportunity to teach your child in a non-threatening, non-scary way...you can make a game out of it, challenge them to watch for a particular thing, like the luggage rack and perhaps reward them for noticing things. Ask them how many people are in the vehicle—use terms like big people, little people, woman, man, boy, girl. You can ask them if the people were wearing hats, baseball caps, etc. Remember, little things—just like the black band across the face, are oftentimes the things that children remember, not necessarily the things that adults notice or remember. Remind your child—whether they are elementary, middle or high school students, the School Resource Officer (SRO) is always someone they can talk to, about anything

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Crime and Safety Report (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

that concerns them, including bullying, drugs, gangs, harassment or abuse by former dates, overt peer pressure, or someone they can rely on and someone who won't judge them. If anyway home, the first person to go to is the School Resource Officer. If your child doesn't know who their School Resource Officer is, please, contact the school and ask, your child needs to know that there is a police officer at the school who is interested in their well-being and is someone they can trust to protect them.

Finally, this month I have no updates on the country club as far as a buyer is concerned. Things are still being negotiated as far as water is concerned and until that is finalized we won't have a purchaser. In the meantime, the hedges along Beltline and Jupiter are being pruned, you can see the evidence of that if you drive along either street and on Monday mornings you can see the piles of trimmings in the parking lot. The maintenance crew is still doing mowing, etc. where it is needed, but right now, the grass isn't really growing, unfortunately, weeds are, so they are being cut. It all comes down to water!

We must make every attempt not to waste water. Water is one of our most vital needs. We really need rain throughout Texas, not just in Oakridge as many of our lakes are losing water every day and without rain to replenish it soon, we will begin to fully feel the effects of this drought. Once again, I ask everyone to pray for rain. Recently the town of Kemp, in Kaufman County, just east of us, ran out of water because of a major water main break. This meant

that water had to be trucked in for everyone's use for a few days. Just imagine it, no bathing, no laundry, and no dishwashers! Please also remember, not only do humans need water, but so do plants, birds and animals. I try to make sure my bird baths are replenished with ice thing happens at school, on the way to or on the each day, I simply run a little water into a plastic bowl before bed at night and add just a small dash of Gatorade or orange juice to give it a little color. I freeze it overnight and the next day I place that lump of ice in the bird feeder, of course, it melts quickly and the birds, as well as the squirrels, seem to really enjoy drinking it. If I have some fruit that is "gone past its prime" I cut that up in small pieces and put it in the water too. The next day the birds and animals have a nice frozen treat. We hope that each of you is enjoying a nice frozen treat each day too! Remember, winter will be here before we know

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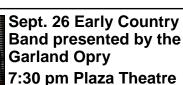


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The ARTS in Garland

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Early Country and The Big G Jamboree are returning

to The Plaza Theatre after 30 years. The Early Country Band has provided Music and Entertainment in Garland for more than 39 years. The band includes Dean Baxter, Howard Johnson, I.G. Shelton, Jack Hayes, Joe Mack, J W Mayfield and Johnny Ahrens. Early Country entertains with a wide variety of music from Country Swing to Rock. The show starts at 7:30 pm. Just like 30 years ago, admission for this show will be free. Donations will be greatly appreciated.



Sept. 27 Garland Senior Center Red Hat Revue 1:30 pm Plaza Theatre

The 6th Annual Red Hat Revue is Tuesday, September 27 at 1:30 pm, sponsored by the Great Gals of Garland. This year's theme is "Rockin' the 50's." Come and be

entertained with live stage performances, door prizes and raffles and Johnny Rockit in concert following the Red Hat Revue. Please contact Queen Bee Susan at 972-670-8690 for more information or email

greatgalsofgarland@gmail.com.



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Plaza Theatre

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October 6-29 "Pillow Talk" by Garland Civic Theatre Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre

Garland Civic Theatre presents "Pillow Talk." This production is directed by Evelyn Davis, sets are by Joseph Cummings and costumes are by Celeste Rogers. "Pillow Talk" is the tale of Jan Morrow, a successful young interior decorator who is forced to share a party line with a man named Brad Allen. Shows are October 6 and 13 at 7:30pm, October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, and 29 at 8:00pm and October 9, 16, 23, and 29 at 2:30 pm. All tickets are \$22 which includes the service fee. There are discounts for KERA members and groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available at the Arts Center Box Office or by calling 972-205-2790. Visit the GCT website at www.garlandcivictheatre.org for more

information.



October 8 "Everybody Dance" by Pilates Squared Revue 8:00 pm Plaza Theatre

"Everybody Dance!", a revue featuring dance professionals and their advanced students from around the metroplex, will take

the stage of Garland's Plaza Theatre. This will be the annual show's fourth consecutive year at the Plaza. "With the Plaza's large stage and excellent technical facilities," said Nancie Rosales, stage manager for the show, "we again look forward to including a couple of Broadway style production numbers, along with examples of the full variety of high-energy Latin dances and elegant fox trots and waltzes." 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 or in advance for \$25 at Pilates Squared, 3122 Swiss Avenue, or by calling 214-828-0100.

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OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

If it is September it must be time for the Daytimers to get together and they will on:

Tuesday, September 13th – 10 am

2013 Diamond Oaks – home of Betty Prickett

You can meet your neighbor, talk about the heat, summer activities and Oakridge news and have a fun time. Come join in for a great new year - If you are currently involved in Daytimers bring a new neighbor. \$15.00 dues can also be paid at this meeting.

The officers and leaders for 2011-2012

President: Peggy Crenshaw

Meeting Chairman: Chris Beyers

Treasurer: Mary Pattie

 Sunshine: (birthdays) Audrey King -(illness) Lillian Dalton

 Nametags and E- mail messenger: Jo Ann Williams

Telephone Messenger: Charlotte Vaughter with Clara Mae Muerer

Calendar: Chris Beyers

 Programs: Ruby Nell Ormon and Sandra Stevens

 Newsletter: Dianne Winter /Chris Beyers (photos) Suzanne Snow

 Special Events and Fun on the Run: Robbie Lang and Sally Weiss

Hospitality: Ernie Gharis

Bridge Coordinator: Dot Mohrle

Canasta Organizer: Margaret FowlerBook Club Leader: Peggy Crenshaw

Mah Joong leader: Chris Beyer

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, Peggy Crenshaw – 972 - 530-1645.

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Saturday, September 24, 2011 9am–1pm

>> We will be in the front foyer just inside the entrance. <<

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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

Code Compliance 972-485-6400

972-205-3483

972-205-3570

Street Light Repair

Animal Services

Electricity Emergency 972-205-3000

N P O John Capers 972-205-2740

CP&S Bill Olive 972-495-3402

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