



## ***President's Message by Larry Walters***

We had our general membership meeting on September 15 and had a nice turn out from our members. Our meeting was very informative and well received from everyone that attended. The video that Brenda Olive presented was very informative and I think everyone picked up some ideas about how to make our residencies and our neighborhood more secure.

I do not know how many of you are aware that we are going to be under stage three water restrictions. We will all have to be more conservative about our water usage. Should you have questions about stage three restrictions, please contact the city of Garland Water department for more information.

There are still discussions going on about the sale of the golf course. We have some interests

*(Continued on page 5)*

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Communications	Dana Hopkins
Environmental	Joe Fagan
Crime Prevention & Safety	Brenda Olive

## ***City Council by Rick Williams***

Last month, the City Council passed the FY 12 budget with no tax increase and very little controversy. There was a small increase in the water rates, but that will be happening almost every year in the next decade as the cost of water from the North Texas Municipal District continues to go up. One positive thing I did pick up during an August budget briefing was that we are still on track to begin the gradual implementation of single-stream recycling. Essentially, 8 different areas in Garland with about 1,000 homes each will be given one large container (sort of like the green trash container) to put all their plastics (including numbers higher than 1 and 2), aluminum, paper, and perhaps some items we don't currently recycle (from curbside pickup) such as cardboard. This will be phased in over a time-frame that is essentially tied into replacement of recycling trucks (i.e., when a current recycling truck gets old and is scheduled for replacement,

it will be replaced by a single-stream recycling truck). Although the 8 areas to begin this improved method of recycling have not been selected, I suspect one of those areas will be in District 7. This will likely begin in the 2nd quarter of 2012.

You might recall from my articles about a year ago that the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) had added an environmentally friendly vegetable oil product called ESS-13 to the pond water at Shiloh and Campbell to reduce pond leakage. Unfortunately, the pond is dry once again, and obviously part of the water loss was caused by evaporation due to the record heat. However, the ESS-13 still did not perform as expected as only a 40% reduction in the rate of water loss was achieved even factoring in the heat.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## *Daytimers by Dianne Winters*



If there is a gathering in Oakridge of about 30 women and there is laughter, fun and fellowship –it must be a meeting of the Daytimers. This meeting was identified as the Daytimers' Coffee on Tuesday, September 13th, 10 am, at the home of hostess, Betty Prickett.

The food hostesses who assisted Betty and prepared the delicious dishes were: Martha Boyette, Nell Burt, Lillian Dalton, Audrey King and Janice Schadegg.

Chris Beyers greeted everyone at the door with a game sheet that was one of the many highlights of the meeting. Chris had prepared a poster with early childhood photos of the officers and leaders of the group and asked the members to match the photo to the name on the sheet. A prize was given for the most correct answers. Everyone had a great time with this activity.

President, Peggy Crenshaw, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and greeting a new member, Kayce Kendrick. Chris Beyers gave out calendars to those who could not receive them by email and asked for volunteers to sign up for home and food hostesses. Thanks to Chris for all the items she organized for this September meeting. Jo Ann Williams distributed the name tags and collected dues of \$15.00 for the year in the absence of treasurer,

Mary Pattie.

Announcements from group leaders included: Happy Hour: Margaret Fowler – September 29th at the home of Betty Prickett. Bring your favorite beverage.

Book Club: Peggy Crenshaw – Book Club will attend The Richardson Reads Program on Tuesday, September 27th.

Mah Jongg: Chris Beyers announced that Ann Conrath has joined the Mah Jongg group.

Fun on the Run: Sally Weiss and Robbie Lang have planned to visit some great venues for the coming months – Out to Lunch, State Fair and the Arboretum. Details will come via email.

Sunshine: Audrey King announced birthdays. Audrey sends birthday cards and well wishes to members.

Programs: Ruby Nell announced the program plans for the coming months. She and Sandra Stevens have invited interesting speakers and arranged fun activities so be sure to watch emails for specific information.

The Citizen's Patrol will be sponsoring Texas National Night Out for crime awareness on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. They will caravan behind the fire truck through the streets that are large enough to accommodate the size of the truck. Everyone should come out to the front of their homes (sidewalks) watch and wave, meet neighbors, and enjoy. Check the ONA website at [www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org) for more info.

A new feature was introduced to help members to know each other better. Each month 2 members will reveal some interesting facts about her

life. This month's spotlight was on Chris Beyers and Betty Cosgray.

Chris revealed an interesting story about her wedding. The venue had to be changed and you will have to ask her why she and Tom were married in a mortuary.

Betty Cosgray 's story included the fact that she and her husband have 30 grandchildren and the 31st will be born in November. She also explained how the crucifix represents her faith and how she can combine that faith with her counseling at a local church.

Look forward to more stories at the next meetings.

Next meeting will be held at the home of Chris Beyers on Tuesday, October 11th at 10 am. Be sure to wear your Halloween costume or black and orange clothing or mask for fun and prizes.

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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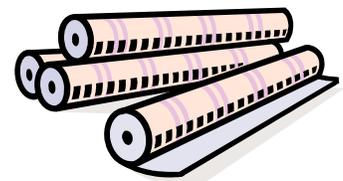
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**City Council by Rick Williams (continued)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

PARD has been working with the vendor Seepage Control to once again attempt to treat the pond bottom and sides with the ESS-13. Now that the pond is empty, the ESS-13 will be applied directly on the pond bottom and then mechanically compacted into the soil. Hopefully this will be more effective.

How familiar are you with Garland's fowl ordinance? If you are like me, the answer is, "Not very!" There have been several articles in the Dallas Morning News (DMN) in the last couple of years including one in August explaining the increasing popularity of raising chickens in residential backyards. While I was at Roach Feed and Seed Store in downtown Garland buying whole kernel corn for the ducks in my pond, the owner asked me if the Council could look into changing the current ordinance which only allows 2 hens (no roosters) that must be in an enclosure at least 30' from the nearest residence. His point was that most cities (according to a chart in the DMN article) allow more hens (e.g., 4 or 5), and perhaps we should too. I brought this up at a recent work session, and it was sent to a committee where it will be discussed to see if a change might be warranted.

I went to California in September with my wife to visit my oldest son (who works for Ebay) and take a little vacation. While there, I decided to try my first In-N-Out hamburger since they are now opening stores in the DFW area including one in the Fire Wheel Town Center scheduled to open in early 2012. Well, I don't know if all the local hype had my expectations too high, but it basically was a What-a-Burger with a lot more lettuce. Further, the much ballyhooed fresh meet, of which In-N-Out is so famous, is a very thin patty, so you really have to get a double-meat order to taste the hamburger. So, I'll no doubt try more when Garland's store is built, but Texas-originated (in Corpus Christi) What-a-Burger is still going to get most of my burger

business.

During August, three city officials and I met with another potential buyer of the Oakridge golf course and club. He was very interested and enthusiastic about the prospect of renovating and operating it once again, but the dual issues of TCEQ approving the pending "bed and banks" water permit and financing remain significant factors. On September 14, 2011, the Metro section of the Dallas Morning News had a lengthy story about Oakridge and the golf course issue. If you don't subscribe to the DMN (and you should), you can find the story online.

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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**President's Message (continued)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

from sources that may come to fruition once the water rights are completed. Until that issue is addressed and approved all parties are in a holding pattern. However, everyone seems to be positive that the course will be under new management soon.

Joe Fagan is working diligently with our landscape maintenance contractor to get the entrances of Oakridge beautified. He also has to consider the stage three restrictions during this process. There was a discussion about selling flats of pansies to raise more funds for our association. Everyone seemed in favor of this program and Joe's efforts to make a difference in the beautification of our neighborhood. Make sure you check the website for more information.

Our membership continues to grow and Cecile has done a great job getting new members this year. We recognized all the new members that attended the membership meeting.

Bill Olive has done a wonderful job getting the neighborhood all set up for National Night Out. The date is Tuesday October the 4th. Please make sure that you check the website for all of the activities, and the route for the parade.

Our website is [www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org) !

**City of Garland  
Code Compliance  
Earns Excellence Award**

The Building Official's Association of Texas recently named the City of Garland Code Compliance Department as the recipient of its first annual "Excellence in Code Enforcement" award in recognition of Garland's efforts to provide top quality certification, education and inspection programs.



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### Crime and Safety Report

By Brenda Olive

Fortunately, this past month has been relatively quiet here in Oakridge. We did have an attempted break-in on Overview, as well as an actual break-in at the country club, so we haven't been completely unscathed. The country club incident was apparently committed by some youths who decided that spraying foam from fire extinguishers inside a building would be fun, even though it does fall under the category of vandalism. A resident reported seeing 3 or 4 young males, riding bikes, in the area during the time period that the country club break-in occurred. Obviously, we would like to stop this type of behavior so if you have any leads to pass on, please get in touch with us at the phone number on the end of this article.

Earlier in the month we had an odd incident, or rather I should say a couple of odd incidents. Two or three individuals were knocking on the door of residents, asking if they were interested in selling an Escalade or Expedition that was parked at the rear of the home; in one instance, the vehicle was actually parked in the front garage, but the garage door was open. This same scenario was played out at the same time on opposite sides of the creek so we know there was more than one group of individuals involved. This leads us to believe that someone was "shopping for wheels" or possibly the actual vehicle to steal. Please be aware that if you own one of these vehicles, there are rings of thieves who deal exclusively with theft of large vehicles. Don't make your-self a target; lock your vehicle doors, set the alarm and be alert to strangers driving down your alley. If you see something suspicious, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Another reminder: If you have a home security system you need to be registered with the City of Garland (ph.# 972-205-1658 for permits). There is a fee

for this, but it is well worth the cost since it lets a responding officer know you have an alarm. Now, this does not mean you shouldn't arm the system whenever you leave your home. There is no reason to have the alarm if you're not going to utilize it. We showed a video at last month's ONA General Meeting

(Continued on page 7)

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## ***Crime and Safety Report (continued)***

*(Continued from page 6)*

which “starred” a convicted thief/burglar, who was a repeat offender. This man explained what he looked for, when and where he looked for, when he was preparing to break into a residence. He advised that some people use the security company signs, but, those are basically useless unless you are actually setting the alarm. The sign, in and of itself, doesn’t cause him to choose another residence. He did say however, that the best defense is an alarm, when it is set, then next is a big, bad, noisy dog, then the next is a nosy neighbor. Even if you have an alarm, that nosy neighbor may spot him and cause him to leave before he actually breaks in, and if he manages to get in and is then spotted leaving, the neighbor will be able to give the police a description of the individual, their get-away vehicle and possibly even the tag number. Talk to your neighbors, get to know them, find out if they work, let them know if you work, let them know if you have high school kids, or college age kids who may come home during the day. Exchange as much information as you can so that your neighbor will be aware if a strange car or truck pulls into your back driveway that it probably isn’t you. Don’t hesitate to ask for identification if it appears that the person is from the electric company, gas company, cable company or some other service....don’t just accept their word that they are in fact from a service or repair company.

Another reminder, run a diagnostic test on your alarm system about once per month. If you don’t know how to do this, call your security company and they will give you instructions. Because we had such hot, dry weather this

summer, one of your “stations” or “terminals” or whatever your company calls them, may have come loose, in which case it may not be making proper contact and you, and your security company may be unaware of the situation. Occasionally it is just a good idea to check to make sure that everything is working correctly---don’t wait until you’re ready to leave for vacation before doing this. There may be a small charge to have a technician come out and properly reattach a loose terminal for you, but this is a small price to pay if a burglar decides to pick that particular window or door to enter your home. If you previously had Brinks Home Security as your security company, be aware that ADT purchased Brinks some time ago, so you may need to be sure that ADT has current information, particularly in regards to the “responsible” person(s) to contact in the event the security company can’t reach you. As a final reminder---it is a good idea to let one of your neighbors know if you are going out of town, even if it is just overnight.

The “star” of the film also told us that no matter whether people are wealthy or not, we’re all predictable. Almost all of us keep our jewelry, guns or other valuables of any type, in the same locations within the house. This makes it easy for the burglar; he heads straight to the master bedroom and quickly retrieves the items he wants, and usually uses a sheet or pillow case to carry them out in. Another place he will look, his and her closets particularly if the jewelry isn’t sitting right on top of the dresser in a jewelry box, or one of those jewelry armoires. The other place to look is in the drawers of the dresser for jewelry, drawers of nightstands for

*(Continued on page 8)*

## ***Crime and Safety Report (continued)***

*(Continued from page 7)*

guns, under the bed or mattress for guns, and even inside the headboard. In addition, any electronics are fair game, are easy to sell to a fence, but marking them with some sort of identification makes the product less valuable for the thief because the fence won't pay as much for it. Now the really scary part—a burglar or thief doesn't usually want to meet anyone in the house, he will knock/ring/and knock again at the front door, usually extremely loud with the knock. If no one answers, he heads around back and quickly gets in, raises the garage door and drives his vehicle right inside where he loads it up, then backs out, closes the door down and goes on his way—straight to his fence. The "star" told us that most don't even stop for a soda or anything, they head to the fence and the products are sold before you even know they're gone. He also told us fences aren't pawn brokers, they're just normal businessmen who do this illegal stuff on the side and most electronics are shipped straight to Mexico. Since the security alarm system is electronic, the security company gets the alert; they attempt to reach you by phone generally before they contact the police. If they can't reach you they may even attempt to reach your "responsible party", again before contacting the police. By the time they actually contact the police, the thief is probably finished gathering all your valuables and is loading them into his vehicle, ready for his dash for the cash. When the police arrive, in about 3-4 minutes, it is too late, he is long gone. A good thief knows exactly how to disconnect your electronic items quickly; he can probably do it in his sleep, whereas we citizens have difficulty finding the plug that something is in. The odds are stacked

against the public from the beginning, even though there are far more of us than there are of them.

With the soon to be (I'm counting on it!) cooler weather coming, be careful leaving your doors and windows open. Believe me, I'm looking forward to feeling some nice fresh air coming in too, but, avoid leaving doors and windows open where you are not in earshot or eyesight. Someone can pop off the screen and be inside before you know it. **MOST IMPORTANTLY, NEVER GO AWAY WITHOUT HAVING THE WINDOWS AND DOORS CLOSED AND LOCKED AND NEVER GO TO SLEEP WITH OPEN WINDOWS, PARTICULARLY IF YOUR'S IS AN ALL GROUND LEVEL HOME.** We don't think it is even safe anymore for you to leave an upstairs window open, unfortunately, thieves have been more and more adept at getting in, we just need to do all we can to keep them out. I think I've given you enough to think about this month. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 972-495-3402 or email me at [Brenda.texasinspector@verizon.net](mailto:Brenda.texasinspector@verizon.net). If you see anything suspicious or have information on any criminal activity in our neighborhood, please let us know. If you have questions that we can't answer, we will get an answer from the police department and get back to you with the information.

Think about this too: I have basically challenged each of you to find a new, safer hiding place for your most precious items—which can actually drive a thief crazy while he's inside your house searching for your hiding place he may lose track of time and viola! He gets caught by the police!!!!

## Five Steps To A Healthier Home

Today, Americans spend millions of dollars each year on indoor air filtration systems. We purchase everything from small, tabletop models to whole-house units for our homes. Below are five steps that you can take to improve your home's indoor air quality. By following these steps and coupling them with the right indoor air purifying unit, you'll breathe a lot easier in your own home.

### **Step One: Test your home for possible contaminants.**

Today, there are a number of in-home test kits available to assess everything from lead on walls and in your drinking water, to asbestos and radon gas. And utilizing these inexpensive kits can give you the peace of mind of knowing that you and your family are safe.

### **Step Two: If you have a forced air heating system, have the air ducts cleaned regularly and upgrade to better furnace air filters.**

Even if your home is new, you may have more internal construction debris and dust than a home that is 10 to 15 years old. When getting your air ducts cleaned, make sure the contractor is a member of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association ([www.nadca.com](http://www.nadca.com)), and uses not only high velocity air, but a whip that is fed through the ductwork to loosen any debris stuck to the walls of the sheet-metal.

### **Step Three: Keep your home as dust free as possible.**

Dusting window treatments, around window and door trim and those out-of-reach areas can make a huge impact. Use a bagless vacuum cleaner that utilizes a HEPA filter to maximize your cleaning power and avoid the plume of dust that occurs when you'd otherwise change the bag.

### **Step Four: Consider purchasing an indoor**

### **air purifier.**

HEPA filtration (High Efficiency Particulate Air) is one of the most common approaches to cleaning the air. A good quality HEPA filtering system can be up to 99.97 percent efficient at filtering particulates that are 0.3 microns from the air. This filtering system has been widely used and accepted by organizations promoting indoor air quality standards to clean the indoor air of smoke, dust, pollen, mold spores and pet dander.

### **Step Five: Protect your family by installing a carbon monoxide detector.**

It used to be that smoke detectors were enough to protect your family. However, in recent years, homeowners across America have been taking safety a step further by installing carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. When installing a carbon monoxide detector, remember that the placement of that detector is key. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends it be located near the sleeping area, where it can wake you if you are asleep; however, additional detectors on every level and in every bedroom of a home provides extra protection.

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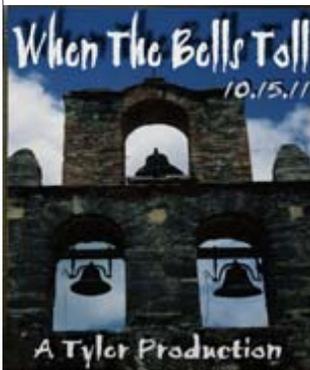
### The ARTS in Garland

#### Granville Arts Center Facilities

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#### Plaza Theatre

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#### “When the Bells Toll” by Tyler Productions

**October 15 7:00 pm  
Plaza Theatre**

How far will a mother go to save the life of a loved one? How much will she

sacrifice? How will she stop the sentencing of "Death" by execution? Join Executive Writer/ Director Gwen Tyler for this emotional production. Purchase your pre-sale ticket for \$22.00 by calling 214.722.7566, or come before 6:30 on the event date and get your ticket for the same price. After 6:30 all tickets are \$25.00. Visit [www.tylerproductions gospelstageplays.org](http://www.tylerproductions gospelstageplays.org) for more details. Show starts promptly at 7:00 pm.



#### “Candy and Friends” Concert

**October 16  
6:00 pm**

**Plaza Theatre**

Join Candy Wilson and her musical friends as they present “Candy andFriends,” an evening of vocal and instrumental music at the Plaza Theatre on October 16 at 6 p.m. Genres include classical, contemporary, jazz, gospel, and the Dixieland sound. All proceeds from the concert will benefit the National Brain Tumor Society, an organization Candy has been active in since her diagnosis of brain tumors in 2009. The performers promise an enjoyable evening, while

listening to great music and supporting a tremendous cause. Visit the website, <http://mysite.verizon.net/res11b3t0/> for more information. Tickets: \$10, call 214-621-5358.



#### Garland Symphony Orchestra, Concert I

**October 21  
8:00 pm**

#### Granville Arts Center - Brownlee Auditorium

Spend the GSO's 2011-12 Season exploring the orchestral literature written for, about, and in response to the plays of William Shakespeare? Each of the GSO's concerts will examine the great composers' interactions with a particular work by Shakespeare. For each program, the GSO will be joined by the talented actors of the Dallas Shakespeare Festival, who will frame the music with famous scenes and soliloquies from the evening's play. All performances begin at 8:00. Concert tickets are available in the Granville Arts Center Box Office or by calling 972-205-2790.

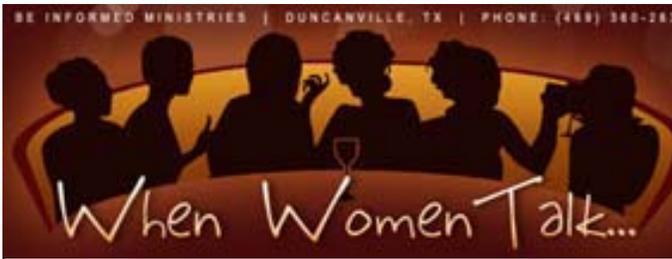


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**“When Women Talk”**  
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**Granville Arts Center - Brownlee Auditorium**

Be Informed Ministries presents the stage play “When Women Talk,” a discussion stemming from the question... “What is romance to you?” Boundless episodes of past, present and even future life experiences explode into times of laughter, tears and healing. Live music is provided by Level Ground Band. Ticket are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Purchase on-line at [www.beinformedministries.com](http://www.beinformedministries.com). Group discounts are available by emailing [beinformedministriesinc@yahoo.com](mailto:beinformedministriesinc@yahoo.com).



**Neighborhood Summit**  
**The Atrium**  
**October 22 2011**

The City of Garland presents the 2011 Neighborhood Summit, **Principles & Practices of Neighborhood Transformation**, Sponsored by Garland Power & Light, Garland Chamber of

Commerce, and the North Central Texas APA. Come explore principles that shape neighborhood transformation and discover effective practices that transform communities. Saturday, October 22, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration fees apply. Visit [www.GarlandVitalNeighborhoods.org](http://www.GarlandVitalNeighborhoods.org). For more information, call 972-205-3864 or e-mail [fconner@garlandtx.gov](mailto:fconner@garlandtx.gov)



**Wild West Cowboy Round-Up**  
**Plaza Theatre**

**October 22**  
 The Garland Downtown Business Association and the Garland Country Music Association invite everyone to the Wild West Cowboy Round-Up on Saturday October 22 in Downtown Garland. Join in the fun with chuckwagons, stagecoaches, food, music, a kids corral and tons of family fun. You can meet James Drury, the star of TV’s “The Virginian”, watch a fiddle contest, or see one of the many shows in the Plaza Theatre throughout the day.

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### **October 2011, Vol.19, No. 10**

#### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

<b>Emergencies</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Poison Center</b>	<b>1-800-764-7661</b>
<b>Non-Emergencies</b>	<b>972-485-4840</b>
<b>Water &amp; Sever</b>	<b>972-205-3210</b>
<b>Atmos Gas</b>	<b>1-800-460-3030</b>
<b>Rick Williams</b>	<b>214-535-2648</b>
<b>Solid Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	<b>972-205-3500</b>
<b>Street Light Repair</b>	<b>972-205-3483</b>
<b>Code Compliance</b>	<b>972-485-6400</b>
<b>Animal Services</b>	<b>972-205-3570</b>
<b>Electricity Emergency</b>	<b>972-205-3000</b>
<b>N P O John Capers</b>	<b>972-205-2740</b>
<b>CP&amp;S Bill Olive</b>	<b>972-495-3402</b>

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