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Vol. 19, No. 11

November 2011

City of Garland Wins State Recognition

The City of Garland is the third place winner in the prestigious Governor's Community Achievement Award, an annual that recognizes communities across the state with the best grassroots environmental programs.

Communities are judged based on their population size and the efforts of the community to involve citizens, businesses, schools, local government and youth to keep their city beautiful. The GCAA program is sponsored by Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation.

(Continued on page 3)

City Council by Rick Williams

Garland plans on going to Stage 3 water restrictions on November 1, and I'm sure there will be all sorts of emails, utility bill stuffers, etc. announcing the change. The biggest difference between Stage 2 to Stage 3 is the two per week watering days will be tied to house numbers. If your house number is an even number, then your watering days are Thursday and Sunday, whereas odd numbers the days are Wednesday and Saturdays. Now that the weather has cooled, twice a week should me more than enough landscape watering. I have an Associate Degree in Ornamental Horticulture with a specialty in turf grasses, and I often get asked, "How often do I water my grass." I try to avoid sounding flippant, but my answer is "When it needs it." In the summer, you can generally tell simply by looking at the grass. In the winter, it's more difficult to tell, but watering just before a hard freeze will help protect the grass. I saw a

Dallas Morning News tidbit saying that Richardson's Stage 3 water restrictions were once every two weeks. Wow!

Larry Walters

Larry Grisham

Ken Fentress

Orville Weiss

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Dan Nichols

Ernie Gharis

Mark Edwards

Sharon Parrish

Dana Hopkins

Joe Fagan

Crime Prevention & Safety Brenda Olive

Cecile LaBossiere

Ed Hester Lori Oswald

I got an email from a non-Oakridge resident complaining about the inability to walk on the south side of Beltline between Jupiter and Laurel Oaks due to no sidewalk and the large Photinias along the golf course that extend almost to the curb. We have encroachment rules that say shrubs cannot extend into a sidewalk, but we really don't have an encroachment ordinance dealing with a grassy city-owned right-of-way along a road. The more I thought about it, it would be a difficult ordinance to write even if we tried. Further, cutting back those Photinias would really butcher them. So, after conferring with staff, my response to this complaint (once again not trying to sound flippant) was to walk on

Daytimers by Dianne Winters



Color the home of Chris Byers orange and black for the October meeting of the Daytimers. There were goblins and witches and other

creatures that mingled among the creative decorations that Chris had provided. For those "Who Dared to Enter", refreshments were provided by Sharon Carlton, Mary Jensen, Becky Parks and Dianne Winter.

As Jo Ann Williams was greeting everyone at the door she was surprised to see Gail Durbin, a previous resident. Gail now lives in Missouri but hopes to return to Oakridge soon to be with her friends here. The members spent time visiting with Gail and others and enjoying the costumes and snacks until they gathered for the meeting.

One of the features of this year's meetings is the introduction of two members each month who tell some events of their lives. This month Ernie Gharis was first to share some facts about her family and how she and her husband started a business. Ask Ernie about the miles they traveled to market their new computer program. Then Peggy Crenshaw entertained the group with the details of the honeymoon that she and her husband endured. Be sure to ask Peggy about Blue Wenches and other encounters on that trip to St Thomas.

Audrey King announced birthdays and Peggy Crenshaw announced the upcoming Book Club meeting. Mary Pattie collected dues. Chris Byers circulated sign-up sheets for hostesses and volunteers for events. Special events for the months of October and November include a trip to the Arboretum that Sally Weiss is organizing and a trip to the Texas State Fair that Robbie Lang is in arranging.

Margaret Fowler announced the plans for Ladies Night Out on October 27th and the caroling party in December. Be sure to get the details and sign up for this fun event.

Ruby Nell Ormon, program director, introduced the speaker, Rusty Maxwell, who entertained everyone as she presented programs that are available at the Garland Senior Center. Rusty, whose Halloween shirt was adorned with "OLD BAT", told humorous stories of events and the many informative and fun programs that are offered at the Senior Center. She encouraged the members to travel with the groups there and to stay busy to be a happy senior citizen. Rusty's enthusiasm was uplifting and contagious.

At the end of the meeting, after the members had voted, these winners of the costume contest were announced. Most original – Mary Pattie, Most Colorful – Ann Conrath, Funniest – Sally Weiss

The November meeting of the Daytimers will be very special. You are invited to the Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Ann Cosgray at her home on Tuesday, November 8th at 11:30.

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.

City of Garland Wins State Recognition (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Keep Garland Beautiful, under the leadership of Betty Roberts, president, submitted the award on behalf of the City. "While we did not win first place, we are very excited that the City is being recognized for its community leadership, environmental education, beautification and community improvement and litter prevention programs. Programs of several departments within the City led to this recognition."

Garland's GCAA entry highlighted the Green 101 education classes sponsored by the Stormwater, Water Utilities, and Environmental Waste Services Departments; the Healthy Living Expo, and Keep Garland Beautiful's landscaping project at Rick Oden Park.



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City Council by Rick Williams (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

the north side of Beltline where there is a sidewalk. The City has no plans (not to mention money) at this time for a sidewalk on the south side.

There is currently a zoning request for a car wash in the empty lot behind the QuikTrip at Arapaho and Jupiter. It has to go to the Plan Commission before the Council sees it, but at this point, I find it less than exciting.

I had an email about a strong odor in the Oakridge area on the evening of October 11. Upon inquiry with the Health Department, turns out it was from the Ashland Chemical Company which had a release of ethyl acrylate. Both the Fire Department and Health Department had responded when it was first detected. Although ethyl acrylate is extremely smelly, the quantities released posed no public health issues.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to call me (214 535-2648) or E-mail me at <u>rick-willi@gmail.com</u>.



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Joe Wrinkle



HOME ON THE RANGE

Paul McConnell Former Oakridge Resident

BY SAM MORTON The Shorthorn Senior Staff

Paul McConnell remembers how bad it was before Tony Romo came along. Amazed at how an undrafted guy from Eastern Illinois came from nowhere to lead the Dallas Cowboys out of a dark quarterback era, the Dallas native gives the mercurial quarterback some leeway. "We had some terrible quarterbacks before him," McConnell said. "We threw out Anthony Wright, Ryan Leaf. I mean it was pretty bad before he became the guy. And he's a good golfer, too." Maybe golfers are biased to appreciate their own, but UTA's top golfer can relate to Romo's role as a leader. When things go awry, just stay calm. "He's going to have bad games, but even the best have bad games," he said. McConnell has made a name for not

having bad games since he arrived at UTA last season. He's been the model of consistency for the defending Southland Conference champions. Last season, he ranked third on the team for average strokes per round, with recently graduated Zack Fischer and Wes Worster taking first and second, respectively. This season, McConnell hopes to guide UTA to its first national tournament in school history.

An Icy Proposition

McConnell's journey to this point has been far from ordinary. In 2009, McConnell was a highly recruited golfer coming out of Bishop Lynch High School. An all-state golfer all four years, he was already a 0 handicap in his junior year, meaning he was held to a high standard every time he hit the course. He wanted to take that ability to a big Division I school from a power conference,

making the Big12 an attractive option. When New Mexico decided to take another golfer instead of McConnell, he was contacted and offered a position by Colorado, which was an intriguing option to consider. "I wanted to play really good teams," he said. "they had a really young coach, which I thought would mean he'd be serious about winning. So I decided to go with Colorado." McConnell underestimated the atmosphere of Colorado in more ways than one.

From November 2009 through the following March, snow covered the golf courses around Boulder, Colo. Practice became a frigid affair and McConnell wasn't able to bring his game to the next level. "the holes would be filled with two or three inches of solid ice," he said. "We would have to pull the flag out of the ice. And those were the better holes." He only competed as one of Colorado's top-5 golfers once and made his best finish during the weathershortened Colorado springs Invitational, where he took

11th. With his collegiate career freezing with the Colorado snow, McConnell changed direction and came back home.

Home Again

After his freshman season, McConnell said he decided to come back home and play golf where he feels comfortable. Head coach Jay Rees had recruited him out of high school, so McConnell knew he was wanted. "He was a top-100 recruit coming out of high school, so I understand he wanted to go to a bigger school," Rees said. "But I'm thankful he eventually came here because he's a really good golfer that we can count on." Early on,

> McConnell established himself as a weapon for head coach Jay Rees to deploy every tournament. While recently graduated Zack Fischer and Wes Worster guided the Mavericks to the NCAA regionals as the top two players. McConnell maintained a consistent score nearly every time he played. the junior said he couldn't be happier with how Rees runs the team. From reminding his players of his 13 tournament wins to showing them clips of Tom Brady, McConnell said having Rees is motivation to keep getting better. "He tells us about his degree in psychology and that really helps us," McConnell said. "He lets us use our own swing coaches, but he'll occasionally notice something and tell us, 'you look stressed out' and calm us down, which helps because golf is such a mental game." McConnell is taking that never-get-too-low approach into this season, where he's being counted on to steadily guide the

Mavericks through the year. Although UTA finished fourth in the seasonopening tournament last week, he hopes the team can slowly make progress. Junior UTA golfer Hunter Brown said he couldn't be happier to have McConnell, who he's known since McConnell was 10 years old playing in junior tournaments, beside him in navy blue and orange. "He's just blessed with a natural talent given to him," Brown said. "He knows how to manage himself and control his emotions on the course." If Brown and senior transfer Pierre Carlsson continue making strides while getting more production from the secondtier of UTA's rotation. McConnell thinks an NCAA championship run is possible. But for now, he'll focus on his game. When he misses a fairway and bogeys a hole, he'll remind himself to take it easy. "Golf is just a game," he said. "There's so much going on in the world that when I get mad about a shot, I'll remember I'm just playing a game."



Crime and Safety Report

By Brenda Olive

Between September 21st and October 17th we received 5 reported incidents:

Sept. 19^{th----} 2700 block of Oak Point, Criminal Mischief

Sept. 21^{st---} 2100 block of Overview, Attempted Burglary of Habitation

Sept. 24^{th---} 2200 block of Diamond Oaks, Burglary of Vehicle

Oct. 11th--- 3200 block of Bending Oaks, Theft-Vehicle Parts

Oct. 11th--- 2200 block of Diamond Oaks, Criminal Mischief

We believe some of these incidents may be related to some recent calls the Citizens Patrol has received regarding several young men going door to door on Oak Point, Oak Springs and Winding Oaks. Apparently, they ring the bell or knock on the door and if/when someone answers the door they say, "Oh, I got the wrong door, I thought my auntie lived here", and then turn and quickly walk away. There are usually 3-4 young guys, wearing dark pants and a dark hooded type sweatshirt and some of them are wearing backpacks. They were spotted walking across the golf course from Diamond Oaks to Oak Point. A resident on Oak Point and the Citizens Patrol tracked them to the Richland Apts. The police have been called out twice regarding this matter, and on one occasion they were able to apprehend 2 kids, about 14 years old who were spotted leaving the club maintenance area. They told the police they had been on/in the golf club area "visiting a friend". After searching them and obtaining their name, etc. the officers had to let them go because there had been no reports of any burglaries or other criminal acts in that area, and they were carrying no weapons or burglary tools. Hopefully, this particular incident may scare them away from Oakridge, at least temporarily. The other con-

cern is that the three situations may be unrelated since one occurred in the evening around 8:30 and the other two occurred during the morning hours—prior to noon---when they should have been in school. As I said, the police are aware and are stepping up their monitoring of our area and the Citizens Patrol are increasing our patrols in the mid-morning hours

⁽Continued on page 7)



Crime and Safety Report (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

also.

Recently we were asked to bring it to the attention of Oakridge residents that parking on the street, while acceptable under current city ordinances, does have certain rules that need to be followed. Among the violations spotted in Oakridge, parking with the vehicle headed in the wrong direction. You must park with the traffic direction, so that your tail lights are visible to approaching traffic even at night. Tail lights still glow when headlights approach the parked vehicle while headlights of a parked vehicle do not glow-in fact, some of the newer vehicles headlights don't reflect light. When a street, for example, like Stoneridge, Hearthside or Winding Oaks is severely narrowed by vehicles parked on both sides, the reflection of taillights can help navigate down the street without hitting someone. The remedy for this situation? Park your vehicle in your driveway or in your garage, and if this isn't possible-park your vehicle heading the correct direction. Police can issue tickets to vehicles which are improperly parked. Other violations that have been brought to our attention are: parking in front of fire hydrants, parking across the sidewalk, or blocking the sidewalk with the rear of the vehicle. Parking in front of mailboxes, parking with the rear or front of the vehicle extending into the traffic lane, and parking more than 18 inches away from the curb, or parking with wheels up on the curb are other no -no's. Parking in front of a mailbox can mean no delivery of mail to the resident of that property. Parking with the rear or front of the vehicle extending into the traffic lane can lead to a ticket for impeding traffic. Parking more than 18 inches away from the curb can also be ticketed. and parking too close to a corner can lead to a ticket or even towing of the vehicle. Now, all that being said----THERE are two more parking problems— one of these involves the garbage

trucks. Every Tuesday we have garbage pickup. Every-one knows this. Yet, every Tuesday, you can drive around Oakridge and see vehicles blocking the garbage cans at the curb or even the brush/trees that have been cut and piled at the curb. Even more surprising, it's sometimes a problem in the alleys as well. It is really amazing to hear the number of times these big trucks have to blow their horns to get someone to come outside and move a vehicle. Garland has some of the nicest garbage truck drivers; we are really fortunate that our service is so good and they pick up just about anything put out there-why not make their lives a little easier and make sure your garbage can is readily accessible and that your trash is equally accessible. Through rain, sleet, snow, wind and blazing hot sun, they're there, cleaning up whatever mess we leave for them.

One more thing, we've had several reports of young kids, perhaps as young as 12, going door to door in the evening, trying to "sell" a college fund. We've learned this is the same organization that came around in July and August asking residents to sign a petition and donate to an organization that is supposedly "environmentally friendly". Those door knockers were a little older, but it is the same organization. These individuals are usually neatly dressed and polite, however, we do not recommend that you donate funds, sign up for any mailings, or agree to purchase anything from them. We have called the police out on several previous occasions and will continue to do so because Garland's soliciting ordinance prohibits night time "visits" and does require most solicitors to obtain a permit from the police department. Those permits are issued to individuals, not companies, and the individual must wear the badge in a visible manner. These kids are being driven into our neighborhood by the car load or van load, put

Crime and Safety Report (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

out and left here to go door to door, most have no identification on them at all and several have told us that they are just supposed to knock on all doors then go to a specific place and wait to be picked up—some of them, particularly the younger ones, may be local, but for the most part, the older ones are not from the Dallas area. This leads us to this warning, once again-----

who comes knocking.

Saturday, the 22nd, Brenda attended a roundtable discussion held by Representative Angie Chin Button regarding crime and safety. During the discussion we learned that the "sanctuary city" bill will come up again at the next session of the Legislature (in 2013). It failed by a few votes this year. In addition, we learned that a bill was passed that requires all new residences with 5000 or more feet must have a sprinkler system installed at the time of construction, as well as several other changes that were made regarding which businesses require sprinkler systems and what type and how many heads are required.

Some of you may be aware that redistricting took place after this last session. As a result of this, Ms. Chin now has a portion of Rowlett as a part of her district, but she lost a portion of Richardson that was previously in her district.

Finally, we want to thank everyone that came out on the National Night Out to greet the fire department, police department and the COP. I think we made enough noise to awaken anyone who may have been sleeping that evening. Angie Chen Button also attended and we want to thank Debbie Pandak for chauffeuring Ms. Chen in her convertible. This allowed Ms. Button the opportunity to greet many Oakridge residents. We learned today that she attended 8 different National Night Out events, but enjoyed her visit

to Oakridge more-perhaps this was because the COP provided her with a dozen cupcakes with "buttons" as decoration.

The ONA will be providing dinner to the Fire Departments (station 3 and 11) for Thanksgiving. If you would like to donate either dessert or snacks, please contact Brenda Olive at 972-495-3402. She will be coordinating the dinner and making sure it is delivered in a timely manner. Snacks can include nuts, BE CAREFUL opening your doors to just anyone cheese, crackers, popcorn, or anything that guys like to munch on. Last year we had some beautiful Key Lime Pies, cakes and several different kinds of cookies and brownies. I can assure you that all of these items were enjoyed by the firemen and the police officers who stop by for dinner at the stations on Thanksgiving. Anyone wishing to prepare a vegetable, salad or other items, please let us know., your contributions are welcome.

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Handyman Tips

Although some of the "old standby items" still make the cut for decorating, there are a number of non-conventional items you should consider to adorn your home. Among some of the "trendier" products you'll see on hardware store shelves:

Rope Lights -

Also known as tube lights, these decorative lights have been around for a few years and just keep getting better. They can take the form of holiday characters like reindeer and Christmas trees, or you can use their unusual yet handy "shapability" to wrap around porch railings and entry columns. Get a little creative with how and where you string them and who knows what you can come up with!

"Snowflake" Lights -

Somewhat new to the decorating scene are shimmering snowflakes that stand alone or come as part of a longer strand. Sold typically as 10-packs, the individual snowflakes are strung together and can be placed in windows. trees and bushes or tacked onto shutters or lattice work for a "snowfall" effect. Longer strands of icicle lights are also available with snowflakes dangling from the bottom row.

Pre-Lit Artificial Christmas Trees -

Somewhat commonplace anymore, these trees

can be assembled in less than five minutes and, thanks to improvements in quality, look like the real thing. As far as lighting is concerned, the fiber optic trees are fantastic. Some even have revolving color wheels in the base that continually change the light patterns on the tips of the tree's "needles," creating a shimmer effect.

Commercial-Grade Light Sets -

Commercial light sets are stronger and can handle more wear and tear, the bulbs burn brighter and up to six strands can be strung together for greater decorating ability. Make this investment now, and your lights will last year after year without having to be replaced as often.

Light Clips -

To take the strain out of stringing the house with lights, light clips allow for hanging lights off gutters and around window frames without nails. There are even clips for hanging lights off of bricks for masonry homes. The clips are inexpensive and can be re-used, and what's more, when it's time to take the lights down off the house, the clear clips can be left on for next year. It'll make your job that much easier!

Chad Groom

Groom & Sons' Ace Hardware

Red Ribbons All Over Oakridge

Dear Oakridge Neighbors: Several years ago the ONA board started a program of encouraging everyone in the neighborhood to place either 1 or 2 red bows on their mailbox for Christmas. You can buy ready made Red Bows at the Dollar Tree just down the street for only a \$1 each. President Obama has announced that our the next neighbor will want to do so. RED RIBtroops will be leaving Irag before Christmas. If everyone would participate in this, it would be a nice gesture to welcome them home, let them know we missed them, and that we are proud of them. If you want to get more elaborate and put up additional decorations on your mailbox--GOD BLESS YOU -- Wouldn't it be wonderful to drive down every street here in Oakridge and see beautiful red bows hanging from every single mailbox. If we can get it done, I feel sure that we can get the newspaper to come out and make some photos and get an article in the pa-

per about Oakridge from a positive angle -- and who knows, perhaps we will have something to celebrate with the Country Club by Christmas too. Get your bows on your mailboxes as soon as possible, remember, if you do it, your neighbor will certainly want to join in and then BONS ALL OVER OAKRIDGE!!!!!



The ARTS in Garland

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Nov. 17-Dec. 10 GCT presents "Hairspray"

Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre

Garland Civic Theatre presents "Hairspray" through November and December. "Hairspray" delighted audiences by sweeping them away to 1960's Baltimore, where the

50's are out -- and change is in the air! Loveable plus-size heroine, Tracy Turnblad, has a passion for dancing, and wins a spot on the local TV dance program, "The Corny Collins Show." Overnight she finds herself transformed from outsider to teen celebrity. Can a larger-than-life adolescent manage to vanquish the program's reigning princess, integrate the television show, and find true love (singing and dancing all the while, of course!) without mussing her hair? This production is directed by Kyle McClaran and costumes are by Ryan Matthieu Smith. Visit the GCT website at www.garlandcivictheatre.org or call 972-485-8884



November 18-19 Garland High School "Willy Wonka"

for additional information.

7:30 pm Plaza Theatre

Actors Anonymous Theatre Company presents WILLY WONKA TYA November 18 at 7:30pm & November 19 at 2pm & 7:30pm. Starring THE DRAMA QUEENS & KINGS and GHS Speech & Debate Team. All proceeds benefit the Garland H.S. Speech & Debate team. Tickets go on sale September 1st but you can make your reservation any time! All tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the

Plaza Theatre

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

door(\$10 children/students). This production is directed by A.A.T.C. Director/GHS Speech & Debate Coach Lory Stewart. For more info visit www.thedramagueens.com



November 18 Garland Symphony Orchestra Concert II

8:00 pm Granville Arts Center -Brownlee Auditorium

Well, when the Duke of Illyria commands, who

are we to disobey? And, what better way to respond to His Grace than to 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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November 19 Hispanic Heritage Awards

7:00 pm The Atrium

The Garland Association for Hispanic Affairs (GAFHA) is proud to host the 4th Annual Hispanic Heritage Banquet. GAFHA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting higher education by providing educational scholarships for G.I.S.D. students. GAFHA has been providing scholarships for over eleven years. More than \$40,000 has been awarded to deserving high school seniors. As a non-profit, the main goal is to ensure continued education for graduating seniors who aspire to earn a college degree and become future leaders in our community. The banquet is the primary fundraiser for awarded scholarships. The event will also recognize leaders who have contributed to the Hispanic community. We request your support. Please contact Javier Solis 972-487-3262 jsolis@garlandisd.net if you have any questions or need additional information.



November 26 Cobalt Comedy

8:00 pm Plaza Theatre

Cobalt Comedy proudly presents: Straight Outta Garland: Tres! on Saturday,

November 26, 2011 at 8:00pm at the Garland Plaza Theatre. Doors will open at 7:30pm and the show will begin promptly at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$15.00 each or 2 for \$20.00. They can be purchased in advance via PayPal on www.cobaltcomedy.com. Additional information about the show can also be found on our website and on Facebook. This Stand-Up Comedy showcase will feature some of the funniest comedians in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.



November 26 "Summer's Christmas Wish" 2 pm & 7 pm Brownlee Auditorium –

Granville Arts Center

Come see this Gospel stage play adapted from the memoir "When Water was Free" by Patrice Kissentaner Walker. The stage play boasts a starstudded cast which includes Amber Renae and national Gospel recording artist Tommye Young-West. Trendsetting technology will be used to provide the audience with an interactive experience that lets them decide how the story should end. This is guaranteed to be a spectacular performance that will touch the heart, stir up the soul and renew the faith of everyone who sees it. To purchase tickets or for more information please visit www.SummersChristmasWish.com

November 29 "The Mystery of the Twisting Sisters" 7:00 pm Plaza Theatre

The Classical Center at Vial Elementary presents, *The Mystery of the Twisting Sisters*. Here is a fun and entertaining combination of two beloved fairytales rolled into one. Things heat up when the *Twelve Dancing Princesses* continuously ruin their shoes burning up the dance floor. The local *Shoemaker* is surprised each night when the shoes are mysteriously repaired by secretive *Elves*. Set in the 1950's, this story is sure to get your toes tapping and your funny bone laughing. Performance Date: November 29, 2011 beginning at 7:00p.m. Tickets may be purchased at The Classical Center at Vial or at the door for \$5.00 per person.

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Oakridge News

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November 2011, Vol.19, No. 11

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



