



## Presidents Message for March 2012

We have our nominating committee formed chaired by Brenda Olive. We will be voting on our 2012-2013 officers at our annual May meeting. There will be three of our district representatives replaced. Should anyone be interested in being involved with the ONA board please either contact Brenda Olive or myself by email or phone.

Brenda Olive, Larry Grisham and I with our spouses attended the State of the City event by the mayor of Garland. His program was very interesting and the City of Garland is growing. Also at this event we were introduced to the City's new web site. I strongly recommend that everyone take a look at it. It

*(Continued on page 3)*

### ONA OFFICERS

President	Larry Walters
Vice President	Larry Grisham
Secretary	Ken Fentress
Treasurer	Orville Weiss

### ONA DIRECTORS

District 1	Deb Pandak
District 2	Ed Hester
District 3	Lori Oswald
District 4	Dan Nichols
District 5	Ernie Gharis
District 6	Mark Edwards
District 7	Sharon Parrish

### ONA COMMITTEES

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

## City Council by Rick Williams

The recent rains have certainly been great. Lake Lavon (our primary source of water for Garland and the entire North Texas Municipal Water District) was over 13' low last November, but currently is only 4.6' low. We remain in Stage 3 water restrictions primarily due to the fact that Lake Texoma (which provides about 25% of the water for the NTMWD) no longer is providing water due to the Zebra mussel problem. If interested, one can find all sorts of information including real time lake level data at [www.ntmwd.com](http://www.ntmwd.com).

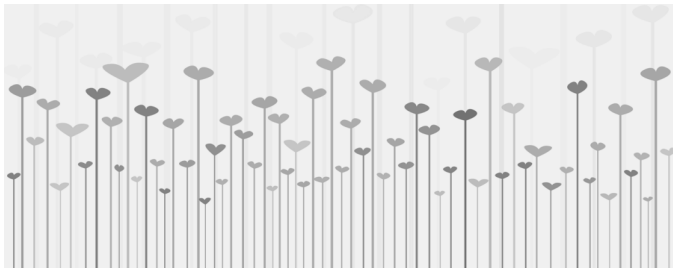
As you may recall, shortly after I began this job about 4½ years ago, a city employee was arrested for embezzling roughly \$1.9 million dollars (of which, insurance repaid us \$1 million) from the City over many years. She had 6 accomplices who were not city employees and the last of them were found guilty a couple of weeks. Federal prosecution is slow, but in the end, eve-

ryone involved was found guilty with the city employee receiving a 57-month sentence plus fines. On a more positive note about employees, I've been chairman of the City Audit Committee for all the years I have been on Council and I work very closely with the City Auditor. He has audited the use of City credit cards and petty cash and never found an issue with these "fraud prone" areas (e.g., see DISD history) as the City has established very effective oversight and management controls.

Each year, the City of Garland Health Department recognizes food service operations in Garland for excellence in complying with health and sanitation rules. The Food Sanitation Excellence Award winners scored in the top five percent of their class on unannounced food service inspections during the previous year. In addition to re-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Daytimers by Dianne Winters



Hearts and Flowers were everywhere decorating the home of Hostess, Suzanne Snow, on February 14, 2012. Guests were greeted at the door by Sandra Stevens and invited in to join the gathering of thirty members.

After everyone arrived the meeting was called to order by president, Peggy Crenshaw, who introduced new member, Barbara Harvison. Welcome Barbara.

Meeting chairman, Chris Beyers, asked for volunteers to sign up for various responsibilities and the following reports were given by group leaders.

Audrey King announced birthdays and members contributed updates on those members who needed cards from sunshine leader, Lillian Dalton.

Leaders of Mah Jongg, Canasta and Bridge groups reported that they continue as usual.

Book Club will meet in March to discuss the book, *Little Bee*, by author, Chris Cleave, at the Home of Nell Burt.

The name of the ladies get-together on the last Thursday of the month was discussed and the creative minds of the Daytimers reinstated the name - Girls of Oakridge Going Out –the GOGO group. Be sure to put this event on your calendars. It is a nice time to visit with friends.

In the “Getting to Know You” feature, Dot Mohrle uncovered the truths about her wedding

to John. She related how she met John and the unusual events that occurred during the wedding. Ask her about a florist and guests going to the wrong church, the newspaper article and fire ants.

Suzanne Snow demonstrated the use of the Shutterfly Oakridge Daytimers Photosite. Suzanne has posted Daytimer photos of recent and past events. It is the use of new technology to store, view and review Daytimer photos. Check it out.

After the meeting Suzanne Snow, hostess, invited the Daytimers to share in a tasty, light lunch prepared by food hostesses, Lucy Brock, Lillian Dalton, Kayce Kendrick, Lori Oswald and Pat Tharp.

The surprise ending was a sweet gift for everyone. Valentine decorated bags of cookies tied with an attached Valentines’ Day card made by Chris Beyers were given to each attendee. Thanks to Daytimer members Suzanne Snow, Ruby Nell Ormon, Robbie Lang, Jo Ann Williams, Mary Pattie and Peggy Crenshaw who baked the cookies and to Chris Beyers, Sally Weiss, Charlotte Vaughter and Peggy Crenshaw who packaged them.



The next Coffee will be at the home of Dana Hopkins on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am.

Come meet your neighbor and discuss neighborhood events. The speaker will be Vanessa Vaughter, daughter of member, Charlotte Vaughter. Vanessa will share information about an organization named Hope’s Door.

**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.**

**President's Message (continued)**

(Continued from page 1)

seems to be a lot more user friendly and the information about our city seems to be easier to find.

We are still in Stage 3 water restrictions! Please make sure that you are aware of your watering patterns. Again if you are not watering on the days when you are scheduled you can receive a citation from the city and you will be fined.

We are still waiting for the sale of the golf course. We are still waiting on the state to get our permit. The last information that I am aware of we still have two buyers, and as soon as the permit is approved one will step in and buy the club.

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

Larry



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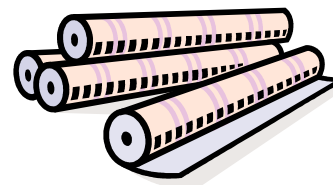
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## **City Council by Rick Williams (continued)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

ceiving an award certificate to display for one year, each establishment will have its annual permit fee (from \$200 to \$400) waived for 2012. In District 7, David's Meat Market, 4010 Jupiter Road received such recognition in the "Supermarkets & Meat Markets" category. As I've said before, support your local businesses, and if you have not purchased steaks from David's Meat Market, let me assure you they are outstanding!

I was at a luncheon recently and was surprised to learn that two GISD School Board trustees have both decided not to run for re-election this May. Specifically, Keith Montgomery who has served for the last 11 years and Tommy Reed who has served that last 21 (that's not a typo) years! I personally live in the RISD school area, so I'm not that familiar with GISD issues, but I have had an opportunity to serve on a city/school/chamber committee with Tommy and Keith, and I have been very impressed by both of them. They will leave a big hole in the Garland school board, but hopefully we will elect good replacements.

If you have been following my previous monthly articles, you are aware that Garland's outdoor warning sirens currently are inoperable and I am opposed to spending money to replace them for a list of reasons too long to discuss here. However, by a 5-4 vote, we came to a compromise to spend about \$500,000 (not to mention about \$1,000 per year per siren maintenance) to put them only in locations where large numbers of people gather such as parks and sports facilities. I was one of the 4 opposed since at such gatherings many in attendance will have smart phones and/or just common sense to take appropriate actions when ragged black/blue clouds appear on the horizon.

If you think you have noticed more rent houses recently than in the past, you were not imagining things. In 2007, roughly 8% of single family homes in Garland were rental property and now it is 13%. Clearly, this is a consequence of fore-closed properties being purchased at a discount

and becoming rental property.

If you are a watcher of City Council meetings, you'll be seeing a change in about a month. We are going paperless, so we turned in our city-issued laptop computers for iPads and we'll be using them instead of paper agenda material. The agenda will be downloaded via a pdf file, and some rather interesting software will allow us to mark it up with a stylus just as though we had a pencil in our hand and were writing on the paper documents we have been using.

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



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***dthomas848@aol.com***

**Interesting Quotes about Medicare**

**Going Bankrupt for 40 years**

**New York Times, May 22, 1988:** reflecting the view of the Reagan Administration, Dr. William L. Roper, the head of the Federal Medicare and Medicaid agency, said, "With the Medicare Trust Fund expected to go insolvent shortly after 2000, it is hard for us to sign on for a major expansion of the Medicare program beyond the catastrophic care bill".

**New York Times, January 22, 1989:** The fund that pays all Government reimbursement for hospital care of Medicare patients is projected to become insolvent in the next decade or so.

**Washington Post May 4, 1990:** Control of health cost is considered by many experts to be the number one health problem in the United States. Such costs are expected to bankrupt Medicare by the year 2003.

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## **Crime and Safety Report**

**By Bill Olive**

Over the past month there have been several break-ins, burglaries, thefts from vehicles, etc., primarily centered within the area bordered by Buckingham, Diamond Oaks, Winding Oak and Oak Point. The good news is that the GPD made 2 separate arrests during the week of Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, and we're hopeful that this will put an end to the small "crime wave". Amazingly, officers were staked out at the Richland Apts. (for other reasons), when a vehicle pulled into a parking space and started unloading televisions! The items were stolen, so the GPD made 4 quick arrests. On another occasion, they were able to arrest another group, all of whom were members of the same family. The mother and other siblings moved from Richland Apts. to another location the same week. We don't yet know if either of these groups were involved in the Oakridge incidents, but we are hopeful that the arrests have scared other Richland residents and they will be reluctant to ply their trade in this area again.

Rather than providing individual addresses, etc. this month, we're sharing some information we've gleaned from the police reports to remind everyone that many burglars and thieves operate because of convenience of the target. The following info is just 5 examples of "convenience crimes"---  
**1. Victim** comes home from shopping and starts taking items inside. The garage door is left open. A few seconds later another vehicle pulls up, someone jumps out, enters the garage and grabs items stored inside—all while the homeowner is just a few feet away in the kitchen. **2. Victim** comes home from work, decides to "just lock the vehicle" and leave valuables inside. The vehicle is in the driveway. The next morning she/he finds that someone has stolen all the "stuff" left there overnight. **3. Victim** wants to let "some fresh air" inside the house, opens a few windows, then forgets to close one of them before going to bed that night. The next morning it's discovered someone has entered the house and removed items and paperwork that is both valuable and important. **4. Victim** has a dog that tends to bark at just about anything that moves during the

day—owner is frequently quieting the dog, therefore, little concern is aroused when the dog barks during the night. Instead the dog is told to be quiet. The next morning the resident discovers someone has burglarized the house. **5. Victim** fails to set security system when he/she goes to bed. During the night someone enters the home and removes irreplaceable items. The resident admits that the monitored security system is seldom, if ever, utilized.

All of the above were **crimes of convenience** and unfortunately, some of these occurred more than once here in Oakridge recently. We would all like to think that it can't happen to us, but it can and it is up to each of us to do everything we can to avoid becoming a victim.

### **Safety and Security Tips:**

**Never leave a firearm in your vehicle overnight.** In your home, secure firearms in an area that is inaccessible to children.

**Photograph new purchases** with the sales slip and paperwork showing the serial number.

**Take inventory** of your entire home, if you have sales slips and/or warranty cards, serial numbers, model numbers, etc., make a note of these. Record all of this information on your computer, then burn a DVD containing the information and keep this in a safe, fireproof and secure location. Add to the list whenever you make a new purchase and delete any items you dispose of, so that your records are current. This list has two purposes—first, should you incur a theft, you have documentation for both the police and your insurance company or your tax return. At the same time, in the event of a fire, this information will assist you in proving what was in your home, its value, etc. for the insurance company for replacement purposes.

**Photograph any jewelry** you own or obtain in the future. Document the purchase whenever possible (ask for a gift receipt if it is a gift from a

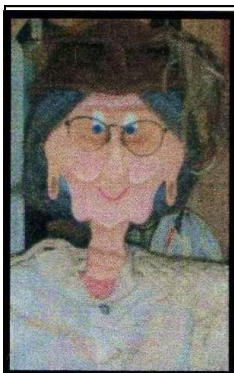
*(Continued on page 7)*

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

*(Continued from page 6)*

friend or relative). This information and the photograph can help police if they are able to recover items, and again, for insurance purposes, is essential.

**Remember:** Spring is coming—we'll be resetting our clocks—this is also the time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



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### **Texas State Trivia**

Answers elsewhere in paper

#### **Symbol of Lone Star State**

- a. Cowboy
- b. Lone Star Texas Flag
- c. Bald Eagle

#### **State Flower**

- a. Bluebonnet
- b. Daisy
- c. West Indian Lilac

#### **State Bird**

- a. Bluebird
- b. Mockingbird
- c. Pelican

#### **State Tree**

- a. Apple
- b. Cherry
- c. Pecan

#### **State Gemstone**

- a. Turquoise
- b. Diamond
- c. Blue Topaz

#### **State Insect**

- a. Mosquito
- b. Monarch Butterfly
- c. Bumble Bee

#### **State Pepper**

- a. Jalapeno
- b. Red Bell
- c. Poblano

#### **State Vegetable**

- a. Butternut Squash
- b. Corn on Cob
- c. Sweet Onion

## What is Garland Goes Green (GGG)?

Has your household or business taken steps toward "going green"? Many people still don't understand how simple it is to "go green". They don't realize what an impact they can have on the environment by making a few simple changes at home. They also are missing out on lower utility bills, reduced household waster, and less money spent at the gas pump.

Environmental issues affect how our citizens live, work and play. Environment issues affect the livability and health of our community, our nation and our world. That is why Garland launched its green initiative in 2008 - to bring together information and resources to help each of us live a healthier lifestyle.

### What Can I Do?

**Relight** - Replacing five incandescent bulbs with compact florescent light bulbs (CFL's) can save 60% on your annual light bill. If every U.S. household did this, it would prevent the release

of as much greenhouse gas as removing 8 million cars from the road for a year.

**Fresh Eating** - Buy produce from local farmers. Not only will your food be fresher, they won't have made a gas-guzzling cross-country journey just to get to you.

**Measure Your Footprint** - There are a host of carbon calculators available on the Internet like *Carbonfund.org* where you can determine your carbon footprint. You can determine your direct emissions and emissions from everything you consume. The first step in reducing your footprint is knowledge.

**Use a Programmable Thermostat** - Technology to the rescue! If you own your home this is an inexpensive and easy fix to bring down your energy usage. They cost about \$30.00 and can save you more than \$100.00 a year on your energy bill. As we all know there is no reason to heat and cool an empty home, so set the thermo-

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stat to kick on just when you are around. According to the Energy Star Action Guide, if just one household would do this in 10 the change would prevent more than 17 billion pounds of greenhouse gases.

**Go Paperless** - By checking out your bank account online and signing up for online accounts with creditors from your credit card company to utility payments you can eliminate the need for paper bills and monthly statements. The rewards are twofold: (1) Less paper for you to store and (2) saving a tree.

**Fix Drafts** - Drafty windows and doors can be fixed (or at least upgraded) with a can of caulk and weather stripping. The cost should run under \$100.00 and can instantly save you money, while improving the comfort and durability of your home.

**Around and Around** - When you have to drive, roll in the right direction by making sure your tires are adequately inflated. Pumping them up can improve your gas mileage by more than 3%, saving upwards to 7 cents per gallon.

**Shop for a Star** - When buying a new home electronics or appliances, check out the models that have the Energy Star seal of approval. In the average home, 40% of the power used for electronics is consumed while they are turned off. Energy Star models use as much as 50% less energy. Simply choosing an Energy Star rated product over one that's not saved Americans \$14 billion on their utility bills last year and

saved enough energy to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 25 million cars.

**Shower to Save** - Replace your water-hogging showerhead with one that puts out less. The standard showerhead spews 4.5 gallons-per-minute, but by replacing it with an alternative one that dispenses less water (2.5 gallons per minute). You could save 20,000 gallons of water per year.

**Fill'er Up** - Run full loads of cloths and dishes. Most of the energy used by dishwashers is to heat a set amount of water, so running smaller loads tends to waste both energy and water. Try air drying dishes for added energy savings.

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**Trivia Answers**

**b, a, b, c, c, b, a, c**

## The ARTS in Garland

### Granville Arts Center Facilities

300 N. Fifth Street, Garland 972-205-2790

### Plaza Theatre

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



### March 25 Sankalpa 2012

**2:30 pm Plaza Theatre**

Join us at the Plaza Theatre on March 25 for an evening of Indian Carnatic classical music

and dance. Proceeds from the program go to the International Foundation for Carnatic Music, the non-profit organization of Maestro Chitravina N Ravikiran that promotes Sri Ootukkadu Venkata Kavi through various music festivals, courses, lecture-demos and audio-video productions. For tickets contact Seetha Chandrashekhara 972-899-0028.



### April 5-7 "Red, White and FaBLUE-lous" by the Southern Belles

**7:00 PM Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium**

Come see the South Garland High School Southern Belles Spring show: a fabulous dance and variety show that includes invited guest performers such as the South Garland Cheerleaders, Dixie Darlings, Showboaters, TickerBelles and the Dance FX studio. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information please contact Lisa Dalton at [LADalton@garlandisd.net](mailto:LADalton@garlandisd.net) or 972-926-2700, ext. 60535.



### March 30 & 31 Joseph Hall

**7:00 pm Plaza Theatre**

Joseph Hall will be performing two shows at the Plaza Theatre. This is a can't miss opportunity to see this *America's Got Talent* final-

ist recognized by Elvis Presley Enterprises as one of the top tribute artists in the world. Joseph Hall is the 2010 Branson Entertainer of the Year as well as the 2012 Grand Champion of the Tribute to the King Contest. Both shows on Friday and Saturday will begin at 7pm with doors opening at 6pm. Tickets for the shows are \$20 and all seats are reserved. Tickets can be purchased with a credit card by calling 402-617-4477 or with a check mailed to Joseph Hall, PO Box 7090, Branson, Mo. 65615. For more information email [hallkk@aol.com](mailto:hallkk@aol.com).



### April 6 GCMA presents "Early Country Band" 7:30 pm Plaza Theatre

On April 6th C B Luce presents "Early Country Band. Enjoy music from some of the original



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band members of "The Big G Jamboree" beginning in the 1970's. Tickets are \$5 for everyone. Tickets may be purchased on-line at our web-site or at the door the night of the performance. All show info is available at [www.TheGarlandOpry.com](http://www.TheGarlandOpry.com).



**April 12-May 5**  
**"The Last Night of Ballyhoo"**

**Granville Arts Center –**  
**Brownlee Auditorium**

Garland Civic Theatre will present the Tony Award winning play "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" by Alfred Uhry, the author of "Driving Miss Daisy." The comedy is set in the upper class German-Jewish community living in Atlanta, Georgia in December 1939. Hitler has recently conquered Poland, *Gone with the Wind* is about to premiere, and Adolph Freitag, his sister Boo, and nieces Lala and Sunny - a Jewish family so highly assimilated they have a Christmas tree in the front parlor - are looking forward to Ballyhoo, a lavish cotillion sponsored by their restrictive country club. Adolph's employee, Joe Farkas, is an attractive eligible bachelor and an Eastern European Jew, familiar with prejudice but unable to fathom its existence within his own religious community. His presence prompts college student Sunny to examine intra-ethnic bias, her Jewish identity (or lack thereof), and the beliefs with which she's been raised. Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office or by calling 972-205-2790. Tickets are \$22. There are discounts available for KERA members and groups of 10 or more. Tickets for the preview on April 12 are \$17.

The production will run Friday through Sunday, April 13 – May 5, with Thursday performances on April 12 and 19. Note that Thursday performances are at 7:30 PM, Friday and Saturday evenings are at 8:00 PM, and matinees, which are on Sunday the first 3 weeks and Saturday the last week, are at 2:30 PM. Visit the GCT website at [www.garlandcivictheatre.org](http://www.garlandcivictheatre.org) or call 972-485-8884 for additional information.



**April 14 "The Hell With My Family 2: Drama Continues"**

**7:00 pm Plaza Theatre** Define Dysfunctional....If you missed chapter one you don't want to miss chapter two the finale. If you like DRAMA, then let's visit with the Jones family. This family would have you laughing...you may even drop a tear. Just remember love never fails! "The Hell with my Family" is written by Princella Beasley Smith of Purple Rose Entertainment and directed by Gwen Tyler of Tyler Productions. For tickets and information visit [www.mypurpleroseent.com](http://www.mypurpleroseent.com) or call 972-904-1825.

**April 15 "Not Even an Hour" Arts-N-Lyrics 4:00 pm Plaza Theatre**



Arts N' Lyrics presents a play about Callie Henderson: a hard working woman whose excitement about a well deserved vacation is interrupted because she is informed that her very ill sister went missing. As if that's not enough to put a halt to her trip, her daughter Sasha decides to share an incident of which Callie wishes she'd never learned. Now, not only does Callie need to find her sister, she must also deal with the disturbing situation involving her daughter. Purchase tickets online at [111.ArtsNLYrics.com](http://111.ArtsNLYrics.com) for \$17.50 or at the door for \$20.

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## March 2012, Vol.20, No. 03

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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<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>
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