

Bakridge Rews



www.oakridgena.org

Vol. 20, No. 04

Presidents Message for April 2012	ONA OFFICERS President	Larry Walters
Our nominating committee chaired by Brenda Olive is working toward getting our new board applicants in place for our May meeting. Should you or if you know someone wanting to be part of the ONA Board please contact one of our existing board members. We will be voting on our 2012-2013 officers at our an- nual May meeting. There will be three of our district representatives replaced and our treasurer and secretary. Should anyone be interested in being involved with the ONA Board please either contract Brenda Olive or myself by email or phone. You should be able to find that information on our web site.		Larry Walters Larry Grisham Ken Fentress Orville Weiss Deb Pandak Ed Hester Lori Oswald Dan Nichols Ernie Gharis Mark Edwards Sharon Parrish Cecile LaBossiere
The rain that we have had in March has been beneficial to our water supply and has made (Continued on page 3)	Communications Environmental Crime Prevention &	Dana Hopkins Joe Fagan Safety Brenda Olive

City Council by Rick Williams

April 2012

You'll be reading a lot more about this in the Garland City Press, but essentially beginning in mid-May, everyone in Garland will be able to recycle all plastics except #6 (right now, just 1 & 2 are recyclable), and there will be some additional items added to the recyclable list (e.g., cereal boxes). Further, in some selected areas of the City, we will also be issuing a single large container (about the same size as the green trash containers, but a different color) where residents can throw all their recyclable materials in that single container. District 7 will have one of the 8 initial areas where residents will be issued these new larger recycle containers, and that area will be bounded by Campbell on the north, Jupiter on the west, Galaxie on the east, and High Plateau on the south. It will take about 5 years before the entire city will be served by these large recycle containers. Basically, as the current recycle trucks wear out, new ones will be purchased that

have an arm with the ability to pick up these large containers and dump materials in the back. During this 5-year implementation period, the City will purchase 54,800 recycle cans at a cost of \$2,801,924. Currently, the residential recycle rate is 34% in Garland, and we hope these new containers and a bigger list of recyclable materials will result in more participation.

Garland's water restriction stages have always been confusing (i.e., stages 1, 2, and 3 don't seem to be much different), and they have been inconsistent with the water stages in other North Texas Municipal Water District cities. Consequently, I initiated a review of our ordinance, and on March 20 we changed the City ordinance to make each stage distinctive and to make the stages more consistent with NTMWD guidelines.

Daytimers by Dianne Winters



Green was the color of the table decorations as the Daytimers met on March 13th, 2012 at the home of Dana Hopkins. Nell Burt greeted the members and invited

them to join the group of about thirty other attendees. The food hostesses, Chris Beyers, Beth Fagan, Robbie Lang, Dottie Moseley and Beverly Pierce, had provided several tasty dishes for those who attended.

President and Monday Mah Jongg winner, Peggy Crenshaw, opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone and invited Suzanne Snow to introduce the speaker, Vanessa Vaughter Weilage, daughter of member, Charlotte Vaughter. Suzanne is a special friend of the speaker so she included some humorous childhood tales in the introduction. Vanessa is a Violence Prevention Counselor for Hope's Door – an organization which helps families affected by domestic violence in Collin County. Vanessa's path to this placement has had valuable twists and turns that included educational studies at the post graduate level along with seminary, and jobs with American Airlines, a city tax office, Sprint and the Methodist Church. All of these experiences provided enrichment for her present task. She is well qualified educationally and emotionally and demonstrated a passion for her work to aid those involved in domestic violence. Vanessa enlightened the group with statistics and facts that were sometimes surprising.

Peggy invited group leaders to make the following announcements concerning their events:

Book Club, Mah Jongg, and Canasta Groups had

no change to their scheduled meetings. Sally Weiss announced the upcoming Fun on the Run which includes the art show at the Performing Arts Center, lunch and a library program. Sign up for GOGO group meetings were requested.

Audrey King announced birthdays and then concerns for others were relayed to the group.

Sally Weiss narrated events of her life as part of the "Getting to Know You" feature for this year. Members share some of their history to get the group more acquainted with each other. Everyone enjoyed the tales of Sally's journey from Minnesota to Texas. Sally and her husband, Orville, have given countless hours of work to communities through the Elk's Lodge programs.

Plans for the May luncheon were announced. It will be held at Taste of Italy on May 8th, and members who wish to attend should pay \$7.50 to the treasurer, Mary Pattie. Please bring the payment to the next meeting.

Stage 3 Water Restriction Changes

Effective May 1

April-October watering restricted to 1 day/week on Saturday

November-March watering restricted to 1 day every other week on Saturday

President's Message (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

all of our neighborhood lawns LOOK so much better. However, 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.

I have received information from some of our neighbors about issues with the skunks in our neighborhood. The city will not come out and set any traps or try and catch the skunks. The policy is you must go to the city and borrow one of their traps; you will have to leave a fifty dollar deposit with the city to receive the trap. If you are successful the city will come and remove the skunk from the trap. You must return the trap to the city to have your deposit refunded.

The sale of the golf course is still a work in progress. All I can say at the moment is that things are still moving forward. Hopefully we will have some good news before spring is over.

Hope all of you have a safe and prosperous April! Hope to see you at our May meeting.



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OAKRIDGE RESIDENT SINCE 1996 ONA MEMBER/FORMER BOARD MEMBER QUALITY WORK DONE BY THE OWNER INSURED		

Crime and Safety Report By Brenda Olive

There were only five recorded incidents in Oakridge between February 7th and February 29^{th.}

> 2/7/12 3300 block of Greenview, Criminal Mischief

> 2/7/12 3200 block of Ridge Oak, Burglary, Vehicle

2/10/12 2001 block of Diamond Oaks, Burglary, Habitation

2/27/12 2700 block of Winding Oak, Theft

2/29/12 3200 block of Ridge Oak, Theft

We've been made aware of some incidents directly from residents here in Oakridge in March, however, we haven't received the official report from GPD yet. There have been at least two incidents of vehicles being broken into in the area of Richland Drive and a theft of shingles from the Laurel Oaks area. We're waiting for the official report from GPD to determine if there have been other incidents.

Today, March 20th, we received one piece of bad news....the peeping tom that plagued Oakridge in 2010 was released from prison recently. Although he had been sentenced to a 3 year term in Huntsville, we just learned that he was actually released after serving a little over a year. We do know that he had been staying somewhere in our general area, but not at home with his parents in Holford Park. Sometime during the week of March 11th, he broke into a home, near Oakridge, where the residents were sleeping. He was arrested for this crime and is currently in Dallas County jail under high bail. This would be good news except that Dallas County has a habit of releasing prisoners due to concerns about "overcrowding" and also for "non-violent" prisoners. We will keep you apprised of this situation since we know about this guy's penchant for Oakridge in the past. Hopefully, Garland Police will find sufficient evidence to violate his parole and send him back to prison where he belongs.

Since the majority of re-roofing seems to be completed in Oakridge we've noticed an increase in the number of door-to-door solicitors and those just leaving flyers and business cards on our doors. Apparently since there are fewer eyes watching, the solicitors have decided Oakridge is a good place to be. The city's soliciting ordinance has not changed. People who desire to go door to door to solicit business, including roofers, must visit the Garland police department, complete an application for a permit, be background checked and be photographed. The permit is issued for each individual, not a company, and the individual must wear that permit in a visible position on his/her person. The exceptions to this ordinance are: girl/boy scouts, political and religious organizations. Even people who want to just leave a business card must undergo this process. A permit is then issued to allow them to either leave a business card (no knock or doorbell), a flyer, (no knock or doorbell) or to actually attempt to make contact with the resident by knocking or ringing the doorbell. This last permit does not allow the solicitor to harass the resident by constantly knocking or ringing, and neither of these permits allows someone to approach your door if you have a NO SOLICITING sign displayed.

We have also recently received an inquiry regarding skunks--the animal kind--which are prevalent in Oakridge. We have numerous areas where skunks like to live, and that doesn't just mean woodlands, etc. They also find our decks, pool houses, storage sheds, and surprisingly, according to one resident, even the nice black covers on our charcoal grills, are nice places to hide and/or live. Skunks like cat food, dog food, bird food, or anything else they can find, including grubs in our lawns, and Oakridge has an overabundance of these little critters this spring. If you are being plaqued by odorous critters, please visit the Garland Animal Services website for instructions. Animal Control will "rent" a trap to residents of Garland; it does require the resident

Crime and Safety Report (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

to visit Animal Services, pay a \$50 deposit for the remove it from the trap. Skunks can carry rabies, trap and get instructions on how/when to set up the trap. The trap itself will allow the resident to remove the neighbors cat or small dog, but any wild animals must be removed by Animal Control for the safety of the resident. Once the skunk or other offending wild animal is trapped, the resident calls Animal Control, an officer will come out and remove the animal--usually this means he/ she will first tranguilize the animal, and the resident will then return the trap to Animal Services and get his/her \$50 deposit back. Animal Control will not come out and set up the trap or deliver the trap to a resident. The officers do not take deposits, either by cash or other payment means, and they don't carry money with them. Of course, this can be a little time consuming for residents and many don't want to make that trip to Animal Services. There is an alternative--go to one of the big home repair type stores and purchase your own trap--we've seen them for as lit-

tle as \$29.99. You would still need to call Animal Control to come and tranquilize the animal and so it is always better to let the professional, trained animal control officers take care of this problem for you. We've also had a report that at least one bobcat has been seen in the area as well as numerous reports of opossums, raccoons and coyotes. The best offense against skunks and other wild animals--don't leave food outside where they can get to it. Clean your grills before nightfall, and especially important--don't allow your dogs or cats outside alone after nightfall. If you're walking your dog, keep an eye out for skunks. They usually run when they hear any noises, or try to hide--but, nothing upsets a skunk more than being confronted by our pets who have no idea of the danger of those cute little black and white "kitties".

The Country Club: It's spring, people are taking the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the nice weather (for the most part) that we've been ex-



Our house backs up to the golf course and we have dogs. One of our dogs has been sprayed three times by a skunk. The first time was a real experience. Of course it always happens at night. So the first time it happens the dog comes in the house and starts wiping her face all over the couches and rugs trying to get the scent off her and ends up getting it all over everything in the house. I start trying to clean things up, unfortunately in ignorance I use water based cleaning fluids. Well the smell is unbelievable. It's so bad that it's burning our eyes and noses. We couldn't get anywhere in the house that it wasn't overbearing. So the next day I call a professional cleaner and he comes and works for hours and almost \$1,000 to get the smell out, it's better but the smell continues to be in the house for the next three months.

My husband does some research and finds out that once water comes into contact with the skunk spray to activates the smell. There is a formula that can be used to neutralize the smell. Mix 1 quart of hydrogen peroxide with 1/4 cup of baking soda and 1 teaspoon of liquid dish soap. Wipe down the dog's fur with this solution (I take a cloth and soak it with the solution and then soak the dog with the solution), then rinse and shampoo.

So the next time she gets sprayed, at night of course, I have stocked of all the ingredients to make the solution. I grab the dog before she can wipe her face on every surface in the house, and put her in the utility room, mix the solution and soak her in it. Unfortunately she is a black dog so after a soaking in the solution she is a brown dog for a while, but the house doesn't smell like a skunk and I haven't spend \$1,000 on a professional cleaner and lived with the skunk smell for months. IT WORKS!



David C. Thomas Certified Public Accountant <u>Tax Service & Planning</u> 1040 Personal Tax Returns Business/Corporate Returns Please call for an Appointment to review Your specific situation. Oakridge resident 21 years. 972-414-8466 dthomas848@aol.com

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City Council by Rick Williams (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

This will all be explained in the April 1 *Garland City Press* and will be effective May 1.

I've received lots of inquires about the status on the Oakridge club/course. In general, we expect TCEQ to approve a water permit within the next few weeks so that water can be taken from Duck Creek, and it appears a buyer has been found. It would be inappropriate to provide more details while some issues are pending, but let's just say we are all hopeful for a positive change in the near future.

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



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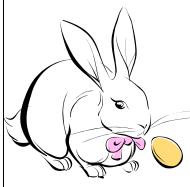
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Crime and Safety Report (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

periencing. This does not mean that the country club property can be utilized as a park. We've been asked to maintain vigilance over the property to ensure that people are not fishing, picnicking, etc. The tennis courts are also closed. The club is being maintained so that it can be sold, for the benefit of all residents in Oakridge. This means there should be no need for constant picking up of beer cans, bottles, soda cans, picnic supplies, plastic cups, etc. Many residents do not know that one woman, Mrs. McDole, has been picking up these items daily and she has had large volumes of cans and bottles every week. In the meantime, the COP has been working many hours trying to remind people that this is private property, not a public park. For the most part, the violators have not been Oakridge residents, I think that just about everyone who lives here wants the club to be sold, but, sold for a price that will help maintain everyone's property values. The COP has recently encountered people from as far away as San Antonio-and none of them have had a valid excuse for being on the property. The bank who currently owns the club has spent a lot of money to keep the property mowed, the bushes trimmed, and generally in decent repair, in an effort to sell the club. This is not an easy thing to do during this economy, and it is in everyone's best interest to see that the security of the club, as well as the residences in Oakridge, is maintained. When we allow people who don't have a vested interest in Oakridge to come in and trash it, we all lose. If you see people fishing, etc. along the creek, please give us a call at 972-495 -3402. There are new NO TRESPASSING and NO FISHING type signs in place as well as NO PARKING signs. The No Trespassing and No Fishing signs allow the police to issue citations. The No Parking signs allow for towing of the vehicle without prior notice. We are all looking forward to a bright future for the Country Clubvery soon!

HERE ARE SOME TIPS THAT WILL MAKE YOUR YARD THRIVE THIS YEAR



Simply fertilizing the lawn and prepping the power equipment is insufficient to ensure that garden areas will thrive during the spring and hot summer months. Success in the garden is the result of know-how that includes proper soil cultivation and improve-

ment, pest control, pruning and irrigation well before new plant growth emerges. Plant and soil requirements vary in different regions of the country. I always suggest that homeowners contact their local county co-operative extension agency or neighborhood hardware dealer for recommendations on the appropriate grasses, fertilizers, pest and disease controls and plants. But here are a few more professional insights as to ways you can achieve better growing conditions in your yard:

Test the Soil.

This easy, but usually overlooked step will reveal the needs your soil has for improvement. For example, the pH level indicates the acidity or alkalinity of the soil; that will dictate the types of plants that will grow best in a particular location. Without knowing the soil make-up, you could inadvertently apply the wrong combinations of nutrients or amenders or plant the wrong varieties. Submit soil samples for analysis to the county extension agency. You also may obtain test kits at your local Ace Hardware store.

Amend and Cultivate Soil.

Heavily compacted soil hinders the health of plants. They prefer well-drained, loamy soil. Add compost to flower, shrub and vegetable beds and turn over or till the soil to break it up. Do not cultivate soil when it is wet. That will compact it even more and disturb beneficial microorganisms. Aerate lawns using power equipment designed for that purpose.

Fertilize Properly.

Improper fertilizing can do more harm than good to plants. Never use a single type of fertilizer universally. Lawns, shrubs, trees, flowers and vegetables each have specific requirements. Soil

(Continued on page 9)

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HERE ARE SOME TIPS THAT WILL MAKE YOUR YARD THRIVE THIS YEAR (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

conditions (based on testing) also dictate specific needs. Also, fertilizing at the wrong time, too little or too frequently will have a negative result. Consult local experts and product labels for specific recommendations.

Control Pests and Diseases.

Indiscriminant spraying and dusting of pesticides can be harmful to plants, pets and humans. Controls are formulated for specific purposes and should be used only as recommended on the product's label. As a first step, determine what pests or diseases your plants have by providing samples to your extension service or the garden center manager at your local Ace store.

Irrigate.

Plants are like people when it comes to water. Too little and they dehydrate; too much and they drown. As a general rule, most plants prefer water at their "feet," not on their "heads." So, water at soil level, not by overhead spraying an entire bed. It is important to know when to water. An inexpensive moisture meter, available at a hardware store, can be used to indicate the need. Simply push the prong into the soil to various depths around a plant and read the meter.

Mulch.

Covering a soil bed with the proper mulch will retain moisture that will benefit plants and maintain better soil conditioning. Three to 6 inches of straw has proved effective as a mulch. Bark gives up moisture quickly except in humid climates where, in turn, it can mildew. Rock is risky because it absorbs, retains and radiates heat, which can damage plants.

Prune Selectively.

Some plants prefer pruning in early spring, while others can be trimmed during summer or fall. Generally, anything that flowers in the spring should be pruned after flowers die off. There are exceptions, however, so consult your local extension service or the garden center manager at your local Ace store to learn what those are when in doubt.

Check Soil Temperatures Before Planting. Interestingly, horticulturists have found that how well plants adapt to transplanting or seeding depends upon the temperature of the soil at the time of planting. In some cases, plantings before the last frost do well; in other cases the soil must be at a consistent temperature (say 55°F) for a period of time to achieve maximum results.



The ARTS in Garland

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April 18-21 "Phantom of the Soap Opera" Plaza Theatre

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www.actingforchildren.org or by calling 972-658-3915. Tickets are \$8 each, children 3 & under are free.



April 20 Garland Symphony Orchestra Concert VII 8:00 pm Granville Arts Center

Brownlee Auditorium

The Garland Symphony Orchestra continues its 2011-2012 Season, "The Bard and The Band" in Brownlee auditorium at the Granville Performing Arts Center. The season continues with "Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears..." Join the GSO as we explore the orchestral literature written for, about, and in response to the plays of William Shakespeare! The GSO will be performing Schumann's Overture to Julius Caesar, Handel's

Plaza Theatre

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

Overture to Julius Caesar in Egypt, and the Seventh Annual Movie Scores Quiz, just to name a few! In adding... this concert will feature clarinetist, Jonathan Jones, performing Rossini's Variations for Clarinet and Orchestra. Tickets may be purchased for \$15, \$25 and \$35 by calling 972-205-2790. For more information visit GarlandSymphony.org.



April 21 Indian Cultural Heritage Foundation 5:00 pm Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium

Indian Cultural Heritage Foundation presents a Dance program in the Bharatnatyam style by an internationally acclaimed dancer and choreographer, Priyadarsini Govind on Saturday, April 21st, 5pm at the Granville Arts Center in the Brownlee Auditorium, Garland Texas. For further information and tickets please contact Suma Kulkarni at



972-960-9706.

April 26-29 "Clue" presented by CORP Plaza Theatre

The Company of Rowlett is

pleased to bring back "Clue". In this spoof of McCarthy-era paranoia and 1950s whole-



someness, the characters and plot are drawn from the popular Parker Brothers board game of the same name. On a dark and stormy night in 1954, six individuals are assembled for a dinner party at the mansion of one Mr. Boddy. Boddy's butler, Wadsworth, assigns each quest a name: Mr. Green, Col. Mustard, Mrs. Peacock, Professor Plum, Miss Scarlet, and Mrs. White. Wadsworth informs the guests that they have been gathered to meet the man who has been blackmailing them: Mr. Boddy. When Boddy turns up dead, the guests must try to figure out who killed him so they can protect their own reputations and keep the body count from growing. Performance dates are April 26th, 27th and 28th, 2012 at 7:30p.m. and April 29th, 2012 at 2:00p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.corptheatre.com for \$15, 12 & 10.



April 27 "Huu Retayar Thayo" 7:00 pm Granville Arts Center – **Brownlee Auditorium**

The Senior Citizen Samaj presents "Huu Retayar Thayo" on April 27 in the Brownlee Auditorium of the Granville Arts Center at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10, \$15 and \$20. For tickets or more information call 972-402-8186 or 972-675-6955 or visit the website at www.dfwscs.org.

тhе chorale

April 28 "Popular Classics" by the Garland Garland Chorale 8:00 pm Brownlee Auditorium

The Garland Chorale presents

'Popular Classics', a concert featuring both Broadway and light opera favorites. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and free for ages 12 and under, and can be purchased at the door. Email garlandchorale@thegarlandchorale.com or visit www.thegarlandchorale.com for details.



April 29 Jaiping Shi Dance Show 7:00 pm Granville Arts Center -**Brownlee Auditorium**

Jiaping Shi Dance School is a non-profit organization

with a mission to disseminate Chinese national folk dance, preserve and expand the excellence of Chinese culture, enhance the mutual exchange between the Chinese and American cultures, train and develop new talents who share a deep love for dance. Ms. Jiaping Shi, a Chinese folk and classical dancer, teacher and choreographer-director for more than 30 years, the winner of the "Wen Hua Prize", the highest honor in this category in China. The school will bring 18 different style gorgeous dances to the audience. This is the best opportunity for you to feel the beautiful Chinese culture and to appreciate Chinese art. Please contact Michael Bi at 214-478-2688 for ticket information.

May 3 "Treasure Island" by The Classical Center at Vial 7 pm Plaza Theatre

Ahoy Maties! The Classical Center at Vial will take to the high seas with Jim Hawkins and his friends Molly and Jamie as they board the Hispaniola bound for high adventure. Trouble brews down below decks as Long Jane Silver and her band of scurvy pirates plot to steal Jim's treasure map. The whole cast winds up on Pigaloo Island in search of Captain's Flints Treasure. Join us on May 3rd at 7:00p.m. for a great adventure! Tickets will go on sale (\$5.00) in the school office the middle of April. Tickets will also be available at the door (\$5.00) the evening of the performance. For more information call 972-240-3710.

Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association P.O. Box 450145 Garland, TX 75045-0145

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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www.OakridgeNA.org