



Presidents Message for May2012

It is that time again! Our May meeting is scheduled for May 24th at 7 PM at the Achievement Center of Garland @ 2950 N. Shiloh Rd Garland, TX 75044.

Your attendance is very important and I hope we have a good turnout. We will be voting for our new slate of officers and district directors for the term of 2012-2013.

I would like to thank Brenda Olive and her committee for their time that they spent finding volunteers to fill the open board positions.

Obviously we have had some very nice spring weather. The rain has helped all of our lawns and flower beds. The weather has even let what survived a very hot 2011 summer bloom

(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

Nominee Slate for 2012

President:	Larry Walters
Vice President:	Larry Grisham
Secretary:	Sharon Parrish
Treasurer:	Open
District 2:	Fern Cook
District 3:	Sandra Stevens
District 4:	Mary Pattie
District 6:	Mark Edwards
District 7:	David Parrish

District 2, 4, 6 are the positions being filled by by-law rules. These will be 2 year terms. District 3 is open and will be filled for a 1 year term because of resignation for personal reasons of the current office holder. District 7 is up for election (a 1 year term) because the current office holder is the nominee for Secretary.

The Treasurer's position is still open, however the nominating committee has 2 individuals who are considering the position, but want to review some additional information before making a decision.

This position is essential to the organization and is probably one of the more time-consuming and detailed responsibilities because of tax laws and our tax exempt status.

Finding residents who are willing to volunteer for any of the positions listed above has been hard this year. Finding residents who are willing to volunteer to fill the most important positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer has been extremely difficult. The nominating committee, and by extension, all Oakridge residents, are asking our fellow residents to assume responsibility for administering a relatively small budget, make decisions that affect all of us, and be available to accept criticism for "not doing anything" or "doing too much" on an ongoing basis. Obviously, no decision or action is going to

Daytimers by Dianne Winters



Gnomes, W's, family photos and pharmacy memorabilia surrounded the Oakridge Daytimers as they arrived at the home of Sally Weiss and were greeted by Nell Burt on Tuesday, April 10, 2012. Thanks to Sally for her generosity in opening her home to Daytimers.

After president, Peggy Crenshaw, opened the meeting Ruby Nell Ormon introduced Rick Williams, Garland City Councilman. Rick explained the importance of water conservation for all of us and clarified the Garland Water Restrictions and plans for the future.

He also touched on some horticulture ideas and the state of the Oakridge Country Club. There were several questions from the audience.

Following the messages from Rick Williams the group gathered at the serving table to partake of all the tasty dishes prepared by food hostesses, Ernie Gharis, Valerie Harper, Sallie Lang, Ruby Nell Ormon and Suzanne Snow.

The meeting proceeded with group reports from the directors which noted little change in their usual routine.

Fun on the Run leader, Sally Weiss, announced the Celebrate National Poetry Month at Senior Social Hour. The Nicholson Memorial Library System's Senior Social Hour will celebrate National Poetry Month by hosting Professor Jerry McElveen and his program-Poetry and Our Wonderful English Language: The Use and Abuse of Words. Make plans for this on your own for April 12 with lunch before if you choose.

The **GOGO**s are meeting on April 26th at the home of Margaret Fowler but need a hostess for May. Call Margaret Fowler for information.

Book Club will meet at the home of Mary Jensen in April and at the home of Dianne Winter in May.

Audrey King announced **birthdays** - one of which was her own. So Happy Birthday to Audrey and other Daytimers who have birthdays to celebrate in these 2 spring months of April and May.

Peggy asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee and Chris Beyers, Ernie Gharis, Ruby Nell Ormon, Suzanne Snow and Sally Weiss agreed to help find volunteers to fill the slate of officers and leaders next year.

General Membership Meeting

May 24th 7:00 p.m.

Achievement Center

Of Garland

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President's Message (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

and grow again. I am sure that one of our boards topics in our May board meeting will be the landscaping of our entrances.

This has been my first year as president of ONA. Needless to say it has been a learning experience. I want to thank the entire board they have all been very supportive. I have told our board that I would enjoy having another term and use some of the lessons learned. I am looking forward to the second being a more productive twelve months.

I am sure that all of you are aware that the sale of the golf course had a setback. From the grapevine I think we still have an interested party or two. I do know for a fact that our water permit has been approved. At least if there is another buyer, they will not have to wait for approval of the permit. Let all keep our fingers crossed and maybe we will have better news in June.

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



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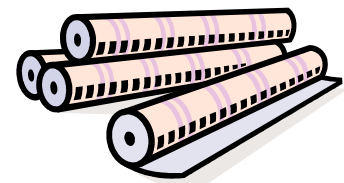


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Crime and Safety Report **By Brenda Olive**

We had four incidents this past month:

- 03/30/12 2500 block of Crestedge Dr.
Burgary Building
- 04/03/12 2900 block of Oak Point
Theft-Metal/Materials
- 04/13/12 2000 block of Peakwood Dr.
Criminal Mischief
- 04/14/12 2200 block of Shady Oaks Ct.
Burglary-Habitation

Fortunately there were no incidents from 4/14 through 4/22 and stats for the current week (25th) won't be available until next week. To the best of our knowledge, all of these incidents are still under investigation. If you or someone you know has any knowledge of the perpetrators --- please advise the Garland Police Department's Detective Unit.

Some of you may have seen numerous squads from the Police Department in various areas of our neighborhood recently—please be aware that these units were serving warrants---some of which were for traffic violations. If you or a family member has outstanding traffic violations, including speeding tickets, No Parking tickets, failure to stop at a red light or stop sign, unlawful change of lane, failure to pay toll, etc. be aware that warrants are issued by the courts when these fines are not paid or you fail to appear in court. Those warrants are then served by GPD, and may lead to your arrest. Of course, other misdemeanors can also lead to a warrant being issued, and again, at some point in time, the GPD may be serving that warrant and arresting the offender. Paying fines and/or following the instructions given to you by the issuing officer or following the instructions on the ticket can resolve most of these issues and prevent a knock at the door—usually during the early morning hours or during dinner time. Warrants for felonies are handled

differently, but, again, anyone who has committed a felony should be prepared for officers to visit them, handcuffs in hand.

A recent problem in our area reminded me to inform all of our residents---During times of family illnesses such as dementia or Alzheimer's, we need to know there are several resources available to find help. Either of these illnesses can prove to be extremely difficult, and there are trained and informed people who can, not only provide advice, but also offer information as to where and how to obtain the assistance you may need. Many of these services and assistance are free. Take advantage of these resources, while you may be the caregiver, you are also the one person who offers stability and security for your loved one. There will be times when you need to leave the home for various reasons. Arrange for someone else to assist you, let your loved one become familiar with that person prior to leaving him/her with the secondary caregiver. Contact Medicare, they have some services that are designed to give caregiver and the cared for individual "a break". Locally you can contact the Garland Senior Care Center, or The Senior's Net, The Senior Source, and Area Agency on Aging of Dallas. There is also a Vietnamese Senior Care facility here in Garland and a Korean Senior Care service in Dallas. I was unable to find a source that directly deals with Hispanic individuals; however I was assured by these other services that they offer assistance to all races and nationalities. In addition, *A Place for Mom* may be able to assist you, I personally used their services a couple of years ago to assist one of my neighbors who was in failing health, alone and without relatives to assist her. Their website is aplaceformom.com. The young woman there was extremely helpful, very sympathetic and called me back several times with additional information we needed to not only help with physical assistance, but also counseling for her and legal information. Many churches in the area offer information that can assist you in finding the correct help for the

(Continued on page 5)

Crime and Safety Report (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

situation you are facing. Most will be glad to make their resources available, even if you are not a member of the church.

One of the more common problems we see is that the caregiver leaves the patient at home alone for just a few minutes and the patient wanders away without any idea of where they are, and while they may have an idea as to where they want to go, they cannot communicate it to anyone. It is extremely important that any Alzheimer's or dementia patient is fitted with a wristband or some other form of identification so that if he/she does wander away, the police can readily identify him/her and return them safely home. There is also a program called Silver Alert that is utilized to alert residents when a patient is missing. This works like the Red Alert weather warning and alerts residents who live in the vicinity of the missing person; however it does not disclose the name of the missing person or his/her per-

sonal address. Pertinent description information is provided during the phone call, including race, age, height and weight if those are available, as well as what the person was wearing when last seen and when the person was last seen so that he/she can be identified by others. This is an excellent tool for the City of Garland to help protect some of our most precious residents against acts by unscrupulous or criminal persons. If, as a resident of Garland, you receive one of these alerts, please, please, take a couple of minutes and walk out, look up and down your sidewalk--- you may be surprised to see the missing person, right there on your street. Call 911 immediately and try to engage the person in conversation to keep him/her within your sight until the police arrive.

For those who are elderly, handicapped and live alone, or must be left alone during the day, the police department has another service, called Lockbox. This system is a security measure

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City Council by Rick Williams

On April 10, I met with the Oakridge Daytimers. We primarily discussed water restrictions, but I also had a chance to discuss my favorite subject—gardening. I certainly enjoyed the meeting with such a nice audience.

Speaking of water, I've received some questions as to why we are still in Stage 3 water restrictions when Lake Lavon is full. The North Texas Municipal Water District gets 28% of its water from Lake Texoma, and as you have probably heard on local TV, it has invasive Zebra mussels. Thus, water from Texoma is no longer pumped into Lake Lavon which means that even when all the lakes that supply NTMWD are full, we are still 28% "low." The plan is to build a pipeline directly from Texoma to the water treatment facility in Wiley where the water treatment kills any Zebra mussels, but that project is a couple of years away...not to mention the \$270 million dollar cost.

I had a couple of meetings with individual who I thought were going to be the new owners of the Oakridge club/course, but they later withdrew. Potential buyers are still being sought. In the meantime, particularly with all the rain, the course/club is not going to look good (i.e., lots of high grass). Hopefully Oakridge residents will be understanding during this time. The current owner (a Kansas City bank) is spending a lot of money each month trying to keep the property in decent condition, but it's not going to look nearly as good as it did when it was operating.

I mentioned in last month's article that Garland would be going to single-stream recycling in mid-May. Due to a delay in the vendor providing the single-stream recycling containers, the implementation date has now been changed to mid/late June.

Garland has a new Fire Chief—Raymond Knight. He's been a Garland fire fighter since 1980, and he is a popular choice for the City Council, fire fighters association, and City management. I always prefer to promote from within whenever possible, so I was personally very pleased with this selection.



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City Council by Rick Williams (continued)

In a few weeks, Council representatives Doug Athas, Larry Jeffus, and Perky Cox will be leaving the Council due to term limits (i.e., three 2-year terms). I have served with these individuals for five years, and I will miss them on Council as each of them has served with distinction. Speaking of term limits, I'll be "terming out" in May 2013.

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

Crime and Safety Report (continued)

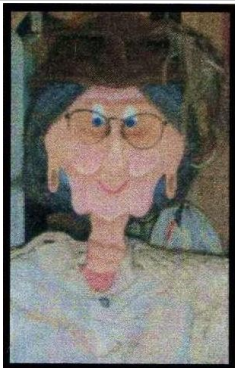
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which allows the police/fire department to enter the home to assist the resident in need and ensures that they don't have to break a window or break down a door to administer medical assistance, fire protection or police protection. It is free to Garland residents who meet the criteria, however, you must make an application to have one installed. It has been a great benefit for those who have it installed and offers reassurance to both the resident and the family that if a problem arises, help is only a phone call away. If you have questions about any of the programs or services provided by the police department, visit their website or the City of Garland's website for additional information or call the main number for

the city and they will direct your call to the appropriate person.

We still have door-to-door salesmen visiting our neighborhood in an attempt to sell "new roofs". For peace of mind, before signing a contract with any roofing company, check them out. Is the company on your insurance company's "Preferred" list? Are they local? If not, when/if something goes wrong, who will you call? Has the company done work in the neighborhood already? Call residents who've had the roof replaced by the company or visit the resident. Did the roofer leave everything clean? Did they damage bushes, flower beds and trees? Is the homeowner satisfied with the work? If you have a dog, ask, did the roofer let the dog out of the

(Continued on page 8)



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- Downsizing
- Moving Sales
- Liquidating Estates

Slate of Officers (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

please everyone all of the time. It is important for all of us to remember, these are volunteers, using their personal time and energy to fulfill the obligations of the position according to the by-laws. They're working with a limited budget, they are doing this on their own personal time. None of these positions are salaried or financially compensated in any way. All of these people lead busy lives and most are still working a full-time job and volunteer to assume these responsibilities out of the goodness of their hearts and desire to help our neighborhood. They should be applauded by everyone: The vitality of our neighborhood and the maintenance of our neighborhood, depends upon the ONA Board of Directors. It should be a primary goal of everyone to join the ONA and get your neighbors to do so also. United we can make sure that Oakridge stays strong, vibrant and has a voice in the future actions in our City.

Crime and Safety Report (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

yard? Was the homeowner able to communicate with at least one of the workers on site? These are questions everyone can ask, and they're questions that should not be offensive to anyone. The most important questions you need to ask before anyone does any work on your roof or home—are they licensed in the state of Texas and in Dallas County, and do they have liability insurance and workers compensation insurance. You don't want to be the responsible party in the event someone falls from your roof or is otherwise injured while doing work on your property. Finally: Remember, anyone doing door to door solicitation for roofing, landscaping, etc. must have a current Permit from the City of Garland and it must be visible on their person. The permits are issued to individuals, not companies, and have a photo of the person right on the permit as well as an expiration date. These individuals have been to the Garland Police Department, been background checked and photographed before the permits are issued. We recently determined that many of the people who are currently soliciting in the neighborhood are "new hires" via ads posted on Craig's List and many of them are from out of state. Interestingly, the most important thing shown on the Craig's List ad—"Fun atmosphere! ---Fast money!" next MONTH, we are going to Las Vegas 100% on us!!! Does it sound like this company wants to hire the most informed, skilled and capable people? Or does it sound more like just another get rich quick plan, here today, gone tomorrow! WARNING: Never sign anything when someone comes to your door offering their services--check the company out first, then make an informed decision as to whether you want to utilize their services.

On the 21st of April Bill and I attended a roundtable conference with our State Representative, Angie Chen Button. She holds these meetings several times a year to get feedback and provide information to various constituents in her area, on a variety of subjects. We usually attend when she's looking for input regarding police, fire and security information. One of the attendees was a Captain from Texas' Department of Public Safety. We learned several things of interest to all residents of Texas. A new, state of the art building is being built to take some of the burden off the local Drivers License centers. This one will handle new applicants, do the testing, etc. and it should make that trip we all must take to renew our license periodically, less time consuming. We learned three things from this experience, don't go at the beginning of the month, don't go at the end of the month, and don't go in the middle of the month expecting that the lines will be shorter. Currently there is a long wait between the time you arrive, receive your

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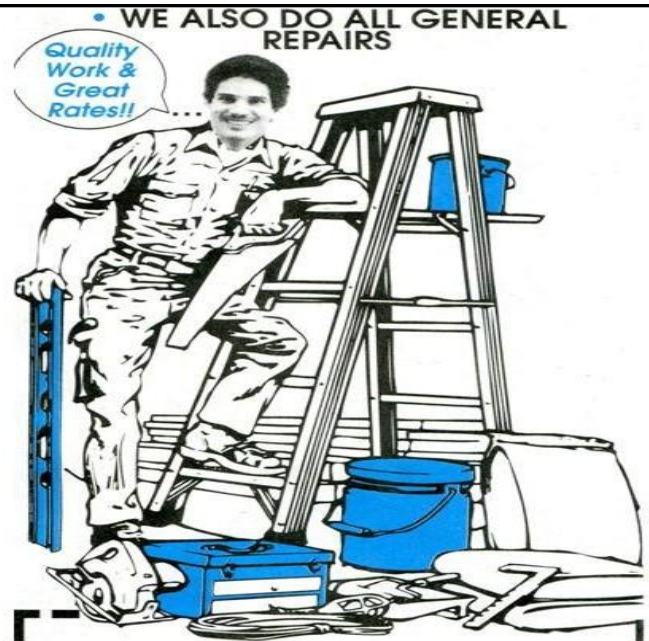
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Crime and Safety Report (continued)

number and are then called to complete your transaction. If you need to renew your license in person this year we suggest you take something to drink and a snack. You won't be allowed to bring food or drink into the building, but once you get your assigned number you can return to your vehicle. Once our numbers were called we were greeted by friendly, smiling faces and everything went very quickly. I give them big kudos for the positive attitudes we observed considering that many of those waiting were not so pleasant. Apparently this scene is common around the state and efforts are being made to reduce the stress for Texas citizens, however, locating and equipping facilities has been slow, so, a word of warning....be prepared to wait.

Another thing discussed and particularly disturbing, was the things that go on in the background when it comes to dealing with drug runners coming across our Texas/Mexico border. We learned that when a person is apprehended carrying drugs (and there are an awful lot of them) the drugs are confiscated and destroyed, and the person is usually deported back to Mexico. Drugs equate to big money for the cartels and the cartels take lose of their drugs very seriously. In all too many instances someone is forced into being a runner because the cartel has kidnapped a member of the runner's (known as mules) family and is holding them hostage. The runner is given a specific amount of drugs and a timeframe in which to deliver them here in the states. If those drugs are not delivered and the money brought back to the cartel in Mexico, the family member(s) being held hostage will be killed. In a few instances, when the runner is deported and returns to Mexico, the cartel will give him/her a second chance, but this time, the amount of drugs they are carrying will be doubled. This alone is a heavy burden physically for someone to carry on their back, imagine the burden mentally they are carrying at the same time. Just knowing if he/she doesn't deliver the way the cartel demands, one or more of their family members will be murdered, maimed and/or mutilated and

possibly all three—no exceptions. The only way the runner can escape this situation is to pay the cartel for the drugs they lost, plus interest, within a limited amount of time. Obviously, the person running the drugs normally doesn't have that kind of money available to him/her; the cartel preys on the poor and defenseless. When our headlines scream, "XX bodies found in shallow grave outside Laredo" or "Lying by the roadside in (name town) Mexico", you know, someone didn't deliver the goods. The cartels don't play favorites, young, old, male, female, however innocent, the cartel gets their money or people are murdered. For most of us, it's difficult to understand how anyone could simply kill someone else because someone in our country wants illegal drugs and it's difficult to understand how someone in our country could use illegal drugs knowing that someone in another country may have been raped, tortured or murdered just so those drugs could get here.



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**May 25 Garland Senior Center Talent Gala
7:00pm Plaza Theatre**

GARLAND HAS TALENT ...We are showcasing the talent of citizens who are 50+. On a professional stage at the Plaza Theater with a sound man and spotlights, you will be treated to entertainment that will rock your night. Our vibrant Garland seniors will share their talent for playing an instrument, singing, dancing, performing magic, comedy skits and many varieties of entertainment. This event is FREE. Get out of your Friday night rut and come to the Square in downtown Garland. THIS IS NOT A COMPETITION. For more information call 972-205-2779.

am-5 pm Monday through Friday and during all performances.



May 30-June 2 "Peter Pan" by Breitling Youth Theatre Plaza Theatre

Join the Breitling Youth Theatre in an adventure to Neverland, with Wendy, John, Michael,

Tinkerbell, & (of course) Peter Pan! There are Lost Boys, Mermaids, Indians, Fairies, Pirates, and Captain Hook, who is out to get Peter Pan. The Lost Boys need of a mother, the Pirates need a storyteller, the Mermaids need Peter Pan and the Darling children need adventure. With both Tinkerbell and Captain Hook jealous of Peter Pan's attention for Wendy, there is plenty of danger, sword fights, and dances from the Indians & fairies. The parents Mary & George Darling, Nana the nurse-dog, and Liza the maid, anxiously await the children's return but their hope is fading. But we all know that a mother's love for her children, to bring them back to her, is a very powerful thing! May 30 and June 1 at 10 am and June 1 and 2 at 7pm at the Plaza Theatre in downtown Garland. Tickets are \$8 each, children 3 and under are free. For tickets call 972-658-3915 or visit www.ActingForChildren.org.

May 30-June 30 A Walk with C.S. Lewis

Granville Arts Center Gallery

"A Walk with C.S. Lewis" is a visual art collection in-



spired by the life and works of C. S. Lewis. Guests of all ages will be delighted as they journey thru artwork based on "*Chronicles of Narnia*", "*The Great Divorce*", "*The Screwtape Letters*" "*The Four Loves*" and more...We believe at Lewis' core was an artist whose enchantment of story really paints so many pictures with words. Faith Artists hopes to do the same as we share art that enliven and captivate audiences with the visual narrative of Lewis' incredible works. On Saturday, June 9th from 3-5 pm there will be docent lead" Art Discovery Tours" every 20 minutes beginning in the lower gallery. For more information visit- FaithArtists.com or email Info@faithartists.com for tours and art inquiries. Viewing hours are 9



June 11-24 "South Pacific" by the Garland Summer Musicals

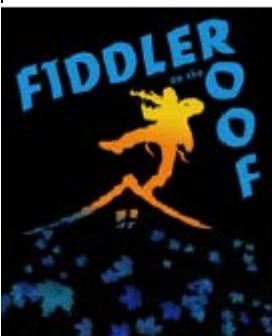
Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium

GSM will present Rodgers & Hammerstein's Classic *South Pacific* opening June 15th thru June 24th. *The 2012 Season* will be under the masterful direction of Buff Shurr and Patty Granville will be the Producer. Musical Direction for *South Pacific* is by Larry Miller and Choreography will be by Joseph Jones. All performances are held in the Brownlee Auditorium of the Granville Arts Center, 300 North Fifth Street in downtown Garland. Season Tickets are available at the Arts Center Box Office or by calling 972-205-2790. Individual tickets go on sale May 1. (MasterCard, Visa and Discover are accepted.) For more information please visit www.GarlandSummerMusicals.org.



June 16 GCMA presents Oldies Night at the Plaza 7:30 pm Plaza Theatre

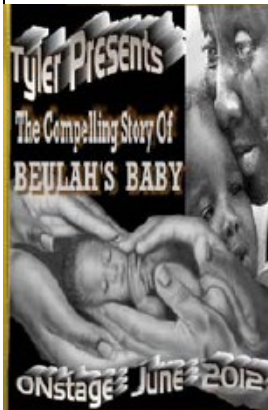
Garland Country Music Association Presents OLDIES NIGHT AT THE PLAZA on Saturday, June 16th at 7:30 Featuring Guys & Dolls Vocal Group singing classic hits of the 50's & 60's including; Shake Rattle & Roll, That'll Be The Day, Still of the Night, Doo Ron, Up on the Roof, Ain't No Mountain High, Lion Sleeps Tonight, Let It Be and many more. General Admission tickets are \$15, Seniors (60+) are \$12.50. Tickets are available online at www.TheGarlandOpry.com or by calling 972-494-3835. For more information on Guys & Dolls visit www.gdvocals.com.



June 29-July 1 "Fiddler on the Roof" by Dallas Young Artists Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre

Dallas Young Artists in partnership with the Garland Summer Musicals presents the delightful musical theatre

classic, *Fiddler on the Roof*. Performances are slated for June 29th and June 30th at 7:30 pm and Matinees on Saturday June 30th and Sunday July 1st at 2:30 pm in the Small Theatre of the Granville Arts Center. To purchase tickets you can call 972-205-2790 beginning May 1. For more information go the website www.dallasyoungartists.com.



June 30 "Beulah's Baby" by Tyler Productions

2 pm & 6:30 pm Plaza Theatre

On June 30, 2012 Tyler and cast invite you to take a journey into the life of Beulah Mae Kitchen as she shares her story with Journalist Bobbie

Jean Hackleberry on why she sits on death row. The powerful and profound cast is ready to unfold an unforgettable, compelling drama like you have never experienced before. You be the judge on whether the punishment fits the crime. There are surprise twists, touching scenes, and a big story to be told. This production will leave you speechless and sitting on the edge of your seat. You don't want to miss this one. Come watch what happens in "Beulah's Baby: The Untold Story" written by Gwendolyn Tyler and directed by Tracy Moffett. Show times are 2 pm and 6:30 pm, Sunday June 30. For the matinee performance tickets are \$20 presale and \$22 at the door. For the evening performance tickets are \$22 presale and \$25 at the door. Doors open 30 minutes before show

time. Visit www.tylerproductions gospelstageplays.org or call 214-722-7566 for more information.

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May 2012, Vol.20, No. 05

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Emergencies	911
Poison Center	1-800-764-7661
Non-Emergencies	972-485-4840
Water & Sever	972-205-3210
Atmos Gas	1-800-460-3030
Rick Williams	214-535-2648
Solid Waste & Recycling	972-205-3500
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
CP&S Bill Olive	972-495-3402

Sir Fixalot LLC

Keith Engler

Handyman Services

Oakridge Resident & ONA Board Member

Electrical, Lighting, Painting,

Websites, Honey-Do lists...

See website or call for more details

972-414-3272

www.SirFixalotLLC.com



"Fixing broken relationships between you and your home"

www.OakridgeNA.org