



## Presidents Message for August 2012

Hope all of our members are doing great and staying cool in this hot weather. Hopefully all of you have sent in your membership application and joined the association for 2012-2013 term. It would be wonderful if we exceeded last years membership participation.....

Please remember we are still on twice a week watering restrictions. Our watering days are Tuesday's and Saturday's, and you must water before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. Watering with a hand-held hose, soaker hose or drip irrigation is allowed at any time.

I have not heard any news about the golf course. Let's just hope that something happens before the end of the year.

*(Continued on page 9)*

### ONA OFFICERS

President	Larry Walters
Vice President	Larry Grisham
Secretary	Sharon Parrish
Treasurer	Jim Conrath

### ONA DIRECTORS

District 1	Deb Pandak
District 2	Fern Cook
District 3	Sandra Steven
District 4	Mary Pattie
District 5	Ernie Gharis
District 6	Mark Edwards
District 7	David Parrish

### ONA COMMITTEES

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

## City Council by Rick Williams

There has been an empty gas station on the SW corner of Beltline and North Garland Avenue for several years. We approved that location for a 7-Eleven store during the first council meeting in July. Even though that store is "grandfathered," they will voluntarily be using SH-190 landscape/screening standards which I much appreciate.

Mosquitoes are very bad this year due to a warm winter and a rainy spring. I had a request to spray one neighborhood where they were particularly bad, but we did not spray. There was a time in Garland when we sprayed upon request, but that's no longer the policy. The City wants to be consistent to all citizens, and thus, we use a rule of at least 100 trapped mosquitoes (of a certain species known to carry West Nile virus) before spraying. Mosquito control is far more effective when they can be addressed in their larva stage still swimming around in standing water, and that's why there is so much emphasis on

making sure that standing water is drained whenever possible. Once they are flying around, we have pretty much lost the battle. The mosquito insecticide is a contact spray, and even when a neighborhood is "nuked," the results are seldom very effective since many of the mosquitoes are resting under leaves and bushes when the spray is in the air plus many other mosquitoes from outside the sprayed area can fly in. In fact, I saw a local TV piece recently that explained the City of Arlington simply doesn't spray whatsoever due to being so ineffective.

There are currently 17 Neighborhood Police Officers (NPOs) and they cover 26 police districts within the City of Garland. Chief Bates has recently decided to disband the Gang and Narcotics units, and increase the number of NPOs to 26—one for each district. Essentially, each NPO

*(Continued on page 3)*

## **Membership Update**

by Cecile LaBossiere

We are four weeks into our membership drive and we have been doing well. As an overview, Oakridge has a total of 1166 homes that can participate in the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. The neighborhood is split into 7 districts; each district has an ONA district director that can be contacted for information regarding the neighborhood and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Our membership data is tracked by district so that we can review our existing member renewal rate, our new member additions and our rental property owner participation. Those categories are then added together to provide the total participation rate for the neighborhood. During the General Membership meeting I provide the detail information by category but for the sake of expediency in the newsletter I will provide the summary for the total participation by district as of July 20, 2012. If you do not know what district you are in, the district maps and street information can be found in your annual directory.

Our membership rates are crucial to the Oakridge Neighborhood Association as the annual dues is the primary source of funding for the expenses that need to be paid for landscaping, lighting, water, newsletter and website. If you have a chance to mention the importance of the ONA to the vitality of the neighborhood and promote participation in the ONA, we would greatly appreciate it. We do not do a lot of advertising or hard selling so our best way to increase our membership is through you.... Our neighbors.

### **Consolidated Member Information**

<b><u>District</u></b>	<b><u>Total Members</u></b>	<b><u>Total Houses</u></b>	<b><u>% Membership</u></b>
1	65	185	35%
2	65	152	43%
3	22	142	15%
4	63	152	41%
5	43	189	23%
6	19	122	16%
7	63	224	28%
<b><u>Totals</u></b>	<b><u>340</u></b>	<b><u>1166</u></b>	<b><u>29%</u></b>

### **Is The Water Safe To Drink?**

Yes. The taste and odor is a palatability issue. No health hazards are created regardless of the taste and odor.

### **What Causes Taste & Odor Change?**

Each summer, throughout the months of July, August, and September, lakes and other surface water supplies experience a natural event – an "algal bloom." Algal blooms are common to surface water supplies in warm weather climate states like Texas.

### **Conditions For An Algal Bloom To Occur In Lake Lavon?**

Nutrients must be present -- such as nitrogen, phosphorous, and calcium, which are derived from decaying vegetation in the lake. Turbidity has lessened -- the turbidity or cloudiness of the lake water has cleared up, allowing the penetration of the sunlight. This occurs due to lack of rain.

Temperature increase -- the optimum temperature range of the lake water for an algal bloom is 80° - 85°.

This is provided through many hot summer days.

When all conditions are met, photosynthesis will take place and the algae will grow or proliferate. Algal species, such as anabaena secrete an "oily" substance from their cells that causes an odor in the water supply.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## City Council (*continued*)

(Continued from page 1)

will deal with gang and narcotic issues within their district. NPOs have long been very popular with Garland citizens and have been very effective in dealing with local crime issues that are of concern to citizens.

Someone knocks on your door offering a free air leakage test and free weather stripping and insulation if needed. The person does not have a solicitation permit from the City of Garland. If you are like me, this is a red flag for some sort of scam. Well, maybe! Oncor has just such a program [www.takealoadofftexas.org](http://www.takealoadofftexas.org), and since nothing is being sold (everything is free), a permit from the City of Garland is not needed.

If you've been watching the news lately, you've seen San Bernadido and Stockton, CA. filing for bankruptcy and Scranton, PA. paying all employees minimum wage because they are simply out of money. The general explanation for these dire financial situations is the economy and mismanagement. It always makes me thankful for Garland's management.

Garland Police stepped up their DWI patrols from June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 8<sup>th</sup> in an effort to keep Garland citizens and visitors safe during the Independence Day activities. The additional enforcement resulted in 14 DWI arrests and 3 DUI-minor arrests. There was a single car fatality

wreck reported during the same time period, and it is believed that the driver had been drinking.

I frequently receive calls/emails regarding utility bill "errors," and in 99.5% of the time, there is no error. However, I had one of those 0.5% calls from a lady whose rent house in District 7 had no water usage in months Dec – March. Water use in those 4 months is how the sewer bill is calculated for the remainder of the year. Turns out the City's computer was not programmed correctly to handle zero water usage situations, so this lady was issued a \$27.43 credit and the City manually recalculated about 200 similar cases. Customer service thanked this lady for bringing this billing glitch to our attention.

Garland recently issued a press release whereby citizens are being contacted saying President Obama will pay their utility bill, and all they need is your Social Security number and bank routing number. Hard to believe anyone would provide such information, and I contacted Garland customer service to see if anyone had been taken by this scam. The answer was "no," which was a relief. Surely by now, everyone knows better than to give their SSN and bank routing number.

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).

(Continued from page 2)

### Is The Water Safe To Drink?

Aquatic fungi, actinomycetes, grow on dead and decaying algae and cause an earthy taste in the water.

#### Steps The District Takes To Control The Taste & Odor?

North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) utilizes several steps to control the taste and odor produced by the algal blooms. Laboratory personnel, through daily analysis, perform algal counts and can determine the onset of an algal bloom. With the onset of an algal bloom, additional chemicals are added to the treatment process.

Potassium permanganate is added as an oxidizing agent in reducing the odor levels. To reduce the unpleasant taste, activated carbon is used as an absorption media. Each of these chemicals is removed during the treatment process prior to delivery of the potable water supply. Chlorine, which is used as the disinfectant in the treatment process, also aids in odor reduction.

**The water is safe to drink with no health hazards created regardless of taste and odor.**

## **Crime and Safety Report**

**By Brenda Olive**

This month's report looks pretty good; perhaps the rain, mosquitoes and heat have worked against criminal activity. Between June 6 and July 14 we only had 2 incidents reflected on the police reports.

6/28/12 3000 block of Oak Point, Theft of motor vehicle accessories

7/06/12 2800 block of Stoneridge, Criminal Mischief greater than \$50

Please bear in mind, just because activity slowed down this month, it doesn't mean that they won't be back. There are always criminals looking for that perfect opportunity---so don't give them opportunities—remove valuables from your vehicle, lock your vehicle, always utilize your security system both on your vehicle and your home—be safe, not sorry, the time and effort spent completing police reports, insurance claim forms, etc. plus the feeling of being violated—is a terrible price to pay for failing to use good judgment.

### **A serious criminal warning to all residents:**

We just received notification from State Senator Carona and the City of Garland Utilities regarding a nationwide scam being perpetrated against utility customers. In this instance, customers have been contacted by email, U.S. mail, fliers, social media, phone calls, text messages and door-to-door solicitation with claims that President Obama or some other governmental agency (i.e.: the City of Garland) will help them pay their utility bills by providing credits or making payments. To "receive the money for the bill payment" the scammers ask customers' to provide their social security and bank routing numbers. At that point, the scammers provide the customer with a phony bank routing number that will purportedly pay their utility bill. The consumer is still responsible for paying the utility bill, so it is important that you are aware of this scam and pay attention to your utility bill, and/or other mail that may come in your mailbox. If you notice mail is missing or not received, be on the alert, while there have been

no indications of actual mail theft—door-to-door solicitations can provide an excellent cover for mail theft.

Obviously, there is no such payment program and customers will believe their utility bills have been paid when in fact they have not and will not be paid. Instead, personal information belonging to the customer will have been stolen. Bank accounts can be totally wiped out, and credit cards or other credit lines can be opened using the stolen Social Security numbers.

To avoid being a victim, never provide your social security number, credit card number, banking information or other personal information to anyone requesting it over the phone or at your home (door-to-door solicitors) unless you are the individual who initiated the contact and are **very confident with whom you are speaking**.

If you are a victim of this scam and live in Garland, contact the City of Garland Customer Service Department at 972-205-2671 to notify them of the situation and to verify the status of your utility account. You should also contact Garland Police at 972-205-2018 to report identity theft.

### **A serious Health warning to all residents:**

Mosquitoes containing the West Nile Virus were found in Oakridge recently and the City sprayed our area on July 9<sup>th</sup>. We do not know just how long this spraying will last, especially in light of the fact that we have had some interim rain and most of our residents are watering their lawns and other plants. There were at least 15 locations found in Garland, and one of those was located near the Stoneridge/Big Oaks/Diamond Oaks intersection. West Nile Virus is spread from mosquito bites to humans and is a very serious disease. At least 2 Dallas County residents have already died because of this disease during the past month. We've had no reported cases in Garland, but you are urged to take precautions against mosquito bites.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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

(Continued from page 4)

- Limit outdoor activity near dawn and dusk—joggers, bicyclists, runners, dog walkers should take extra precaution.
- Wear long pants and long sleeve, loose-fitting shirts if you must be outdoors during peak mosquito timeframes.
- Use a repellent spray or oil on any exposed skin. Be sure the active ingredient is DEET. Always use these repellents and insecticides per the label directions and avoid getting any into your eyes. *Remember: Mosquitoes also carry heart worm to animals—protect your dog (s) and cat(s).* If you have small children or grandchildren, review the label on your repellent or spray, be certain it is safe for children under 12.
- Check your door and window screens to ensure that they are in good condition and fit tightly—mosquitoes only need a small opening to enter your home.
- Be diligent about monitoring your yard, look for *anything* that can hold a *small amount of water*—mosquitoes only need a thimble full or less to lay eggs and hatch thousands of offspring. Check the saucers of your flower pots; make sure the water in your bird baths is freshened daily. You can buy tablets at Home Depot and Lowe's to drop into bird baths, small ponds, etc. to kill the larvae. Clean your gutters—to remove debris that can block good drainage. Dog water bowls or other small containers should be washed and refilled at least once per day. If you have a wading pool, drain it, wash it and refill it frequently. When you run your sprinklers, check later that day for anything that is holding water, dump it immediately.
- Call the Health Department at 972-205-3460 if you are aware of a neglected swimming pool or areas that contain stagnant water bodies.

### **Some other things around Oakridge:**

Recently we've received several calls about "lost

keys"—in one instance a resident found a set of keys lying in his yard, apparently they had been either tossed from the street to the yard or tossed from the golf course to the yard. Fortunately, our Neighborhood Police Officer was able to locate the owner and return those keys. In another instance individuals were walking on the course and lost a set of car keys. Those keys have not been recovered and the owner was forced to have the dealership create a new key system. In yet another instance, someone was riding a bike on the golf course, and lost keys, possibly along several different areas since the key chain broke and the keys were falling off along the way. Some of those keys have been recovered, but others are still missing. Your house keys, car keys, office keys, locker keys, etc. are all valuable items and when lost or stolen any of them can present a major headache. A suggestion—have one house key made up and put it on a long chain that you can wear around your neck when you're out walking, biking, running or dog walking. Don't carry the entire set of keys with you when you go out for exercise or dog walking. You never know who might find those keys or what they may do with them.

We are noticing that more and more residents are allowing their dogs to run "off leash". This is against City Ordinance and could result in a fine against the dog owner. It also presents a possible danger to other residents or the animals of other residents: unfortunately, no matter how well trained a dog may be, when another dog enters his/her territory or his/her owners space that dog may feel threatened and attack, or it may become scared and dash out in front of a car. Be a good neighbor, keep your dog on a lease, and always, always, carry a litter bag when you're on a walk with your beloved pet.

### **Energy Saving Tips to help us avoid rolling black-outs in Texas this year:**

- ◆ Set your thermostat up higher—every degree of extra cooling will increase energy usage 6-8%

(Continued on page 9)

### Let Sue Do It

The repairman is coming, but you have a meeting?  
Let Sue do it.

Kitty and Rover won't go to the kennel?  
Let Sue do it.

#### Endless possibilities and reasonable pricing:

- pet sitting or house sitting
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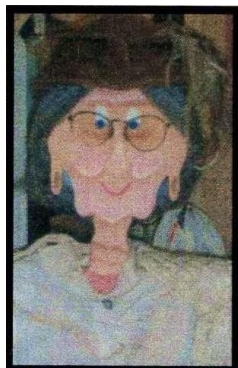
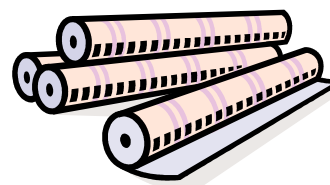
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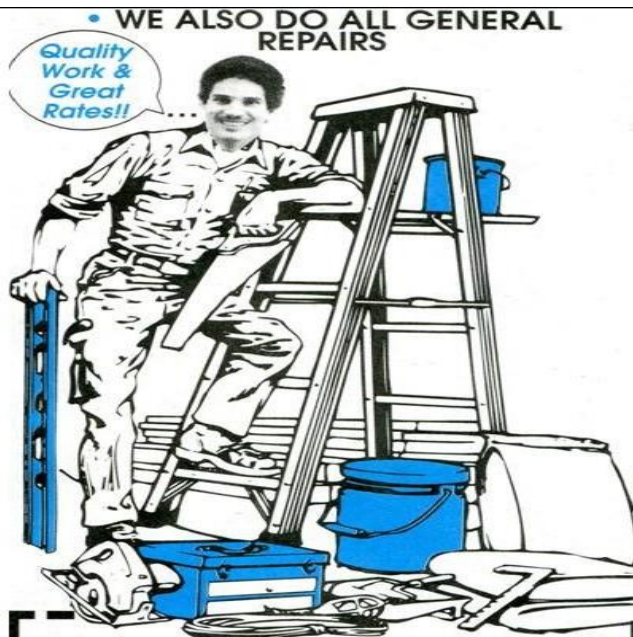
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### Five Easy Projects to Cut Energy Expenditures

Chances are, when you open your monthly utility statements, you're witnessing energy costs doubling and even tripling at the height of the season. Many homes, particularly those built more than 10 years ago, do not feature the latest energy-saving techniques and products. By spending just a few dollars and doing some simple projects, you can save energy - and significant amounts of money. Here are five fast fixes to help you start saving:

#### Lower Your Lighting Costs -

Start with this easy task: Replace current light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. They screw in just like standard bulbs, but use a fourth of the energy and last up to 10 times longer. An 18-watt CFL bulb provides as much light as a 75-watt standard light bulb. Average savings: \$10 - \$50 per year

#### Taming the Toilet -

A constantly-running toilet can use up to 8,000 gallons of water each year. Fix the problem by installing a toilet repair kit that features a new valve, flapper and other devices that will conserve water. Average Savings: \$25 - \$100 per year

#### Fix Leaky Fixtures -

Aside from causing that annoying "drip," leaky faucets can also cause a spike in your water bill. Replacing the aerator and rubber washer will cost you pennies yet save you dollars in the long run. As for the showerhead, consider installing a flow-restricting model - a family of four can conserve 10,000 gallons of water per year going this route. Average Savings: \$100 - \$300 per year

#### Hot Water Help -

Your water heater may be working harder than it needs to, costing you precious dollars. Reduce the temperature on the unit to about 120 degrees - the water

doesn't need to be any hotter. If the unit is older than 12 years, you may want to look into replacing it with a new, more energy-efficient model. Average Savings: \$20 - \$50 per year

#### Install a Programmable Thermostat -

Installing a programmable thermostat can significantly reduce energy costs, especially in the summer and winter months. Programmable models allow you to automatically adjust the temperature throughout the day, creating a specific energy-saving 'program' for weekdays and weekends. Some models even allow you to set preferences on the hour for each day of the week. Average Savings: \$125 - \$350 per year and up

Follow these simple tips and you'll see savings in no time. And remember, if you have home improvement questions visit us at **Groom & Sons'**. We're here to help!

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Through August 31st



## Handicap Parking Enforcement Enhanced in Garland Through New Volunteer Program



The Garland Police Department has created a handicap enforcement volunteer program to ensure individuals whose needs require accessible parking spaces have spaces available.

Twelve volunteers who have completed a required training course will begin issuing parking citations for handicap parking violations. Volunteers must complete the Garland Citizen's Police Academy and meet both state and departmental requirements.

Volunteers use their personal vehicles with magnetic signs that note their special assignment by the Garland Police Department. The volunteers are not sworn police officers and have no other enforcement authority beyond that of any resident, except for issuing handicap parking violation citations.

First-time handicap parking violations are punishable by a fine of no less than \$500 or more than \$750.

## Crime and Safety Report (continued) By Brenda Olive

*(Continued from page 5)*

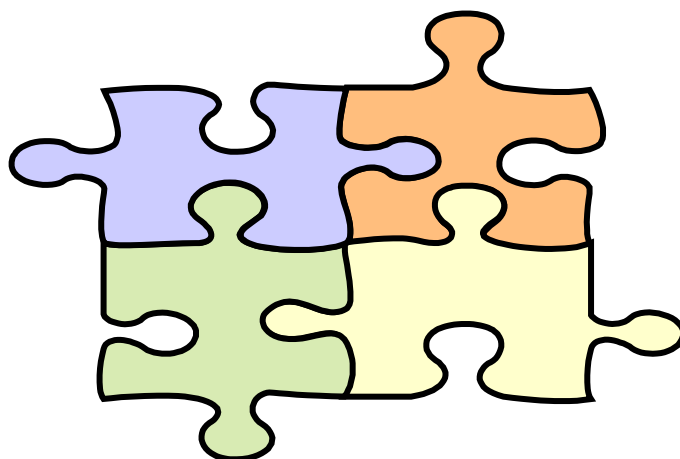
- ◆ Use ceiling and portable fans to circulate the cool air.
- ◆ Install solar window screens to block some of the sun. If you're planting new trees or plants, plant them on the south and west sides of your home to help block the heat during the summer.
- ◆ Keep your blinds and drapes closed during the day to block the sun and heat. (This also is a good deterrent against criminal's prying eyes.)
- ◆ If possible, shade your outside a/c unit.
- ◆ Cook, wash dishes, do laundry or other heat producing chores early in the morning or late evening hours.

## President's Message (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Seems like our economy here in Texas is getting a little better. Too bad other states are still having a rough time.

Sorry for the short note. Hopefully next month I will have more information.



## 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



**Aug. 3-Sept. 27 Garland Eyes Photography Exhibit**

**Granville Arts Center – Gallery Space**

The Garland Eyes website is the stories of Garland one image at a time. All images are of Garland or by a Garlandite or of a Garlandite. Garland Eyes will with a photo exhibit of images from GarlandEyes.com at the Granville Arts Center Gallery August 3 through September 27. Garlandites have many views onto the city and the world and have captured those views from many perspectives. The images at Garland Eyes are sometimes by professional photographers and sometimes by amateurs with little more than a phone camera, but each has a story to be told. The stories can be powerful while muted, personal while public. They may be edgy or square. Whatever they are, they are our stories. Contributors are encouraged to let the image do the talking. Garland Eyes seeks photos that are on the artistic side, that moved the photographer one or two steps beyond his comfort zone that brings a new perspective to the common view. The Internet is a wonderful median for sharing these stories but the subtleties are often lost in the pixelized monitors we use for our windows to Garland Eyes. The exhibit will feature images from Garland Eyes but presented in detail that only a larger, fine-printed image can reveal. Viewing hours are Monday through Friday, 9am – 5pm, and during all performances.



**Aug. 23-Sept. 15 “Black Coffee” by Garland Civic Theatre**

**Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre**

Garland Civic Theatre presents “Black Coffee” by Agatha Christie.

This little known mystery will certainly surprise and delight, especially “Christie” fans. The story concerns a physicist named Sir Claude Amory who has come up with a formula for an atomic bomb (*written in 1934*). Sir Claude is poisoned and Hercule Poirot is called in to solve the case. He does so after many wonderful twists and turns in the true “Christie” tradition. Performances on the first and second Thursdays are at 7:30pm. Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 8:00pm. Matinees are at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$17 - \$22 with group rates available. To purchase tickets call the Granville Arts Center Box Office at 972-205-2790 Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm.



**August 25 “The Hot-Time Rockers”**

**7:30 pm Plaza Theatre**

Please join C B Luce and his band “The Hot-Time Rockers” at an “old time Rock n Roll Show” on August 25th at The Plaza Theatre in Downtown Garland. The show begins at 7:30pm on Saturday night. If you love Elvis, Chuck, Jerry Lee, The Everly Brothers, Ray Charles, Buddy and all the other stars that created Rock ‘n Roll you will not want to miss this show.

Tickets may be purchased at [www.TheGarlandOpry.com](http://www.TheGarlandOpry.com) or by calling 972-494-3835. You may purchase tickets with your Credit Card or via PayPay. Or you may buy tickets at the door after 5pm the day of the show if tickets are still available. General Admission Tickets are \$15.00 with a Senior (60 yrs +) Ticket price of \$12.50. C B & his full band will be singing and playing your favorites from the 50's and

60's along with guest singers and dancers. Bring your dancing shoes. Some attendees will be invited on stage to demonstrate their R&R dancing skills while the band plays a favorite.



**August 26 "The Call Center" by Arts-N-Lyrics**  
**4 pm Plaza Theatre**

This play is about astute business woman Joelle Underwood, CEO of ANL Mobile, a successful communications company. Professionally she is always on top of her game; personally not so much. However, not one personal decision ever affected the company. UNTIL NOW! A decision that may cost her not only the man in her life that she should kick to the curb anyway, but the company she worked so hard to build. While her COO April Ascott is caught up in a situation that could leave a mark on her pristine career AND get her fired! This stage play is directed by Cynthia Boyd and begins at 4pm. Doors open at 3:30. Tickets are \$10 if purchased online at [www.ArtsNLYrics.com](http://www.ArtsNLYrics.com). Tickets purchased at the door are \$15

Texas", stated Carmen Gantt, David Allen promoter. "Elvis Tribute Artist, David Allen, is as close to the King as any ETA in the world. David was voted one of the top 10 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artists of the world by Elvis Presley Enterprises in Memphis during the 2011 Elvis Week last August" stated Ms Gantt. The Plaza Theater at 521 West State Street in Garland Texas will host David Allen's Tribute to Elvis on Saturday, September 1, 2012. David will be accompanied by the DATCB Band. Call (817) 251-1316 for tickets. David, a native of Dallas, began his Elvis tribute in 2000 after catching his Dad singing with a karaoke machine and began making fun of him. His father challenged him with the song 'All Shook Up.' Both were thoroughly surprised how much he sounded like Elvis. David's father entered his David in his first Elvis tribute contest and after David won it the rest is, as they say, "history".



**September 8 DD and the Studebakers**  
**7 pm Plaza Theatre**

DD and the Studebakers take us back on a musical journey to the 50's! Come and enjoy a night of Rock & Roll music at the Plaza Theatre just off the square in Downtown Garland. The show is at 7 pm on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Wear your bobby socks and pony tails as you toe tap to songs by Chuck Berry, Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Brenda Lee, Fats Domino, Bill Haley and the Comets and many more. It promises to be a night you won't forget. Bring your seat belts because the house will be rockin'. Tickets are \$12 each. To purchase tickets, go online at [ddstudebakers.com](http://ddstudebakers.com). Seating is general admission. DD and the Studebakers will perform your favorite songs from a musical era where you could understand the words and sing along...this promises to be a great night of 50's music.



**September 1**  
**Elvis Tribute by**  
**David Allen Show**  
**7 pm Plaza Theatre**

"This summer I am proud to say David Allen is back in

# Oakridge News



Oakridge Neighborhood Association  
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GARLAND TX 75040

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



## August 2012, Vol.20, No. 08

### *IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS*

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

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