



Presidents Message for September 2012

Probably by the time you receive this all of the aerial spraying will be complete. Living so close to Duck Creek I am sure that the spraying it will be good for our neighborhood. There is still a few weeks left that we could have the chance for more West Nile Virus cases to happen. By the way the cool weather has sure been nice for the end of the summer season it will definitely have an impact on all of our utilities.

Remember we are still on twice a week watering restrictions. Our watering days are Tuesday and Saturday, and you must water before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. By the way you can water by hand any time you need the restrictions are strictly for using sprinklers.

(Continued on page 3)

ONA OFFICERS

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

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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

ONA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) is making its final appeal for members this month. The ONA is a non-profit organization made up of volunteers whose primary mission is to care for the beauty of Oakridge and promote neighborliness and community in Oakridge. Many of you may not be aware that the ONA has been an integral part of the neighborhood that you call home. We ensure that the neighborhood areas at the entrances are maintained and we also support the neighborhood by providing a venue for neighborhood meetings, block parties, etc... Our Monthly newsletter provides information about the latest activities within our community and surrounding area. The newsletter also contains information about the City of Garland and the ONA board participates to ensure you are represented when there are agenda items that may affect Oakridge. The ONA also maintains a strong relationship with our Neighborhood Police Officer

and Citizens on Patrol. All of these things can be done because we have neighbors that are willing to volunteer and we have neighbors that are willing to support us financially.

The ONA is vital to "Oakridge" and it helps to make Oakridge a great place to call home. Without the association, Oakridge entrances would not be maintained or landscaped. The entrances would not be lit and the common medians and surrounding perimeter grass would not be mowed or trimmed. I don't think any of us would like to live in a neighborhood that isn't well kept and inviting! And think about what this means to your home and property values.

Our purpose is simple

"The purposes of the association are to assure the beauty, safety and stability of the area and the surrounding community; and to promote

(Continued on page 3)

City Council by Rick Williams

On July 20, there was an article in the *Dallas Morning News* regarding aggressive dogs in Dallas. The article said that Dallas Animal Services responds within 14 days to an aggressive dog call. I checked with Garland Animal Services, and their response time to that same priority call would be 16-17 *minutes* (2012 average).

Speaking of Animal Services, an inspector from the Texas Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Division conducted a routine inspection of the Garland Animal Shelter on July 12. The purpose of these unannounced inspections is to verify compliance with standards pertaining to municipal or county run animal shelters. The standards generally address shelter conditions as they relate to animal care, overall sanitation, and treatment of animals. The inspector also verifies compliance with certain certifications and continuing education requirements mandated for Animal Service Officers. The inspector found no deficiencies for the 6th year in a row—a testament to Diana Oats (Animal Services Manager) and her staff.

In addition to the glowing report, the DSHS inspector also verbally noted that Garland maintains one of the oldest facilities in the area in a very sanitary and safe condition for the animals present. The inspector attributed this to the veteran staff members who have long served as Animal Services employees. Evidently he sees much higher turnover rates at other shelters that have a less than perfect record. By the way, I'd love to see a new shelter in Garland, but I'm told they are in the \$12 million dollar range.

And one more Animal Services story. We've always had a doggie door in our bedroom for our dog and two cats to come and go as they please. However, with my dog barking in the house in the middle of the night for about 5 days and with strange "droppings" appearing in the house, I suspected we had a critter. I started looking under sofas and sur' nuff, under a heavy sofa in the living room was a little possum. Normally, I scoop them up myself in the backyard when my

dog corners one, but lifting a 200 lb. sofa with one hand and trying to net the possum with the other didn't appeal to me, so I called Garland Animal Services and Animal Services Officer Nolen captured the little critter (see photo).



As I mentioned in last month's article, the number of Neighborhood Police Officers (NPOs) was being expanded from 17 to 26—one for each of the 26 police districts. That change was effective August 19. If you want to see which NPO is assigned to each police district, go to Garland's web site www.garlandtx.gov and type "neighborhood police officers" in the SEARCH box. NPOs have been a very popular and very effective crime fighting group, and I fully support Chief Bates decision to expand the number of NPOs.

During the 2009 State legislative session, an amendment to Senate Bill 1896 basically allowed specific communities the ability to consider adopting a monthly fee for the costs of emergency medical services (ambulance/transport) administered by the Fire Department. In Garland, we had been recovering approximately 58% of the actual cost to provide these services; however, unrecovered costs were exceeding \$1.5

City Council by Rick Williams

million annually. The Garland City Council approved an EMS fee of \$1.50 which went into effect October 2010. Even with its adoption the city is still unable to fully recover the costs of these types of services, but it helps.

As you may know, at the end of the regular City Council meeting on the first and third Tuesday of each month, we have an "open mike" at the end of the meeting whereby any citizen can come down and say anything he/she wants to. Lest we violate the Texas Open Meetings Act, we on Council cannot engage in conversation with the individual at the podium, so we just sit and listen. For the past 3 or 4 years, we chose not to televise these "open mike" comments for multiple reasons I will not list here. However, on August 8, we voted 5-4 to reinstate televising comments. I was one of the 4. If you do tune into a Council meeting and hear any "open mike" comments, just remember you are only hearing one side and it has been my considerable experience that those speaking seldom know all the facts and considerations.

On August 14, 2012, the Garland City Council held a special "emergency" meeting to vote on whether to participate with other Dallas County cities in aerial spraying to kill the mosquito that carries the West Nile Virus. There were lots of citizens in the audience speaking both for and against spraying, and both sides made excellent arguments. In the end it was a tough choice to make, but I voted against spaying for reasons far too long and complicated to explain here. However, the council vote was 6-2 in favor of aerial spraying which may have been the best decision. As I mentioned, it was a close call. With all the controversy and concerns about WNV and aerial spraying, I believe the City of Garland has done a great job of getting out information by multiple means.

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:rckwilli@gmail.com).

ONA Membership Drive Continues

(Continued from page 1)

neighborliness and pride among the residents of Oakridge."

We need your annual contribution of \$60.00 to continue this effort

Your annual dues of \$60 are spent on:

- ✦ Landscape Maintenance
- ✦ Monthly Newsletter and Website
- ✦ Utilities Expenses for Lighting and Water

ONA Membership Events

To make your contribution to the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

Log into our website www.oakridgena.org and contribute via PayPal.

Print out a membership form on our website and mail us a check.

Send in your membership form and check when you receive our invoice. Invoices are mailed in September to neighbors that are nonmembers.

Thanks for participating – Cecile LaBossiere,
Membership Director

President's Message (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

At our last board meeting we found out that we still have some interest in purchasing the golf course. Nothing has happened yet. Sorry I do not have any other positive news. Let's just all keep our fingers crossed that we will have some positive news soon.

Hope you all have a safe and prosperous September!

Crime and Safety Report

By Brenda Olive

I'm sorry to report that mail thefts are back with us....there were at least 2 incidents between August 6th and August 15th--one on Stoneridge and one on Shady Oaks-- both sides of the creek. Everyone needs to be on the alert and all should take the necessary precautions until these thieves can be apprehended. As a quick reminder:

1. Don't put outgoing mail in your curbside mailbox.
2. Don't leave your mail in the mailbox overnight.
3. Keep an eye out for anyone stopping in vehicles near mailboxes, and observe individuals who may be riding bikes or skateboards, or simply walking, to ensure that strangers aren't taking your mail or that of your neighbors.
4. Report any obvious instances to the Garland Police Department immediately, and try to provide a description of the person(s), the vehicles or method of traveling, along with the direction he/she is traveling.

If you are ordering new checks from your bank, arrange to pick them up at the bank-- don't have them delivered to your home.

We want to take this opportunity to welcome Officer Tommy Barnes as the new Neighborhood Police Officer assigned to District 14, which includes Oakridge. The Garland Police Department has added sufficient new officers to the roster of Neighborhood Police Officers so that one officer will be responsible for only one district. Previously, Officer Capers was our NPO and he covered both District 14 and District 11 which meant that he had to cover more than one large residential area. Of course this prevented him from spending as much time in the actual neighborhoods as needed. With the new assignments, each officer will have one district and he/she should be able to become more informed about the

area and be able to meet and get to know more of the residents. Not only is Officer Barnes new to our district, he is also new to the NPO program, so it may take a little time for him to get "up to speed" on the ins and outs of our neighborhood as well as the others within his district. We are looking forward to working with him in the future.

As most of you know, the man we all know as the "Oakridge Peeper" was arrested recently and to the best of our knowledge he is still in Dallas County jail. This arrest occurred after he fled police and tried to evade arrest—for the third time. Perhaps this time will "afford him the opportunity" of spending time in the prison system for the State of Texas—and hopefully he won't be early released again. Fortunately, Marty, an employee at the Country Club observed the guy on CC property and called a Garland Police Officer to the scene. When the peeper saw the officer he fled the scene and couldn't be located in our area. Shortly thereafter a call was received by the GPD advising of someone inside a vacant home located in Holford Park. When GPD officers arrived there, the culprit fled again, running to his parent's home, and then hiding inside. After his mother gave permission, police broke down a door and were able to arrest him inside the home. Apparently the incident at the Oakridge CC triggered this guy's dash back to Holford Park where he attempted to flee and hide from the police. Oakridge residents owe a big Thank You to Marty for setting this whole thing into action and the ultimate arrest of Mr. Simpson.

Between August 1st and August 18th we had 7 criminal incidents in Oakridge.

August 1 3200 block of Big Oaks Dr -
Unauthorized use of Motor Vehicle

August 3 2900 block of Willow Ridge Dr -Theft,
\$1,500 < \$20,000

(Continued on page 5)

Crime and Safety Report (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

August 3 2630 block of Ridge Oak Pl-Burglary Habitation

August 6 2800 block of Stoneridge Dr-Mail Theft/Fraud

August 9 2800 block of Laurel Oaks Dr-Criminal Mischief \$50 < \$500

August 13 2800 block of Big Oaks Dr-Criminal Mischief \$500 <1,500

August 15 2200 block of Shady Oaks Ct-Mail Theft/Fraud

Tuesday night, Oct. 2nd, we will be observing National Night Out.

Since we still have no central location for a meeting we will be doing a “parade around Oakridge” similar to the one we did last year—with police cars, fire trucks, the COP, probably Angie Chen Button our State Representative and some other participants. We will kick off around 6:30pm at the Oakridge CC and then transverse the entire Oakridge neighborhood by 8:00pm. We will have some small items for children all along the way, and we sincerely hope that you will join us as we observe this year’s National Night Out. By that time the West Nile Virus should be a thing of the past—and we’re asking residents to get out—meet your neighbors up and down the street---perhaps throw a hot dog on the grill, ask others to bring along some chips or sodas, or maybe just enjoy an ice cream cone together. Listen for the horns and sirens and watch for the lights---we’re looking forward to seeing everyone outside that night.

**Ruth Elizabeth
“Peggy” Richey**

**June 1, 1952 -
August 3, 2012**



Peggy as most of us knew her was a resident of Oakridge for many years. My first recollection of her was the day she knocked on my door and introduced herself. She sold three houses for us, two in Oakridge. She was always there to answer any questions and help you to decide what to do. She always had a positive attitude and wanted to help in any way she could.

Peggy battled cancer with such a positive attitude it made you want to live like she did. She has been an inspiration for all of us that knew her and we will miss that positive attitude but I will remember it every day and try to apply it to my life. Peggy we will miss you!

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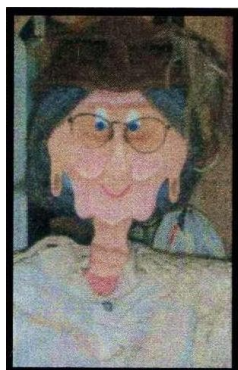
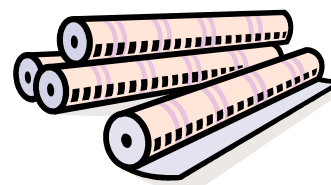
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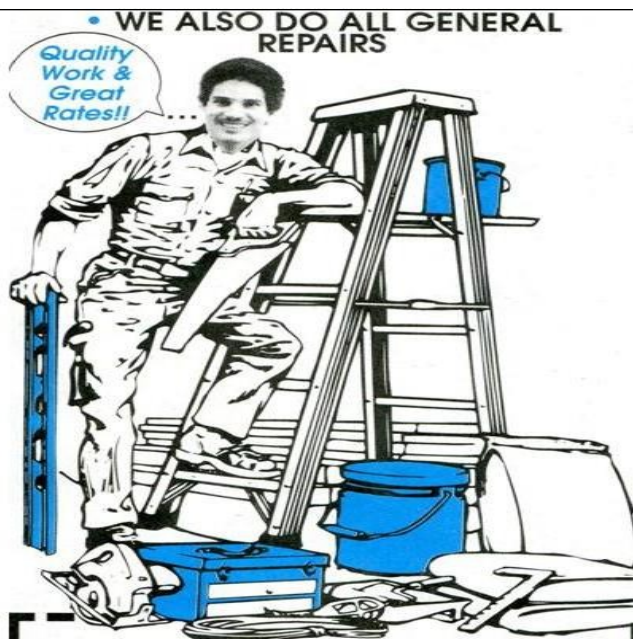
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VOLUNTEER PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Jackie Griffin

After reading the article in the Oakridge newsletter about the "Handicapped Parking Enforcement Enhanced in Garland through New Volunteer Program", I had to laugh. While enforcement of these spaces is needed, common sense does need to be applied so as not to burden an already challenged person.

First of all, those of you who know me already know I have a handicap and have in the last few years, reached the wheelchair stage of my life. I have driven minivans since 1989 and recently purchased a new one. All of these vans have been handicapped equipped and tagged.

My current van has a scooter lift and scooter in the back, although I normally use a manual wheelchair for access in to stores and restaurants. It also has hand controls and therefore it has a sign on the windshield for all to see that says WARNING: This vehicle is equipped with handicapped equipment. Do not drive this vehicle without instructions. It is pretty obvious this is not your standard van.

On July 4th Jim and I were in Hancock's Fabric shopping. We had not received the handicapped tags for the van yet, so we were still using

the placard. But after having handicapped tags for 13 or so years it was not something we gave a lot of thought to and simply forgot to put the placard on the mirror. Most people could look at the van and see it was for a handicapper or so we thought.

We came out of the store and found a parking ticket left by an overzealous volunteer! Yes, the ticket has been dismissed but it took 4 trips to the courthouse, 3 to finally set up a court date and then 1 ½ hours spent sitting in the courtroom! That is a lot of wear and tear on me, time away from work for Jim, hours wasted. To say nothing of court officials time wasted!

As has been my experience, these volunteers can't actually ticket the real violators. The ones who are using someone else's placard and jog into the place where they will only be a minute. I have been inconvenienced many times myself by violators, and gone on to find other parking. Usually two spaces are needed for accessibility.

My request for these volunteers is if they are going to be allowed to write tickets teach them the differences between a handicapped vehicle and a standard one. Teach them what to look for. Most importantly – please teach them to be observant and use common sense!



Youth Achievement Foundation- Be a Mentor, Build Character, One Kid at a Time

By David and Sharon Parrish

We hear a lot of complaining about the **character** of today's kids. Did you know there was a program right here in Garland where **you can make a difference**? Starting last September, we gave up one night of television a week to join the Youth Achievement Foundation (YAF) mentoring program at Williams Elementary in Garland. YAF also provides mentoring to Sellers and Sam Houston Middle Schools. Think back to your youth. Who made a difference in your character? Much like us, we would bet your answer was an adult. An adult who dedicated their time to guide you through life's most vulnerable moments. Today's kids are just as vulnerable, and the temptations are greater.

The Youth Achievement Foundation is dedicated to assisting disadvantaged youth by organizing and sponsoring supplementary educational programs that enable them to develop into college-educated, upright leaders who serve family and community. YAF differs from other "tutoring" programs because it seeks to develop the whole person by **stressing character formation** as well as academic achievement. The program is designed to help students become good citizens by giving them the tools they need to succeed.

Where does that leave us? Success! 100% of our fifth graders at Williams passed all three parts of the TAKS and were promoted. In April, David helped chaperone a field trip to Southern Methodist University. At the end of the trip, he ate pizza and talked with the boys from Williams. He was touched by their enthusiasm for their future. All considered higher education possible. Most planned to be engineers. Sharon noted that the girls were interested in becoming teachers and doctors.

Next steps, if you have any questions, call either of us at (972) 530-3351 or call Joe Walker, the Executive Director of YAF, at (214) 514-3640. Or you may visit the Youth Achievement Foundation website (<http://www.yaftx.org/>) and sign-up to be a mentor and build character, one kid at a time.

As you think about your choices, perhaps instead of changing the channel you can change a life.

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



September 22
Candy Wilson and Friends Brain Tumor Fundraiser
7 pm Plaza Theatre

Join Candy Wilson and her musical friends as they present the 2nd annual evening of vocal music, instrumental music and dance at the Plaza Theatre September 22, 7pm to 9pm. Musical genres will include classical, pop, country, contemporary, jazz, gospel and also Caribbean sounds from a steel drum band. Chip Waggoner of Fox 4 news will be the emcee. All proceeds will go to the National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS), an organization Candy has been involved in since her 2009 diagnosis of brain tumors and subsequent brain surgery in April of this year. Visit www.CandyAndFriends.com for tickets, more information about the show, Candy's journey, the NBTS, and the cast members of the show. Tickets are \$10 and are available for purchase on the website and also at the door.

Chessmen while his younger brother Stevie Ray was just starting to be noticed in a band called The Cast of Thousands. With competition from The Novas, The Briks, The Sensations, The Chaparrals, The Outcasts, The Five Americans and so many other talented groups in town, it meant that the choices when booking a band were huge. But the top choice was always Kenny and the Kasuals. They were the kings of the proms, frat parties and dances, drawing full houses and demanding top dollar. For tickets, call 972-205-2790.



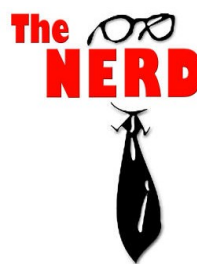
September 29 "My Childhood Memories" by Mexico 2000
Granville Arts Center - Brownlee Auditorium

Mexico 2000 Ballet Folklorico invites you to enjoy a show in which the most popular Mexican children's games, such as Dona Blanca, La Viora de la Mar, as well as the traditional "Mexican Bingo" and its 54 personages will be remembered. Be prepared to be transported to the world of Mexican Folklore with rhythms that fill the stage with color and magic. Also featured will be the premiere of "Salon Mexico." Tickets at \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. For reservations or more information call 972-429-1082 or email info@mexico2000.net.



September 29
Kenny and the Kasuals
7:30 pm Plaza Theatre

Kenny and The Kasuals will be performing at the Plaza Theatre on September 29 at 7:30. From 1964 to 1968, the top teen band in North Texas was a five piece combo called *Kenny and the Kasuals*. To earn the distinction of being number one was no easy task in those days as the competition was fierce. The hot R&B band The Nightcaps were still rockin' the city in the mid-sixties and younger rock bands were also filling local clubs and dances. Jimmie Vaughan was leading The



October 4-27 "The Nerd" by Garland Civic Theatre
Granville Arts Center - Small Theatre

Considered to be one of the funniest plays ever written, this extraordinarily inventive, side-splitting comedy will have you laughing in the aisles. The action centers on

the hilarious dilemma of a young architect who is visited by a man he's never met, but who saved his life in Vietnam – the visitor turning out to be an incredibly inept, hopelessly stupid "Nerd" who outstays his welcome with a vengeance! Don't miss this spring tonic of side-splitting laughter. 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.



October 6 "Cat Ballou" presented by the City of Garland 7 pm Plaza Theatre

Join us at the Plaza Theatre for a free showing of the hilarious "Cat Ballou," presented by the City of Garland. "Cat Ballou," starring Jane Fonda, Lee Marvin and Michael Callan (also with Nat King Cole) is the story of a woman seeking revenge for her murdered father who hires a famous gunman, but he's very different from what she expects. The Daily Telegraph calls this movie "The Western to end all Westerns...never less than very, very funny." Popcorn, soda and candy are available for \$2 each. Concession profits will be donated to the Garland Summer Musicals.



October 19 Joseph Hall's Elvis Tribute 7 pm Plaza Theatre

Joseph Hall will be performing at the Plaza Theatre Friday, October 19. This is a can't miss opportunity to see this America's Got Talent finalist 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. The show 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.



October 19 Garland Symphony Orchestra Concert I 8 pm Granville Arts Center –

Brownlee Auditorium

The Garland Symphony Orchestra presents its 2012-2013 Season, "Viva España!" at the Granville Arts Center. The GSO opening concert in October will feature Chabrier's *España* and Ravel's *Bolero*, just to name a few! This performance will feature Albeniz's *Rhapsodia Espanola for Piano and Orchestra!* The Garland Symphony Orchestra credits its Music Director, Robert Carter Austin for its continued outstanding and diverse orchestral programming. Maestro Austin's background encompasses over 30 years of professional music experience and includes degrees from MIT, Cambridge University, and Stanford University. Single tickets are \$15, \$25, and \$35 and are available by telephone (972.926.0611), fax (972.926.0811), or email (info@garlandsymphony.org). Group discounts are also available; please call the Garland Symphony Orchestra office at 972.926.0611. For more information on the Garland Symphony Orchestra, please visit www.garlandsymphony.org.

Oakridge News



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



September 2012, Vol.20, No. 09

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N P O John Capers	972-205-2740
CP&S Bill Olive	972-495-3402

www.OakridgeNA.org