



## Presidents Message for October 2012

Our neighborhood meeting was well attended. We have a new Neighborhood Garland Police Office patrolling our neighborhood. His name is Office Barnes, he has been with the City of Garland six years. He spoke to us for a few minutes and is very aware of what goes on in our neighborhood. I am very appreciable to the City of Garland for sending someone of Officer Barnes ability to our neighborhood. If you see him, please introduce yourself and shake his hand.

In case you are wondering why we cancelled our Neighborhood out, it was due to the West Nile virus going around. We did not feel that we needed to expose anyone to this horrible disease since we recently had another case on Big Oaks.

*(Continued on page 8)*

### 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

August and September is always "budget time" on the city council, and we hear from various departments regarding their planned operating budget for fiscal year (FY) 2013. I always learn a few tidbit of information during these briefings which I find of interest, and I'll pass some of those on in this article.

Garland has been piloting and now is ready for city-wide implementation of E-billing. The E-bill system allows you to receive your monthly utility bill from the City of Garland by email which (1) saves the City the cost of a stamp, and (2) guarantees your bill will not be lost by USPS. Expect more information on this during forthcoming bill stuffers, *The Garland City Press*, etc., but if you want to get started now, go to [www.garlandutilities.org](http://www.garlandutilities.org) and click the purple box labeled "E-Bill."

If you have been reading my articles for the last 5+ years, you've heard me sound the alarm about the forthcoming increases in the cost of water that the City buys from the North Texas Municipal Water District. At briefing in late August, it was explained that 9 years from now, the cost should be about double what it is right now. For FY 13, we will continue with our tiered water rates: Up to 3000 gallons: \$3.02 per one hundred gallons (OHG), 3000 to 15,000 gallons: \$3.97/OHG, and 15,000+ gallons: \$6.14/OHG. I also found interesting a break down on the percentage of residential users in each of these three tiers: Up to 3000 gal (19%), 3000 to 15,000 (50%), and 15,000+ (21%). Since I fall in the 21% category, my water bill has exceeded my electric bill the last 2 months. The water department does public education on water conservation, but as I commented at the meeting, water

*(Continued on page 2)*

## City Council by Rick Williams

(Continued from page 1)

conservation will be driven much more by the price of water than altruistic water resource stewardship.

Environmental Waste Service (EWS) reported that even though single stream recycling has been in effect for only 2 months (including 8200 homes that received large blue recycle containers), the tonnage of recycled material has already increased by 14.22% which is a bigger increase than what was prognosticated at this early date. I asked what would happen to the blue containers if they are not being used for recycling. Basically, we are going to give all the households that received the blue containers about 6 months to begin recycling, and if not participating, we'll simply take them back. They cost \$53.00 each. EWS received three State/local awards last year, and they were well deserved.

Despite many management innovations and course improvements, the Firewheel Golf Course (63 holes) lost \$360,000 this fiscal year, yet this golf course is one of the smartest investments this city ever made. The course attracted up-scale homes which annually pay about \$4.5 million in property taxes, and had not those homes been in place when we were trying to bring a mall to Garland, Firewheel Town Center would have never been built.

With a lot of new council members, we are starting to discuss issues previously dispatched by the past Council. One such past decision being revisited is banning cell phones in school zones. Garland is one of the few local cities that does not, and there are some good reasons for that decision. It's complicated issue too long to discuss here, but if you'd like to hear all the arguments, the video replay of the recent work session discussion is on Garland's web site or you can send me an email, and I'll send you the link to the discussion. The final decision has not been made yet.

NPOs Capers and Rumatz brought new NPO Tommy Barnes to my home recently as I had not

met him. I was very impressed by Officer Barnes, and I'm confident he'll do a fine job in his assigned area essentially south of Apollo and west of North Garland Avenue.

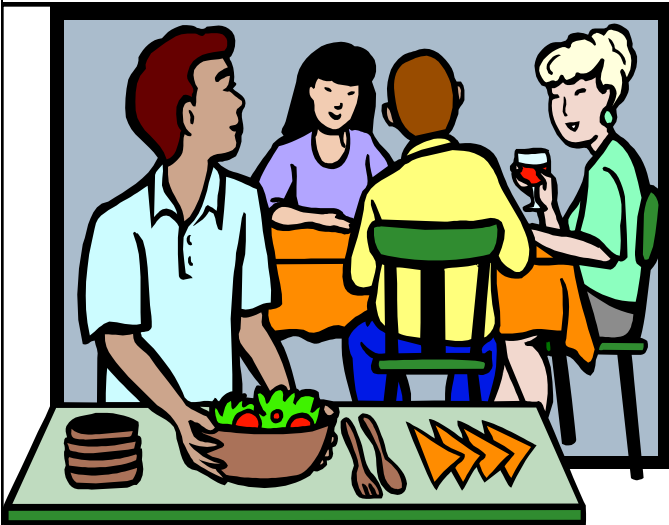
The 2012 Neighborhood Summit, 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be held on October 27, 8:00AM to 2:00PM, at the Curtis Culwell Center (formerly special events center), 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd, Garland 75040. It's a great way to learn more about how to make better neighborhoods in Garland, and if interested, you can register by emailing [tallmend@garlandtx.gov](mailto:tallmend@garlandtx.gov), or call 972 205-2445, or visit [www.garlandsummit.org](http://www.garlandsummit.org).

Several years ago, the Building Inspection department took over responsibility for "code violations" on commercial properties such as high grass, 18-wheelers parking on parking lots overnight, trash, etc. Previously, the Code Compliance Dept. handled such complaints in addition to residential property violations. I have told many individuals and neighborhood groups that they can report residential code violations by emailing Code at [codenfc@garlandtx.gov](mailto:codenfc@garlandtx.gov), but Building Inspection never had a general email address to report violations on commercial property. Well, I learned at a budget briefing recently that such an address now exists, and it is [buildinginspections@garlandtx.gov](mailto:buildinginspections@garlandtx.gov). Like ALL reports to Code Compliance, BI, and police via phone, letter, etc., these email reports are also 100% confidential.

As of this writing (September 20), it appears a buyer for the Oakridge Club/Course has been found. They are already seeking bids to renovate the club house, but the golf course will not likely open until July or August next year as it is too late to plant new grass for the greens this year. Anyway, there will be much more info on this in the future, but one thing is certain, when the club/course opens, it will be very, very important for Oakridge residents to support it!

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).

## Daytimers



### SEPTEMBER COFFEE

Activities, events, news, announcements, concerns, discussions, laughter ... all of these elements were included in the opening fall meeting of the Oakridge Daytimers on September 11, 2012, at the home of hostess, Betty Prickett.

Neighbors were greeted, by Dianne Winter, as they gathered after a summer of traveling, visiting relatives, and attempts to escape the heat. As soon as the lively conversations subsided, Chris Beyers, president, welcomed everyone; including June Dyson, guest of Ruby Nell Ormon. The food hostesses for the meeting were Nell Burt, Margaret Fowler, Randy Waterman and JoAnn Williams.

Chris led the group in a special memorial tribute to past historical, life-changing events, especially the attack of 9/11, followed by a moment of silence to honor these. The Daytimers group met and was together on that tragic day eleven years ago. As the Daytimers begin their 15<sup>th</sup> year, the group's longevity is a testament to the importance of female friendship and support.

Rooted in a book club reading of One Amazing Thing, by Chitra Divakaruni, members will be

sharing an interesting event in their life in an attempt to get to know each other better. At the September meeting, Margaret Fowler told "how a speeding ticket led to a college degree".

Announcements and reports:

Peggy Crenshaw, Treasurer, announced the cost of yearly dues will remain \$15.00, and that she had already collected from many members.

Chris announced that Daytimers are attempting to go paperless. She encouraged members to use the Shutterfly site for calendars, photos and events. Suzanne Snow set-up this site for Daytimers. The site contains all the information for the club, but access is available only to members.

Sally Weiss and Gail Durbin are in charge of special activities. Gail has been posting numerous activities and performances giving members opportunities to attend those of their choosing.

Peggy Crenshaw gave a Book Club report. She encouraged attendance and announced a change in venue for the September meeting. In addition to the September Book Club meeting, some members will attend the Richardson Reads One Book event on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mah Jongg, Bridge, Canasta, and GoGo's – all are continuing on the regular schedules.

Sally Weiss offered to organize the Oakridge Christmas Caroling event, which will include an after party at Margaret Fowler's. The December Christmas meeting of the Daytimers was discussed with possible changes to the proposed gift exchange.

Audrey King announced birthdays with her usual flair. Many concerns were expressed about members who were ill or needed encouragement, and

## **Crime and Safety Report**

**By Brenda Olive**

Our crime statistics for Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> through Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> are:

8/28/12 Criminal Mischief 2100 block of Rolling Oak Lane

9/08/12 Fraud/info/theft 2600 block of Ridge Oak Place

9/10/12 Burglary Vehicle 2800 block of Hickory Bend Dr

Officer Tommy Barnes is the new Neighborhood Police Officer for District 14, which includes Oakridge. Officer John Capers will now be responsible for District 11 only, but will be nearby in the event that Officer Barnes needs his assist, or vice versa. This move accomplishes something that Chief Bates has wanted to do for quite a while—have one NPO for each of the 26 districts in Garland. This will allow each officer the opportunity to “get to know” their respective areas in a more one on one way, harking back to the days of beat officers. We will miss Officer Capers but we’re also looking forward to working with Officer Barnes.

This newsletter will reach you after the fact; however, by way of explanation, the parade, etc. that the COP was planning for the **National Night Out was cancelled** due to concerns about West Nile Virus after we learned there were apparently at least 2 cases in Oakridge. The COP hopes we can plan something for the neighborhood once when we don’t have to be concerned about the safety and welfare of our residents. A few years ago, the National Town Watch group who sponsors the National Night Out agreed to allow Texas, Florida and Arizona to change their events from August to October to avoid the heat, unfortunately, they could not foresee the outbreak of West Nile Virus, not only around the country, but more importantly, here in Dallas.

Although you may not see mosquitoes, they’re obviously out there and we simply did not want to put anyone in peril. The city did re-spray by truck,

on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, but this only kills mosquitoes which are flying or exposed to the spray. Please, take a few minutes, spray yourself down with a repellent containing **Deet®**, and take a walk around your home to make sure that anything that can hold even a miniscule amount of water is dumped, covered or otherwise protected. When you water your plants or your lawn it raises the possibility of mosquitoes hatching. We’ll probably have to wait for a hard freeze to ensure the elimination of these pesky insects.

A large swarm of Africanized Bees was recently discovered on the golf course—I was advised that there were over 30,000 of them, but fortunately, they were located and subsequently exterminated. For anyone who doesn’t know, Africanized Bees are also known as “killer bees”. These bees were first found in the U.S. in October, 1990 in Hidalgo, Texas. Now they’ve spread to over 100 Texas counties. Africanized bees are easily agitated by vibrations, noises or movement. Unlike our native honey bees, they generally don’t sting as individuals, instead, the entire hive or swarm will attack anything or anyone nearby. Simple things like a lawnmower, barking dog, or loud music can set them off. Although there is a slight size difference and color variation usually, it is virtually impossible for a lay person to know the difference between a regular honey bee and an Africanized one, so if you see a swarm of bees it is best to avoid them and call a professional bee keeper right away. Another problem with these bees is that they are known to invade native hives and mate, creating more easily agitated honey bees. We need honey bees to help pollinate crops and flowering plants, but we should all be aware that if you see a swarm of bees, hanging on a tree, in a bush or eve of a house---step away and call an expert.

**Finally, some good news—we have a potential buyer for the club—hopefully by the time you read this, it will be fait accompli!**

<b>Handyman Tips</b>	<b>Daytimers (continued)</b>
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<b>Holiday Decorating</b>	
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Although some of the "old standby items" still make the cut for decorating, there are a number of non-conventional items you should consider to adorn your home. Among some of the products you'll see on hardware store shelves:

**Rope Lights -**  
Also known as tube lights, these decorative lights have been around for a few years and just keep getting better. They can take the form of holiday characters like reindeer and Christmas trees, or you can use their unusual yet handy "shapability" to wrap around porch railings and entry columns. Get a little creative with how and where you string them and who knows what you can come up with!

**Commercial-Grade Light Sets -**  
Commercial light sets are stronger and can handle more wear and tear, the bulbs burn brighter and up to six strands can be strung together for greater decorating ability. Make this investment now, and your lights will last year after year without having to be replaced as often.

**Light Clips -**  
To take the strain out of stringing the house with lights, light clips allow for hanging lights off gutters and around window frames without nails. There are even clips for hanging lights off of bricks for masonry homes. The clips are inexpensive and can be re-used, and what's more, when it's time to take the lights down off the house, the clear clips can be left on for next year. It'll make your job that much easier!

Chad Groom

Groom & Sons' Ace Hardware

Lillian Dalton will send cards as needed.

As always, Daytimer members are encouraged to join and support the Oakridge Neighborhood Association through their participation and membership.

Please plan to attend and bring a neighbor to the next Daytimers Coffee at the home of Chris Beyers, Tuesday, October 9th at 10 am. The theme for the October meeting will be the Texas State Fair.

*Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15.00 annual dues. Daytimers promote the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Any questions should be directed to President, Chris Beyers, at 972-530-8292.*

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Through October 31, 2012

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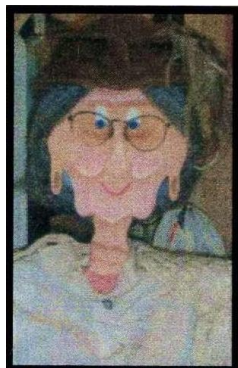
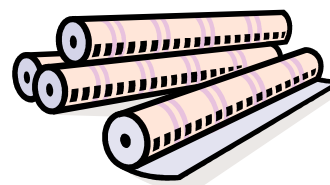
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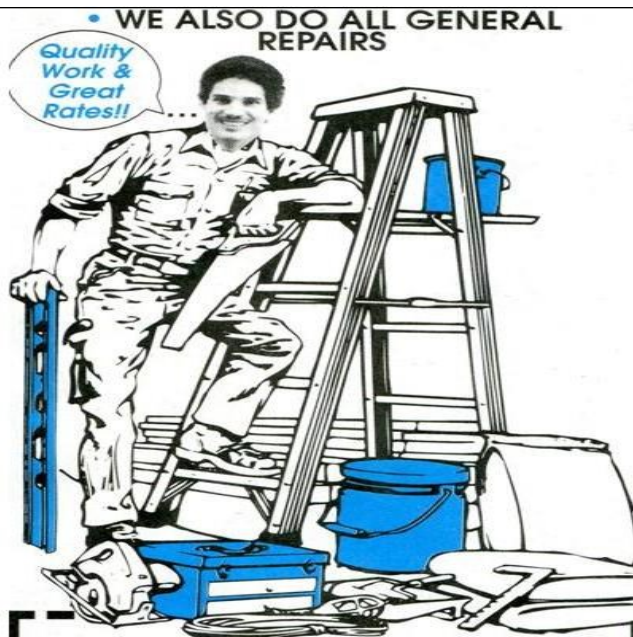
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ANDREW.MLCAK@ACT77.ORG

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Achievement Center of Texas Sporting Clay Tournament Fundraiser –October 20 Join the Achievement Center of Texas Saturday October 20, 2012 at 9 a.m. for their first ever Sporting Clay Tournament! It will be held at Elm Fork Shooting Ranch in Dallas, TX off Luna Road near I-635. You will tackle a 12 stand sporting clay course taking aim at 100 clay targets. With the help of your golf cart and teammates, you could be our top shot of the day. Participants need to bring their own shotgun and ammunition or rent/buy from Elm Fork. Trophies will be awarded to the overall best shot, as well as, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. The entry fee is \$125.00 per person or \$400.00 for a foursome (team). All money raised will be used to buy supplies and to furnish scholarships for the students of the Achievement Center of Texas. There will be a lunch, a silent auction and a raffle. For more information contact Andrew Mlcak at (972) 414-7700 or visit the website: <http://www.actgala.com/>.

## President's Message (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

You may have noticed that your water bill seemed a little higher. The city of Garland has gone up on our water usage. Should you have any questions please call the water department at the city and they will give you the new rates or go to the cities web site and I am sure that you can find that information. North Texas Municipal Water District is in the process of bringing in a new pipe line from Lake Texoma to bring more water to their facility in Wylie.

Well we finally have some good news on the club and the golf course. We do have a buyer and hopefully by the time you get this we will have a new owner. I had a meeting with the buyers a few weeks ago and they were very positive about their purchase. They have not shared any news about how soon or what they will do with the facility. However in our meeting they indicated that they will bring it back as a golf facility.

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

Enjoy the cooler weather Hope you all have a safe and prosperous October!

Larry





## **The Atrium voted "Venue of the Year"**

### Press Release

Garland, Texas – September 13, 2012 – The Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of the Association of Wedding Professionals (AWP) voted The Atrium at The Granville Arts Center "Venue of the Year" at the association's annual awards banquet on September 11, 2013 at Ill Forks Restaurant.

The Atrium was one of ten venues nominated for the award. The award is voted on by the AWP members and presented each year at the annual awards banquet.

Since its' grand opening in March 2003, **The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center** continues to be an award-winning wedding venue that has gained recognition throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth wedding community.

The Atrium Event Director, Mark Wilson, was honored and thrilled to accept the award on behalf of the Granville Arts Center and the City of Garland. "What a great honor to once again receive the coveted Venue of the Year award" said Wilson. The AWP membership also voted the Atrium "Venue of the Year" in 2008.

In addition, The Atrium was also awarded the "Bride's Choice Award" in 2011 as one of the best wedding venues in the country by [www.weddingwire.com](http://www.weddingwire.com) and was designated Wedding Wire rated for 2011 and 2012.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.garlandarts.com](http://www.garlandarts.com) and also our storefront on [www.weddingwire.com](http://www.weddingwire.com).

## **Utility Customers May be Targeted By Nationwide Billing Scam**

City of Garland utility customers are warned about a nationwide utility bill payment scam that can result in identity theft and unpaid utility bills.

### **Details about the Scam**

Nationwide, 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 will help them pay their utility bills by providing credits or making payments.

To receive the money for the bill payment, scammers claim they need customers' social security and bank routing numbers. In return, customers are provided a phony bank routing number that will supposedly pay their utility bills.

Since there is no such governmental bill payment program, there is no money for payments, customers will believe they paid their utility bills when in fact they have not, and personal information will have been stolen.

### **How to Avoid the Scam**

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 unless you initiated the contact and feel confident with whom you are speaking.

### **Victims of the Scam**

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



**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



**October 21 "Messy" by Jonathan Nelson**

**3 pm & 7 pm Plaza Theatre**

Jonathan Nelson presents the stage play "Messy" at the Plaza Theatre. Three female co-workers my dislike each other, but they hate their male chauvinist boss even more. So much more, that they make a pact to become friends just to come up with ways to get rid of him, while back stabbing one another along the way. There will be 2 performances, one at 3 pm and one at 7 pm. For tickets, go to [www.JaySaharaProduction.com](http://www.JaySaharaProduction.com)

this historic concert. Tickets for this event are \$5 and all seats are general admission. You may purchase tickets by simply paying at the door. Group rates are available. For more information please visit our website at: [Lakeshoresymphonicwinds.com](http://Lakeshoresymphonicwinds.com) or email us at [ntsu74tbone@verizon.net](mailto:ntsu74tbone@verizon.net).



**October 27 Lakeshore Symphonic Winds**

**7 pm Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium**

Through an exclusive arrangement with Madrid-based composer Joaquin Anaya Garrido, the Lakeshore Symphonic Winds presents *Noche de Paso Doble* on Saturday, October 27, 2012, on the Brownlee Auditorium stage of the Patty Granville Arts Center in Garland. The LSW will be performing many well-known and familiar paso dobles and will feature the North American premiere of several of Senor Anaya Garrido's most recent works. Writing primarily for the Banda Municipal de Madrid, Senor Anaya Garrido is both appreciative and excited that his compositions will be performed and heard on this side of the Atlantic. The Lakeshore Symphonic Winds has established itself as one of the area's premier wind ensembles and is proud to present Senor Anaya Garrido's music to a North Texas audience. Please join us as Maestro Hugo Martinez conducts the Lakeshore Symphonic Winds in



**October 27 PaPa Was A Rollin' Stone**

**by Tyler Productions**

**2pm & 6:30pm Plaza Theatre**

Joe Frazier thought he had it all- Money, Prestige, Women, Cars, and Houses. He thought he didn't need God in his life, because he was young and had plenty of time to change, until God showed him differently. Join Tyler & Cast as they unfold a blast from the past in 1970's retro style rendition with songs and dance. All patrons are welcomed to dress in 1970 attire. For more information on ticket pricing visit [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com), [tylerproductions gospelstageplays.org](http://tylerproductions gospelstageplays.org), or call 214.722.7566.



**Nov. 15-Dec. 8 "Legally Blonde"**

**by Garland Civic Theatre**

**Granville Arts Center**

**– Small Theatre**

After Elle Woods' boyfriend dumps her for someone a little more serious she puts down the credit card, hits the books, and sets out to go where no Delta Nu has gone before: Harvard Law School to become "Legally Blond"! This Hollywood blockbuster turned singing, dancing, feel-good Broadway musical proves that fashion-savvy girls can be taken seriously and reminds us along the way

that being true to yourself never goes out of style. "Legally Blonde the Musical" will take you from the social whirl of California campus life to Harvard's halls of justice with our heroine Elle, her Chihuahua, Bruiser and the bull-dog-toting-hairdresser Paulette. This musical comedy is so much fun it shouldn't be legal. 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.



**November 29 "It's Christmas Carol"**

**7:00 pm Plaza Theatre**

It's holiday time and the clock is ticking. The elves are happily bustling around, putting the final touches on the presents that Santa will soon be delivering. Everyone is excited except for Carol, the lead elf. Join the fun as the ghosts of holidays past, present and future each pay a visit to Carol and help her find her holiday spirit. The performance will be presented by The Classical Center at Vial on November 29, 2012 at 7:00p.m. at the Plaza Theatre. The show will be directed by Sarah Hearn and Tammy Gallagher. Lighting Director will be Judy Dempsey and Set Designer will be Diane Otero. Tickets will be available in the school office (972) 240-3710 and at the door for \$5.00.



**November 16 Garland Symphony Orchestra, Concert II**

**8 pm Granville Arts Center –**

**Brownlee Auditorium**

The Garland Symphony Orchestra presents its 2012-2013 Season, "Viva España!" at the Granville Arts Center. For Concert II, the GSO will be performing Mozart's Overture to Don Giovanni and Falla's Suite No. 1 from The Three-Cornered Hat and will be lead by guest conductor Maestra Juanzi Yi! 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](mailto: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](http://www.garlandsymphony.org).



**Nov. 30-Dec. 2 "The Nutcracker"**

**by Dallas Ballet Company**

**Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium**

The Dallas Ballet Company, under the direction of Judy and Brent Klopfenstein, presents their performances of the holiday classic—The Nutcracker. The performances are schedule for November 30, 2012 at 7:30 pm, December 1 at 2:00pm & 7:30pm and December 2 at 2:00pm at the Granville Performing Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland, Texas 75040. Tickets are \$20 and go on sale November 1 at 10 am. Call 972-205-2790 or visit [www.dallasballetcenter.com](http://www.dallasballetcenter.com) for more information.

# Oakridge News



Oakridge Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 450145  
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**October 2012 Vol.20, No. 10**

***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>
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<b>N P O John Capers</b>	<b>972-205-2740</b>
<b>CP&amp;S Bill Olive</b>	<b>972-495-3402</b>

[www.OakridgeNA.org](http://www.OakridgeNA.org)