



Presidents Message for November 2012

It sure is nice having some cooler weather. We all just got by Halloween and I hope our neighborhood had a great time and there were not any incidents in Oakridge. I think we all still need to be aware that the mosquitos are still about. Please be careful.

I have had a couple of emails from the new owners of the golf course and they are doing their due diligence on their approach to bring the property back. I am sure that we should start getting some positive in the first quarter of 2013.

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

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ONA OFFICERS

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

City Council by Rick Williams

During my 5+ years on the City Council, large development projects have been minimal as the economy went south essentially as soon as I was elected. (I assume that's a coincidence.). Anyway, that's about to change in District 7 as there is large proposed multi-family, mixed use, office, etc. project being proposed at the southwest corner of Campbell Road and President George Bush Turnpike (i.e., SH 190). The City staff and I have met with the developers and this goes before the Plan Commission on October 22. Conceptually, this appears to be a good use of the land at that location, but we want to make sure the language of the planned development is consistent with the renderings, etc.

Periodically, the Office of Organizational Development sends a survey letter to various neighborhoods in the City asking citizens their opinions on things such as city services, the neighborhood itself, etc. Generally, only a sample of the homes

in each neighborhood receives such letters, and the following is a list of neighborhoods receiving such letters followed parenthetically by the percentage of homes that will be sampled: Camelot (26%), Oakridge (30%), and Wood Glen (100% since the neighborhood is small). These letters should be received in October, and if you get a survey letter, please complete it as a higher percentage of returned letters provides better statistical data.

How many times have you gone to vote and not really been sure what races would be on your ballot? For me, that happens all the time especially for the election of judges, JPs, etc. I only recently discovered that Dallas County has a new web site www.dallascountyvotes.org, which is a vast improvement over their old

(Continued on page 2)

City Council by Rick Williams (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

www.dallascounty.org. Go to that new site, click the "VOTER INFORMATION" block on the home page, and then click "VOTER LOOKUP." Type in your identifying information, and you will be able to (1) print out the ballot you'll see in the voting booth, and (2) see a list of every elected official (Federal, State, local, school) for where you live.

It's been a pretty slow council month, so I'll report a little personal news. My first grandchild to my youngest son Jeremy is expected very soon. Having not visited a baby store since circa 1979-, I was somewhat amazed to visit a Buy Buy Baby store in Plano. Baby carriages, car seats, etc. have got a lot more complicated (not to mention expensive) in the last 33 years, but I'm looking forward to becoming a grand dad.

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

President's Message (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

restrictions are strictly for using sprinklers.

We could sure use our existing neighborhood members help to grow the membership for our neighborhood association. It would be great to get the membership to six hundred members. Please, if any of you have acquaintances that live in our neighborhood and you know your neighbors please spread the word about ONA!

Enjoy the cooler weather Hope you all have a safe and prosperous November ! Buy the way hope all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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The Garland Landmark Society, Inc.

Established in 1972, the Landmark Society collects, preserves, exhibits and interprets historical elements of our community's unique heritage. That mouthful of mission supports an educational effort to enlighten and entertain the public, so it's natural that our volunteers operate in discovery mode. Garland is a special place to live and work, and it's important to understand what made it that way.

Landmark's program of work emanates from the Landmark Museum, now situated directly east of City Hall at the corner of State Street and Museum Plaza Dr. in old downtown Gar-

Daytimers

OCTOBER DAYTIMERS

Big Tex Jr. visited the October 9th meeting of the Daytimers at the home of Chris Beyers. Members were dressed in western wear as the State Fair of Texas was celebrated. Thanks to Peggy Crenshaw, Lillian Dalton and Robbie Lang who provided refreshments for the celebration.

Chris Beyers, president, welcomed everyone and announced the results of the vote for the Christmas meeting activity. Members will bring a wrapped item of costume jewelry that they want to share to be exchanged at the December meeting at the home of Ann Conrath.

Chris discussed the use of Shutterfly and email for information and calendars. Peggy Crenshaw clarified a couple of dates for book club and Audrey King announced the birthdays.

Every month one of the members shares an interesting fact about her life. Thanks to Sandra Stevens who shared a very moving dedication and account of her life.

Thanks to event coordinators Gail Durbin and

Sally Weiss who presented interesting State Fair of Texas facts with discussion and comments and memories of the members.

Daytimers are special, friendly ladies who are neighbors in Oakridge. You are invited to come meet your neighbor and join them at the next coffee.



Wear your apron!

NOVEMBER DAYTIMERS MEETING

November 13th – 10 am

At the home of Suzanne Snow - 2722 Big Oaks

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 – 972 530 8292.

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land. Dedicated in 1974, the museum is housed in the vintage 1901 Santa Fe depot, owned and maintained by the City of Garland. Inside it are Garland specific historical artifacts and documents, all donated to and maintained by the Society. This collection, representing decades of diligent solicitation effort, focuses on the period between 1850 and the present.

Here volunteers plan and work on projects, including displays, as well as the fundraising required to carry them out. Unless adjusted to dodge holidays, board meetings and work sessions are held here at 7 p.m. on the first Monday evening of each month.

The Garland Landmark Society has always operated without either employees or an annual operating budget from the city. Nothing happens without members, volunteers and other donors of time and treasure. These supporters share an appreciation and pride in Garland's past; they're good people to know.

Crime and Safety Report

By Brenda Olive

Crime: Since our last newsletter article we've only had one incident in Oakridge--that occurred in the 2000 block of Hearthside on Oct. 5th--criminal mischief less than \$500. We have had two incidents that we believe everyone should be aware of however, one of these involves a white 4 door vehicle, older model, with gold trim along the bottom, seen in the duplex area, with at least 3 individuals inside. They were acting suspiciously at the rear garage door of a residence, but when they noticed a neighbor watching them, they immediately left the area. In this incident, the resident had left the garage door open slightly. A tall, thin man exited the vehicle and it appeared he could easily have slid under the door had the neighbor not been watching. Once again, a vigilant neighbor to the rescue. In another incident, a black, 2 door Lexus was seen stopping at mailboxes in the Grand Oak, Rolling Oak area. Again, a resident was working in her yard, stood up and asked, "Can I help you with something?" Immediately the vehicle left the area at a fast rate. We've had no reports of missing mail, etc. so we can thank this resident for her vigilance too. Neighbors helping neighbors--that is what everyone hopes for. These incidents have been referred to our Neighborhood Police Officer and he will be on the look out for these vehicles. We do need to emphasize that whenever possible, get a license plate number--even a partial one will be helpful to the police.

Safety: We're not noticing as many mosquitoes recently, perhaps the small cold snaps have been enough to finish them off, if not, the colder weather that is promised by the weatherman should do the trick. Everyone is ready to be rid of those nasty little bugs!

Speaking of safety: It's almost time for snuggling in front of the fireplace---but first there are some things to take care of before you light that fire. **1.** Call a chimney sweep to check out the chimney. This will allow him/her to make sure there are no squirrel nests, bird nests, soot, car-

bon or creosote inside the chimney. If any of these things are present, it can be removed by the "sweep". **At the same time**, the chimney sweep will *check the liner to ensure it doesn't have any cracks*. A crack in the liner (the actual working part of the chimney) is extremely dangerous. As the liner warms up the crack can expand and allow fire to "crawl" through the crack and out into your attic or onto your roof. Every year we hear of homes that have burned because of fire from the chimney. The cost for a chimney sweep is a small price to pay for the safety of you, your family and your property.

2. Before you light that fire make sure your flue vent (some people call it a "damper") is open. Leaving it closed can allow carbon monoxide to fill your house quickly. Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless, **deadly gas**. Buy a carbon monoxide detector and put it in the room where your fireplace is located. You want to know about carbon monoxide as quickly as possible. When you've finished "snuggling" make sure all the **coals are out** before you close the vent again. You don't want to leave it open after the fire is extinguished because your heat and/or air conditioning will go right up the chimney! Also avoid having fabric or paper materials near the fireplace and keep children and pets away from the fire area. Finally, never go to bed with a fire still burning in the fireplace, especially if you're using a wood fire.

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There are a couple of other things that must be addressed this month--mainly situations involving the golf course. First of all, the COP has been receiving complaints about strangers on the golf course. Now obviously, some of these individuals may simply be Oakridge residents enjoying the nice weather, however, unfortunately, some others are definitely not residents. Marty found another homeless guy sleeping on club property just in the past couple of weeks. Earlier that same week one of our COP patrollers found another one in another location on club proper-

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ty. Both of these individuals fled before police arrived so we have no way of knowing who they are or for that matter, what they are up to. These are not the first and I'm sure they won't be the last of this type individual seeking a place to sleep, do drugs, drink or whatever.

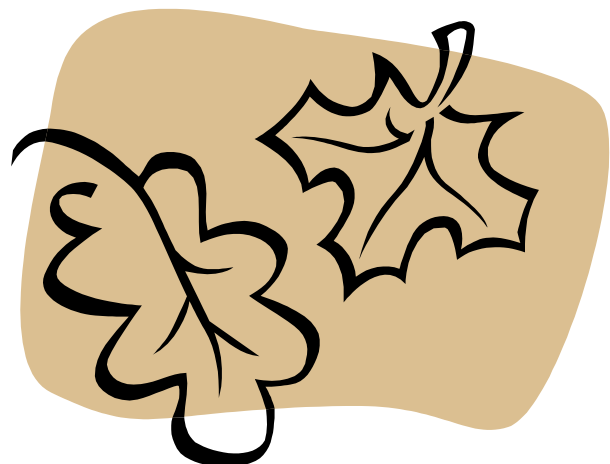
We do have new owners of the club, you can see their profile on the ONA website at Oakridge-na.org--however--the new owner is not ready to start real work on the property yet. In the meantime you will still see Marty out on the course mowing and taking care of other chores as well as working around the clubhouse, during the day. Unfortunately, the new owner has decided to turn off the lights in the parking lot as well as those inside the club and other locations, so everyone should be aware that it will be totally dark in and around the clubhouse until the new owner starts work. Please keep your eyes open for any strange activity on the property and either give the COP a call at 972-495-3402 or if you believe it is criminal activity, call the police at 911.

During the past 24 months we've tried to remind everyone that the golf course is not a park. Unfortunately, some people, and not all of them are Oakridge residents, have assumed because there were no golfers or owner on site that they could utilize the course as a park. Now we're hearing complaints from residents about excessive noise, especially in the early morning hours or late in the evening. Some of these complaints are about *adults*, not children, playing ball on the course, others are about loud barking from dogs playing out on the golf course in the early morning and others are about *adults* having "heated" conversations late at night, again, out on the golf course. Everyone should be aware that there is a noise ordinance in Garland, restricting noise **after 11 pm or before 7 am**. Noise and those causing it are not in the COP's purview, but those who are being disturbed may choose to call the police and lodge a complaint--wouldn't that be embarrassing if you are the one causing the disturbance? This isn't

the best of situations for a neighborhood and it would be much better if everyone would simply be considerate of their neighbors. Some of us still work and must rise early in the morning and don't want to be disturbed in the evening hours by "adult" conversations that we shouldn't be privy to. Other residents are now retired and no longer getting up early to go to work and don't want to be awakened early in the morning with barking dogs or loud conversations. Over the years as part of the COP we've never really received these types of complaints--perhaps these situations were occurring and we just weren't aware of them, but during the past couple of months we've received numerous such complaints from residents who reside along the course as well as some who live on non-course streets. Hopefully, as the new owners start work at the club everyone will again recognize that this is private property, it isn't a dog park, a ball field nor a place for personal or private discourse.

Some Oakridge residents have recently received a survey/questionnaire from the City of Garland. This is a survey that was mailed to residents all over Garland to help the city determine the areas they need to address over the coming year(s). We encourage everyone to complete the survey as quickly as possible and return it to the city.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE!



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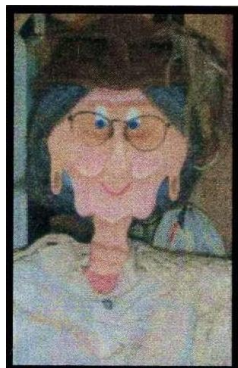
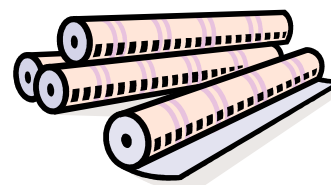
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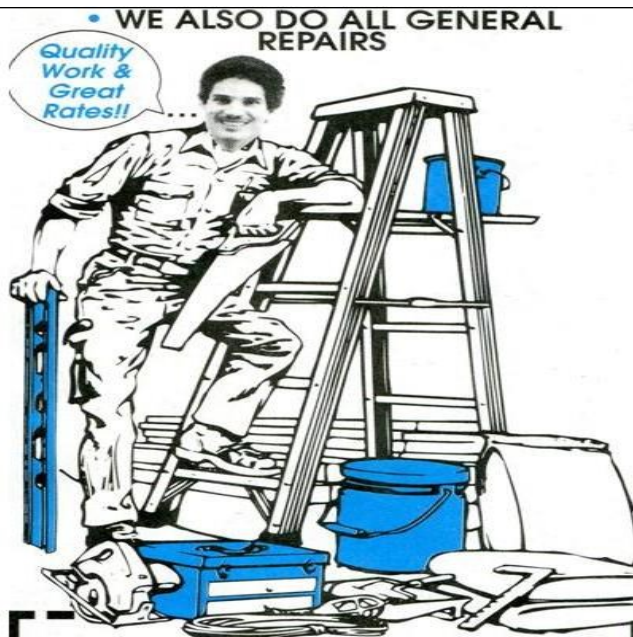
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Garland's History

Article from The Garland Landmark Society, Inc.



Today's Garland combines many smaller rural communities and townships, the earliest of which was Duck Creek. Rooted from pioneer arrivals in the 1840's and 50's, Duck Creek's business district originally rested on the west side of the creek of the same name near the present Avenue B crossing.

When rail lines appeared ca. 1886, they ran north and east of Duck Creek. The GC&SF railway even developed the competing town of Embree, whose commercial establishments pivoted around their depot, then located near the present Avenue C crossing of that line.

After Old Duck Creek, which had lost its post office to Embree, suffered a destructive fire in 1887, some of its business and professional people relocated to Embree. But others laid out the town of New Duck Creek, roughly located north of the present square. Following a year of fierce competition and some enmity, the post office was relocated to a mid point, and the two townships combined under the banner of Garland. The city incorporated in 1891 with a population approximating 500.

The new entity was named after Augustus H. Garland, Attorney General in the administration of President Grover Cleveland. Garland was a former Arkansas governor and senator who had gained renown through his efforts to regain the right to practice law as a pardoned Confederate. He had become the first southerner to hold cabinet rank since the Civil War. No evidence indicates that Mr. Garland ever presented himself here; in fact, he may not have visited other places named for him outside Arkansas, but he did provide a name that both Duck Creek and Embree could embrace.

With the fight behind them Garlandites consolidated their efforts toward building a solid agricultural community. Local farmers primarily raised

cotton, various grains, onions and livestock, and Garland's business center served rural customers from miles around. The city dwellers included a home-owned power plant when they installed water and sewer lines in 1923. Agricultural dominance, however, began to erode in the late 1930's, when industries first became attracted by Garland's resources. War production gave the city its biggest economic and population boost, and by 1950 the census numbered 10,291 souls.

Garland spent the next 50 years developing its available land area around its diversified industrial base. As agricultural activity declined, a multitude of new businesses and industries arose. Rural communities, such as Centerville, Pleasant Valley and Rose Hill, were absorbed in the process. But even as it grew, the city retained the character of a family town full of cultural, religious, social and children's sports activities.

Santa Fe Depot



Early Garland News issues mention that the first Santa Fe Depot, built about 1886 in the township of Embree, stood at least 300 yards

south of the current square, apparently near the track crossing of present Avenue C. The only known picture of that earlier installation suggests that the depot was located at the east end of a string of frame business houses, probably Embree's main business thoroughfare. And in those days the railroad was called the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe.

Fire erased that first depot in January of 1900, after Embree and Duck Creek had combined to form Garland and begun to establish a business district near the present site of the square. Arson was suspected, but no one was arrested for the crime, and the railroad dallied in replacing the

facility. News editor Will Holford repeatedly lambasted the line for its delay, which caused loading of freight and passengers from a makeshift dock somewhere south of the charred ruins. Finally, 20 months later, in July of 1901, this replacement building was opened on the west side of the tracks between present Main Street and Avenue A.

While the first depot was only 18' x 70', this 1901 Santa Fe Depot measures 24' x 90'. Abrasive tests conducted about 1970 suggest that the building's exterior was originally painted red, and that it sported a green roof. News accounts stressed that it had oiled floors and ceilings in the waiting rooms, implying perhaps that the old one did not. No specific original plans survive for either building, which were reportedly designed and built by railroad employees making many decisions on site. But a study of contemporary depots on the Santa Fe line reveals several standard formats.

In October 1901, a train wreck almost demolished this building for which Garlandites had waited so long, if not so patiently. A double-header cattle train (pulled by two steam locomotives elephant-style) was barreling through town at full speed from the south when it struck a yearling on the tracks about where Avenue B crosses today, pushing the animal up the rails just past Avenue A, where the train derailed. The lead engine lurched to the left toward the depot, but smashed into pine timbers around a gravel platform near the waiting room. The trailing engine peeled off the track to the right. Both 60-ton locomotives and their coal tenders were demolished. The firemen and the engineer of the rear unit jumped off in time to save themselves, but the lead engineer was reportedly crushed under his locomotive, which spewed boiling water, fire and steam as it toppled over.

Not long after the wreck 40 citizens petitioned the town council to correct the problem of wandering livestock in Garland. The issue was hotly debated, and in May of 1902 appeared on an election ballot. By a count of 74 for and 68 opposed voters endorsed restraining cattle, horses and mules from wandering at large in Garland. This six-vote margin likely introduced the same barbed wire in

town limits that Garland's city council argued about a century later.

In the late 1960's the depot was threatened again, this time with plans to connect the misaligned north and south ends of Fifth Street. To save the vintage building the city council authorized trading a piece of land improved with a small brick building to the Santa Fe in exchange for the depot and the needed Fifth Street right-of-way. City contractors moved the structure to this location, rotated it 180 degrees, and set it on a concrete foundation ca 1970.

Councilmen also appointed the initial board of the Garland Landmark Society to participate in restoration of the building and establish a local history museum inside. The depot had undergone many remodeling in its lifetime, but was restored as closely as possible to the way it looked in the early part of the century. Exterior colors included cream sides with green trim and white windows - the second oldest color scheme uncovered by earlier abrasive tests. Most of the original flooring and walls were saved, and some of the telegraph equipment was replaced. After months of intensive effort and receipt of a Texas State Historical Marker, the Garland Landmark Museum opened in 1974. Volunteers for the non-profit society began raising operating funds and building a collections of artifacts depicting the development of the city.

In 2001, construction crews under the auspices of Garland's Facilities Management Department initiated a maintenance overhaul of the depot. Included was new redish composition shingle roof, consistent with a color that superseded the original painted shakes and lasted until about 1950. Guided by material from the Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society, workmen again applied a creamy gold paint to the exterior siding, a dark green to the trim and white to the window sashes. The foundation was leveled, and the ground were graded to improve drainage.

But as the downtown area continued to evolve, the renovated depot's location appeared to complicate matters. Contemplated structures would need to stand either on the depot site itself or so close to the building that access and visibility would be reduced. Consequently, the Landmark board endorsed city staff plans to relocate the building yet again, this time to a site directly north of the Main Branch library and accessible to Walnut Street. The move is currently scheduled to take place sometime in 2013.

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



Through Dec. 8 “Legally Blonde” by Garland Civic Theatre
Granville Arts Center – Small Theatre

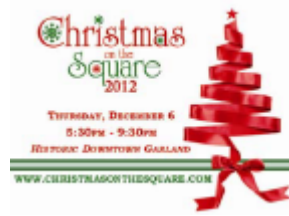
After Elle Woods' boyfriend dumps her for someone a little more serious she puts down the credit card, hits the books, and sets out to go where no Delta Nu has gone before: Harvard Law School to become “Legally Blond”! This Hollywood blockbuster turned singing, dancing, feel-good Broadway musical proves 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 - \$27 with group rates available. To purchase tickets call the Granville Arts Center Box Office at 972-205-2790 Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm.



December 7 “Cricket on the Hearth” by Breitling Youth Theatre Plaza Theatre

Join Breitling Youth Theatre at the Plaza Theatre for the holiday favorite, “Cricket on the Hearth” written by Charles Dickens. The play depicts the Victorian ideal of the happy home. For years, “Cricket on the Hearth” was more pop-

ular on stage than “A Christmas Carol.” Performances are December 5 at 10 am and 7 pm. For tickets call 972-658-3915. For more information visit www.ActingForChildren.org.



December 6 Christmas on the Square

5:30-9:30 pm Historic Downtown Garland Square

The City of Garland kicks off the holiday season with annual festivities featuring plenty of free family fun including: snow tubing hills, horse drawn carriage rides, children's activities, visits and photos with Santa and much more! Find great gifts at the Christmas Bazaar, enjoy a variety of seasonal treats and sing along with classic holiday music. The official tree lighting ceremony is led by Santa at 7 pm, followed by community choir performances. The Garland Firefighter's Association will collect unwrapped toys for local children in need. Visit the pet adoption booth to find a forever friend. For additional information visit www.ChristmasOnTheSquare.com.



December 8 “Christmas in Mexico” by Mexico 2000 Folklorico

7 pm Granville Arts Center-Brownlee Auditorium

For eight consecutive years México 2000 Ballet Folklorico under the direction of Mary and Alex Palencia will be presenting the play “Christmas in México” or “Navidad en México” a Pastorela-Dance. This choreographic montage, with more

than 100 participants, is a representation of the birth of Jesus Christ, but with a peculiar style by mixing the biblical story with traditional dances from México and other countries. Originally created by directors and choreographers, Mary and Alex Palencia, the entertaining play is divided in different scenes: Adam & Eve, The Virgins from Heaven, The Annunciation, The Monk, Lucifer, The Seven Capital Sins, Michael the Archangel, The Pilgrimage, The Bethlehem Star, The three wise men and people from all over the world bring their presents. This is about a two hour play and includes Mexican traditional Christmas songs, helping this to enjoy the spirit of the Christmas season including the beautiful costumes and choreographies. "It is very important to continue exposing, thru dance, the most important traditions of the people in México, especially during this season with a strong lack of sensibility and historic conciseness, this event is a step forward to remember the Mexican popular culture", said Alex Palencia director of México 2000 Ballet Folklorico. For tickets and more information call 972-429-1082.



December 12-15 "Fruitcakes" by Breitling Youth Theatre

Plaza Theatre

Join Breitling Youth Theatre at the Plaza Theatre for the Christmas comedy "Fruitcakes" written by Julian Wiles. Mix together a batch of fruitcakes, three dozen Christmas Trees, 10,000 outdoor Christmas lights, a chicken pox epidemic, two southern spinsters, an estranged old man, a lost cat named Tutti Frutti and a Christmas hog named buster and you've got the recipe for a fun filled and touching evening filled with holiday cheer. Performances are December 12 & 13 at 10 am and December 14 & 15 at 7 pm. For tickets call 972-658-3915. For more

information visit www.ActingForChildren.org.



December 13 Rankin Brothers Classic Christmas Show

8 pm Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium

Voted Branson Missouri's Best Show for 2009, 2010, and 2011, The Rankin Brothers Classic Christmas Show returns to Garland's Granville Arts Center Brownlee on December 13, 2012. The Rankin Brothers, their talented cast of three female vocalists (The Rankinettes), and their all-star band authentically replicate the sounds of the original artists! The musical impressions are astonishing and they have a brotherly comedy that audiences adore. The first half of the show contains rock-n-roll hits from Elvis, Buddy Holly, Neil Diamond, The Everly Brothers, The Righteous Brothers, Roy Orbison, Simon and Garfunkel, Chuck Berry and more! The second half of the show features Christmas Classics from Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Andy Williams, Burl Ives, Nat King Cole, Brenda Lee and more. This award-winning show is a "must see" entertainment experience for the whole family!

Tickets are available through the Granville Arts Center Box Office 300 N. Fifth Street, Garland, TX 75040. The Box Office number is 972-205-2790 and the hours of operation are Monday- Friday, 10am-4pm, and 2 hours before the performance. Tickets are \$33 (Adult), \$15 (12 or under), and group rates are \$24 (20 or more).

Oakridge News



Oakridge Neighborhood Association
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