



**General Membership
Meeting
February 28, 2013
at
Activity Center
2950 North Shiloh Rd.**

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

Presidents Message

I hope all of our members had a nice Christmas and New Year with your families.

We have a very important meeting coming up on February 28, 2013. At this meeting we will be forming a nominating committee for our new board that will take over June 1, 2013. We have some district directors, officers, and some others to replace for the 2013-2014 year. I am going to need FIVE VOLUNTEERS to take charge and find member replacements for these positions. Make sure that you spread the word and let's have a large audience for this meeting.

Also as part of our discussion we will be visiting the publishing and distribution of our newsletter. We have been struggling with our finances. Our utilities, grounds keeping, repairs and landscaping for entrances are requiring most of our funds. Your board had to make a decision to take our newsletter to a bimonthly distribution to insure that our funds would last through the 2012-2013 year. This will be on our agenda in our February General Membership meeting. We discussed this at our last board meeting and your board felt that we must have our advertising support our newsletter publication and distribution.

I have also been in contact with our new club owners and they are still working on their plans to bring the golf course back to life. As some of you may have noticed they have been cleaning out the interior of the existing club house facility. They may have their plan in place by the end of March or earlier.

Larry

City Council by Rick Williams

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays, but I know one family that likely did not. On December 17, 29 year-old Garland fire fighter Devon Colbert was in a bad car accident which was the fault of the other driver. His legs are paralyzed, he has limited use of his arms, and sadly, he is the sole support of his wife and their two boys ages 2 years and 5 months. This is a very difficult time for the Colbert family, and if you'd like to help with a donation, go to www.garlandfirefighters.org and click the "Devon Colbert Fund Donation" button. If you don't like sending money online, you can write a check payable to the Garland Firefighters Association (put "Devon Colbert" in the memo section) and mail it to P O Box 462341, Garland, TX 75046. I know at least one neighborhood group in District 7 contributed.

I attended a Capital Improvement Project briefing on January 15 in which City staff present their proposed capital projects for 2013. Certainly, I will not try to summarize everything here, but I found a couple of tidbits of interest. First, if the City had an unlimited budget, there is probably a legitimate need for \$25 million in to replace broken alleys. Since our budget is very limited, the City

City Council by Rick Williams February Article

(Continued from page 1)

typically spends about one million each year to redo alleys. A bad alley is understandably a concern for those residents who use it daily, but we have to spend street dollars on the surfaces that get the most traffic, and that's streets. Nonetheless, the City is very good about repairing pot holes in alleys with asphalt (yea, I know trucks will soon have them in bad shape again), so if you need a repair, let me know and I'll have the street department do a repair.

Typically, Garland puts a bond proposal before the voters about every seven years. In Garland, citizens approved bond packages in 1991, 1997, and 2004. So, one would think that we'd be having another vote soon if this 7-year cycle continued.....but, not so. The 2004 approved package of projects was very large AND due to the economy and limited tax dollars, the City Council has chosen to "spread out" the approved projects. Thus, as of today, only about 50% of the 2004 bond package has been built or approved for funding. Consequently, it will be a few more years before citizens are asked to vote on another bond proposal from the City.

About a year ago, selected homes in Garland received large, blue 90 gallon recycle containers as the first phase in a 5-year plan to provide these to all homes and eliminate the red plastic recycle bins. Another distribution will take place this year (don't know where yet), and that will mean that essentially one-third of the 62,000 Garland residences have them. What I found interesting is that of the houses currently eligible to have the blue containers, 66% participate in the recycling program. Of the remaining homes only with red bins, only 31% recycle. So, the logical conclusion is that when all homes have the blue containers, Garland will be doing a much better job of recycling.

Each Councilmember appoints an individual to serve on the Plan Commission, and in District 7, that has been Scott Lemay for the last 5 ½ years. However, according to the City Charter, one has to step down from this position to run for City Council, and Scott is planning on running for Council. This is an important job that involves meeting a couple of times each month to hear zoning cases, requests for variances, etc., and it is great experience in learning how this City works. If you think you might be interested in serving on the Plan Commission, please let me know.

Speaking of the Plan Commission, on January 15 they unanimously approved a K-8 charter school on the NW corner of Shiloh and Beltline for 1296 students. This is a 92,000 sq. ft. facility taking up about two-thirds of that acreage. It should be coming to Council for a vote in about a month.

As I mentioned in last month's article, the City will soon start putting up signs in school zones which say No Cell Phones. I have now found out that should be toward the end of February. A violation can cost you \$200!

Garland Animal Services has been awarded a grant from PetSmart Charities® totaling \$83,100 to pay for dog sterilizations for Garland. The grant is expected to fund approximately 1,100 sterilizations during a 2-year period and is designed to target a specific geographic area (i.e., residents living in the 75041 zip code) to assess the impact of free sterilizations on the number of stray or unwanted animals. This grant, along with other programs promoting responsible pet ownership, should help minimize the number of unwanted animals impounded at the Garland Animal Shelter, which took in more than 11,000 animals during Fiscal Year 2011-12.

If you've read my past articles, you know I like to encourage all to support locally owned businesses, and my wife and I recently discovered one. It's the Sunrise Café (3443 W. Campbell, i.e., a couple of doors down from Desperados). I would say the cuisine is something akin to Ched-dars, and I was impressed by both the good food (lots of it!) and very reasonable prices. This is not a chain, but just a business trying to get started. Although I ate lunch there, I hear they have a great breakfast.

If you've ever looked for me on Facebook, you've not found me because I don't do social networking like Facebook, Twitter, etc. Email keeps me sufficiently busy. However, I've recently made an exception by joining www.nextdoor.com. I mention that site in this article because its purpose is to help neighborhoods better communicate on things like finding a trustworthy babysitter, getting the word out on a crime, looking for or finding a lost pet, selling a bike, etc. Membership in this network is generally limited to those who live in the neighborhood and the first to join will be asked to outline the neighborhood boundaries. Anyhow, I believe it is a useful tool even for a neighborhood with a web site, an email communication procedure, etc., so I mention it here in case you want to try it. I know the Camelot Neighborhood Association has joined and it is off to a robust start.

With my council career winding down in May this year, I'm always on the lookout for other "job" opportunities, and I recently found one. As many of you know, I have a love for and interest in horticulture. I am now a call screener for the Neil Sperry radio show, WBAP, 820 on your dial, from 8:00AM to 11:00AM on Sundays. It will only be about once per month as there are three others who do screening, but after listening to Neil for almost 30 years, I was honored he let me join his team.

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

Daytimers

The winter weather did not deter the activities of the Oakridge



Daytimers as they celebrated Christmas at the home of Ann Conrath on December 11th, 2012.

The members enjoyed the refreshments and the fun of a jewelry exchange and Christmas Carols.

Thirty women discussed the events of the neighborhood along with the concerns and upcoming birthdays. Any events of the interest groups: Book Club, Bridge, Canasta and GoGos were announced by group leaders and Chris Beyers, president. Special events such as the Caroling Party were also given attention.

When January 8th, 2013, arrived, the members gathered at the home of Ruby Nell Ormon where snowmen greeted them in every nook and cranny.

The members were happy to visit and exchange the stories of their Christmas celebrations and activities with families and friends and to sample the goodies furnished by the food hostesses.

Since Daytimers are always eager to learn, Chris Beyers introduced the speaker, Mitzi Werther, director of the Emeritus Program from Richland College to inform the members of all the opportunities that are available to them through the Emeritus and Volunteer programs of Richland College.

The speaker and program had been arranged by Gail Durbin and Sally Weiss.

Many members who frequent the classes and events at Richland were very complimentary of the programs and encouraged members to take advantage of the opportunities.

If you are in Oakridge and would like to meet your neighbors, come join the group of ladies that like to know the news of the neighborhood.

Visit Daytimers at the next meeting in the home of Dana Hopkins – 2914 Oak Point on the second Tuesday, February 12th, 10:00 am for coffee. Bring a Valentine to exchange.



Crime and Safety Report

By Brenda Olive

As of Jan. 22nd, we had had only one incident in 2013, an identity theft in the 2500 block of Richoak on Jan. 5th. Hopefully, we can continue this trend and reduce our crime rate in Oakridge. Unfortunately, in 2012, we had 77 incidents versus 66 in 2011. The theft numbers jumped from 16 to 27, and burglary of vehicles jumped from 17 to 20, these numbers don't include the auto thefts we experienced in 2012. Fortunately, our Burglary of Habitations dropped from 17 to 7, this was however, the only place where we experienced a drop.

During late November and early December we experienced thefts of 3 sets of vehicle wheels and an attempt to steal another set, and have learned that there may be several "rings" operating in the area, stealing wheels "to order". Please be on the alert for vehicles cruising the streets and/or alleys, particularly be watchful for a dark SUV type vehicle, (probably blue or dark green) being driven by a young Hispanic woman, usually with one or two other young females or males as passengers. If you observe this type of vehicle/persons in your area, please get the license plate number, note the direction the vehicle is traveling and call the police to let them know you've seen the vehicle in your area, tell dispatch that our NPO, Office Barnes, has asked to be notified if this vehicle/occupants are spotted in our area.

As a word of Warning: By February 1st the city will be placing signs in school zones advising that it is illegal to use cell phones in the area. This was a new state law last year, however, Garland wasn't enforcing the law because there were no signs informing drivers of the infraction. Once the signs are in place, be ready to get a ticket if you're using your cell phone in a school zone.

Finally: By the time you read this article, the Oakridge "peeping tom" will be out of jail. He will be released from state prison on February 3rd. Be aware that his parents still live in Holford Park and in all likelihood, he will return to this area again. He will, of course, be watched, but this will not necessarily mean that he will be apprehended in the act, or even if he is, that he will be sent back to prison. This last arrest resulted in prison in a minimum security area for about 6 months. He was only charged with criminal trespass and eluding police and still has no "sex offender" charges against him, despite his continued "peeping tom" activities for many years. Women in particular should be careful to close blinds, draw drapes, lock doors and windows and not go biking, running or walking on the golf course or other "secluded" areas alone. This man is 48 years old, has been doing this for years and is not likely to change his ways at this point in his life.



OAKRIDGE PAINT & PAPER

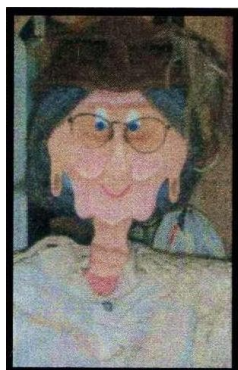
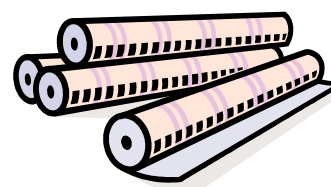
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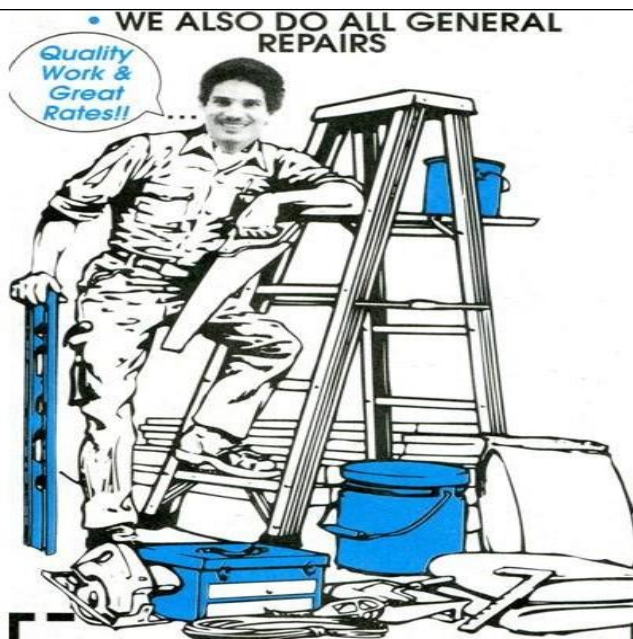
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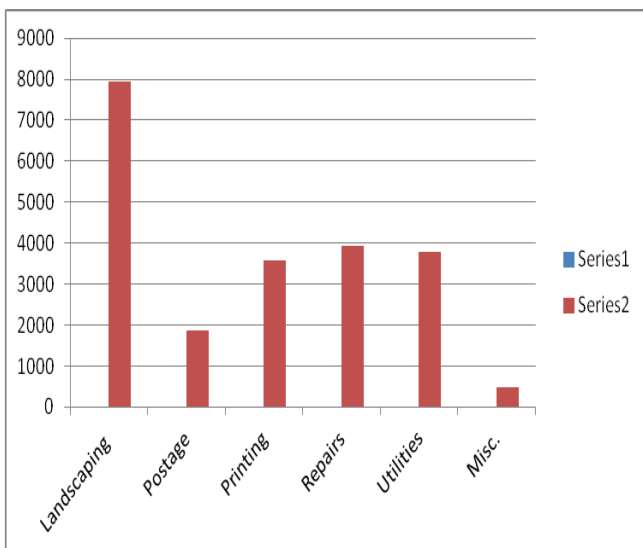
**Established
1984**

kitchens
bathrooms
additions
windows
siding



Financial Status as of 12-31-2012.

The total income received by the association since 6-1-2012, the beginning of the ONA fiscal year, is \$32,424.01. As can be seen in the Profit & Loss statement, the large majority of income is from membership dues, \$27,284. The total expenses through 12-31-2012 are \$21,576.23. The single largest expense is the normal landscaping fees, \$7,008.19. These fees are for mowing, trimming, pruning and other routine landscaping work. The next largest expenditure is for the newsletter. The costs for printing and mailing the newsletter are \$5461.11 through 12-31-2012. Expenditures for utilities are the next largest expenditure, \$3,787.37. An unplanned expenditure for extensive repairs of an irrigation system was a significant cost, \$3,918.20. The total expenditures to date are \$21,576.23. The second half expenditures are anticipated to not be as great due to substantially reduced utility cost.



Oakridge Neighborhood Association

Profit & Loss

June through December 2012

Income

Program Income

ONA Accident Income	965.00
ONA Advertising	250.00
ONA Beautification	3,840.00
ONA Holiday Meals	75.00
ONA Interest	7.73
ONA Membership Dues	27,284.00
Total Program Income	\$32,421.73

Expenses

Operations

ONA Bank Charges	20.00
ONA Landscaping - Basic Maint.	7,008.19
ONA Landscaping - Beautification	925.00
ONA PayPal Fees	60.94
ONA Postage Bulk Mail Permit	190.00
ONA Postage Member Invoices	288.06
ONA Postage Newsletter	1,393.07
ONA Printing Member Invoice	350.00
ONA Printing Newsletter	3,239.98
ONA Rental Post Office Box	114.00
ONA Repairs	3,918.20
ONA Utilities Electric	493.18
ONA Utilities Sewer	33.39
ONA Utilities Water	3,260.80
ONA Welcome Wagon	281.42

Total Operations	\$21,576.23
Net Income	\$10,845.50

This means that we have \$10,845.50 to last for the next six months.

For the year 2012

Annual Maintenance contract: \$12,014.04

Other expenses, flower beds, sprinkler repair etc.: \$5,313.20

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City Council by Rick Williams January Article

The City Charter provides that after three 2-year terms, City Council representatives cannot run for a fourth term, so in May 2013, you get to vote for my replacement. Surprisingly, I've already heard from 4 individuals interested in running to be the District 7 council representative. I guess the thinking is that if I can do this job, it can't be that hard. Anyway, the 2013 election dates are as follows: The election for the Mayor and four council seats will be held on May 11, 2013. The first day to file for a place on the ballot is Wednesday, January 30th and the last day to file is Friday, March 1st at 5:00 p.m. Election candidate packets will be available beginning January 2, 2013 in the City Secretary's office. The City website was also recently updated with May election information.

You may have noticed that the pond at Shiloh and Campbell has been drained again. The last attempt to remedy the leakage problem did not work as well as hoped, so now they are going to till the pond bottom and apply the product directly to the soil. Then the City will draw water from Spring Creek to fill it up again.

If you are like me, you're probably not shy about offering your opinion, and the City of Garland has a "communication" survey they would like citizens to take. Just go to www.garlandtx.gov, and on the home page is a box labeled "Communications Survey." Click the box and let the City know what you think about how they communicate with citizens.

You may remember that the City Council had previously chosen not to ban cell phones in school zones. Way too long a discussion to repeat here, but I was one who agreed that banning cell phones was a waste of city money (for signage) and essentially it was an unenforceable law. However, as I have mentioned in recent articles, we have a new group on Council now after the May 2012 elections, and we recently voted to ban cell phones in schools zones. You should be seeing some new signage in school zones in the near future.

I got a phone call from a District 7 resident saying he heard Richardson had a "no-kill" animal shelter and why couldn't Garland have a no-kill shelter as well. Actually, Richardson does not have a no-kill shelter, but they do place a higher percentage of animals than Garland. One reason is dog demographics (i.e., many more pit bulls in Garland) and another reason is that Garland will accept animals from anyone whereas Richardson's policy only accepts animals from Richardson residents.

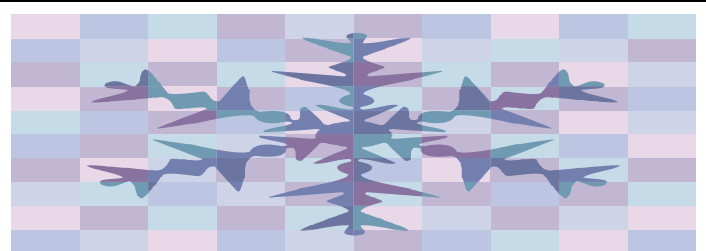
Earlier this year the police department expanded the number of Neighborhood Police Officers, and in doing so, disbanded both the gang unit and drug unit since NPOs deal with both gang and drug issues as part of their job. However, a small drug unit of 5 or 6 officers has recently been reconstituted in the police department as it was felt this unit was needed.

Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays, and as always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to call me (214 535-2648) or E-mail me at rickwilli@gmail.com.

"Thank You" By Brenda Olive

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all of our thoughtful neighbors who contributed to the Firemen's Dinners for both Christmas and Thanksgiving. Thank you to all the ONA board members for donating funds to purchase the turkeys, hams, chicken, green beans, potatoes, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rice, apples and other things needed to complete these dishes. In addition, we received monetary donations from the following residents: *Jim and Dorothy Tucker, Bettye Taylor, Ralph Morgan, John Blumn, Barbara Bennett and Becky Thomas*. Several of these donations were utilized to purchase some transportation items, cooking items and serving items--something we haven't had the luxury of in the past. These items are now residing in the ONA storage bin, waiting for the next dinner! We must also thank Albertson's, Anna's Linens, Sams Club, Dollar Tree stores and Target for their assistance by price reductions. Then, there were lots of contributors for food items, *Kim Gingerich, Margaret Fowler, Sally Weiss, Phil Hanas, Beth Fagan, Tony and Tilly Battaglia, Larry and Judy Grisham, Fern Cook, Karen and Ken Fentress, Cass Gannon, Dana Hopkins, Diana Ng, Dorothy Moseley, Ruby Nell Orman and Sharon and David Parrish*. Hopefully I haven't left anyone out--because my memory isn't what it used to be, I provided a sign in sheet so that everyone could sign in and make a note of what they were sharing, but I'm afraid that somewhere along the way someone may have been missed--if so, I'm terribly sorry. I remember some peanut brittle, brownies and a streusel but no one noted them on the sheet so I don't know who brought them --thank you whomever you are...and thanks to everyone who helped make these meals successful...the guys at the fire stations really thank you...they were able to enjoy dinner without having to cook anything, and as an incidental thing, I learned that the oven at Station 3 is not working, so they couldn't have roasted a turkey for themselves.

We are so fortunate to have these men who are willing to give up their holidays to be there when one of our residents needs them. Thank you, everyone, for taking the time to prepare food, or provide the means, to share with these men, and let them know that we, as a neighborhood, appreciate them.



Oakridge News



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February 2013 Vol.21, No. 02

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Atmos Gas	1-800-460-3030
Rick Williams	214-535-2648
Solid Waste & Recycling	972-205-3500
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