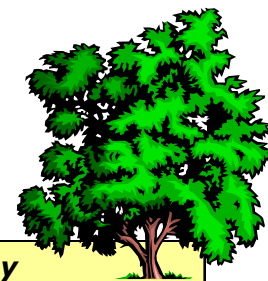


Oakridge News



August 2013 Vol. 21, No. 08

Scatter Shooting with Mike Rose

“Your neighborhood influences your home value”

Indeed, the value of your home is evidenced by your neighborhood’s appearance. And what have you done to assist in the improvement of your Oakridge community? Your ONA Board has worked diligently these past two months to recreate a positive feeling within our community, as well as with “city hall”.

This is the second **monthly** issue of your new ONA Newsletter. We hope that you find this new **monthly** format appealing and informative. Your board has worked methodically and carefully to create the new presentation. Because of the reformatting, it has delayed the publishing process. The board has discovered that by sending out the newsletter in this design and to all 1,168 homes we have generated a self-sustaining document.

It is the intent of your board to begin to concentrate on enhancing the entrances of your neighborhood. Of course, we will have to wait until weather permits. However plans are now being made to accomplish increasing your neighborhood’s appearance. This will be made possible by you becoming a member of your association. See the web site www.oakridgena.org and go to “join us” and follow the directions. Your board and your neighbors thank you for your membership.

Our first General Membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 26th. Stay tuned for information as to the program and other bits of “stuff”.

July Minutes Summary by Sharon Parrish

Board Meeting – The Oakridge Neighborhood Association board members for the June 2013-May 2014 fiscal year held its second meeting at the home of Don and Mary Pattie. The first order of business was to reinstate Deb Pandak as District 1 Director while Nancy Walters is recuperating. We also voted in Bill Olive as the representative for the Safety Committee.

Kudos to Jim Griffin who printed the invoices you have now received. Please note the welcome note and Fast Facts; we hope this information encourages you to join. Starting with the District Directors, the Board is developing a Policy Manual that will describe what each Board member does and how they reach out to the community. Please feel free to contact your District Director with any ideas you would like to share.

Many more activities are underway – stay tuned!

District 7 City Council Scott LeMay

Last Saturday lots of folks braved the heat and came out to our historic downtown for the first Marketplace event benefiting Good Samaritans of Garland. The square was filled with all types of vendors and most reported good sales for the day. This is a great event that benefits the Good Samaritans. The next scheduled Marketplace events are August 17th and September 21st.

Council Updates At our July 16th work session we received an update on the low water pressure issues that had been reported in the southwest portion of the city. Our Water Utilities Department immediately took action and the change in the watering schedule has helped to eliminated the low pressure issues. We will remain on the revised watering schedule that coincides with your trash pick-up day for the time being.

At a future meeting(s) we will be discussing the relocation of the Pace and Lyle houses and the possible location of a dog park.

On July 18th we had our annual City Council Retreat at the Hyatt Place here in Garland. This was a great opportunity for those of us who are new to get better acquainted and hopefully will foster better communication. We also received a preview of the budget process for this year. Overall the basic economic indicators are pointing up for us. While huge gains have not been made, huge drops are not in the forecast. Speaking of better communication the council had a chance to review the goals and expectations of our new Mayor. I think we have a great representation of the city on the current council and I am looking forward to achieving the goals set forth.

Around The District There are still two zoning cases ongoing that you should be aware of. One is inside the district at the corner of Arapaho & Shiloh. A request for rezoning was approved on July 8th by the Plan Commission for International Leadership of Texas to build a high school and related elements on the property. This item is scheduled to be heard by the City Council on Tuesday, August 6th. The other zoning case is just outside the district on Campbell Road at Calejo. This is the long time site of the Merriwood horse stables. On July 8th the Plan Commission denied the developer’s request to rezone the property for single-family uses. This item is also scheduled to be heard by the City Council on August 6th.

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Treasurers Report by Dave Morgan CPA

Terrific things are happening with the ONA Board. We have a talented and motivated group with exciting plans. You have seen the pie chart showing that just under 70% of every dollar spent is for the maintenance of the nine entries plus the entire perimeter of Oakridge. Just under 20% of every dollar is expended on getting this very newsletter printed and mailed, and the remainder is spent for repairs, membership enrollment costs, and other costs.

For many years back, the newsletter has been 8 to 12 to 16 pages long, printed in black and white, and done on 20# paper stock. It was mailed via bulk mail at 26 cents per piece for a long time and now at 27.4 cents per piece. Two mailings a year went to all of our Oakridge neighbors to entice all to join ONA. The other nine (ten) times a year, the mailings went to members only. The limited print and mail was to save money, of course.

A few folks have asked if we could switch to an email delivery of the newsletter. On the surface, that is a great idea. When we "unscientifically" bounced around this idea, though, there were concerns. Some individuals still do not utilize computers, reading a publication online is not universally liked, and having a hard copy to take to the reading room is still in "vogue". Most importantly, we have no staff to do what can be an enormous amount of upkeep on such a process.

Don't fret, though, as we have the best possible solution we could formulate. We are now producing a "sassy" four page edition printed in color on a 100# glossy paper. Articles are succinct and fact filled. Ads are uniform and rotate in position each month. It will be mailed to every Oakridge home every month. Further, the every door, every month costs us just a few dollars more than the prior printing it for just members only – it's almost half the cost for the prior printing for all Oakridge neighbors. It gets even better as we are now paying 16 cents per piece for postage; no, make that 14.9 cents per piece in postage now with a special USPS program. That's about a 50% reduction in mailing costs too!

Now, the BIG finale! Our advertisers are still paying about the same as before to place their ads, but their funding essentially pays the entire printing and mailing cost of the newsletter! Further, they get a better ad especially with a consistent 12 month mailing to all of our Oakridge neighbors. That 20% expenditure (as stated above) for the newsletter is paid in full by our wonderful advertisers. Please let them know they are appreciated in enabling our vehicle of communication! **PS (tease) – look for more to come!**

Safety Report by Bill Olive

Great News! Oakridge has had only 1 incident reported during the past 6 weeks. Hopefully we can continue this for the remainder of 2013. Much of this can be attributed to more patrols by our Neighborhood Police Officer, he's seen frequently in Oakridge, either following up on reports, leads or just being proactive. At the same time, residents have become more vigilant and reporting suspicious people, vehicles and activity. Great work Oakridge residents!

Saturday, July 27th we attended the biannual Public Safety Roundtable with Representative Angie Chen Button. We learned that there are some major changes to the concealed handgun law as well as DWI laws. Go to her website for more info.

Oct. 1st is Texas' National Night Out and the COP will be having our annual "caravan" around Oakridge. We will provide additional information on this via the SIREN. We'll be asking for participation from our residents and we'll have police, fire, constable and Emergency Corps vehicles along with Rep. Button and look forward to seeing our residents out in front of your home shortly after 6:45pm.

Environmental Update by Don Pattie

On Monday, July 22 Mike Rose, Keith Engler, my wife Mary and I met with Robby Sutton of Qualicare, ONA Landscape Maintenance contractor, and Florentino, his superintendent, at the corner of Diamond Oaks and Buckingham to discuss the trimming of the Crepe Myrtles along Buckingham. These shrubs were planted as part of the Garland Beautification Project a few years ago and have just now grown large enough to encroach on the sidewalk along Buckingham. This trimming was omitted from Qualicare's contract and must now be added. Along Shiloh the shrubs are far enough from the sidewalk so that they may not need trimming.

While we were meeting we also discussed the planting at the entrances. It was agreed that some plants need to be relocated, probably in the fall, to provide a better appearance, and pruning was discussed. Some of the sprinkler risers need extending for better spray coverage. Keith Engler agreed to adopt the Diamond Oaks/Buckingham entrance to keep it looking good. Thank you Keith. If anyone wants to adopt another entrance, like Jupiter/Ridge Oak, Beltline/Laurel Oaks or Shiloh/ Big Oaks that would be great! Please let me know if you are interested.

If anyone notices a sprinkler "geyser", a wall that has been hit, or anything else pertaining to the common areas that's out of the ordinary, please call me at (home) 972-496-6486 or (cell) 972-768-3039, or email me at xracer541@tx.rr.com.

Daytimers Meeting by Diane Winter

The weather of this 2013 summer has been unusual but you will be able to predict and enjoy the events at the September meeting of the Oakridge Daytimers.

Oakridge Daytimers is a social organization for all women who reside or have resided in Oakridge. This group of women is interested in meeting the neighbors, sharing similar interests and learning the news of Oakridge. Daytimers support and encourage membership in the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. There are refreshments, fun and fellowship. We encourage you to join us. The president is Chris Beyers. For more information please call her at 972 530 8292. Dues are \$15.00.

On the second Tuesday of the months September through May the Daytimers meet at the homes of residents who are gracious to open their homes for the gathering of about 30 women of Oakridge. The next meeting will be:

On Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 10 am the Daytimers will meet at the home of Betty Prickett at 2013 Diamond Oaks.

Please come join us and bring a friend.

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Good Samaritans of Garland is a non-profit organization providing food to those most in need in Garland.

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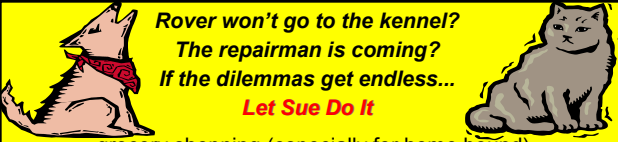
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Important Dates:


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 February 27, 2014
 May 22, 2014

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Golf Course Revival by Mike Ussery

Progress continues on the revival of the golf course property within the Oakridge community. The greens have been replanted and fairway areas are being cultivated and replanted where needed. Eradication of invasive weeds and establishment of mowing patterns are top priorities. The golf course irrigation system has been substantially renovated and is actively pumping water from Duck Creek in accordance with our water permit. We have continued to add to our golf course maintenance staff and they are working daily toward restoration of playable course conditions. We have also begun work on the clubhouse with roofing, electrical and HVAC work in progress along with a major cleanup. Over the next few weeks we will continue to cultivate improving golf course conditions and deal with dead trees, tree trimming and bridge repairs. Work to bring the clubhouse back to usable condition will also be ongoing as we prepare to reopen the club this Fall.



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We continue to ask for cooperation from the Oakridge community in staying off of the golf course property. This is necessary for safety purposes as well as to avoid interference with restoration and maintenance practices. It will be a transition for everyone to move from the time of open access to a closed golf course property back to an operating course which is private property with access only to paid golfers. We hope that the entire community is anxiously awaiting the return of a vibrant golf course.

Membership Director by Angela Greenwald

Why is it important to be a member of Oakridge Neighborhood Association? While the ONA is based on a voluntary membership, it behooves all of us to join and to recruit our fellow neighbors to do the same. Our dues are reasonable at only \$5 a month. 70% of those dues go directly towards maintaining common areas and entrances, repairing irrigation and sprinkler lines, and paying related utilities. You can see your dues at work every time you pass by one of the neighborhood entrances. Can you imagine if nobody maintained them? Proper upkeep is important for maintaining home values, making our neighborhood more desirable and attracting potential buyers. The ONA also publishes an annual directory, circulates monthly newsletters and promotes community through events and activities as funds allow but the most important function of the ONA is protecting the value of the community assets. We should all take pride and ownership in where we live. Won't you join us? After all, it is **YOUR** neighborhood!

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"The value of your home is reflected in the appearance of your neighborhood"

