

# Oakridge News

November 2013 Vol. 21, No. 11



## Scatter Shooting with Mike Rose

It has been six months since your new Board was elected to serve the Oakridge Community. The Board has met every month with a full quorum present to conduct the business of your community. This is a testament to the commitment these Board members hold to further strengthen the Oakridge Community. As you read this newsletter, are you in a position to say you have a similar commitment to **YOUR** Oakridge Community?

The ONA held its first of three General Membership meetings this past September. Please read the summary report provided by your ONA Secretary. The meeting was well attended with good information provided by those who spoke. The next General Meeting purpose is to elect a Nominating Committee which will report to the community via the April 2014 Oakridge Newsletter. If you are a **member** of the ONA please consider volunteering.

During the next several months your Board will be exploring alternate ways to enhance the four main entrances of your community and still meet the watering restrictions.

Many of you have been submitting electronic notes of concerns regarding possible city violations. Please continue to do so. All concerns are dealt with and at the same time making the proper city officials aware of these concerns. As in the past, these e-notes may be directed to the ONA President.

The holiday seasons are fast approaching so please be aware of our younger citizens walking, running or riding their bikes in your community. Schools will be out – kids will be out – decorations will be put up – lots of “things” happening between now and the end of 2013. Enjoy this time of the year!

## ONA General Meeting By Sharon Parrish

On September 26, 2013, 44 members attended the first General meeting of the ONA June 2013-May 2014 fiscal year at the Achievement Center of Texas on Shiloh Road. Presentations included Mayor Douglas Athas' information on new developments, including industries, bike trails and pedestrian parks. He also mentioned a new development code to revitalize neighborhood strip malls. Our City Councilman, Scott LeMay, talked about the new Walmart Neighborhood Market going in where Sack N Save was on Buckingham. He told us that the Charter School was now following its traffic plan, relieving the congestion at Shiloh and Beltline. James Roberts, recently hired by the owners of the neighborhood golf course, spoke about the continual improvement of the greens and the remodeling occurring for the pro shop, bar and grill.

Your ONA district directors will be contacting you soon if you are former members of the Neighborhood Association but have let your membership lapse. We like to see new folks join and former members return. Let us know what you want our Board to focus on because it's our job to serve you, and your opportunity to make your voice heard.

## District 7 City Council Scott LeMay

**Council Updates-** Each council member is assigned to two committees and one of mine is Community Services chaired by Councilwoman Goebel. The focus of this committee is on issues facing Garland neighborhoods. One issue we have been looking into is residential street parking. We recently updated the ordinance on dual rear wheel pickups. In the past they were considered “oversize” but that was revised due to the gross vehicle weight being under the accepted limit. We did however designate that those vehicles as well as all vehicles should be parked no further than 18” from the curb. This is to allow for safe passage down a street as well as better access for emergency and other oversized city vehicles. The current issue is parking adjacent to intersections. This is especially critical in neighborhoods where the width of the street can vary anywhere from 24’ – 27’ in width. Larger vehicles have great difficulty negotiating some of these turns to begin with, so parking at intersections becomes a bigger issue. We have established that the current state law prohibits parking within 30’ of an intersection whether it is marked “No Parking” or not. This can be enforced by police, code or the fire marshal. To that point enforcement is always going to be difficult to balance given the other priorities these groups have. Our first step in curbing this (pardon the pun) is awareness. We will be putting this information out in various city publications and newsletters. Hopefully increased focus on this issue will result in a decrease of illegally parked vehicles.

**Around The District-** Construction of the new charter high school at Arapaho & Shiloh should begin around mid December. This campus is expected to be open for the 2014-2015 school year. My cell phone number is (214) 794-8904 and my email is [scottlemayd7@gmail.com](mailto:scottlemayd7@gmail.com).

## Daytimers by Diane Winter

There was a Daytimers celebration of birthdays at the home of Chris Beyers on October 8<sup>th</sup>, that included everyone. There was fun, decorations, cake and singing as the birthday of each Daytimer was honored. Daytimers invite all ladies from the Oakridge area to join them.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am September – May. This is an excellent time to meet neighbors, exchange community information and enjoy the fellowship of friends.

The November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the home of Sharon Carlton, 2517 Big Oaks at 10 am. The theme is blessings – Daytimers can be one of yours. More information can be found on the ONA website at [www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org). –click on clubs.

**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.**

Rover won't go to the kennel?  
The repairman is coming?  
If the dilemmas get endless...

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**Treasurers Report by Dave Morgan CPA**

So mom was really an accomplished biochemist and nutritionist when she told you to thoroughly chew your food. Being in the organic fertilizer business, my exposure to new information has been amazing. When you chew your veggies up to twenty chomps, you are breaking down the cell walls of your plant based food to a level where your saliva chemically makes the nutrients actually become better absorbed in your digestive tract when swallowed. That makes sense that when we go back to our human programming over thousands of years when our predecessors ate their plant based food without cooking. They grazed like all animals. You would suspect that it took a lot of chewing and then some more before they would swallow the item being eaten. If you look at the advertising for food processors these days, the added nutrient value of complete breakdown of the food item of choice is their main point of benefit. You may need to "chew that liquid", though, so that your saliva has a chance to interact properly.

Here is something else to chew on – financially that is. ONA needs funding to properly accomplish our stated missions. We are, well, severely mal-nourished at this point. We currently have 346 active members as of October 23rd, and we need at least 450 to 500 active members to make appreciable further progress beyond the revamping and full neighborhood circulation of the newsletter done so far PLUS the diligent maintenance of the perimeter and entries in an "as is" status.

Personally, I will furnish my MightyGrow Organic Fertilizer as the foundation to help dramatically spruce up our entry plantings IF we can get a around another 100 members into ONA membership relatively soon. That way, we can get some nice colors in place for the holidays. Several members have actually indicated they would help with the actual landscaping work too – those offers are appreciated. If you need a membership form, go to [www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org) where you can download and print the form to mail with your payment OR contact us if you do not have computer access and we'll get you the membership form OR easily join and pay using PayPal. Thanks in advance for becoming a member in your non-mandatory HOA and making this neighborhood a nicer place to live!

**Membership Report by Angela Greenwald**

Recap by District 10/24/2013:

| District | Total Homes | Non Members | Members    | %          | Prior Year Nonrenewals |
|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1        | 185         | 127         | 58         | 31%        | 30                     |
| 2        | 154         | 88          | 66         | 43%        | 25                     |
| 3        | 140         | 115         | 25         | 18%        | 11                     |
| 4        | 151         | 79          | 72         | 48%        | 7                      |
| 5        | 190         | 150         | 40         | 21%        | 22                     |
| 6        | 123         | 102         | 21         | 17%        | 4                      |
| 7        | 220         | 157         | 63         | 29%        | 28                     |
|          | <b>1163</b> | <b>818</b>  | <b>345</b> | <b>30%</b> | <b>127</b>             |

**Environmental Update by Don Pattie**

It's October, which means cooler weather and a little rain, so you don't have to water the lawn so much. This is a good thing because the City of Garland has just issued new watering schedules for November through March. Starting November 1 you may only water **ONE DAY EVERY OTHER WEEK**. You may only water on your recycling day. Other Stage 3 Water Restrictions during the months of November through March include:

- Postpone new landscaping until drought has passed.
- No planting of cool season grass.
- Existing swimming pools/hot tubs/spa-like pools may not be drained and refilled.
- The operation of ornamental fountains/ponds is prohibited except to support aquatic life.
- No washing down of exterior hard surfaces (sidewalks, driveways, patios, etc.).
- Residents and businesses are asked minimize non-essential water use.

**Note:** these restrictions do not apply to the golf course, so don't be complaining when you see them watering and you can't.

The O.N.A. will not be planting new winter flowers in the entrance beds this year. Since we have been getting some rain and some of our sprinkler timers don't have programs for one day every two weeks we have decided to just turn the sprinklers off for the winter.

**National Night Out / COP by Bill Olive**

THANK YOU to everyone for the excellent turnout for National Night Out! Thank you too, to the ONA Board members, Constable Gothard, and COP members for participating and Station 11 Fire Department members who surprised us with both a truck and an ambulance. We had a couple of vehicles that "merged in" at Laurel Oaks and Beltline and actually drove the entire route, waving and smiling to our residents before exiting back out toward Beltline. Guess everyone has a secret desire to be in a parade?

As we traversed Oakridge it became painfully evident that we have a serious problem with on-street parking. In some instances, a fire truck or ambulance couldn't get through and this could lead to the potential loss of homes or someone's life. City ordinance and/or state law stipulates:

- Vehicles must be parked with the flow of traffic.
- Vehicles **cannot be more than 18" (inches) from the curb**.
- Parked vehicles *must be more than 30 feet from an intersection*.
- Vehicles must be at least 15 feet away from a fire hydrant -on both sides of the street.

All four of these situations are subject to fines and/or towing of the violating vehicle. Paying a fine or having your vehicle towed is nothing compared to the potential for loss of your home, your life or the life of a loved one if the fire department can't get to your home because you or your neighbors have blocked the street. Remember, the life you save may be your own. If it takes a fire truck or an ambulance 3 or 4 seconds more because it has to creep through the maze created by illegally parked vehicles, you or your family member may die. Think about it—is parking on the street more important to you than your life or the life of your spouse or children?

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**Important Dates:**  
**Membership Meetings**  
 February 27, 2014  
 May 22, 2014

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## Local Postal Customer

**Golf Course Revival by Mike Ussery** [www.duckcreekgc.com](http://www.duckcreekgc.com)

Hopefully everyone is enjoying the view as we continue to make great strides with the golf course revival. Our first rounds of golf at Duck Creek Golf Club will be played on October 31 as the course opens for daily fee play. Great progress was made over the past sixty days. The course is in very playable condition, however, peak conditions won't be achieved until Summer 2014 when another bermuda-grass growing season is underway. The course is opening with over-seeded fairways and tee boxes keeping those areas green throughout the winter for golfer enjoyment. Those wishing to sign up for our Annual Golf Membership or Player Development Membership may do so at any time. Private golf instruction from one of our PGA Professionals is also now available.

Our initial food and beverage operation in the clubhouse will be limited to a small menu suited to take care of hungry golfers. Beer and wine sales will begin once our TABC alcohol permit is in place. The food and beverage operation will continue to be low key through the winter and will ramp up further next spring.

Primary focus has been on getting the golf course re-opened and there has been no progress towards a long

term solution for the swim and tennis complex. We continue to seek someone who may be interested in operating those facilities and if no one is identified, we will begin to work with the community on alternate options. Likewise, we are hopeful that once the golf course opens for play we will be able to identify someone with interest in establishing a banquet/catering operation in the portion of the clubhouse which will not be in use by the golf course.

Once again we ask for cooperation from all residents of the Oakridge community in staying off the golf course, other than when authorized to be there as a registered player. With golf play once again underway there is danger in walking, riding bikes or otherwise trespassing on the golf course property and those activities are prohibited. Golf course staff will begin asking anyone trespassing on the property to please stay off and hopefully no stronger action will be required. Thanks for your help in once again establishing an operating golf course presence in the Oakridge community.

Please direct questions/comments to  
[ussery@oncoursestrategies.com](mailto:ussery@oncoursestrategies.com)


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