

Oakridge News

March 2014

Vol. 22, No. 3



Scatter Shooting with Mike Rose

“Your neighborhood influences your home value”

This opening statement should be of great importance to every homeowner living in our Oakridge community. Why? Owning your home is one of the biggest investments you will make – a phrase often repeated by financial “experts”. In a few months it will be time to “spruce up” the outside appearance of your home. This is good. But as potential home buyers enter your community what do you think goes through their mind as they approach your Oakridge neighborhood? What they see is a worn out looking landscaped attempt at creating an inviting neighborhood. You can help in changing that worn out looking entrance by joining the Oakridge Neighborhood Association – or by continuing your membership in the coming years. Thank you.

This past November the citizens of Garland approved an increase in the tax rate of \$0.02 per hundred valuation strictly earmarked for street repair. Our

city council appointed a nine member citizen’s committee to assist in evaluating the street needs of all of Garland. Oakridge is fortunate that one of our homeowners was appointed to serve on that committee.

Have you really **LOOKED** at the ads in your monthly ONA newsletter? These are folks whose business existence depends on homeowners utilizing their services. When you are in need give them a call. If you do not keep your newsletter you can always go to the ONA website www.oakridgena.org and select the newsletter tab on the left side of your screen. You will be amazed at what you will find. There is a lot of Oakridge history and copies all the ads of the businesses that have supported your neighborhood throughout the years. Support these advertisers who support your Oakridge community.

Please read the announcement about the upcoming all Oakridge community picnic and watch for future announcements in your monthly ONA newsletter.

District 7 City Council Scott LeMay

There were two agenda items discussed at length in our Feb 3rd work session. One was the final disposition of the Pace and Lyles houses and the other was the renewal and amendment of the transportation consultant agreement with Dean International.

As far as the Pace and Lyles houses are concerned, there is a proposal currently under review that would remove both from city ownership and future care. The Pace house would go to a private investor and the house would be restored to livable conditions in an “historic” neighborhood setting within the city. The Lyles house would go to a group focused on “historical preservation” within the city as well. This would be similar to the Landmark Society that maintains the train car and depot that have been relocated behind the Main Library downtown. The details of this proposal will come back to council for review.

In May 2013 Dean International was retained by a one year contract to be our transportation consultants. Dean International will work with us on our behalf to lobby for state transportation related funding on the major highways that border or cross the city. To date some progress has been made on this effort with a sound wall being approved for a section of IH-

635 that is adjacent to homes along there.

The amended contract we have been presented after review by our Council Transportation Committee includes not only a 21 month extension of the contract but also an increase in monthly cost and overall scope. The current contract has a monthly fee of \$20,000 for the services listed above. The new contract has a proposed increase in that monthly fee to \$30,000. The reason behind this increase is to cover additional scope items that include-

DART Focus “Assist in the creation of policy objectives to better manage its \$23M annual investment.”

Garland Industrial Focus “A assist in identifying and creating policy provisions for the industrial area.”

Advocacy Group “Bring together and educate stakeholders to forward the City’s transportation projects and initiatives.”

We voted to delay the vote on this until March 4th.

Please review this discussion:

<http://garlandtx.swagit.com/play/02032014-882>

I encourage you to use the city’s website or you can contact me directly at:

(214) 794-8904 scottlemayd7@gmail.com.



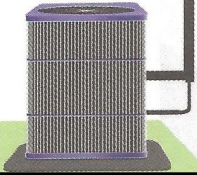
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***In Balance with Dave Morgan, CPA
 ONA Treasurer and Sales Manager***

It seems appropriate to formally thank a few folks not associated with ONA that continue to help ONA month after every month and totally under the radar.

The first are the good folks at Citibank. They have been providing us with free checking for many, many years, and that includes not charging us should we get a returned check that happens every so often.

The second are our ONA letter carriers - Fred and Kenny. Because the carrier routes in ONA are, well, messed up, they personally take our newsletter mailings and make sure that every home in Oakridge (and Oakridge only) gets our ONA newsletter.

Thank these folks when you see them for their help in making ONA a success!

Here are our summary year-to-date comparative financial numbers as of February 20, 2014:

	Current Year	Budget	Prior Year
Membership Dues	21,960	30,000	27,641
Beautification	3,763	4,000	3,990
Advertising	4,350	6,520	0
Interest Income	8	17	12
Total Income	30,081	40,537	31,643
Landscaping & Maint.	13,247	18,013	14,039
Repairs	188	2,200	2,593
Membership Costs	619	2,022	2,116
Neighborhood Events	133	0	0
Newsletter Costs	4,542	4,485	4,885
Other	355	578	412
Total Expenses	19,084	27,299	24,044
Net Income	10,997	13,237	7,598

This is a voluntary (not a mandatory) neighborhood association and your financial help is appreciated as opposed to expected. With the golf course now in full swing, we need funding that will help us match the beautification progress they have made.

Please reach out to a few of your neighbors to join us all with what amounts to a five dollar a month investment. We currently have just over 365 active paid members, and we need at least 450 to 500 active paid members in order to make further progress beyond the revamping of the newsletter we put into place in July of last year.

Thanks so much in advance for your help!

Environmental by Don Pattie

Winter is here and our common area landscaping is dormant for the most part. So now is the time to start thinking about spring and making plans to spruce up the major Oakridge entrances – Buckingham/Diamond Oaks, Jupiter/Ridge Oak, Beltline/Laurel Oaks, and Shiloh/Big Oaks.

Sir Fixalot has been asked to get the sign lights working at the major entrances as soon as time and weather permit. We would like to install drip line irrigation and plant some really colorful flowers in the entrance planting beds but, since three fourths of the people who live in Oakridge apparently don't care enough about their neighborhood to contribute to the upkeep, we simply don't have the funds to do much.

As Environmental Director I find this very frustrating, but I guess there is not much we can do about it. I know that there are those who really do care, however, and if you are one of those, we would welcome a one time donation designated for the improvement of a particular entrance.

If you are interested in doing this please email me at xracer541@tx.rr.com to initiate a dialog about what can be done, planning, cost and procedure.

Daytimers by Diane Winter

Cold weather does not deter the Daytimers when fashion, food, fun and friends are involved. More than 30 members dressed in red gathered on February 11th, at the home of Betty Cosgray to celebrate Valentine's Day.

President, Chris Beyers, led a short business meeting with announcements of other meetings and birthdays. She also encouraged attendance at the next quarterly ONA meeting and introduced a new member and guests.

Ann Conrath and Sharon Carlton introduced the representatives from Clothes Mentor-a totally new resale store for women -who presented a fun fashion show with members as models.

With smiles and laughter the members exchanged and opened Valentines and then visited with each other and shared the humorous sentiments on the cards.

You won't want to miss the Tuesday, March 11th, 10 am, meeting at the home of Dana Hopkins, 2914 Oak Point, when the Daytimers will dress in green for the theme "FUN and GAMES". Bring a neighbor and join the fun.

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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The repairman is coming?
If the dilemmas get endless...



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Important Dates:

**Membership Meeting
& Community Picnic:**
May 22, 2014

Join the
ONA Today!



Meeting Time & Location:

6:30pm social, 7pm meeting
Achievement Center of Texas
2950 N. Shiloh Rd.
Garland, Texas 75044

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— Community Wide Picnic May 22, 2014 —

Come join your neighbors in overcoming the winter blahs with a community wide picnic before the May 22, 2014 ONA General Meeting.

Burgers, Hot Dogs and soft drinks starting at 5:30 in the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot. See you there!!



Men's Senior Golf League forming at Duck Creek by James Vineyard

If you are 50 years of age or older, you are eligible to join the newly forming men's senior golf league at Duck Creek. We will play on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If interested or you wish additional information, please see the register at the pro shop or contact:

Jim Vineyard, jvineyard@verizon.net, or Ralph Morgen, morgen@verizon.net

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