



Oakridge News

May, 2014

Vol. 22, No. 5

Scatter Shooting with Mike Rose

“The value of your home is reflected in the appearance of your neighborhood”

It has been stated in a questioning format – what is the benefit of belonging to the Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) ? **From our By Laws:** Purpose – The purpose of the ONA is to assure the beauty, safety and stability of the area; to promote neighborliness and pride among the residents. And to accomplish this takes a small commitment on your part!

Over the past many months you should have repeatedly read these opening and closing quotes. I strongly believe both of these statements. **DO YOU?** If not you should talk with some residential real estate sales folks to hear what they think of general neighborhood appearances. And how the entrance might affect home values within a neighbor-

hood. Specifically, how pleasant and inviting the entrances to your Oakridge community seem to them? The ONA is charged with the upkeep and enhancement of **ALL** of our entrances as well as all the landscaping surrounding the ONA! But I am sure you are aware of that fact. If not, you have not been reading the monthly ONA Newsletter. We begin our new physical year June 1, 2014 which ends May 31, 2015. For \$60.00 per year (or the equivalent of \$5.00 a month – hard to find a fast food meal at that price) you may ensure a much better landscaped entrance into your Oakridge Community. **ARE YOU GOING TO HELP?** You should have received your annual membership invoice/application. Please seriously give your strong commitment to supporting and enhancing your complete neighborhood.

See you at the Oakridge Community wide picnic in May.

“Your neighborhood influences your home value”

Neighborhoods Need the Strength of Community—Mayor Douglas Athas

There is a word for when the whole is greater than all the parts added together: synergy. When neighbors work together, they accomplish many things that they wouldn't be able to do if each worked on the task individually. Neighborhood associations make neighborhoods stronger, more able to identify and address challenges, to seek solutions that work for the neighborhood, that get attention from city officials, that mobilize city services.

That is true only if the association is active.

Over the last couple decades, neighborhood associations have been instrumental in some of the major changes realized in Garland. The Neighborhood Vitality program and grants can be traced to discussions and action by neighborhood groups. Those grants have led to screening wall replacements, neighborhood entrance improvements, beautification projects, meeting pavilions, and much more.

Neighborhood associations and the links between them have kept a check on bad government, including countering the effort in 2006 by some council members to cancel elections and just stay in office another year. The fight to support the city charter and to follow the law originated en-

tirely with individuals linked by their involvement with neighborhood associations.

Many association leaders become members of city boards and commissions. Many become council members and mayor, such as now with Councilman LeMay and myself, but also others serving on the council now and in the past.

Virtually the entire city council and city staff are working to “Grow Garland.” There is much to be done but we are moving faster than ever before. Great things are starting to happen in Garland and there is a “buzz” across the region that people should be paying attention to Garland. That energy and attention will grow. We can attract more businesses. We can have more opportunities to shop and play.

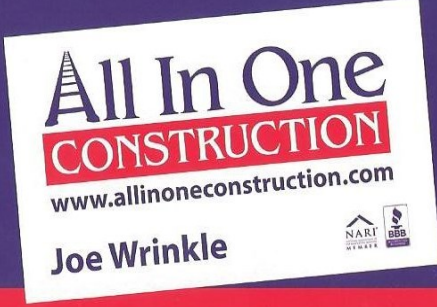
However, our biggest challenge will be within our neighborhoods. Our economic vitality is directly connected. Those neighborhoods that do the best job of being a community of caring neighbors will gain the most, both within the neighborhood boundaries but also in the area. Those neighborhoods that are best organized will also be the ones to benefit first and the most. Be a part of it! Let's Grow Garland.

2014-2015 Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee presents the following officers: Mike Rose: President Brad Greenwald: Vice President, Sharon Parrish: Secretary, Dave Morgan: Treasurer

The following individuals will serve as District Representatives: Bob Williams: District 1, Tom Debeaudry: District 4, James Aaron, District 6

The Nominating Committee comprises: Tony and Tillie Battaglia, Ernie Gharis, Lori Oswald, and Margaret Fowler



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In Balance—Dave Morgan ONA Treasurer

We are indeed blessed to live in the Oakridge community with so many good neighbors, beautiful residences, and a healthy golf course back in operation. The ONA has had a difficult fiscal year in that we started our membership drive very late after assuming office and, as a result, ended with a very disappointing drop in the number of members. On the other side of the ledger, though, we had a Board that worked very hard to control expenditures to compensate for the loss in revenues. Further, we did a complete makeover of the newsletter in both format and in that we mailed every Oakridge home each and every month. The newsletter advertising revenues covered a significant portion of the slight cost increase, and our advertisers have had some sparkling results from the increased circulation and every month delivery and on a timely basis.

Here is a recap of ONA expenditures for three fiscal years that summarizes how your funding plus the funding from the advertising revenues are spent:

| | Actual Fiscal Year Ended <u>05/31/2013</u> | Projected Fiscal Year Ended <u>05/31/2014</u> | Projected Fiscal Year Ended <u>05/31/2015</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Landscaping & Maintenance | 17,434.55 | 17,937.09 | 21,642.67 |
| Repairs | 2,953.20 | 188.48 | 2,400.00 |
| Membership & Directory Costs | 2,115.70 | 1,732.95 | 1,567.46 |
| Neighborhood Picnics & Events | 0.00 | 662.11 | 2,500.00 |
| Newsletter Costs | 5,345.99 | 6,726.83 | 6,589.56 |
| Meeting & Overhead Costs | <u>911.72</u> | <u>861.05</u> | <u>1,124.30</u> |
| Total Expenses | 28,761.16 | 28,108.51 | 35,823.99 |

We expect a significant membership revenue increase to cover the projected increase in expenditures of over \$7,600.00 this next fiscal. We have actually jump started this process by already getting ahead on the invoicing – a special edition mailing with an invoice was just published and delivered so that we are months ahead of last year’s late start disaster. Reminder invoicing should happen even before last year’s late invoicing.

Landscaping and maintenance is way up because we plan on doing a lot of beautification planting. Repairs are projected up because we want to start the conversion from our wasteful sprinklers to drip irrigation. Neighborhood picnics and events are much higher because we must get back to having those occasions to get out and meet our neighbors.

Spending more on our community requires more money being raised. We will be working to bring an ONA membership card into existence if we can get enough surrounding merchants and businesses convinced to provide ONA members discounts on merchandise and services. However, we will need that program to raise enough advertising revenues to more than fully cover that program. Your additional ideas for fund raising like a community “garage sale” would be welcomed.

Environmental Article May 2014– Don Pattie

When a family looking for a new place to live drives into a subdivision that they haven’t visited before through a brick walled entrance with manicured green grass and bright colored flowers in clean planting beds, they notice it is a neat neighborhood in which they can expect to pay more for a home. On the other hand, if the grass is dead and the planting beds are full of trash and dead plants they will expect to pay less. How the entrances look effects the home values in the subdivision.

We have been having typical Texas weather lately – winter one day, spring the next, then winter again. Hopefully spring will come to stay soon and we can get busy with our Entrance Beautification Project. The plan is to redo the landscaping at the four main Oakridge entrances – Buckingham/Diamond Oaks, Jupiter/Ridge Oak, Beltline/Laurel Oaks and Shiloh/Big Oaks. This would include drip irrigation and colorful plants. We already have one donation and a promise of another towards this project but we are still far short on funds. If you would like to contribute email me at xracer541@tx.rr.com for information on how to do this.

The City of Garland will not mow the grass. The City of Garland does not give us free electricity for the sign lights. The City of Garland does not give us free water for the sprinkler and irrigation system. Your ONA dues pay for all of this.

Be aware that the Winter Watering Restrictions are being extended on a monthly basis. Go to the City of Garland website and type in “Water Conservation” in the search bar in the top left corner to see when you can water in May.

Board Meeting Minutes from April 2014 Meeting

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7:05 PM. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Sharon Parrish

The March 6, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT - Dave Morgan Financial report was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Morgan continues to work on the draft ONA Board Policy Manual for board review. Sherri Rutherford is organizing a picnic in the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot to be held on May 22, 2014 starting at 5:30 PM. David Parrish needs to verify the number and content of any signs we can put at the main entrances advertising the general meeting and the picnic. Dave Morgan will send Sheri a list of volunteers. Dave Morgan will also price the envelopes, invoice and flyer to be delivered to every home in the neighborhood and report to the board. It was suggested the new board focus on the by-laws, directory and the perimeter and entrances that ONA maintains. The General meetings should be informing and entertaining.

MEMBERSHIP – Brad Greenwald for Angela Greenwald Membership is currently 369 house holds of 1,163 homes in the neighborhood. See attached. The draft invoice and three-fold welcome informational flyer was discussed. Brad will revise based on input from the board and send out via email to the board.

COMMUNICATIONS –

Brad Greenwald will get the invoice and welcome flyer to Dave Morgan by 4/21, Dave will get them to the printer and Dale Rouze will get the package to the post office.

ENVIRONMENTAL – Don Pattie—Keith Engler will continue to maintain the entrance lights.

Don is still soliciting bids for drip irrigation at the four main entrances.

SAFETY – Bill Olive Solicitors are coming around again; they need to be displaying a city permit. If there are any questions, contact Bill. The fire department will be conducting their “Fill the Boot” campaign on 4/4, 11 and 18/14 at certain intersections.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The next Board meeting will be at Mike Rose’s home, 2406 Lone Oak Trail, on Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 PM. The General Meeting will be at the Duck Creek Golf Club on Thursday, May 22, 2014, following the picnic that starts at 5:30 pm in parking lot of the Golf Club.

May 2014 Article—Scott LeMay

Many years ago I innocently wandered in to a Camelot Neighborhood Association (CNA) meeting. As a first time homeowner I really had no experience with neighborhood groups of any kind. What I did have was an interest in my home and the safety and security of my family. Going to that meeting has proven to be one of the best decisions in my life. I was inspired by their dedication and I have learned from their experience. I can safely say that had I not gotten involved with CNA I would not be serving on the city council today.

What I found then is what I see the need for all the time now across the city. People, citizens, neighbors who care not just about their homes, but their neighborhoods, to get involved. This applies to mandatory HOA’s and most especially voluntary neighborhood associations. Mandatory groups typically have a management company that handles many of the details and duties. Those of us in voluntary groups are truly “do it yourselfers”. We handle everything! A common misperception in mandatory groups is that everyone participates. Nothing could be further from the truth. They still struggle with the same issue that voluntary groups do.


So what is that issue? Quite simply, volunteers willing to participate. Your participation in the Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) is a key component in not just maintaining the neighborhood but also ensuring that the neighborhood remains a vital and attractive area in the city. That is a benefit to you, your neighbors and to me. Not just as your city council representative but as a citizen of Garland. Participation has many levels. Some people are comfortable being out front, some are not. Some people are able to give more time and effort than others. That’s OK. Your financial support of the association has obvious value and far reaching impact. It allows ONA to do the necessary work that benefits us all.

Cities are sometimes known by industries that are located there, maybe even shopping areas or other amenities. That’s fine and understandable. But cities are judged by their neighborhoods. When industries or retailer are looking to locate in a city, they look at the neighborhoods first. When they look at us I want them to see not just neighborhoods that are surviving, but neighborhoods that are thriving.

We all want to “Grow Garland” and it starts with us.

Scott LeMay- Garland City Council, District 7 (214) 794-8904 cell scottlemayd7@gmail.com


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Important Dates:
Membership Meeting & Community Picnic:
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Important!!! - Watering Restrictions

Water restrictions continue throughout the City of Garland, We are ONLY to water on our scheduled RECYCLING days AND we MUST NOT water between the hours of 10AM to 6PM

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— Community Wide Picnic May 22, 2014 —

The Community wide picnic is set for Thursday, May 22nd starting at 5:30 in the Duck Creek Golf Course parking lot near the tennis courts. This will be the extended social time before the general meeting and election of officers begins at 7:00. The Daytimers have graciously volunteered to provide homemade goodies to enjoy after your burgers or hot dogs. So throw a lawn chair in the back of your car and come to the parking lot for some food and visit with the great folks in our community.

ONA membership will have a table for those who want to renew your dues, join the ONA for the coming year which begins June 2014 and sign up for different volunteer opportunities in our community.

Duck Creek Golf Course staff will be on hand to discuss the various golf opportunities. I've seen the list and there is something for everyone. Duck Creek Golf is hosting our general meeting at the clubhouse. It will be a great time to see the club if you have not done so already.

Volunteers: We are in need a couple of master burger grillers if you would like to volunteer. Also need a few good men and women to help set up, or serve burgers or clean up after the picnic, please call Sherri Rutherford at 972-496-5454.

In the event of rain, picnic will be cancelled and meeting will be held at Duck Creek Clubhouse 6:45PM

If you are new to Oakridge, this is the perfect opportunity to see what the neighborhood association is all about and understand what is going on in the community. SEE YOU THERE!!

Daytimers by Diane Winter

Since "Spring had Sprung", forty women met at the home of Suzanne Snow to learn how to beautify the landscape of their home. Many questions involved lawn maintenance and water shortage so Susan Loving of Roach's Feed and Seed of Garland gave excellent hints, tips and information on lawn and plant care.

The meeting was very rewarding since the attendance was high and the guests were special. Sarah Traylor returned for a visit and Joan McDole attended along with several neighbors of members. Suzanne's theme decorations, teamed with Ann Conrath and Sharon Carlton's planning made the Daytimers meeting a good place to plant yourself.

Chris Beyers led the group through several announcements and business matters including the reminder for the ONA Community Picnic. Peggy Crenshaw collected money for the May luncheon to be held at Kathy's Choice on Tuesday, May 13th, at 11:30.

Join the Daytimers for the luncheon, meet your neighbors and gather Oakridge information.

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.

Direct any questions to president, Chris Beyers - 972 530 8292.

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PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE ONA!--Do you realize out of 1163 homes in Oakridge only 371 homes belong to the ONA. If you want picnics, block parties, and chili cook-offs it's time to STEP UP TO THE PLATE!

We have contacted numerous ONA members to serve on board positions, but some just don't want to get involved. Help increase membership and contact Mike Rose at 972-245-1946.

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