

# Oakridge News

July, 2014

Vol. 22, No. 7



## City of Garland District 7 Report—Scott LeMay

May was a very historic month for the City of Garland. Not only did we celebrate the re-dedication of our Landmark Museum but we also designated our first historic district. As many of you know the Landmark Museum depot was relocated from behind city hall to its new location on Sixth Street behind the Central Library. This new location offers much greater visibility and access with the opening of the Sixth Street crossing. The exterior of the Santa Fe Railroad depot that dates back to the 1800's which houses the artifacts has received a much needed restoration. Restoration of the 1910 Pullman railcar will begin soon and also the relocation of the Lyle's house to this location should be completed this summer as well. You can learn more about the museum at [www.garlandhistorical.org](http://www.garlandhistorical.org)

On May 20<sup>th</sup> the City Council unanimously approved a resolution recognizing the Travis College Hill Addition on 11<sup>th</sup> Street between Avenues B and D as "historically significant". The Craftsman style houses date back to the early 1900's and were the homes of many early leaders in the city. The voluntary guidelines will help maintain and preserve the history and style of the homes. This is a great example of neighbors working together to make a difference and encourage improvements in their neighborhood. This is an example that all neighborhoods can follow regardless of age, style or location. If you would like more information on neighborhood vitality, just ask.

A few more words about the Historic Downtown area. Obviously I spend a good deal of time downtown for meetings so I am pretty familiar with what it has to offer. To that point I also spend time with my family down there away from meetings enjoying what it has to offer. I would encourage you to do the same. There are now several really good restaurants offering all types of cuisine. There are also shops and boutiques offering all types of products and services. There are cultural arts events at the Granville Arts Center as well as the Plaza Theatre. We hear time and again that people would like more restaurants and more shops downtown and I agree. But what we need to establish first is patronage of the places that are there now. Their success will attract new business. So the next time you are looking for a night out, think downtown first.

### Council Updates-

At our May 19<sup>th</sup> work session we received a proposal to increase our residential waste removal rates by \$1.60. This would bring the monthly residential rate to \$19.18 starting July 1<sup>st</sup> and set our rate at third highest in the metroplex

behind Dallas and Fort Worth. The reason for this increase has several parts. One is impact of the ice storms last December where we hauled off more brush in a few weeks than we typically see in a year. The other reasons are the ongoing implementation of single stream recycling (new blue bins) and the ongoing maintenance and operations of our landfill and the heavy equipment needed to do so. We were also given the option of delaying this increase until the 2014/2015 budget cycle where the increase would or could be \$2.00 or \$19.58 monthly. Several council members including myself were opposed to any rate increases and asked for options to mitigate this. Basically we were told those options are limited due to budget structures and fund balance requirements. This item was pulled from the June 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting consent agenda and voted on separately. The item failed to pass. This item was reintroduced at our June 17<sup>th</sup> regular meeting with the proposal of using various amounts of "one time funds" from the general fund. This would have mitigated the expenses associated with the ice storm. We could not agree on using the one time funds and again this item failed to pass. At this point our current rates will remain in place. I feel this item will get additional review during our budget process this fall. With that we will go back to the staff and look for options that maintain our outstanding current service levels and continue the single stream recycling program. As you can imagine this will not be an easy task but I am confident in our combined ability to find a better solution.

### Around The District-

Not to sound like a broken record but I just want to mention our ongoing watering restrictions. Our every other week watering has been extended through October at this time. Hopefully we will not need to escalate the restrictions as we get into the real heat of summer. For those of you out there who are complying with the restrictions, I appreciate it. I have heard your concerns about your yards and those not complying with the restrictions. Just a heads up for those out there not complying, our Water Utilities and Code Enforcement groups are going to begin working together for evening patrols when most of the violations occur on non designated days. Hopefully you will not meet them.

I encourage you to use the city's website for information about the city. When that doesn't work you can always contact me. My direct cell phone number is (214) 794-8904 and my direct email is [scottlemayd7@gmail.com](mailto:scottlemayd7@gmail.com).

Scott LeMay- Garland City Council, District 7

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### "Scatter Shooting" w/ Mike Rose—ONA Board President

Work has begun on the four main entrances to our Oakridge Community. New lighting has been installed, thus illuminating each of the Oakridge signs. Keith Engler of Sir.Fixalot was retained to analyze the condition of the old systems. It was determined that it was more cost effective to replace than repair these lights. When you drive into your community after it is dark outside notice these signs.

*"The value of your home is reflected in the appearance of your neighborhood"* is a powerful statement. Your Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA), a voluntary organization, consists of concerned folks living in your community. The ONA through its Environment committee has begun soliciting bids to install a drip irrigation system at each of the four main entrances. After these bids are analyzed decisions will be made as to how to proceed. After the drip irrigation is installed – in stages if necessary – new drought tolerant landscaping will be planted. All of these steps to implement and complete take time and **MONEY**. The ONA Board commits its time. Are you committing anything to your Oakridge community? It is as simple as joining your voluntary neighborhood community association. The cost to you is less than a cup of Starbucks on a monthly basis – that is \$60.00 per year – the cost to assist in enhancing the entrances of your neighborhood. A membership invoice/application may be found on the ONA web site. Go to "join us" and follow the instructions.



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### Did You Know?! Garage Sales 101 (From City Ordinance)

- Contact Code Compliance at **972-485-6400** for a permit number. There is no fee required
- Sales cannot be held continually from weekend to weekend. City ordinance allows for no more than three sales per year and no more than three consecutive days per sale.
- Garage/yard sale signs cannot be displayed, placed, or posted on telephone poles, traffic signals, street signs, street lights, or city trees. **Signs must be on private property.**
- It is illegal to erect or affix a sign in the right-of-way (the area from the curb to the sidewalk), on the median (the area in the middle of any street), on trees, public fences and/or buildings, or utility/telephone poles.
- A garage/yard sale is for selling used or unwanted household or personal items from the seller's own premises.

Merchandise and activities cannot be displayed or conducted on any public property, including sidewalks, streets, alleys, and parkways. Remember to be courteous to neighbors and keep the neighborhood neat and clean; **all signs must be removed by 9:00 p.m. on the last day of the sale.**

#### Garage sale signs:

Each person who has a garage sale shall use no more than three off-premises signs. Each sign shall:

- (1) Not exceed eight square feet in area nor five feet in height;
- (2) **Bear the address, dates of sale, and permit number.**

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**"In Balance" w/ Dave Morgan, CPA –ONA Board Treasurer**

Numbers, numbers, numbers ... Bear with me, though, as there are some interesting things herein. Shown are the actual numbers for the previous fiscal year, the just completed fiscal year, and our budgeted projections for this current fiscal year. Note that the actual number revenues, in total, were virtually the same – membership dues were way down this past year while advertising was way up. For this year, we are shooting for a big increase in membership dues (\$60 per member) and income from a new advertising source to be discussed below. Noteworthy in expenditures, we plan on doing a long past due infrastructure drip irrigation conversion on the four main entrances, and then doing some nice plantings that will be more tolerant of drought conditions. Keith Engler is first "over-hauling" the entry lights to aesthetically illuminate the entrances. We will have an ONA Directory again this year. Finally, picnics and neighborhood events are happening!

	Actual Fiscal Year Ended <u>05/31/2013</u>	Actual Fiscal Year Ended <u>05/31/2014</u>	Budgeted Fiscal Year Ended <u>05/31/2015</u>
Membership Dues	27,701.00	22,260.00	30,000.00
Beautification	3,990.00	3,859.00	4,000.00
Advertising – Membership Cards	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
Advertising – Newsletter	0.00	5,100.00	4,350.00
Interest	<u>14.04</u>	<u>11.67</u>	<u>18.25</u>
Total Income	31,705.04	31,230.67	40,168.25
Landscaping & Maintenance	17,434.55	16,715.67	21,627.44
Landscaping Infrastructure	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Repairs	2,953.20	531.98	600.00
Membership & Directory Costs	2,115.70	1,177.10	2,213.87
Neighborhood Picnics & Events	0.00	659.19	2,500.00
Newsletter Costs	5,345.99	6,189.08	6,789.56
Meeting & Overhead Costs	<u>911.72</u>	<u>763.42</u>	<u>1,011.40</u>
Total Expenses	28,761.16	26,036.44	39,742.27
Net Income	2,943.88	5,194.23	425.98

We jump started the membership invoicing starting this past April by publishing a special edition invoice mailing. As of June 20th, we have 191 dues paying members that are 38.20% of our total 500 member budget. This 191 is 63.67% of our June budget of 300 members. Please respond to a new special edition membership invoicing coming your way in the near future if you have not joined. Thanks to those having joined us already!

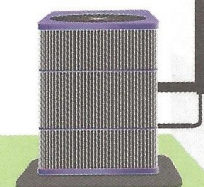
**COMING SOON**, we are issuing an ONA membership card to **MEMBERS ONLY** that will be accepted at participating merchants and businesses in the surrounding area. These folks will provide ONA members, only, discounts on merchandise and services. You will be able to see the currently available retailer specials for the month on the ONA website.

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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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### ONA General Membership Meeting Minutes—May 2014

CALL TO ORDER – 7:03 PM Attendance- 57 members, quorum met. A round of applause greeted Sherri Rutherford for the outstanding success of the picnic preceding the General Meeting. Her assistants manning the grill, Mark Edwards and Dale Rouze, as well as all the other helpers were warmly thanked as well.

ONA member, Orville Weiss, who is also a member of the Elks Club, announced that the Elks had signed a contract on the Country Club. The expectation is to provide dining and function facilities. Orville described some of the activities the Elks support including the VA hospital, mentally and physically challenged children and just last year, \$16 million in scholarships for college students.

James Roberts and Larry Galloway spoke about the Golf Club. They are reaching out to the greater Garland /Richardson area to encourage participation. Some future activities include: \$29.00/month to hit range balls. If you take training three times/week, then you can play the course for the price of a cart.. In July and August they expect the weeds to die and the Bermuda to really grow in.. They want to promote weekly scrambles.. When the greens are at their peak, they want to have a stroke play tournament.. They want to increase signage around the perimeter of the course.

Scott LeMay, City Councilman- Watering once every two weeks will continue through May or longer. The North Texas Municipal Water District gave a detailed briefing on water demand to the City Council.. Debris is still being picked up from the winter ice storms. Citizens can go to the landfill and shovel up free mulch for personal use.. The Council has discussed a fee increase to cover this clean-up, but some Council members would like the City to consider other options. The local economy is improving.

The minutes from the February 27, 2014 General Meeting were reviewed and approved. The membership and budget were discussed by Dave Morgan. The ONA goal is to have more than 530 members; this would be the largest number of members in the history of the ONA. Plan on installing drip irrigation at the major flower and shrub entrances and improved lighting on the walls. The ONA wants to have more neighborhood events like the picnic this evening. Dave and Dale will contact neighborhood businesses which will be charged a nominal fee to provide ONA members, displaying a members only card, a 10% discount or perhaps additional services. This will be discussed further in the newsletter and on the web site. ONA is considering a neighborhood garage sale with proceeds going to a group such as the Good Samaritans of Garland. The 2014-2015 budget was discussed and approved. See attached.

The slate of officers was approved (after nominations were opened to the floor) as presented:  
President – Mike Rose Vice President – Brad Greenwald Secretary – Sharon Parrish Treasurer – Dave Morgan District 1 – Bob Williams District 4 – Tom Debeaudry District 6 – James Aaron

The next General Meeting will be in September 2014 at the Achievement Center of Texas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

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