

Oakridge News

November 2014 Vol. 22, No. 11



Scatter Shooting with Mike Rose

“Your neighborhood influences your home value”

Your Oakridge Board will begin to move towards the redesign and implementation of the Ridge Oak and Jupiter entrance as well as the Belt Line and Laurel Oaks entrance. The Board will do as much as possible with the limited funds available. This should be exciting for all to witness the evolution of these major gateways into our Oakridge Community. The Board asks that **ALL** residents in Oakridge respect this endeavor. Please be careful while driving through these entrances. Of course, these projects will be ongoing. Certainly it will improve the appearance of your neighborhood.

Have you noticed how the golf course has been transformed from approximately 180 acres of weeds into a beautiful looking golf course? The owners of Duck Creek Golf Course have contributed to the reemergence or desirability of your Oakridge Community. We all must respect the golf course as it is private property just as your house is to you.

As has been the tradition established over the years, Oakridge will be providing Thanksgiving meals to both Fire Station No.3 (located on Jupiter Road) and Station No.11 (located on Belt Line Road). Both of these stations service Oakridge and the firefighters appreciate the Oakridge Community efforts.

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

“In Balance” with Dave Morgan, CPA, Real Estate Broker, ONA Treasurer and Sales Manager

Last month, my article discussed our membership and I referred to recent former ONA members who had yet to rejoin as being our “low hanging fruit” since they obviously understood the concept of what the ONA does but had not taken the opportunity to send in their membership invoice form along with a payment. As of October 31, 2014, I am pleased to report that another 31 have joined the ONA since that prior article was written to get us up to 358 members. Of those 31, 22 of those were from the “low hanging fruit” category (9 were thus new members) leaving us with 101 remaining in that category. If we can get those 101 to rejoin, we will have 459 members making this a “fruitful” membership year that will allow us to accomplish more neighborhood improvement goals. Individual reminder letters were sent to those individuals a few days ago. Thanks to all that have rejoined us thus far, and thanks in advance if you plan to rejoin soon!

We do need to bring the membership drive to a close soon so that we can publish the Members Only Directory prior to the end of the year. So, please get your membership invoice form and payment to us as soon as possible. Some may get a call to gather needed missing information for the Directory.

Just like our annual membership drive that wraps up in the Fall, have you noticed the annual southern migration of the Monarch butterflies? Sorry for the lame transition, but I had to make it. The Monarchs usually pass by us on their way from way up north all the way down to Mexico usually starting in late September and going into October and November. They are escaping the cold weather since they cannot survive it. They are the only known species of butterfly to migrate (and to the very same trees in Mexico) every year. Look for the migration back north in the Spring. The main food of their larvae is milkweed, and that is where they generate the poisons to make their consumption by predators unpleasant and even deadly. Oddly enough, Orioles, with roughly the same colors as Monarchs, have developed immunity from that poison. Fascinating!

Lastly, the entry improvements and makeovers are well underway. Some of these can readily be seen such as the illumination lighting repair and remodeling being completed, and more visible improvements will be forthcoming soon. That brings us back to membership. We still need membership funds to make these improvements come to a full, aesthetically beautiful life that will stand up even during most water shortages. Any help in achieving this funding would be much appreciated!

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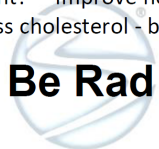
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Daytimers Update—Dianne Winter

The Fall season was evident in the decor of the home and the tasty and attractive food items on the dining table of Sally Weiss when 40 Daytimers gathered to share interests and fellowship. Part of the excitement for Daytimers is the addition of new members this year who bring more interaction and in reach for community.

These ladies "packed the house" to get neighborhood news and hear the lively presentation of information from speaker, Susan Loving, from Roach Feed and Seed in Garland, on preparing an Oakridge lawn for winter. Landscaping and lawn care benefit the Oakridge Neighborhood.

Encouraging each other through the Secret Heart program is a great part of Daytimers this year. Several members gave reports on the thoughtful remembrances that they have received.

Plan to bring your neighbor and mingle with the members at the next coffee on Tuesday, November 11th, at 10:00 am at the home of Sharon Carlton, 2517 Big Oaks, to discover "Unburied Treasures".

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$20.00 annual dues. Daytimers promote the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Any questions should be directed Ann Conrath, 972 346 8167 or Mary Jensen, 972 414 1458.

A Word About Watering—Jack May (Garland Rep NTMWD)

The treated water supply for the city of Garland is provided by the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) a regional wholesale water provider. Garland is one of the 10 original cities that assisted in the creation of the NTMWD and is considered a Member City. As a Member City, Garland has representation on the Board of Directors. Jack May and Don Gordon both serve as representatives for the city and the service area for water research conducted by the State and by the NTMWD indicates that if consumers know their natural source of water, then they are more willing to take measures to conserve and use water wisely and efficiently. As drought continues to hold a tight grip on the NTMWD's water supplies, Lakes Lavon and Jim Chapman, extending our water supplies through efficient practices is critical. Throughout Stage 3 there is a goal for water use reduction of 10%. Not knowing the type of summer that we were going to experience, NTMWD asked Member Cities and Customers for upwards of 15-20% in water use reductions. Congratulations and thanks go out to all consumers of Garland – Garland saved not only the 10% water reduction for Stage 3, but exceeding with an additional 12% water reduction! As we move into fall and winter, our lawns begin to go dormant and turn a brown shade. This is the lawns way to survive the cooler temperatures. Beginning November 1st through March 31st, outdoors watering with sprinkler or irrigation systems is limited to ONCE every TWO weeks. Please check with the city for specific watering guidelines. For more water tips visit www.NorthTexasWaterIQ.org and www.WaterMyYard.org

Duck Creek Golf Update—Mike Ussery

With an initial renovation period and second summer growing season behind us, the golf course is now in very good condition. The greens are outstanding and almost all areas of teebox and fairway turfgrass have been reestablished. The large number of mature trees on the course should provide for a great Fall foliage show over the coming weeks.

Our hopes are that folks in the Oakridge community will really step up and make Duck Creek their place to play. As a daily fee golf course, Duck Creek provides access at special rates for Garland and Richardson residents as well as very attractive annual memberships. Senior (age 60+) memberships offer an especially (cont p 3)

Garland City Council—District 7 Report—Scott LeMay

Well once again we are adjusting our watering schedule. By ordinance the schedule should have shifted back to once every other week starting November 1st. We have now extended once a week watering through the month of November. As you may recall during the summer we had concerns about the quality of the water in the overhead tanks. Due to our very successful conservation efforts we were not getting the typical flow or circulation that helps maintain our water quality. As we work into the fall this is still a concern and we have had instances where water was released from hydrants. We want to avoid that as much as possible so that is the reason for the extension. We will evaluate to system at the end of November and take whatever appropriate steps are necessary. I did ask how we are going to handle this potential problem in the future. Obviously for the foreseeable future we will have some degree of water restriction and this issue could present itself again. To that point our water utilities department is looking into ways to install preventative measures to avoid this by installing chlorine injectors to the system. Once again I appreciate everyone's efforts to conserve.

Council Updates-

Garland is a very "petcentric" city. I have heard from many pet owners and advocates on ways to improve our animal shelter, adoption center and Animal Services in general. The goal is the protection and health of our animal population. We do much to promote that but some pet owners or caretakers need to do more. One issue on is controlling the feral cat population. In the past we did not actively pursue these animals and relied on citizens to catch them with loaned traps. The cats brought in from this were typically humanely euthanized since they are considered a "nuisance" animal. While this action addressed an immediate problem it didn't really do much for the ongoing issue. That issue is really the reproduction cycle of these cats. Over time one breeding female can produce multiple litters which in turn continue to breed and so on. So as a way to stem this we have started a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program in partnership with Garland Pawsibilities. This is the nonprofit group that also helps operate our adoption center downtown. The program is designed to reduce the feral cat population by sterilization. The cats are trapped by volunteers, sterilized and then returned to the area where they were picked up. The idea is that a "colony manager" will help assess them and identify any ongoing health or safety issues. While this may seem contrary to typical animal control efforts, over time we should see a reduction in this population and reduce the number of intakes and bring down the euthanasia numbers in our shelter. For more information on this program or pet adoptions you can contact Garland Pawsibilities at www.garlandpawsibilities.org

Use the city's website for information about the city. When that doesn't work, contact me at (214) 794-8904, email is scottlemayd7@gmail.com.

Duck Creek Golf Update—Mike Ussery (Cont. from p. 2)

outstanding value. Now that the course looks as good as it does, we hope that everyone who was forced to play golf elsewhere when Oakridge Country Club closed in 2010 will reestablish their golf home at Duck Creek. We have a truly outstanding staff who will do everything possible to make your golf experience enjoyable.

We would also like to report that we are in conversation with a couple of groups who have strong interest in reviving tennis at Duck Creek. There is no firm deal to report at this time, but we continue to be hopeful that we will be able to work with one of them to bring tennis back to the community as well. At this point there is no new progress with regard to any potential use for the clubhouse banquet space and large kitchen. But please come out and enjoy a cold beer and something from our grill menu anytime. Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

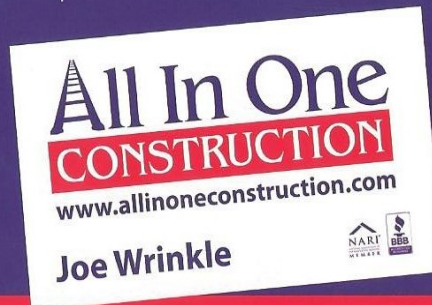


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General Meeting Reminder!!!

Oakridge Neighborhood Association is holding our next general meeting on February 12, 2015 6:30PM social gathering with meeting starting at 7:00PM. The meeting will be held at The Achievement Center of Texas located at 2950 N Shiloh Rd.

Join the ONA Today!


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ONA Board Meeting Minutes—September 4, 2014

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7:06 PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Sharon Parrish—The July 24, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT - Dave Morgan—Dave Morgan reported that expenditures were low, but postage will go up in September. The Board authorized Dave Morgan to move our reserve \$8000 to the money market. The Financial report through September 4, 2014 was accepted. See attached.

MEMBERSHIP – Dave Morgan - There was considerable discussion of the status of membership in ONA. Sharon Parrish reported on what David Parrish had done to solicit membership. Of note, those that had never been members were just not interested. Dale Rouze reported on his efforts. Dave Morgan presented a color coded status table of members, previous members and non-members. He asked District Directors to focus on the low hanging fruit. Email Sandra Stevens if you need more orange membership flags. Dave Morgan has ONA members only Merchant Cards (two per household). It was suggested, and thought to be a very good idea, to provide retailers with a window display card stating support for ONA members. Dave Morgan will provide a fact sheet to retailers.

ENVIRONMENTAL – Dave Thomas—Dave Thomas reported that sidewalk repair is the responsibility of the home owner and the city and curb repair is the responsibility of the city. The city is working on the large bump in the sidewalk on Shiloh, and it was determined that a neighborhood officer could determine if the bush/tree at Winding Oak and Buckingham was a visual impairment. The Board authorized Dave Thomas to spend up to \$1400 for landscape enhancement at the Ridge Oak/Jupiter median and up to \$1000 for drip irrigation at the Beltline/Laurel Oaks median. Keith Engler is installing downlights at the median entrances. See attached report.

SAFETY – Bill Olive—Bill Olive reported on nine incidents, one involving theft and burglary. Tommy Barnes will be able to start light duty in the fall. Bill Olive also mentioned that NPOs had too many events to attend on National Night Out (October 7). The Board discussed having a Spring Fling and picnic similar to what we had at the May general meeting earlier this year.

The next board meeting will be held November 13, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.



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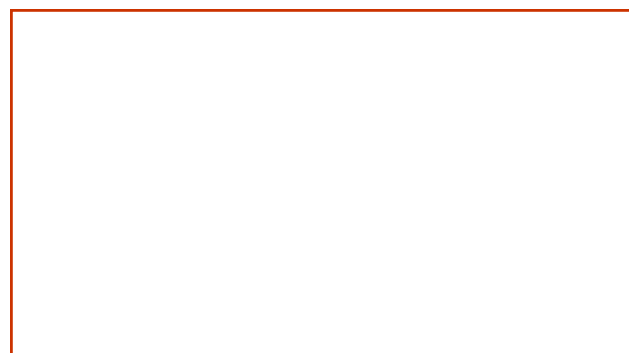
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