



Oakridge News

December 2014 Vol. 22, No. 12

Scatter Shooting with Mike Rose

Can you believe it – another year has passed! The golf course is up running and looking good. If you are a golfer have you played the course? Your Oakridge Community main entrances are beginning to be transformed. Houses in Oakridge seem to be holding their value. These are all good things taking place in your Oakridge community.

The Oakridge Community must thank David and Sharon Parrish (and their team) for decorating the bridge over Duck Creek. It is a wonderful thing to do for our community. We must thank the District Directors for making all the entrances more inviting by installing decorations. It is indeed **VERY** unfortunate that hoodlums have stolen the decorations from one entrance.

Mark your calendar – February 12, 2015 is our next General Meeting. Information concerning time and location may be found on the back page of each newsletter issue. There will be a City election in May 2015 and as part we will be electing a Mayor and a District 7 Councilmember. It would be great if we could get the candidates to come to our February meeting. Do you have an idea for what you would like to see presented at your General Meetings? Let your ONA Board know what you think. You can contact the board by going to the ONA web site www.oakridgena.org and send a note to the President.

We are blessed to be living in America, in Texas and in Oakridge.



Thanksgiving Dinners for Firemen – Thank You—Brenda Olive

Unlike most other neighborhoods in Garland, Oakridge is blessed with two fire stations right around the corner from us. A call for help for medical or fire is only a few minutes away---precious minutes that can be the difference between life or death. Therefore, it is only fitting that we say "Thank You" to the men at both of these stations for being there for us, 24/7, 365 days a year. Preparing and delivering a full meal to both station 3 and station 11, on Thanksgiving and Christmas, has become a tradition for Oakridge and it is very much appreciated by the firemen who are the recipients of our efforts.

Thanks to funding by the ONA and some good deals from Albertsons, we provided both stations with a very big turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, green bean casseroles and sweet potato soufflés. Now of course, you can't have a Thanksgiving feast with just a turkey, so we put out an email call to all our residents to help by preparing salads and desserts, dips, chips, cheese and crackers and other snacks and I got a fantastic response from the generous residents of Oakridge. Believe me when I say, there was a luscious looking salad, rolls and some truly beautiful and fantastic smelling pies, cakes, and cookies of all kinds, along with snacks of nuts, chips, crackers, dips, and tins of popcorn. We even received Danish for their breakfast on Friday morning. Bill and I could smell all these fragrances throughout our house! It was absolutely wonderful. The following people helped tremendously to make this dinner successful: Tillie Battaglia, John Blumn, Beth Fagan, Margaret Fowler, Kathleen Gannon, Kim Gingerich, Ernie and Fred Gharis, Sue Hageland, Ed and Norma Hester, Joan McDole, Dorothy Morhle, Lori Oswald, Debbie Pandak, David and Sharon Parrish, Nelson and Kelly Prater, Dordieh Redaelli, Sandra Stevens, Cindy Taylor, Jim Vineyard and JoAnn Williams. In addition to the food, books were donated so the stations have some thing to read between the Thanksgiving and the Christmas feasts. To all of these people....**THANK YOU**, and for those that I had to ask to wait until Christmas, **THANK YOU**, and don't worry, you'll get your chance! .

Bill and I went to both stations on Wednesday, December 3rd to pick up dishes, etc., that were used to transport the dinner and we found the guys all doing "extra workouts" to recover their "svelte" bodies. Not surprisingly, on the kitchen counter we saw the makings for a salad for their dinner that evening. Obviously all the cake, pies and cookies provided by Oakridge residents helped put some pounds on, but they all said that it was worth every bite and they would love to have another feast at Christmas--but, too bad for them, they won't be on duty on Christmas, so another crew or shift as they call it, will get to enjoy Christmas. We only had one complaint---someone stole the Captain's piece of cherry pie ---I guess you can never have too much cherry pie, or any other kind of pie for that matter. **(Continued pg 2)**

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



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Daytimers Update—Dianne Winter

If new members, a fascinating speaker and lingering afterward is the formula for a good meeting, then the Daytimers had a very, very good meeting on November 11th, at the home of Sharon Carlton.

More than 30 members and guests enjoyed the fall atmosphere along with a fascinating speaker and tasty food items.

Catherine Torres, author, advocate, victim and private investigator supplied those in attendance with a peek into her complex life. With a two themed presentation she shined a light on victims of abuse and also encouraged everyone to expose their unburied treasure of memories by writing and sharing the past. Two books by the author supply tips to handle abusive situations and clues to unlock memories and record them for future generations.

Please join this group of Oakridge neighbors at the next special meeting featuring the Dallas Police Choir to be held at the home of Ann Conrath, at 2131 Windy Ridge on Tuesday, December 9th, at 10 am.

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.

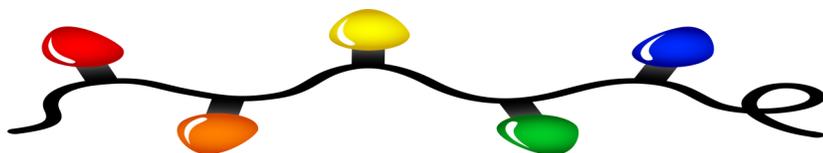
Thank You—Brenda Olive (Continued)

A complete list of needed items will be forthcoming in a few days, and for those who have already volunteered, you'll receive a reminder by email around the 15th. Again, *Thank You* to all who helped with Thanksgiving and *Thank You* in advance for those who will be helping with Christmas dinners. Personally, I'm looking forward to the beautiful array of food and the heavenly smells that fill my living and dining room, so come on everybody, start planning now for your "special" item. I know that we have some great cooks here in Oakridge because I've had the pleasure of tasting some of that food on occasion in the past, and I can't wait to see just what comes through our front door on December 24th and 25th. At the next ONA membership meeting in February, we will have some photos to share with everyone, (Bill gets a little camera happy when he's hungry and is looking at a lot of great food that he can't eat.)

Garland City Council—District 7—Scott LeMay

We are now back to our one-day-every-other-week schedule. This will remain in place through March 2015. Please note that system flushing is always part of our operating procedures to maintain state mandated water quality. So it would not be unusual to still observe open fire hydrants discharging water. OK enough about water for the year.

It being December I think it is appropriate to take a quick look back at 2014 as we prepare for 2015. As I have reported over the year our local economic indicators have shown positive gains. While not overwhelming they have remained fairly constant. At this point in time I feel that having a cautiously stable economy is much more of a benefit to us. I think investors are looking for that and we are seeing the benefits. While it has been highly publicized that the city has lost, or is losing, some large scale manufacturers or employers, we have in fact gained more than was lost. Steady growth rarely makes news. Reporting on extreme ups and downs sells papers and puts people in front of their TVs. (Continued pg 4)



Golf Course Update—A Year in the Books

A Year in the Books As Golf Comes Back to Oakridge

The past five years have seen a roller coaster ride for the golf course in the Oakridge community. 2009 saw a continual decline in the operation of the former Oakridge Country Club, leading up to its sudden closure in September 2010. The next six months led to even more uncertainty and freeze related busted pipes in the clubhouse until the property went through foreclosure in February 2011. The foreclosing lender, Hillcrest Bank from Kansas, began to provide minimal custodial maintenance of the property and quickly started to search for a buyer for the closed golf course, water damaged clubhouse and deteriorating swim and tennis center.

In large part due to the efforts of late Oakridge resident, Bob McDole, the lender owner of the property was matched with a buyer interested in purchasing the property for resurrection of the golf course. A deal was struck and in October 2012 two golf course industry veterans partnered to close on the purchase of the property formerly operated as Oakridge Country Club. After six months of assessment and planning, Duck Creek Golf, LP owners, Larry Galloway and Mike Ussery decided to move forward with renovation of the golf course.

Beginning in June 2013, substantial work went into reestablishing turfgrass on golf course playing areas, removing bunkers and renovating others, bringing the irrigation system back to life along with repairing bridges and cart paths. Staff was added and an inventory of equipment and supplies was put in place to accomplish the golf course renovation. In July 2013, work began to make necessary repairs to bring a portion of the clubhouse building back into usable condition. On October 31, 2013 the golf course reopened as Duck Creek Golf Club and a new era began for the daily fee golf operation.

Over the past year, additional turfgrass establishment and maturation was accomplished and the course has been reintroduced to the local golf market. Primary efforts have been to create an affordable golf course that offers great value to both daily fee golfers and annual members. A beer and wine permit was added to the food and beverage operation which provides golfers with a small casual grill menu and a selection of beers, soft drinks and sport drinks.

During 2015 efforts will continue to focus on enhanced turfgrass conditions on the course along with the ongoing challenge of replacing irrigation pipe, valves and heads as needed. Additional work on trees, drainage areas and landscaping is also on the agenda for the coming year. Negotiations are underway with parties interested in a revival of the tennis operation and it is anticipated that positive developments will occur in the near future. The club also continues to attempt to identify someone interested in renovation of the unused portion of the clubhouse for a food and beverage, private event or office use.

There is no doubt that the return of a viable golf course operation has been of substantial enhancement to the Oakridge community as evidenced by improved home values and sales activity over the past year. Lifting of the cloud of uncertainty that hovered over the golf course for several years has definitely improved the landscape and reputation of the neighborhood. Oakridge residents are encouraged to take advantage of the fact that golf is back in the community and to support the Duck Creek Golf Club operation. The success of the golf course and of the community are certainly intertwined.

Lose weight? Improve health/nutrition? Exercise more?
Address cholesterol - blood pressure - HbA1c levels?

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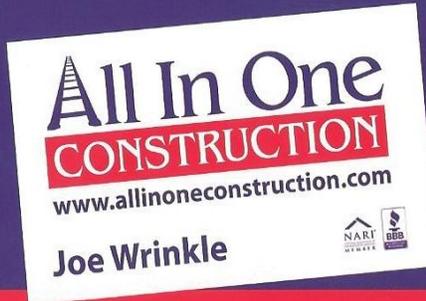


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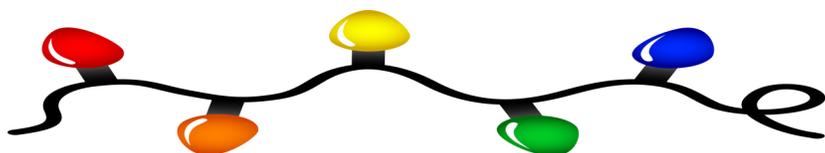
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General Meeting Reminder!!!

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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Scott LeMay—Continued

For the record here are some of the gains we have seen in our local economy. And when I say local I mean within the city limits of Garland. We have many well established, long term production and service companies within the city. Many like Kraft, Valspar, Resistol and Garrett Metal Detectors are household names. Some of the others may not be as well known but have an impact that reaches far outside our city limits. Names like General Dynamics, Atlas Copco, Inter ceramic and MAPEI are worldwide suppliers. They with many other industrial leaders make up the Garland Top 100 companies.

The Garland industrial market currently has over 25 million square feet in operation with over 600,000 under construction.

The Garland Top 100 companies have a value of \$957 million and are 9% of the tax base for the city and 7% for the school district.

The Garland Top 100 companies employ over 12,000 people and are 10% of the local workforce of 120,111. The total compensation from that is over \$780 million annually. An estimated 31,000 service and manufacturing jobs have been added in 2014.

While these big name companies continue to grow and expand their reach the bulk of our local business economy is made up of smaller and mostly locally owned providers. While our goal should always be to retain the big ones we also have a vested interest in supporting the smaller guys who probably have less than 20 employees. The Garland Economic Development Partnership (GEDP) that is made up from members of the Garland Chamber of Commerce, GISD and the City of Garland work diligently to provide that service and support when necessary. I am proud to serve on that committee. We meet monthly to review requests for economic development incentives. These requests are weighted by impact to the city to help keep the evaluation process free of undue influence. Our recommendations are ultimately voted on by the entire City Council.

In the last year we have approved incentives that have added over \$250 million in investments and almost 800 jobs to the local business community. Those approvals cover everything from facility and equipment upgrades to additional property allocations and relocations.

Genesis Systems Inc. which produces industrial valves relocated supply facilities from Plano. (\$1.2 million investment)

MAPEI International which produces a wide range of grouts and concrete sealants added 55,000 sf of warehouse space. (\$7 million investment)

Marquis Distribution Center construction of 400,000 sf industrial complex. (\$16 million investment)

Kraft Foods building expansion for additional production lines. (\$84 million investment)

The list is much longer than what I have shown here and I would welcome any additional questions you may have. Just know that the negatives you hear about have impacts but remember that the positives you may not hear about have value.

It has been my pleasure to serve you this year and I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As always 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 scottlemay7@gmail.com.

Scott LeMay- Garland City Council, District 7

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