

Oakridge News

January 2015 Vol. 23, No. 1



Scatter Shooting with Mike Rose

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association general meeting is set for **FEBRUARY 19, 2015** with the usual start time of 6:30 for social gathering and 7:00 for the meeting start time. At our meeting we will have the candidates for Mayor and Council District 7 in attendance. Both current occupants of these seats will be running for re-election. This is your opportunity to personally meet these candidates. Additionally we will elect a nominating committee which will be charged with bringing forth a new slate of individuals to oversee the ONA for 2015-2016. See you at the Achievement Center which is next to (just south) the Shell Station located at the intersection of Belt Line & Shiloh Roads).

As is customary, you may contact any board member by going to the ONA web site www.oakridgena.org to send a note to the President. Your note will be forwarded to the respective individual. Thank you for your concerns and/or interests.

Christmas Dinners for Firemen – Thank You—Brenda Olive

This year's Christmas dinners for the firemen at Stations 3 and 11 received **rave reviews** and for good reason! Oakridge residents outdid themselves again! The table was laden with some scrumptious looking dishes. I want to thank the following residents for their hard work and their extra care in making everything look very, very appetizing! Thank you all for jumping right in and volunteering your time at what I know is a very busy period for everyone. Thank you for getting everything to my house while it was still nice and hot and most of all, thank you for caring. We feel so blessed to live in a neighborhood where people care about each other.


Thanks to these great people: Tillie Battaglia, John Blumn, Ken and Karen Fentress, Margaret Fowler, Kathleen Gannon, Kim Gingerich, Sue Hageland, Ed and Norma Hester, Teresa Klembara, Dorothy Moseley, Nelson and Kelly Prater, Dordiet Redaelli, Pam Rouse, Cindy Taylor, Jim Vineyard, Bob and Ann Williams, and Dianne Winters. Thanks also to Mike and Jan Rose for helping deliver all the goodies to the stations, it was easier to have two extra pair of hands when it came time to load and unload the items from our car. As one fireman said, "this is a feast". I don't think I missed anyone in my list above, if so, I'm terribly sorry...I tried to keep a list handy and write down everything that everyone brought as it came in the door...and Bill tried to make sure I didn't miss anyone either. Thank you also to the many others who volunteered to help out...we just ran out of items on our menu, we'll keep you on our list for the future.

As usual, we provided a 24+lb. turkey with the normal stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy and of course, homemade cranberry sauce, (which they dearly love). Two residents made cash donations and these were used to purchase some nice pre-sliced hams. The guys were really excited to see that not only would they be able to have turkey leftovers, but also ham leftovers. This means that they didn't have to worry about what protein to have for several days. Being firemen, they know how to cook for themselves, but, as a fireman, you never know if you're going to be able to sit down and eat an actual meal. Having leftovers is great, it's timesaving and can be as simple as a sandwich.

Most of you know, each fire station has three shifts, but this doesn't mean that they work an 8 hour shift and go home, like most jobs. Instead, they work a full 24 hour shift, starting at 7am and going through 7am the following morning. Obviously, whoever is in charge of cooking that day must be able to prepare something that can "hold" since they never know when they will be called out for a fire, accident or illness, and of course, these calls have a tendency to come in right at the beginning or end of a shift, at mealtime, or just after bedtime. As a case in point, I accidentally left something behind at Station 11 when we delivered the food, and didn't realize it until later. I called them to ask them to hold onto the item until Bill or I could pick it up the following day, and guess what, they were in the middle of their feast. When they realized it was me that was calling they started shouting out thank you quite loudly and saying it was the best they'd ever had. That is because so many people went out of their way to make this a memorable dinner. The only bad thing, right after I called I heard the sirens coming down Beltline, the poor guys had a call and had to leave their feast behind!

Thank you on behalf of the firefighters and again from me, for all your help. It could not have been done without each of your contributions however, I do want to particularly thank Dordiet...she actually peeled 40 lbs of potatoes, cut them up and boiled them and brought them to me on Christmas morning! That was a big, very painful, thing off my list of to-do's.

Many residents probably aren't aware that the stations share Oakridge, the dividing line is the creek, Station 11 has the area bordered by Beltline while Station 3 has the area bordered by Jupiter, this does not mean that one or the other cannot take care of a situation on either side of the creek and it's not unusual to see the ambulance from one station and a truck from the other station, in fact, you might even notice that the ambulance or truck is from Station 6. Station 6 is the next closest to our area, it is located on Holford road, between Arapaho and "the Bush". If both ambulances from our assigned stations are busy, Station 6 responds. **(Continued pg 3)**



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Daytimers Update—Dianne Winter

The Oakridge Daytimers were honored to host the Dallas Police Acapella Choir at the home of Ann Conrath on Tuesday, December 9th. The music from the choir along with the smiles of the forty members and guests generated a spirit of merriment for the Christmas season.

The Christmas goodies were tasted, gifts were exchanged and announcements were made but the greatest amount of enthusiasm was for the choir which has performed internationally. The clamor was not on the rooftop, but in the line to purchase the choir music CD's that were available.

If you want to visit this group that enjoys meeting their neighbors, and exchanging ideas and developments in the Oakridge community, you will be welcomed at the next gathering on Tuesday, January 13th, 10:00 am at the home of Dana Hopkins, 2914 Oak Point. A unique presentation, How to Create a Jeweled Christmas Tree from your Costume Jewelry, will be made by Ann Williams.

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

Garland City Manager Look Ahead to 2015

The City of Garland is moving forward into an exciting new year that will bring benefits to our most valuable assets – our neighborhoods.

Excellence Made Here! - The partnership between the City's GREAT Homes Program and Green Extreme Homes earned national recognition from the National Community Development Association. The award will be presented on Jan. 23 in Washington, D.C., recognizing the exemplary use of public funds and public-private partnerships to bring awareness to housing issues and address other housing and neighborhood needs. The project being recognized built two new, energy-efficient homes in the R.E. Summers addition on McKinley Street. This neighborhood was considered a prime location for a test case to illustrate how such a project could revitalize a neighborhood. The homes became part of a veteran's initiative to assist those who have served in the military by providing beneficial financing terms. The GREAT Homes program is recognized as a "best practices model" by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Economic Development - The City is investing new energy and drive into our economic development efforts. Last fall, we hired David Gwin to head our Economic Development Department, who brings with him more than 20 years of successful experience in several Texas communities in retail, commercial and residential development, public/private development partnerships and neighborhood reinvestment programming. This marks a new era in promoting Garland's many assets and advantages to the development community to enhance our overall tax and revenue base to allow for continued improvements in City resources and services.

Coming Soon - Visitors to Garlandtx.gov will notice new features in late January. The City's website managers are updating the site's platform making it easier to view and use on mobile devices. The City is launching a new app for reporting issues and requesting City services. Garland eAssist allows residents to use their mobile device or computer to submit a variety of service requests, including City utility services, street repairs, answer FAQ's and much more. Another new tool, Engage Garland, helps residents and visitors share ideas with the City. The Engage Garland site provides a variety of opportunities for feedback via polls, discussion topics, photo-sharing and more.

More Information - Remember to get weekly news updates from the City of Garland by subscribing to Garland City Press Briefs. Visit www.Garlandtx.gov and click on the "E-News" link above the search bar.

Garland City Council—District 7—Scott LeMay

I hope everyone is off to a great start for the New Year. This is always a time of looking forward and setting goals. I think as a whole the Mayor and City Council share many of the same hopes and dreams for our city. That being said we do all have our own interests and priorities. Two of mine for the coming year are to reinvigorate the Neighborhood Vitality Grant Program and to continue the operational improvements at our animal shelter and pet adoption center.

Around The District-

At our January 6th meeting we approved a change in zoning for a large portion of the vacant property on Beltline at Shiloh. This will be for the construction of a nursing home that will provide skilled nursing for approximately 132 residents. The main entrance will be on Beltline but it will also have access to Shiloh. I think this is a good balanced use of this property. These types of facilities are almost always very low impact and generate very few trips. Again I think this is a good balance given the surrounding uses. Three pad sites will remain undeveloped at this time. Two will face onto Beltline and one onto Shiloh. I would anticipate construction beginning this spring.

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 directly. My cell phone number is (214) 794-8904 and my email is scottle-mayd7@gmail.com.

Thank You—Brenda Olive (Continued)

Speaking of responding to calls, I want to remind everyone about the Lockbox program available to Garland residents. The little boxes are installed by a police officer in a discrete location on your home. A key that you provide is hidden inside the box and a code applied so that it can only be opened by police or fire personnel in the event of an emergency. The code is not available to either the police or the fire department personnel unless a call for assistance is received by a 911 operator. When you call for help and give your address, an alert is shown to the operator telling them there is a lockbox on the premises. If needed, when the responders arrive, they can obtain the code, retrieve the key and enter your home to render assistance without having to break a window, or worse, your door to get to you or your family member. If you or your family member must be transported to the hospital, your door can be locked, your home secured and the key returned to its hiding place in the lockbox. If you have any questions about this program you can call the non-emergency number for the police department, 972 485 4840 and they will be happy to explain it to you and let you know what it requires from you (no charge for the lockbox program, the boxes have been purchased by the Garland Citizens Police Academy and the police actually send an officer out to install it for you.)

Just one more thing—the menu—everyone wants to know what the firemen had to eat, right? There was of course, turkey and stuffing, along with mashed potatoes and gravy and homemade cranberry sauce. Then there was baked ham, green bean casserole, rice and broccoli casserole, sweet potato soufflé, cheesy corn spiced with jalapeños, five-cheese macaroni casserole, creamy red and green cole slaw, Decadent blueberry Jell-O salad, cucumber, tomato and onion salad, rolls and cornbread, cheese ball, crackers, chips and salsa. Then the desserts; rum cake, lemon cake, coconut cake snowballs, Key Lime pie with whipped cream, brownies and an apple/cherry dessert, with Cool Whip just to top it all off! Of course, what would Christmas be without cookies, right? We had lemon, oatmeal, chocolate chip, sugar, and black and white cookies. Oh boy, we certainly didn't worry about calories for this dinner did we? Hope your feast was as good as the one we presented the firemen this year...I can tell you, I received a call from the Station 11 Capt. and he was still talking about just how great everything was. So, kudos to you, Oakridge, you are a fantastic bunch of people!

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General Meeting Reminder!!!

Oakridge Neighborhood Association is holding our next general meeting on **February 19, 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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Park Politely, Please

Modern families are always on the go in different directions, sometimes requiring more vehicles than their residential parking can comfortably accommodate.

The City of Garland urges you to be a good neighbor and **Park Politely, Please!** Here are a few **Park Politely** tips:

- Avoid parking in front of your neighbor's house.
 - Never block Postal Service access to mailboxes.
 - Park as close to the curb as possible to keep the roadway clear for emergency vehicles.
 - Communicate in a respectful and positive manner with neighbors about parking issues.
 - When possible, let your neighbors know in advance of activities at your home which may include excessive guest parking.

Remember, street parking is not reserved for any specific individual or resident; therefore, the Garland Police Department cannot ticket a vehicle because it is parked where a specific resident would prefer to park. Under certain circumstances, a **citation** can be issued. Here are just a few:

- **If a car is parked:** -- On a sidewalk (or blocking sidewalk in a driveway).
 - In an intersection or crosswalk
 - Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
 - Within 30 feet of a Stop Sign.
- **No commercial** vehicle shall be parked and left overnight upon any public street or on any public property in the city.
- **Parking on unimproved surfaces prohibited.**

For a complete list of applicable state and local laws or to schedule a Park Politely, Please presentation for your next neighborhood or community meeting, visit GarlandPolice.com and click on the **Park Politely, Please** link or call 972-205-2012. *reprinted from The Garland City Press Volume 23 Issue 1*



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