

# Oakridge News

February 2015 Vol. 23, No. 2



## Scatter Shooting with Mike Rose

I received several emails this past month all with similar a subject. I have copied the basic thought - "As I was driving through the neighborhood today on Presidents Day I noticed several homes that were flying flags that were dirty, faded, tattered and torn." And one individual supplied the following quote found on the internet - "Let these faded Flags of our Country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by bright new Flags of the same size and kind, and let no grave of our soldier or sailor dead be un-honored and unmarked." I have noticed many American flags proudly flying – wouldn't it be grand if our American flag was flown from each home in Oakridge Community!



We are coming up to the time when a nominating committee may be contacting you to serve for the next year on your Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) Board. Again, folks have commented that it is time for "new blood" to take charge of their community organization. Will you do your part????? Do understand that if the ONA did not exist **ALL** of the common landscaping and related concerns will fall in disrepair and not be tended to? Many think the City will take charge – the answer is **NO** they will not. This is a plea to volunteer.

Your ONA Board has begun making plans for another spring all Oakridge Community picnic. Stay tuned for details. If you attended last springs you know there was good food, fun things for the kids to do and a great time for all to meet their neighbors. We are attempting a few new treats for this years picnic. See you May 21, 2015 in the clubs parking lot.

## Garland City Council—District 7—Scott LeMay

### Council Updates-

Our current City Manager, Bill Dollar, has announced his retirement from the City after 44 years effective June 1<sup>st</sup>. Bill officially started his career with the city in 1971 as an engineer. Although if you ask him he'll tell you he worked for the city as a teenager mowing grass and cleaning up at the jail. He was appointed City Manager in 2003 and has provided steady leadership through lots of up and down economic times. His contributions to the city are too many to be listed here but the positive impacts will be felt for many years to come. The council has initiated the process to find his replacement. We have interviewed one internal candidate at this time. I feel confident that our choice will be someone who shares our vision and will be able to carry us forward.

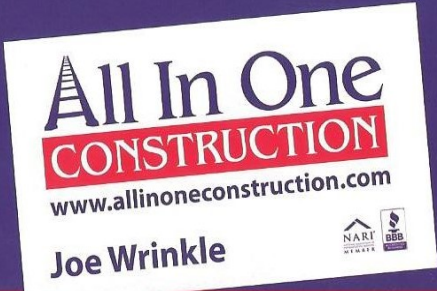
We recently appointed a new City Secretary. And just to clarify the City Secretary is not the Mayor's secretary. The title is very deceiving. While the City Secretary does support the City Council administratively, the main purpose is public records retention and maintaining public access to them. We recently appointed Rene Dowl to this position. She comes to us after several years of as the Management Team Coordinator for GP&L and private sector experience that includes the Dallas Stars Hockey Club and the American Airlines Center. I personally think she will be a great benefit to our city for many years to come.

### Around The District-

The townhome development at Beltline and North Garland is continuing to move forward. They are scheduled to present the detail plan for approximately 123 townhomes to the Plan Commission on February 9<sup>th</sup>. I have briefly reviewed those plans and do not see any negative points. They will be meeting or exceeding our housing standards. Again this new development will be very similar to the Shoal Creek property on Campbell between Shiloh Road and 190. It should come before the council in late March.

I have filed for reelection this spring. It has been an honor for me to serve and I look forward to continuing that service. I think that I have met or exceeded the expectations of a responsible and responsive public servant. I have also learned a great deal which will help me serve you better in the future. Election Day is Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

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 [scottlemayd7@gmail.com](mailto:scottlemayd7@gmail.com).



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**Daytimers Update—Dianne Winter**

On February 10th, a gathering of 45 women dressed in red and pink assembled at the home of Linda Tucker to celebrate Valentine's Day and exchange gifts with a special friend.

City Councilman, Scott LeMay, discussed the Garland City Budget, changes in the City Animal Shelter and other topics.

Guests were welcomed and announcements were made by Ann Conrath and Mary Jensen.

The attendance was so great that the gift exchange for the Sharing Hearts program resulted in a sea of red wrapping paper, ribbons and thank you messages all around.

If you would like to participate in this group of neighbors who are interested in their community, please attend the next coffee at the home of **Chris Beyers, 2205 Fulton, at 10 am on Tuesday, March 10th.**

Dave Lieber, author of the book, *Watchdog Nation*, and columnist for the Dallas Morning News will speak. His column, The Watch Dog, appears weekly in the paper.

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

**In Balance—Dave Morgan, CPA**

We thank all that have sent in their Membership Invoices and payments thus far for the fiscal year starting June 1, 2014 and ending May 31, 2015. Your support is really, really important to your ONA Board as it funds the neighborhood tasks we, as your volunteer Board, normally perform, plus it funds those special projects that will make a noteworthy difference now and into the years to come.

If you have not joined so far, please take a few minutes to complete the Membership Invoice (mailed as a Special Edition printing a few weeks ago OR download one from the website at <http://OakridgeNA.org/join.htm> OR contact us for a paper invoice), and send it along with your payment. The Membership Directory is currently being readied for printing and distribution in the next month. We still need Directory information from seven members before we go to press. To be in the Directory, you must be a Member. Please ask your neighbors to join as well if you do not see the orange Member flag in their yard!

The ONA Membership Discount Card is not going to happen at this point. We did not have the volunteer support to make it a go at this juncture. That being said, our revenues are pretty much completed for this fiscal year. Our focus will now be to expend the funds we have budgeted and available to complete the extensive entryway infrastructure and landscaping.

(See "Final Membership Outlook" on back page)

**General Meeting Minutes—Feb 19 Meeting**

- Garland Mayor Doug Athas spoke about a number of things happening in Garland including the upcoming city election, the Lunar Year 2015 Celebration, a fund raiser for the Garland Youth Council, on Friday February 20 at the 507 State Street Food Court, an innovative agreement for development of 300+ acres at Campbell Road and the Bush toll way, use of a facilitated process to involve the community in the redevelopment of the old Eastern Hills Country Club property, downtown developments, such as a Historic Heritage District, and the old Bank of America properties. He left ONA with three key points; Grow Community, Grow Opportunity, and Grow Garland.
- Councilman Scott LeMay spoke about priorities identified by the City Council and senior managers at a recent budget retreat. Extremely high priorities- economic development and infrastructure (streets, water and sewer lines), public safety (police and fire staffing) and \$2.3 million of residual funding (50% of the original total) in the Neighborhood Vitality Grant program. High priorities – the animal shelter, employee compensation, and sidewalks. With these priorities in mind Mr. LeMay noted the council was working on the capital improvement budget for the upcoming year. Also, he would be chairing a committee for a public/private effort to build a new animal shelter.
- David Parrish introduced Ms. Marilynne Serie, the Executive Director of the Achievement Center of Texas (ACT). She spoke about upcoming events benefitting ACT. First was the Special Arts Festival on Saturday, February 28 at the Spring Creek Community Church on Beltline Road. Second was the Spring Gala, ACT's major fund raising event of the year, at the Hyatt at Campbell and Central Expressway.
- Nominating Committee- Mike Rose requested five volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Volunteers are Dale Rouze, Karina Watts, Nancy Whitson, and Ernie Gharis. Mike was going to talk with Linda and Andy Tucker about one of them joining the committee.
- Safety- Tommy Barnes, ONA's Neighborhood Police Officer or NPO, is back on the job. He was on-duty and unable to attend the meeting. Bill Olive presented information on identity theft protection. Brenda Olive circulated pictures from the holiday dinners at the area Fire Stations. Bill displayed a map of 57 crimes for last year, which is down from previous years for ONA, the district, and the city.
- Next ONA General Meeting will be a cook out in the parking lot of the Duck Creek Golf Club on May 21, 2015.

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## Local Postal Customer

### Park Politely, Please

Unless we get a late Member or more joining before May 31<sup>st</sup>, our final Membership numbers are as follow:

District	Homes		Paid Percent of Total	Unpaid Homes From:		Total Prior Recent Unpays	Prior Recent Unpays Percent of Total	Projected Percent if Prior Recent Unpays Had Joined
	Paid	Total		2013/14	2012/13			
1	69	185	37.30%	6	10	16	8.65%	45.95%
2	76	154	49.35%	8	5	13	8.44%	57.79%
3	26	141	18.44%	6	2	8	5.67%	24.11%
4	70	151	46.36%	6	1	7	4.64%	51.00%
5	55	190	28.95%	0	4	4	2.11%	31.06%
6	43	181	23.76%	5	2	7	3.87%	27.63%
7	59	164	35.98%	2	7	9	5.49%	41.47%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>34.13%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>5.49%</b>	<b>39.62%</b>

Potential Revenue at \$60 per Home      \$1,980.00    \$1,860.00    \$3,840.00

Goal Recap:

Total 2014/2015 Goal	500
Total Homes	<u>1,166</u>
Goal as a Percent of Total	<u>42.88%</u>

Total 2014/2015 Goal	500
Paid Homes as of 02/19/2015	<u>398</u>
Deficit From Goal	102
Prior Recent Unpays Available	<u>64</u>
Challenging Membership Signings to Reach Goal	<u>38</u>



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