

Oakridge News

May 2015

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Scatter Shooting with Mike Rose

It has been a pleasure serving the Oakridge Community for these past few years. The ONA Board finds itself in a better financial position than when we all took office. Since we have been frugal in how we allocated the funds, it appears that additional landscaping may be completed – weather permitting, of course. **THIS** does not preclude you from joining the ONA. Much more work and communications needs to be accomplished. Your new Board will be up to the challenge.

Our **General Meeting** is set for **6:30pm THURSDAY, MAY 28TH** – at The Achievement Center. See you there.



Remember to be neighborly; wave to those who pass by; be aware when neighbors are gone; park friendly; maintain the beauty of living in a golf course community. Surely there are more but space is limited in our new formatted ONA newsletter.

Strong Neighborhoods—Mayor Doug Athas

There is a word for when the whole is greater than all the parts added together: synergy. When neighbors work together, they accomplish many things that they wouldn't be able to do if each worked on the task individually. Neighborhood associations make neighborhoods stronger, more able to identify and address challenges, to seek solutions that work for the neighborhood, that get attention from city officials that mobilize city services. That is true only if the association is active.

Over the last couple decades, neighborhood associations have been instrumental in some of the major changes realized in Garland. The Neighborhood Vitality program and grants can be traced to discussions and action by neighborhood groups. Those grants have led to screening wall replacements, neighborhood entrance improvements, beautification projects, meeting pavilions, and much more.

Neighborhood associations and the links between them have kept a check on bad government, including countering the effort in 2006 by some council members to cancel elections and just stay in office another year. The fight to support the city charter and to follow the law originated entirely with individuals linked by their involvement with neighborhood associations.

Many association leaders become members of city boards and commissions. Many become council members and mayor, such as now with Councilman LeMay and myself, but also others serving on the council now and in the past.

Virtually the entire city council and city staff are working to "Grow Garland." There is much to be done but we are moving faster than ever before. Great things are starting to happen in Garland and there is a "buzz" across the region that people should be paying attention to Garland. That energy and attention will grow. We can attract more businesses. We can have more opportunities to shop and play.

However, our biggest challenge will be within our neighborhoods. Our economic vitality is directly connected. Those neighborhoods that do the best job of being a community of caring neighbors will gain the most, both within the neighborhood boundaries but also in the area. Those neighborhoods that are best organized will also be the ones to benefit first and the most. Be a part of it! Let's Grow Garland. *Mayor, Douglas Athas*



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Daytimers Update—Dianne Winter

On Tuesday, May 12th, 2015, more than 40 women gathered at the Woodbridge Golf Club for a luncheon. These Daytimers were entertained with a selection of great songs by the Dixie Swing Band. Chris Beyers had made many of the arrangements for this event - a job well done.

Presidents, Ann Conrath and Mary Jensen, led the group through a series of activities and announcements that included door prizes, a welcome to visitors including founder, Roberta Jones, a recognition and thank you to past officers and an introduction to new officers for the coming year.

Ann Conrath will lead the Daytimers through the next year that will begin on Tuesday, September 8th, at the home of Betty Prickett at 10 am.

Please come visit with this group of friendly ladies who are your neighbors. The main function of Daytimers is fellowship for you and it also serves as a source of information about your neighborhood.

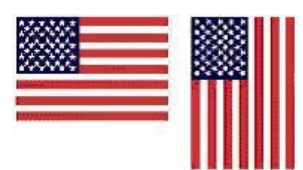
See you on **September 8th!**

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.

How to Fly The United States National Ensign

The following information comes from an Oakridge resident and since several federal holidays are upon us it was deemed appropriate to share with the entire Oakridge community.

Flying the US National Ensign. Presenter's right, audience left. Which means flags should be displayed on the right side of the front door, facing out from the house, and left side of the front door when one is facing the house. Same spot. Flag poles, same place, right side of the property, facing out or left side, facing in same spot, making sure of the location of the front door as above. Cars, passenger side of the car. Presenter's right, audience left. Flags placed next to the sidewalk, as some of our realtors do for 4th of July, flag is placed on the right side of the sidewalk leading to the front door again presenters right, audience left. All cases, the blue field always is displayed in the upper left corner. Flag is hung vertically, the blue field is in the upper left corner. Flag pole, left image. Hung vertically, right image as below.



And lastly, and upside down US National Ensign is no longer considered a distress signal, NAVRULES 72 COLREGS International/ Inland Navigation Rules, series. The reason is that for many countries, their flag upside down or right side up, looks the same.

Nominating Committee Report—Dale Rouze

First, we would like to sincerely recognize and thank the outgoing members of the board for a job well-done during their term in office. Many items needed to be reorganized and were attended to by these individuals. Leaving us are President Mike Rose, Treasurer Dave Morgan, Vice President and Newsletter Brad Greenwald, environmental Dave Thomas and District Director Ernie Gharis.

The nominating committee would like announce the following candidates to serve on the Oakridge Neighborhood Association board for 2015-2016 as follows:

- President: Dwight Davis
- Vice President: Mark Edwards
- Treasurer: Ben Johnson
- Secretary: Sharon Parish
- District #1 Director: Nancy Whitson
- District #2 Director: Dale Rouze
- District #3 Director: Karina Watts
- District #4 Director: Tom DeBeaudry
- District #5 Director: Bob Williams
- District #6 Director: James Aaron
- District #7 Director: David Parish

I would like to thank the nominating committee and others who helped in various ways to put forth this slate of officers including Mike Rose, Dave Morgan, Nancy Whitson, Karina Watts, Linda Tucker, Margaret Fowler and Ernie Gharis. Other positions to change are Environmental and Newsletter and although we have some candidates these are to be appointed by the incoming officers. Please make an effort to attend the meeting on the 28th to say **“Thank You”** to those who have served and **“Welcome”** to the new board candidates. Please feel free to bring your voluntary \$60.00 donation and any extra you wish to contribute for the maintenance and beautification of our properties for the upcoming year

Dale Rouze, Nominating Committee Chairman

Duck Creek Golf Update—Mike Ussery

Rain, rain and more rain has definitely been the word for the past few months. The good part of all that rain is that it has helped the golf course to gain further turfgrass maturity. Aside from being awfully wet, the course is really coming into nice condition and the next few months should definitely see it at it's best since reopening. We have continued to work hard to get the course in good shape and still hope to see more golfers from the Oakridge community on the course. Our player development program and annual membership offer great values for the frequent player and our daily fee rates make it really affordable to enjoy a round at Duck Creek. This summer we will host a Junior Golf Academy and our PGA golf professionals are always available for group or private lessons. For the course to be successful in the long run, we really need strong support from the neighborhood, so we hope to see you often in the coming months.



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Pet Safety Warning—Bill Olive, COP Coordinator

This is a warning for the safety of your pets as well as yourself and your family. We have had several sightings of Bobcats in the neighborhood as well as several sightings of Coyotes. We've been advised that one of the bobcats actually killed a small dog on Winding Oaks. Bobcats have been seen on Laurel Oaks, Stoneridge, Hickory Bend, Hearthside, Ridge Oak Dr and Ridge Oak Pl, Windy Ridge and Winding Oaks as well as on Greenview, Diamond Oaks, Oak Point and Moss Trail.

Coyotes have been seen actually walking down the middle of the street on Ridge Oak, along the golf course on the 10th fairway, and behind homes on Oak Point, at the rear of homes on Greenview, as well as along Fulton and Pepperidge. We've had no notices of any coyote attacks, but we have seen them chasing squirrels and rabbits, and when those food sources are exhausted they may well decide to go after a small dog or cats. Please be aware that while coyotes don't generally jump over fences, they are capable of doing so. Bobcats on the other hand have no limitations on where they can go, they jump fences easily, have been seen on rooftops as well as up in trees. Everyone needs to be alert and aware of these wild animals, it is mating and birthing season and they will be seeking food for their newborns.

We strongly urge you not to allow your pets outside unattended. Don't leave dog or cat food outside. If you see either of these type animals call Animal Control immediately. The regular number for Animal Control is 972-205-3570--be sure to advise how many coyotes or bobcats you have seen and the direction in which they were traveling. At night or after hours, please call the Water Dept. at 972-205-3210--they can have an officer dispatched. Never approach either type of animal, and if you're walking, running or jogging in the neighborhood, please carry your cell phone with you at all times. We suggest you program both of these phone numbers into your cell phone.



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