

Oakridge News

July 2015

Vol. 23, No. 7



Scatter Shooting with Dwight Davis - ONA President

It is a pleasure to now serve the Oakridge Community as your President. We have just initiated a QuickBooks accounting system to better serve us to handle our financial affairs. We are upgrading some of the lighting and sprinkler heads at our ONA entrances, which improve the neighborhood appearance for all. We are encouraging all homeowners to join or rejoin the ONA. The 2015 ONA directory is planned for late September 2015. Please join now to ensure to be included. I arranged with the general manager of the Oakridge Black-eyed Pea restaurant for a 20% Coupon off purchase good until September 30th. See back page on lower left.

Our Next **General Meeting** is set for **6:30 P.M. - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th** - at The Achievement Center on Shiloh Road at Belt Line. 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. We desire everyone to participate in the ONA.

July Updates - Scott LeMay - Garland City Council, District 7

Summer is in full swing and what a great time to get out for some exercise or come in and stay cool. The City of Garland has many ways for you to do both.

July is National Parks and Recreation Month. Our Parks and Recreation Department has many indoor and outdoor events planned for you and your family. You can see the schedule of events and all of the other services and facilities we have to offer. We have 63 parks, 6 recreation centers, 2 senior centers and 3 community pools just to name a few. This is a great way to get out and play! www.garlandparks.com .

Our 4 libraries offer a wide range of indoor events for all age groups. This is a great way to learn and be entertained while beating the summer heat. www.nmls.lib.tx.us .

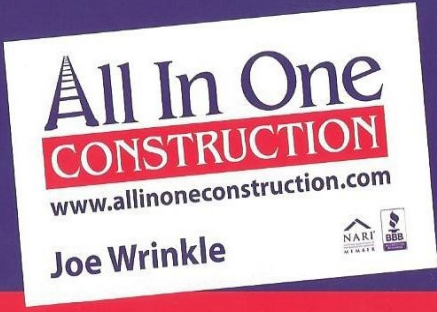
The Granville Performing Arts Center is by far the best bang for your artistic buck in local theater. Now they are about to Launch "Crazy For You", which is a Gershwin musical tribute. It should be quite a show. You can find out more about that show and all the others at www.garlandarts.com .

Council Updates -

At our recent Work Session, we were given a report on the Animal Services evaluation that was performed this spring, by an outside firm with the full cooperation and inclusion of our current Animal Services staff and management. This was a very comprehensive internal review that also included benchmarking data in comparison to our surrounding cities. Overall the report was very positive and offered us many suggested improvements on policy and procedures. Some of which have already been initiated and are showing positive results. We have seen a dramatic improvement in the internal attitude of our shelter staff and the external perception of our animal shelter. Much of that credit goes to our Shelter Manager, Uriel Villalpando. He has worked diligently and intently on improving our reputation and service levels. It is my goal to see that the recommendations are put into action and that we continue to move forward. Our biggest challenge at this time is obviously building a new and larger animal shelter. Our current shelter is 50 years old and at a little over 13,000 square feet is half the size we need. Current estimated construction costs are \$10 million. And that's a lot of money. We are working on a plan to help raise that funding, with more details on that to come. 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.

Scott LeMay - Garland City Council, District 7

My cell phone number is (214) 794-8904 and my email is scottlemayd7@gmail.com .



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7th Annual Senior Awareness Day - Dwight Davis

The 7th Annual Senior Awareness Day will be open and **FREE** to the public and is held this year on **Friday, August 7th, 2015** from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon at the Richardson Civic Center. Dallas Area Agency of Aging will be present to provide assistance and answer questions regarding Medicare, Medicaid. Also, hospitals, testing, and other benefits available with 57 different booths.

7th Annual Senior Awareness Day

Exhibitors  Entertainment

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Richardson Civic Center,
Grand Hall, 411 W. Arapaho Rd.
Richardson, TX 75080

Friday, August 7th, 2015
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon

Refreshments  Door Prizes

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Important Appointments for the ONA - Dale Rouze

Please **Welcome Daniel Bell** in his new position as our Environmental Director for the Oak Ridge Neighborhood Association. If you haven't noticed Daniel and Carol's wonderful environmentally planned gardens that include water saving collection and drip systems, strategically planted organic gardens and beautiful flowers for planned pollination (bee hive ready), you have really missed something special. Daniel is a graduate of North Texas with a Bachelor of Science degree and has 2 years experience keeping the grounds planted and developed at DFW National Airport. Although Daniel accepted the position, there is something special to know about his partner. Carol has finished her course work as a Certified Master Naturalist in addition to her degree in Biology/Chemistry at Texas Woman's University. We believe the environment of our neighborhood will be in good hands and will keep Oakridge a wonderful community in which to live.

Also, we are happy to have **Bill Olive** returning to fill his position as the Safety Director for the Oak Ridge Neighborhood Association. Bill keeps us informed by publishing his SIREN report on a regular basis that lets us know about various types of criminal activity taking place in Oakridge. He also provides Oakridge residents warning about potential criminal activities that have been identified, with suggested actions that we can take to help avoid us being prey to these activities. E-mail Bill Olive to be placed on this regular SIREN e-mail distribution indexva@verizon.net. A special note that Bill and Brenda Olive are celebrating their wedding anniversary this month. We are thankful that Bill works close with the Garland Police and communicates to help keep Oakridge safe.

New Board Elections - Dwight Davis

The ONA members elected the following to serve 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 Parrish
- 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 Parrish
- * Environmental Dir.: Daniel Bell
- * Safety Director: Bill Olive
- * Appointed and approved by the Board

“Thanks” to the new board members who have agreed to serve. Please send in your voluntary \$60.00 donation and any extra you wish to contribute for the maintenance and beautification of our properties for the June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016 membership year.

Dwight Davis, ONA President dwight@dwightdavis.org


ONA Board Meeting Highlights - July 2015 - Dwight Davis

The ONA Board met on July 9th to discuss new lighting and watering improvements for our ONA entrances. ONA spends about 75% of our annual dues for beautification and maintenance of our 9 entrances to the Oakridge neighborhood.

Also, our annual ONA membership drive is now in progress. The single-page invoice is being printed and will be sent as a special edition of the Oakridge News to all 1166 homes in Oakridge. **Please send your ONA annual dues in just as soon as you can.**



ONA board members left to right: Back row - Tom DeBeaudry, Dwight Davis, Mark Edwards, Ben Johnson, David Parrish; Front row - Karina Watts, Sharon Parrish.


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ONA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 

Send \$60.00 for June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016

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Burglary Attempt and Shooting in Oakridge - Bill Olive, Safety and COP Coordinator

By now most residents are aware that an individual attempted to burglarize a home in the 2600 block of Richland on July 2nd. The homeowner was awakened by the sound of breaking glass from the window the suspect broke to gain entry. The homeowner then shot at the suspect but the suspect escaped back out the broken window. When the police arrived they determined that the suspect had received some type of injury, and learned that a potential suspect was at Baylor Garland. That person was transported to Parkland Hospital for treatment but succumbed to his injuries several hours later.

The following information was obtained by a conversation with a GPD investigation supervisor: The suspect, Jason Richardson (45) apparently picked the victim's house at random and no other Oakridge homes were burglarized by the suspect. The suspect has a rather long criminal record. Even though the suspect has expired, the investigation continues toward putting the pieces together. Unfortunately, the Oakridge homeowner will have to appear before the Grand Jury as is the normal procedure with such a shooting.

We ask that all Oakridge residents please Pray for the homeowner, as this is a traumatic event in his life. Some things that all Oakridge residents should bear in mind. If you have an alarm system keep it on even though you are home, a burglar may think you're not at home and attempt to enter your home. Register your burglar alarm system with the GPD (there is a permit cost but homeowners must purchase one). Review the "panic" instructions on your alarm system. Remove/trim tall shrubs from in front of windows (to prevent anyone from hiding behind them). Report suspicious vehicles/persons by calling 911, give the vehicle type, sedan, truck, SUV, color, license plate number if you're able to obtain it, a description of the person/persons, ie: male/female, approximate age, what the person is wearing, color of hair, mustache, beard, hat color/type, jacket, pants, shirt...anything that can help identify the individual and why you're suspicious of the individual (knocking on door, insistent ringing of bell, looking in windows, looking into cars, etc. Obviously you are not going to be able to give the 911 operator all of the above information, but anything you can give him/her will be helpful to the responding officer. Never hesitate to call 911--the life you save may be your own!

Bill & Brenda indexva@verizon.net

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