

Oakridge News

August 2015

Vol. 23, No. 8



Scatter Shooting with Dwight Davis - ONA President

Yes, we are in the midst of the hottest part of the summer. Now, after all our intense rain several months back we have gone nearly a month with very little or no rain. Watering of lawns is only allowed before 10AM and after 6 PM., which is a year round mandatory measure for water conservation to avoid evaporation. For additional details see: <http://www.garlandtx.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=6811>.

The ONA is to serve the ONA community with 75% of out dues going to the beautification of our nine Oakridge entrances and the mowing and maintenance of 6,000 linear feet or 35,000 square feet of perimeter grass. We need everyone's participation in ONA membership to do this. The city WILL NOT do this for us. We only have half of our normal members rejoin. Please rejoin or join ONA now. See: <http://www.oakridgena.org/join.htm>.



Our next ONA Meeting starts promptly at 7:00 P.M. - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th at the Achievement Center of Texas, 2950 Shiloh Road. I look forward to seeing you there early at **6:30 P.M.** for the social gathering. Dwight Davis, 972-675-9195, dwight@dwightdavis.org

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

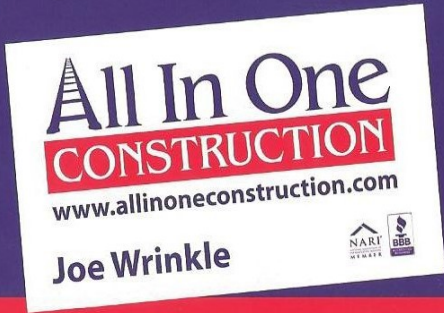
Once again as the summer comes to an end the beginning of our annual budget cycle begins. The 2015-2016 budget has been prepared by our excellent city management staff and was presented to the council at our last regular meeting. The economic outlook for Garland continues to remain positive. According to City Manager Bryan Bradford, Garland's local economy in 2015 improved substantially and with this improvement general fund revenues are projected to increase 3.6% for FY 2015-2016. Sales tax revenues have continued to grow with \$25.3 million projected for the fiscal year. With our improving economy and council directed budget priorities we are continuing to focus on critical needs that were deferred during the recession. Those priorities are police staffing needs, street improvements, employee compensation and economic development.

There is no tax increase proposed in this budget. The current tax rate of \$70.46 per \$100k of valuation should remain unchanged. Utility rates for water and electricity will see some changes. A water rate increase of \$6.98 per month for the average user is proposed due to escalating costs passed on from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). Those costs are mostly from infrastructure improvements but obviously our "take or pay" rate structure impacts that as well. To offset that increase GP&L is proposing a residential rate decrease of \$9.75 per month for the average user. There are no rate changes proposed for wastewater, storm water or solid waste collection.

We will be working through the budget review process for the next month with numerous meetings and public hearings. It is anticipated that we will approve the budget with any changes at our September 15th Regular Meeting.

Around the District –

The city recently purchased the vacant land on the northeast corner of Shiloh and Mapleridge Drive. The council just approved a tree preservation variance for the vacant land on the south side of 190 between Campbell and Holford Roads. 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 scottlemayd7@gmail.com. Scott LeMay- Garland City Council, District 7



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Daytimers Update - Dianne Winter

WELCOME! That will be the feeling when you attend the September meeting of the Daytimers.

A new year begins and continues through May so please come on the second Tuesday, September 8th, at 10 am at the home of Suzanne Snow, 2722 Big Oaks Drive, 972-414-3747.

Dwight Davis, ONA president, will be the guest speaker and will answer any questions about ONA.

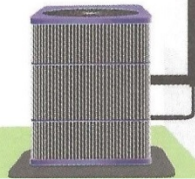
Along with food, fun and fellowship you will meet your neighbor and be informed about the neighborhood.

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.

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Crime Watch Update – Bill Olive, ONA Safety

On Wednesday, July 23 an incident occurred in the Belt Line and Shiloh area. There were two (2) young men involved in the car jacking of our neighbors at gunpoint in the Holford Park area. Police are involved and on the case. **BE VERY CAREFUL!** Remember, a gun was used in this situation and makes this a **SERIOUS** life-threatening event.

Don't leave cars unlocked, especially at gas stations, where they are targeting people. Also, these car jackers will act like they are having car trouble to flag people down, and then rob them and steal their car!!

The person that reported this stated: "They stole my husbands car at the gas station, and didn't even get a mile before they drove off down Shiloh and turned left on Apollo then crashed it into a tree on the street before that car wash that comes out on Jupiter. The guy they jacked at gun point was done at the car wash on Apollo right where they crashed my husband's car. Then, the one driving his car hopped out while stealing his phone and got into another stolen car that was following him." The suspects are between the ages of 16 and 18 the police believe. One has been identified from the cell phone pictures, where they took selfies of themselves, and later left the cell phone. The police are now looking for him and still trying to identify the others that were involved.

These are serious times. Always remain vigilant and be mindful of your circumstances. Be sure to report any identified criminal activity immediately to the police.

In your service, Bill



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Support North Texas Giving Day 2015 – David Parrish

Support Garland Nonprofits on North Texas Giving Day 2015

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 17 (6am Central to Midnight)**.

Then **"Get Up & Give"** to **North Texas Giving Day**, which is an online giving event for people in North Texas to come together and raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits in the 16 county region around DFW. In just six years, North Texas Giving Day has pumped more than \$86 million into the North Texas community. In 2014, more than 98,000 gifts totaling \$26.3 million, benefited 1,580 nonprofits.

As Garland residents you may wish to focus your giving on nonprofits that benefit our city, such as the Achievement Center of Texas (ACT). You can locate Garland nonprofits at this webpage: <http://northtexasgivingday.org/>, simply select Garland from the City menu under Advanced Search then touch Go. Select your favorite nonprofit and make a donation. To go directly to the ACT giving page, use this link: <http://actgivingday.org/>. Thanks for your consideration.

David Parrish, District 7 Director

ONA Code Compliance Process - Dwight Davis

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association officers and District Director team are doing what we can to serve the ONA neighborhood. If you should have any Code Compliance issues, the ONA team is requesting that you **FIRST** contact the City of Garland Code Compliance team. The ONA team has no abilities to do anything for these issues. You could also **SECOND** contact Scott LeMay, our City Councilman for District 7. He will be able to talk to Code Compliance with more clout than we could have. Should you not get the proper response or corrective action from Code Compliance, then **THIRD** escalate it and talk to us or send us a message at dwight@dwightdavis.org and let us know what actions you have made. We will reiterate things with Steve Killen in Code Compliance and with Scott LeMay to get some results.

Your best Code Compliance contact is Steve Killen, Director of Code Compliance at 972-485-6408. Steve has been very good in the past about getting things done. Rick Barker is the Neighborhood Standards Manager at 972-485-6411 and Rio Orticio is the Housing Standards Manager at 972-485-6424.

You can find additional Code Compliance information for various subjects on the City of Garland 'Code Cares' community outreach web site using the link below: <http://www.garlandtx.gov/gov/cd/code/care/default.asp>



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City of Garland Health Department - Public Health Notice - Bill Olive, ONA Safety and Health

On August 11, 2015 the Garland Health Department (GHD) confirmed the first case of imported Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) in Garland in 2015. The individual was infected with the virus during recent travel to Mexico and is no longer contagious. CHIKV is transmitted from person to person by mosquitoes. The virus causes high fever, severe joint pain, headache, muscle pain and rash. CHIKV does not often result in death, but the symptoms can be severe and disabling. There is no specific medication or vaccine available to treat CHIKV. Avoiding mosquito bites is the best CHIKV prevention.

GHD also received a report of laboratory confirmed presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in mosquitos collected in the 2500 block of Wood Drive and the 4300 block of O'Banion Road. Twelve mosquito pools have tested positive for the presence of WNV in 2015. The presence of WNV in mosquitoes means that transmission to humans is possible, so residents are urged to take preventive measures. GHD will immediately initiate adulticide spraying in these areas (weather permitting) to minimize the risk of human infection. Citizens may view a map depicting areas where WNV virus has been detected and subsequently sprayed to reduce the adult mosquito population on the City of Garland WNV webpage.

GHD encourages citizens to take preventative measures to minimize the risk of exposure to mosquito-borne diseases such as CHIKV and WNV. To protect yourself from exposure to such diseases, limit outdoor activity during evening and early morning hours when mosquitoes are most active. While outdoors, wear light-colored, long-sleeved clothing, and use an insect repellent containing DEET, according to its label directions. Most importantly, citizens should take measures to eliminate any standing water on their property, such as birdbaths (clean them twice per week), pet water dishes, clogged rain gutters, tires, and buckets. Containers that can hold an inch or two of water for just a few days can breed mosquitoes. Report any standing water that you are not able to eliminate yourself to the GHD.

If you have questions or would like to report standing water, please call the Garland Health Department's mosquito control hotline at 972-205-3720. Further questions on WNV should be directed to the City of Garland's website, GarlandTX.gov, the eAssist app, or 972-205-3460.

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