



# OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

November 2023, Vol. 31, No. 11



## Board of Directors Update: BillyRay Thomas, President

Hello Oakridge,

I hope you all are well. After an unseasonably warm October, it appears fall has finally arrived. Whew, October was busy...I hope you enjoyed vacations, the State Fair, National Night Out, Garland's Square grand opening and showed sweet kindness to the trick or treaters. This month as we pause to give thanks and reflect, remember to appreciate the good things of life like family, community, and the riches of the land that we live in. In all our celebrating, let us not forget that for some, Thanksgiving is a National Day of Mourning and these Holidays are "holy" days set apart to celebrate, commemorate and even mourn. May we embrace the positives of our nation's complex history and give thanks for the contributions and sacrifices of all Americans.

I am thankful to live in this Oakridge community among all of you wonderful neighbors; thankful for your generosity of time and treasure; thankful for another season of Thanksgiving.

**Have a Happy Thanksgiving Oakridge!** Remember, the key word in our name Oakridge Neighborhood Association is "neighbor".

Membership in the ONA is not **Required**, it's **Desired**.  
TILL NEXT TIME.



**Its not too  
late to Join!!**

**[Click here or scan  
code to Join the ONA](#)**



**Join Today!**

## Membership Update

Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

I would like to thank everyone that has joined the ONA thus far! Your decision to spend your hard earned money to support Oakridge is greatly appreciated. We recognize the value of every dollar and can assure you your contributions will be spent wisely!

We are currently under our needed members to meet this years fiscal budget. Its not too late, please join.

2023 Membership as of October 30th	
Member Type	Count
Renewals	236
First Time Supporters	10
Came Back after Hiatus	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP BY DISTRICT:					
District	ONA Members	Pending Renewals	Not Yet Supporting	# of Households	% Supportin
1	50	10	125	185	27%
2	55	9	90	154	36%
3	14	8	119	141	10%
4	53	7	91	151	35%
5	30	8	152	190	16%
6	33	5	143	181	18%
7	37	9	118	164	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>1166</b>	<b>23%</b>

MEMBERSHIP HISTORY:						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Jan		1	1	1	1	0
Feb	2	0	2	1	0	2
Mar	8	0	5	1	4	5
Apr	36	92	96	10	25	5
May	94	94	125	124	134	162
Jun	71	35	57	125	80	44
Jul	38	54	47	51	64	21
Aug	11	7	11	12	13	41
Sep	8	7	8	7	9	45
Oct	9	0	5	17	1	21
Nov		2	2	0	3	15
Dec		1	1	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>361</b>

### Membership Flags

Member Flags will be delivered by your District Director or Membership Volunteers. If you have not received your Flag, please email **Membership at [oakridgemembership@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgemembership@gmail.com)**.



## Financial Report

Sarah Freeman, Treasurer



All 2023-2024 financial reports are available online at [www.oakridgena.org/financials-main](http://www.oakridgena.org/financials-main). Click the above link or find it on the "Resident Resources" page under "Financials". Contact us at [treasury@oakridgena.org](mailto:treasury@oakridgena.org).

**DUCKCREEK**  
— GOLF CLUB —  
214-440-2229 [duckcreekgc.com](http://duckcreekgc.com)

### Pickellball in Oakridge at Duck Creek Golf Club



For more information contact:

**Scott Youzva**

[s.youzva@gmail.com](mailto:s.youzva@gmail.com)

972-816-5116



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## Oakridge Safety

Joan & Dan Nichols, Crime & Safety

Oakridge prides itself on a long history of active involvement of its members in watching out for one another. The ONA Crime Prevention and Safety Committee serves its mission to improve and maintain the quality of life in Oakridge.

The Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) initiative with GPD plays a vital part of keeping Oakridge safe. We are especially grateful for our new NPO, Officer Jordan Murphy who will continue the great work began by Officer Barnes. Officer Murphy can be reached at [murphyj@garland.tx.gov](mailto:murphyj@garland.tx.gov).

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the National Night Out event October 3rd, so save the date.

As always, call 911 for an active crime, or the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840. Subscribe to "Siren Alerts" to be notified of incidents in our neighborhood on our website or email us at [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org).

Visit <https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/> for all Crime Prevention and Safety Information and Tips.

**SAVE THE DATE**

### 2023 Neighborhood Summit

This year Garland will be hosting the

Saturday, November 11, 8:30am-noon.

Garland Fire Admin Building, 1500 Highway 66.

**Event is Free**

Register early to receive a Free T-Shirt

<http://www.garlandtx.gov/4081/Neighborhood-Summit>

## Announce or Coordinate a Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale



Contact Jackie Reynolds  
ONA Events Coordinator at  
[events@oakridgena.org](mailto:events@oakridgena.org)

## Oakridge Culture:

Cheryl Jones, Communications

Oakridge has a rich diversity of cultures, and the Board would welcome current and potential members to share that diversity by joining the Board in an open seat.

These roles take very little time each month and provide a wonderful opportunity to get to know their fellow residents, as well as convey needs and wants a district may have.

We welcome you to join the Board in any of the open roles listed on page 8 of this newsletter or on our website at <https://www.oakridgena.org/ona-board/>.

## Oakridge Men

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

The Oakridge gents take a hiatus during the summer. We look forward to reconvening in September. Contact us at [oakridgemen@oakridgena.org](mailto:oakridgemen@oakridgena.org)

## Commercial Solicitation

Scott Youzva, Oakridge Resident

In light of the most recent hail storm, there has been a surplus of Roofing company's soliciting door to door. Whereas, it is a common practice, did you know that commercial solicitations of homes requires a Permit, per city ordinance? See CODE below. You can find more information on Permits on the City's Code Compliance website at: <https://www.garlandtx.gov/Search?searchPhrase=HOME%20SOLICITATION>.

26.51 Permit required for commercial home solicitations.

no person shall engage in a commercial home solicitation without having a valid, current written permit issued under provisions of this article by the Chief of Police. A permit is not required for a noncommercial home solicitation.

any person desiring to make a commercial home solicitation within the City shall make written application to the Chief of Police in a form provided by the Chief of Police, for a permit. The application shall include the following information:

For more information on  
upcoming events in Garland,  
click the visit garland link or  
Scan QR Code.



[www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events](http://www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events)

## Garland City Council, District 7 Councilman Dylan Hedrick

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the grand reopening of the Downtown Square October 14! It was a raging success by all accounts as an estimated 10,000 people from around the Metroplex and beyond came out to celebrate with us. If you missed it, check out the City's YouTube page at [youtube.com/garlandtxgov](https://www.youtube.com/garlandtxgov) or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GarlandTXGov/> for more videos and pictures of the event.

If you have not yet been Downtown to see the results of the more than \$20 million dollars that have been invested in the Square and the surrounding streetscapes, I urge you to do so as well. Our goal was to bring life back to this important and historical area of our City, and given the response we had the opening weekend, I would say that we have succeeded. Now we wish to continue the momentum Downtown by attracting more businesses and restaurants.

During the festivities, I was able to speak with Matt Tobin, the restaurateur who is bringing a new pizza restaurant named Fortunate Son after the Creedence Clearwater Revival song to the corner of Main Street and Fifth Street. Matt currently operates Goodfriend Beer Garden & Burger House in East Dallas and wants to replicate the success and feel of that neighborhood hangout here in Garland.

Matt showed me around his space which includes a coal-fired pizza oven, inside bar area and soon-to-be outside patio under the existing oak tree. There is a lot of interior work remaining to be done, but Matt said he wants to do it right because as a new restaurant, you only get one shot to make a good impression on patrons. Matt hopes to open by the end of this year.

As the Square project has been completed, we are now turning our attention to the next phase of growth in Garland. Council has called for a new Bond Study Committee to focus specifically on Economic Development projects that would build upon the success of the 2019 Bond Program. The Committee will begin meeting after the new year, but I would like to hear from you before then.

What kind of projects should the Committee consider? If you have ever asked yourself, it would be great if Garland had "X", this is the time to speak up and let me know. Everything is on the table from new sport complexes to new concert and entertainment venues, from transportation projects to energy generation and storage projects to infrastructure projects, from commercial development incentives to residential improvement programs, and more. Let your imagination run wild as to what you think would help Garland compete with surrounding cities in the Metroplex for sales tax dollars and for job creation, growth and retention into the future.

Please send your suggestions to [council7@garlandtx.gov](mailto:council7@garlandtx.gov) or call me at 469-560-6099 no matter how unattainable or fanciful they may be. This is the time to think big as we consider what Garland will look like in the future!



## Video Crime Watch Sign-Up

Oakridge was officially recognized by Garland Police as the first “Video Crime Watch” neighborhood in Garland a couple years ago. Thanks to those who



have already signed up with the program. Your participation helps to quickly identify and recover critical video related to criminal investigations and deter crime in our community.

How do I sign-up and what is involved?

- Please note, the system is strictly voluntary and cannot provide direct access to any surveillance system.
- Sign-up is simple. Anyone with video doorbells or any surveillance system can sign-up by completing a short survey located on the GPD website (<http://www.garlandpolice.com/331/Police>) then scroll down to the Garland Video Crime Watch Program.

Information requested via the online form for any resident includes:

- street address
- primary contact (last, first name)
- primary phone # (best number to reach you)
- email
- video storage (cloud, local, both or unknown)

Once completed, double-check the pin map to ensure an accurate location and hit “submit”.

If a crime occurs near your area, an investigator may privately email or call you using the contact information provided and ask you to review your camera footage for suspicious vehicle(s) or person(s) during a specific time.

If you have any questions, please contact Officer Murphy at [MurphyJ@garlandtx.gov](mailto:MurphyJ@garlandtx.gov) or call the program coordinator, Captain McCully at 972-485-4844. To become a part of Oakridge Crime Watch, you can reach out to [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org).

## Oakridge National Night Out

### Thank you!

Thanks to all for a great turnout on a beautiful evening. Photos from the event can be viewed on the [Oakridge Website](#).

A special thanks to:

- Garland Police who came out in force
- Garland Fire Department
- “Pets for Adoption”
- Volunteer chefs and servers
- Duck Creek Golf Club
- Duck Creek Pickleball
- Daytimers (delicious cookies)
- ONA Board
- Special Guests - Councilman Dylan Hedrick, Garland Medicaid Outreach Counselor, and Police Chief Bryan
- All neighbors, families, and pets

The purpose of National Night Out is to build strong partnerships between the police and communities and to promote crime awareness programs such as Neighborhood Community Watch groups. Looking forward to NNO 2024!





## Preservation Society Fall Programs

David Parrish, Oakridge Resident



2023-2024 Fall Nature Programs Public Speaking Series at Spring Creek Forest. 1st Tuesday of each month; Runs September to May 2024; 7:00PM to 8:30 PM via Zoom.

Topics / Dates:

- Sex in the Garden (9/5)
- All about Galls (10/3)
- Orthoptera are Hopping Across North America- grasshoppers, katydids (11/7)
- Amy Martin book preview, Wild DFW (1/2).
- 4th Sunday Nature Walks-: Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Locations vary.
- Insects on the Prairie (9/24)
- Galls in the Forest (10/29),
- Family Time in the Forest (11/26)
- First Day Hikes on January 1. 2024

For information such as locations/directions, details and newsletter subscriptions:

- Preservation Society website:  
<https://www.springcreekforest.org>,
- Email: [springcreekforestpreservation@gmail.com](mailto:springcreekforestpreservation@gmail.com)
- Facebook Group Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/113504751995744>

## Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

Libby Morse, Resident

The Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women of Oakridge. We share a common bond of love for our children, families, and community and even become friends.

October's meeting was hosted by Cheryl Jones. We enjoyed a variety of yummys, brisket tacos and Sheila's watermelon margaritas. November meeting is set for Tuesday, the 7th at 7pm.



If you need a break once a month to relax and unwind, email Libby Morse at [tomlib@tx.rr.com](mailto:tomlib@tx.rr.com) for information. OWC is on Facebook and Nextdoor.

## Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

Tuesday, October 10th found us in the lovely home of President Ann Conrath. Our food hostesses were Sharon Carlton, Sue Ratcliffe, Sandra Stevens and barista Dianne Winter. Thank you, ladies, for always taking such good care of us!



Sadly, Officer Murphy was unable to join us that morning as he was heavily involved in a case and couldn't get away. Instead then, people shared their stories involving the Garland Police Department and, I'm happy to report, our police scored very highly. Officer Murphy hopes that he'll be available next month and can join us then.

Also, next month, do you have family heirloom or any kind of keepsake that you'd like to share with us? As an example, Pam Rouze showed a coffee mug that reminds her of the many years she has shared lunch with a special group of friends while President Ann displayed the family doll made with her great-grandmother's hair. If it's special to you, we'd love to hear about it.

Daytimers is open to all female residents of Oakridge and meets on the second Tuesday of the month. After visiting, we welcome you to join us. Annual membership dues of \$20.00 are used for speakers, community support and the annual end-of-year luncheon.

Any questions about joining us and the location of our next coffee may be directed to Ann Conrath at 469-367-0802.



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# Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 450145  
Garland, TX 75045-0145



## Oakridge Residents 411s:

### New Residents:

If you are new to Oakridge, WELCOME! New residents should expect to receive a "Welcome Bag" filled with goodies from the City of Garland, helpful tips, and ONA information. Email us at [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org) to let us know you are here or if you have any questions. We hope you will consider ONA Membership. Join anytime online.

## Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA):

The ONA is a 501(C)(4) Non-Profit chartered in 1992. Its Fiscal Year begins June 1 and ends May 31st of the following year. Membership is voluntary. Dues are \$60 annually per household. Additional information on Oakridge and the ONA can be found on the web site <https://www.oakridgena.org/resident-resources/>.

## Oakridge Districts/Directors:

Oakridge is comprised of 1166 homes divided up into "Districts" by Street. Each District is represented by an ONA District Director. Click [Find Your District](#) to locate your District and ONA District Director.

## Oakridge Perimeter Walls:

ONA Membership dues provide for the maintenance, landscaping, and mowing "around" the perimeter walls. If your home is on the outer perimeter, you will be responsible for the repair or replacement of damaged walls on your property. Detailed information is available on the ONA website at <https://oakridgena.org/perimeter-brick-wall>.



**GPD Non-Emergency**  
**972-485-4840**



## Sidewalk Repairs-City Cost Share Program:

Per Garland's City Ordinance, if you own property in Garland, it is your responsibility to keep sidewalks, parkways, curbs, and driveways adjacent to your property in a good and safe condition and free from any defects and hazards. A property owner who qualifies in all three categories may now bear as little as 10 percent of the cost of fixing their sidewalk. Find out program details at:

<https://www.garlandtx.gov/384/Sidewalk-Participation-Program>.

### 2023-2024 Board of Directors

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President, BillyRay Thomas ..... 214-734-1017  
Vice President, Vickie Litton ..... 972-762-2805  
Secretary, JC Elliott ..... 469-774-7114  
Treasurer, Sarah Freeman ..... 214-927-1148

#### Directors

District 1, Joanna Albright ..... 973-879-5965  
District 2, VACANT  
District 3, VACANT  
District 4 Co-Directors  
Oliver Harter ..... 214-663-8862  
Jackie Jones ..... 972-897-5133  
District 5, Juliard Ishizuka .....817-739-1139  
District 6, VACANT  
District 7, Joetta Harris ..... 469-955-1513

#### Committees

Communications, Cheryl Jones ..... 214-437-9132  
Crime & Safety, Joan Nichols ..... 214-543-2546  
Environmental, Joshua Lamb..... 682-558-5528  
Events, Jackie Reynolds ..... 469-649-5799  
Membership, Cecile LaBossiere ..... 972-896-9413