



OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

December 2023, Vol. 31, No. 12



Board of Directors Update: BillyRay Thomas, President

Seasons Greetings Oakridge!

I hope you all had a great thanksgiving feast and spent precious time with family and friends.

December ushers in the most magical holiday season of all, Christmas. As a boy, I was taught Christmas was the celebration of the birth of Christ; God’s greatest gift, his son Jesus. I grew up singing “Joy to the world the Lord has come, let earth receive her King”. Giving and receiving gifts, time with family and friends are my most cherished memories. In a community as diverse as Oakridge, the season may be celebrated differently, but I’m sure we all share in the love, joy, and peace of the holiday season.

However you celebrate or commemorate this season, I wish you and yours Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Enjoy your families and friends, neighbors and perhaps spread a little holiday joy to someone in need.

Remember, the key word in Oakridge Neighborhood Association is “Neighbor”. Your membership in the ONA is not required it’s desired.

Until next time.



Ring in the new year as an ONA member.

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



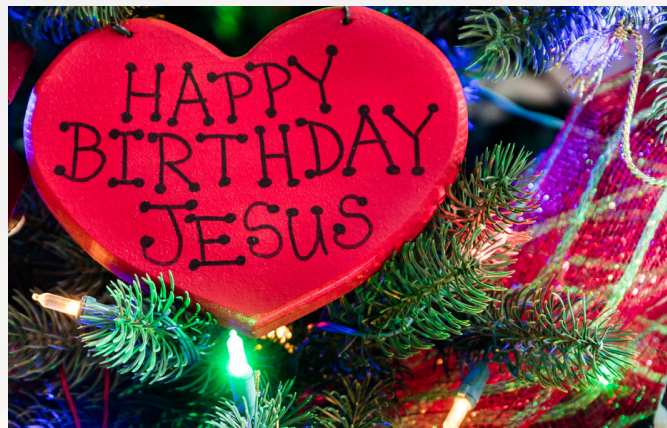
Join Today!

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.



2023-2024 Membership as of November 30 th		Member Count
Renewals		237
First Time Supporters		10
Came Back after Hiatus		26
Total		273

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP BY DISTRICT

District	ONA Members	Pending Renewed	Not Yet Supporting	Total # Households	% Supporting
1	51	9	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%
Total	273	55	838	1166	23%

ONA MEMBERSHIP HISTORY

Month	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	1	0	0
Total	278	293	360	350	334	361

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**.



Financial Report

Sarah Freeman, Treasurer



All 2023-2024 financial reports are available online at 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.

Environmental

Joshua Lamb, Director

Common areas have been trimmed, mulched and seasonal flowers planted. Beautiful Christmas lights have been going up all around the neighborhood and look fantastic. If you have any ideas on how to make our entrances more festive please reach out to me. We are looking for ideas!

Help Us Decorate Diamond Oaks Bridge

Call to
Action

ONA members will be decorating the Diamond Oaks bridge near the Country Club on Sunday December 3rd starting at 10 am. If you would like to help, please come out. It is a big job and many hands make it go quickly.



DUCKCREEK
— GOLF CLUB —

214-440-2229 duckcreekgc.com

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.

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.

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



Want to Announce or Coordinate a Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale?



Contact Jackie Reynolds
ONA Events Coordinator at
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/>.

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 revisions of this article by the Chief of Police. A permit is not required for a noncommercial home solicitation.

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:

Oakridge Men

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

The Oakridge gents will resume in January. Contact us at oakridgemen@oakridgena.org

Garland Events

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



www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events

Garland City Council, District 7

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

After a two year hiatus, Christmas on the Square finally returns to our newly renovated Downtown Square this year on December 7. Festivities start at 5:30 PM with the tree lighting at 6:30 PM. There will be performances by the Salvation Army Band, local high school students and at 7:30 PM, Q the Band will be rocking around the Christmas tree with their mix of Christmas dance party favorites.

There will be plenty of kid friendly activities with a Candyland obstacle course and slide, a 360 Photo Booth, pictures with Santa, live reindeer, and a synthetic ice-skating rink, which mimics the surface of traditional ice. Food vendors will be available to satisfy your hunger or sweet tooth. You can find more details here: <https://www.visitgarlandtx.com/events/2023/cots2023>. I hope to see everyone there!

On City Council, we are considering expanding the lifespan and boundaries of both TIF District #1 - Forest-Jupiter/Downtown and TIF District #3. A TIF is a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) zone where the incremental additional property tax revenue from a set baseline year's value is reinvested within that specific zone. For example, if a new business is built on a vacant lot in a TIF district, the additional revenue generated from the increased property tax can be spent within the district for eligible projects. TIF #1 is looking to add additional areas east, south and west of Downtown, while TIF #3 wants to expand its footprint to include areas near President George Bush Turnpike, the Medical District and IH-635/Shiloh Road.

While I am for extending the lifespan of each District until 2049, I am not for expanding the boundaries of TIF #1 until we can guarantee more revenue is allocated towards the Forest-Jupiter end of the District. To date, only one project – the Montgomery Park renovation – and 4.2% of the revenue has been spent on the Forest-Jupiter area with the remaining all being spent or allocated for projects and programming Downtown. It is time to have a more equitable balance across the District to improve the blighted areas near our other city DART rail station.

The goal of expanding TIF #3 boundary is to capture property tax revenue from the future data centers' construction in the north side of the city and allocate it towards the Medical District for a possible future hospital and south Garland for development around the old Hypermart site. Hopefully once those projects are built, the additional revenue can then be transferred back north for future projects.

On November 14, the Council approved the purchase of the six-acre tract at 530 Clara Barton Blvd. next to the VA Hospital in the hopes of attracting a developer to build a local hospital. We on Council are working diligently to make this a reality.

You can read more about the TIF Districts and see the proposed maps on my Substack by visiting dylanhedrick.substack.com.

I am so thankful to represent the wonderful people of Garland's District 7, and I wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday season. Please reach out to me at council7@garlandtx.gov or 469-560-6099 if there is anything I can do for you.



HOLIDAY CRIME WATCH REMINDERS



The best way to stay safe is with neighbors looking out for each other. Garland Police Department also has several good tips to keep in mind all year long:

- Lock your cars to help deter thieves who are looking for an easy target.
- Remove valuables from your car including holiday packages, shopping bags, guns, electronics, money, medicine, and jewelry.
- Report suspicious activity. If you see suspicious activity or something (or somebody) that seems out of place, call the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840 (or call 911 for emergency or crime in progress). Remember to include details that go beyond race and gender such as behavior, vehicle description, location, time of day, hair, clothing, identifying marks, etc. Share any security camera video that may be helpful with Officer Murphy at MurphyJ@garlandtx.gov.
- Vacation Watch Request (free for Garland residents). If you plan to be out of town, consider having Volunteers in Policing check your home while you are gone.

As always, please feel free to contact us with your Crime and Safety questions at safety@oakridgena.org.

Crime Watch Continued:

You can click [here](#) to complete the Vacation Watch Request form.

Discourage Porch Pirates with the following:

- Track deliveries online and quickly retrieve packages from your porch as soon as they are delivered.
- Have packages delivered to your office building or remote pickup site. Amazon has several hub lockers around the city. Walgreens, FedEx and UPS also offer similar options.
- Ask your neighbor to collect packages from your porch when you are away from home.
- Get a video doorbell (such as Nest or Ring). They may not always stop a Porch Pirate in their tracks, but they can help police identify them later.
- Video doorbells can be added to the Garland Video Crime Watch by going to the Garland Police Website.

Pickleball in Oakridge at Duck Creek Golf Club



For more information contact:

Scott Youzva
s.youzva@gmail.com
972-816-5116



Oakridge Support for First Responders

Oakridge has a long history of supporting First Responders during the holidays. In recent years, we have been supporting Officer Barnes in his ongoing fight with metastatic breast cancer. Since then, Garland Police have established the Garland Police Never Walk Alone Foundation to help officers like Officer Barnes who are battling illness and struggling to keep up with the medical and travel expenses associated with the treatments. Click [here](#) to learn more and donate to this worthwhile cause.



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:

- 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
- 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.

December 7th, the ladies will tour historic homes and enjoy the downtown Garland Christmas Lights. The more the merrier. Click here for [Tickets](#). Contact Libby at 972-523-3069 if you can join us.

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



Oakridge Neighborhood & Good Samaritan Food and Winter Clothes Drive



Clothing Cold weather ONLY
Gloves
Warm jackets
Scarves/mufflers

**Sunday,
December 3rd
2-4 PM**

The Good Samaritan Truck will be in the NE corner of the Duck Creek Golf Club Parking Lot.

Food Items

- Beef Stew/Chili
- Ravioli/Spaghetti
- Soups
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned meat (chicken, tuna, salmon)
- Peanut butter (plastic jars preferred)
- Canned vegetables (low sodium)
- Brown rice
- Whole grain pastas
- Canned tomato sauces
- Vienna Sausage
- Hearty Soups (with meat, preferably)
- Fruit Cups
- Applesauce Cups
- Mac n Cheese Cups
- Fruit/Energy/Breakfast Bars
- Peanut Butter or Cheese Crackers



Contact Jackie Reynolds at events@oakridgena.org

Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

Stunning fall decorations greeted us as we met for our coffee at Chris Beyers' on Tuesday, November 14th. Beautifully done, Chris! Fortunately, we had all parked correctly as Neighborhood Police Officer Jordan Murphy was there to greet us as well. He was very engaging as he spoke to us about our neighborhood and warned us about different scams, especially this time of year. You'll be happy to hear that we live in a pretty safe neighborhood with a relatively low crime rate. We can thank our Neighborhood Crime Watch, as well as our own watchfulness for part of the success.

Food hostesses for November were Peggy Crenshaw, Mary Pattie and Pam Rouze. Thank you, Ladies. You never disappoint. Several of our members had brought along keepsakes and told us the stories of how these had fit into their lives and the special meaning they each had for them. We loved your stories, and we thank you for sharing!

Next month's coffee will be at Lila LaGrassa's where we'll have 2 special guests. I have no clue who they might be, so you'll want to attend to find out.

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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Arlington, TX 76010
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Fax: 817-459-1317

The ONA wishes you

MERRY

Christmas
and
Happy
New Year



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 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

Officers

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 Ishizuka817-739-1139
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