



OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

January 2024, Vol. 32, No. 1



Happy New Year Oakridge! BillyRay Thomas Farewell

I hope your Christmas and holiday season brought you and yours great joy, and you are as excited about the new year as I am. It is with joy to announce I am engaged and will be married soon. My fiancé and soon to be bride lives in our neighboring state of Oklahoma, and I will be moving there to join her. Oakridge has been my home for many years and it has truly been a pleasure living here. I have enjoyed serving as ONA President and appreciate the support of the board members and volunteers for a job well done. I am grateful for the experience and wish the community and Board every success this new year.

Remember, the key word in neighborhood is “neighbor”.

If you're new to Oakridge,

Welcome



Oakridge Culture:

Cheryl Jones, Communications

Oakridge is a community rich in diversity; varied cultures, languages, faiths and traditions. The ONA Board invites all residents to consider a board position.

These roles take very little time each month and provide a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow residents, as well as contribute to the vision and success of the ONA.

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

Bring 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 year's fiscal budget. It's not too late, please join.

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 27, 2023	TOTALS
Renewals	237
First Time Supporters	10
Came Back after Hiatus	26
Total	273

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP BY DISTRICT					
District	Members	Haven't Renewed	Not Supporting	# of Households	% Supporting
1	50	10	125	185	27%
2	55	9	90	154	36%
3	14	8	119	141	10%
4	54	6	91	151	36%
5	30	8	152	190	16%
6	33	5	143	181	18%
7	37	9	118	164	23%
Total	273	55	838	1166	23%

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	1	2	2	0	3	15
Dec		1	1	1	0	0
Total	278	293	360	350	334	361

Membership Flags

Member Flags are delivered by your District Director or Membership Volunteers.

You can find your District Director at at <https://oakridgena.org/seven-districts-of-oakridge/>

We appreciate our members and if you have not received your Flag, please email us at oakridgemembership@gmail.com.
Thanks, Cecile



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!

SAVE THE DATE

ONA General Membership Meeting

February 22, 2024 via Zoom

7:00PM; 6:30 Meet and Greet

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.

ONA Calendar at a glance:

- Fiscal Year: June 1 - May 31
- Membership Drive: June-August
- Board Meetings: Monthly; 1st Monday (except for August and December).
- General Membership Meetings: Typically held in September, February and May.
- Elections of new Board members:
 - A "Nominating Committee" is confirmed at the February General Membership Meeting.
 - "Nominees" are confirmed/voted on at the May General Membership Meeting.

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.

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



www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events

Oakridge Men

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

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



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



Contact Jackie Reynolds
ONA Events Coordinator at
events@oakridgena.org

NEW YEAR CRIME WATCH

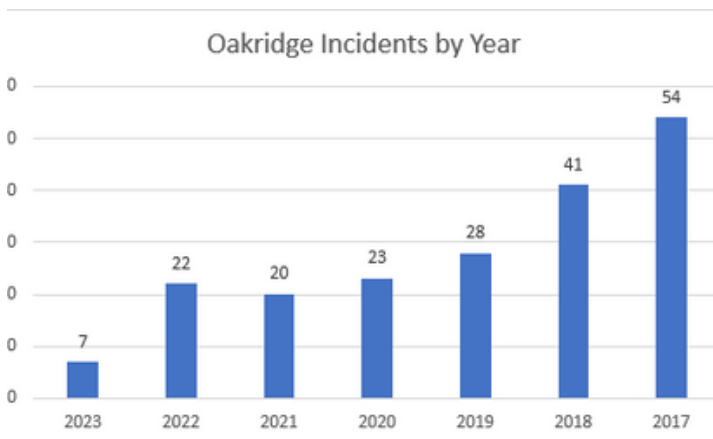
REMINDERS



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.

Oakridge Supports Garland Police



“Never Walk Alone” Foundation for First Responders

To learn more about how you can support first responders dealing with cancer, click [here](#) for information and to donate to this worthwhile cause.



Garland City Council, District 7

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

As we are at the end of one year and beginning another, I wish to look back on the top 10 accomplishments we achieved on City Council in 2023.

In February, we approved the purchase of the Las Brisas site at 1002 Marion Drive. The site was the former Garland Clinic and Hospital – the first hospital in Garland which opened in 1954 – then later was the Las Brisas Residence Club. The buildings fell into disrepair over the years and the dilapidated site was purchased by the City. Rather than redevelop the site with more homes, we approved a plan to turn the site into a city park to be enjoyed by local residents.

In March, the Council approved a Landscape Master Plan for the Valoris Health Park. The area northwest of the Shiloh Road and Walnut Street intersection is designated to be a future public hospital. The site is currently home to the VA Hospital in what was the old Baylor Garland Hospital building. The landscape plan will guide us as we improve the streetscape, add trail connectivity and plan for a healing garden to make the area attractive to a hospital operator in the future. I urge you to go see the beautiful mural that has already been painted on the side of one of the buildings in the Health Park.

Also in March, we were presented and approved an Economic Development Strategic Plan. The comprehensive plan looks at how Garland is positioned to compete with neighboring North Texas cities and provides guidelines for achieving economic success in the future. Already it is influencing our thinking as we look at proposed zoning change requests and future economic development programs. The plan gives me great hope for the future of our City.

Garland's Senior Center was closed last year for renovations as part of the 2019 Bond Program. However during the renovations, extensive structural damage was found that would require more money to fix than was budgeted for renovations. In April, we discussed input received from senior center patrons and approved a plan to rebuild a new and larger center than the previous one. The new building at the same location will have more amenities and spaces for various activities and programming for our seniors.

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District 7 Update continued...

In July, the Fire Department presented its master plan for Council approval.

This important plan will help us best allocate our resources to reduce fire risk, provide efficient fire and EMS services, and the best training and education programs for our firefighters in the near and long term. The plan provides measurable and achievable strategic planning goals that our Department is already implementing to improve itself and improve public safety.

Our downtown and surrounding area was designated in September as an official cultural district by the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA). The recognition of the "Bankhead Cultural Arts District" which includes the Granville Arts Center, the Landmark Museum and the Plaza Theatre as well as the retail establishments and historic neighborhoods around downtown allows the city to be eligible for cultural district funding through TCA. These funds will be used to add programming to and awareness of our significant cultural assets in the area.

October 14 marked the long awaited reopening of the downtown square. Over 10,000 people helped celebrate the day by enjoying skateboarding and BMX stunt shows, fishing demonstrations, live music and food and even a drone light show. Local favorite LeAnn Rimes capped the festivities with a concert—returning to her hometown where she lived as a child. I look forward to attending many more local events on our renovated downtown square next year.

We ended the year in December with three important items including approving a conceptual redevelopment plan for Lou Huff Park. This park formerly had a recreation center which largely served the minority community surrounding the park. The proposed plan will honor that history and add opportunities to once again build community by once again providing gathering spaces and outdoor activities.

We also approved the expansion of Tax Increment Finance District #1 to include additional areas near the Forest-Jupiter rail station and around the Walnut Road/Jupiter Road intersection. This will provide funding to revitalize these areas which have been ignored for too long.

District 7 Update continued

Finally, we approved a new development process for zoning applicants. This will shorten the time needed for approval and lessen the expense required to rezone property in Garland. I believe that this will allow Developers to be more innovative and prolific with their redevelopment requests without having the large financial burden if the project is denied at the Plan Commission or at the City Council hearings. This should lead to higher quality and more frequent developments occurring within our City.

As always, it is my extreme honor to represent you on the City Council. We are blessed to live in such a wonderful City such as Garland. I wish you and your family the happiest of blessings this holiday season. If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach me at 469-560-6099 or council7@garlandtx.gov.



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 toured historic homes and enjoyed the downtown Garland Christmas Lights. OWC Annual Christmas Party was hosted at the home of Vickie and Oliver Harter. It was such a great time; delicious food, festive and fun was had by all.

If you need a break once a month to relax, come and unwind with the Women of Oakridge. For more information, email Libby Morse at tomlib@tx.rr.com. You can also check the OWC Facebook Page and Nextdoor for January's gathering.



Oakridge Pickleball Scott Youzva, Resident



Greetings to ONA Neighbors!

Pickleball at Duck Creek is gaining momentum, even through some of the cooler days this Fall. The most consistent time to just show up and play has been on Saturday mornings, around 9-10am. All levels of players are participating and we can get everyone on a court with players of equal experience.

If you will find the GROUP, Pickleball at Duck Creek on Facebook, you can keep up with all of the planned activities. If the weather is just too cold for you, we can help you find an indoor location so that you can brush up your game for the Spring. I look forward to meeting anyone that wants to play or learn to play. I hope to "See you at the courts!"

For more information contact:

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



Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

Nothing will get you into the holiday spirit faster than visiting Lila LaGrassa’s festive home in December. And so it was on Tuesday, December 12th. Food hostesses that day were Chris Beyers, Liem Ha, Sharon Epler and Lila herself, our own Perle Mesta (depending upon your age, you may have to look that one up). The food table was full!!



Unfortunately, our guest speaker was unable to join us because of a work-related conflict but that never seems to deter us. Following our usual short business meeting, Peggy Crenshaw read us the perennial favorite “Twas the Night Before Christmas”, a staple in so many households. One could see all the lips moving as many recited the words right along with her as she read. Then, to top things off, a trio led us all in a songfest. Kathy Arden, Mary Pattie and Carl Ann Pickard were in fine voice as they conducted us in everything from “Silent Night” to “The 12 Days of Christmas”, Ruby Nell’s favorite. In January we’ll be meeting at Cecile LaBossiere’s where we hope to have Dylan Hedrick join us. Until then, Happy New Year to all!



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.

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 via Zoom; Runs September to May 2024; 7:00PM to 8:30 PM.

Click here for all events:

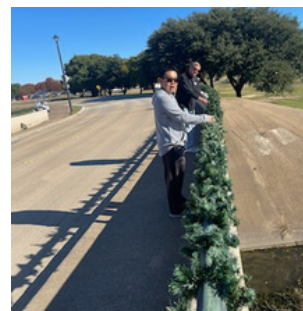
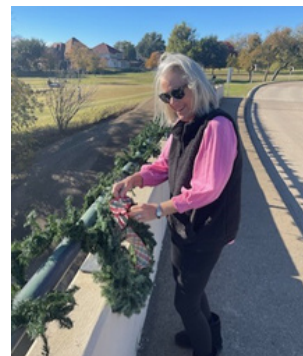
<https://springcreekforest.org/events/>

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

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



Special thanks to all who participated in decorating the Diamond Oaks Bridge and our Entrances!



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jc@jelliottestatesales.com

Thank you for supporting the Oakridge Neighborhood Association!

Membership is not required, it's desired!

Please print/fill out completely

Your information will be used for ONA communication purposes ONLY and will NEVER be given to anyone.

Street Address _____

Home Phone _____

First Time Supporter

Renewal

Owner Tenant

Subscribe to ONA emails? Y or N

Contact 1

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Contact 2

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Invoice

The ONA is not a mandatory HOA.
It relies on volunteers and donations.

Support Levels

\$60+ Good Neighbor Level
\$100+ Crepe Myrtle Level
\$250+ Maple Level
\$500+ Oak Level

What the ONA does

Perimeter Maintenance	Events & Social Activities
Seasonal Plantings	General Member Meetings
Monthly Newsletter	Holiday Decorations
ONA Website	Donations to Fire/Police Stations
Crime Prevention & Safety	New Resident Welcome Bags

Contact info@oakridgena.org for comments or to volunteer.

Total Amount Enclosed

\$ _____

Payment Method:

Check/Money Order enclosed

Online Payment - PayPal link
is available on the ONA website
(www.oakridgena.org/join-us)

Mail check or money order (no cash)
and completed form to:

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
PO Box 450145
Garland, TX 75045-0145

An ONA flag will be placed in your front
yard to indicate your support.

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.

About 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>.

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, VACANT
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



GPD Non-Emergency
972-485-4840

