



# OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

February 2024, Vol. 32, No. 2



## Board of Directors Update! Vickie Litton, Vice President

HAPPY VALENTINES!!! May the spirit of love and kindness be with you during the month of February and the full year and that spirit overflow to each person you see and know. We are so thankful to have so many momentous events to celebrate this month: Super Bowl game, celebrating Valentine's Day, Black History Month, Mardi Gras, President's Day and prayerfully enjoying all that life and liberty has to offer. Preparing the update and note instead of our former President, BillyRay Thomas, has been a challenge as his notes and updates were always so inspirational. I want to thank him for his dedication and hard work as we do for all 2023-2024 Board Members, District Directors, At-Large Directors, Committee Chairs and Volunteers whose combined efforts, past and present, help to make Oakridge one of the best, if not "The Best Neighborhood" in Garland.


More importantly, I want to say a hearty "Thank You" to the loyal renewing members, those returning, and the record number of first-time members. I also want to extend an invitation to all of Oakridge to join us. We need you, not just your funds, but your ideas, expertise, wisdom, and fellowship.

If you are new to Oakridge, Welcome! We are a Voluntary Association -- Annual dues are \$60, and you can join anytime.

Our next board meeting is February 5th, where we will vote to confirm the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee who will be asking you to consider a board position. A special thanks to my husband Lee, Dan Nichols, and Ruba Qewar for graciously volunteering. Don't forget our upcoming General Meeting on Zoom. The "live" access link will be posted on the "Events Page" of the website, on Nextdoor and "Upcoming Events" email. Please ensure your email address and contact information is current. You can update here or email [communications@oakridgena.org](mailto:communications@oakridgena.org). Have a great February and see you at the General Meeting on Zoom. Blessings.

**ONA**  
**"General Membership Meeting"**  
Thursday, February 22, 2024,  
7:00pm, via Zoom  
[Click here to website "Events Page"](#).

**If you're new to Oakridge,**  
*Welcome*  
  
A "Welcome Bag" is coming your way! See "Oakridge 411s".

**Become a supporter:**  
[Click here or scan code to Join the ONA](#)  
Mail check/money order payable to ONA:  
PO Box 450145 Garland, TX 75045  
  
[Join Today!](#)

## Membership Update

Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

As we begin 2024, we are looking for ideas to encourage more Oakridge residents to support the neighborhood through ONA membership. Whereas we are a voluntary association, we rely solely on contributions through membership. We would love to see more neighbors get involved and welcome all constructive suggestions. As we plan for the 2024-2025 Membership Kickoff in May, your feedback will enable us to focus on the areas that are important to you, the residents and members of Oakridge. Please email any comments, feedback, and suggestions to [oakridgemembership@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgemembership@gmail.com). Let us know what you think.

Membership Stats – January 2024	
Member Categories	Count
Renewals	237
First Time Supporters	10
Came Back after Hiatus	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>

2023-2024 Membership by District					
District	Active Supporters	Pending Renewals	Inactive	# Oakridge 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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>1166</b>	<b>23%</b>

## Membership Flags

Member Flags are delivered by your District Director or Membership Volunteers. You can find your District Director at <https://www.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](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". If you have any questions, email us at [treasury@oakridgena.org](mailto:treasury@oakridgena.org).

## Environmental

Joshua Lamb, Director

Hello neighbors! We are transitioning to a new landscaping contractor, Goodbee Lawn and Landscape. They have strong Oakridge connections and are ready and motivated to begin taking care of our entrances and common areas. We are setting up some new lighting in the Diamond Oaks entrance that will be able to change with the seasons and holidays. Starting in February, this will be a pilot project to see the feedback and interest from the neighborhood. Please swing by the Diamond Oaks entrance after the sun goes down and let us know your thoughts or impressions. Have a happy new year! We wish you the best year to come! Volunteers are welcomed! Email us at [environment@oakridge.org](mailto:environment@oakridge.org).

## Oakridge Culture:

Cheryl Jones, Communications

Oakridge is a community rich in diverse cultures, languages, faiths and traditions. The ONA Board invites all residents to get involved in the neighborhood, and consider serving on the board.

Minimal time is required and it provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow residents, and contribute to the vision and success of the ONA.

Please see the open position listed on page 8 of this newsletter or on our website at <https://www.oakridgena.org/ona-board/>.



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

## 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 Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA), through its Crime Prevention and Safety Committee, serves the ONA's mission to improve and maintain the quality of life in Oakridge.

Call 911 for an active crime or the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840 when you see suspicious activity. Siren alerts notifying residents of incidents in our neighborhood are available to anyone who has subscribed on our Website or by contacting us at [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org).

9-1-1 should be dialed for Police, Ambulance or Fire unit. A Police emergency is any situation involving a crime in progress, or an imminent threat to life, bodily injury, or major property damage or loss (e.g. fight or assault in progress, or a home or business burglary in progress).

Report any suspicious activity to the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840:

- Focus on behavior: What was the person doing that made you suspicious.
- Details matter: Hair, clothing (head to toe), identifying marks. Race or gender alone is not enough.
- Vehicle: Make, Model, Color, Direction of travel, License Plate
- Location & Time: Address, date, time
- If you have security camera video, please sign up at Garland Video Crime Watch Survey or email Officer Murphy at [MurphyJ@garlandtx.gov](mailto:MurphyJ@garlandtx.gov).

Visit our website at <https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/> to see all the monthly crime stats for Oakridge or contact us at [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org) to see how you can join us in keeping our neighborhood safe.

A constant reminder... Please lock your car and remove valuables – especially your guns and keys. If possible, put your car in the garage. Almost all unauthorized use of motor vehicle and theft from vehicles were unlocked with keys inside – don't make us an easy target!


Continue to be watchful neighbors. Addition of outdoor security lights, cameras, being outdoors walking etc., all help make our community less inviting to potential criminals. It also helps to get out and meet your neighbors

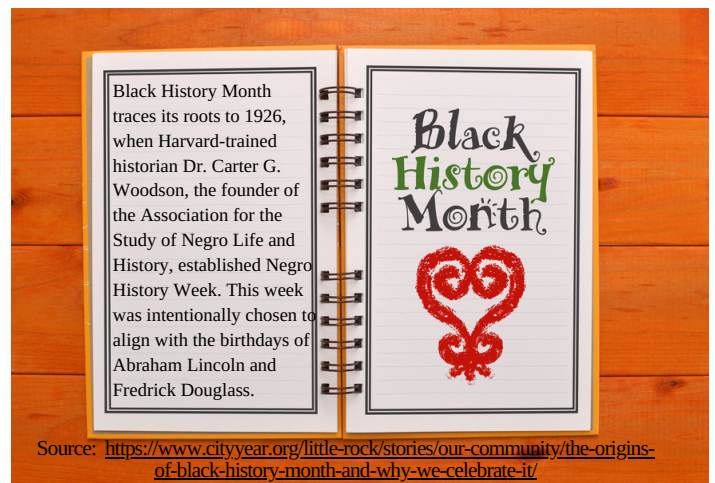
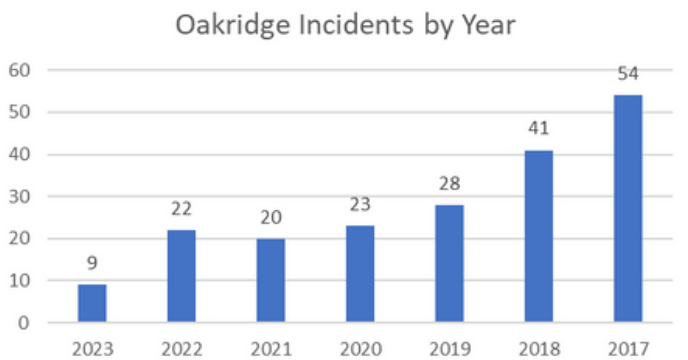
### Good Neighbors Reduce Crime: Will you be mine?

Mister Rogers and Officer Clemmons remind us of what it is to be a good neighbor and the ideal community and police partnership. The most effective means of reducing crime in the neighborhood is an organization of neighbors helping one another. It's a fact: Concerned neighbors reduce crime!



[Click to read the full article.](#)

The ONA supports the   
**Garland Police Department's**  
**“Never Walk Alone” Foundation for**  
**First Responders dealing with**  
**Cancer. Please support!**



Source: <https://www.cityyear.org/little-rock/stories/our-community/the-origins-of-black-history-month-and-why-we-celebrate-it/>

# Garland City Council, District 7

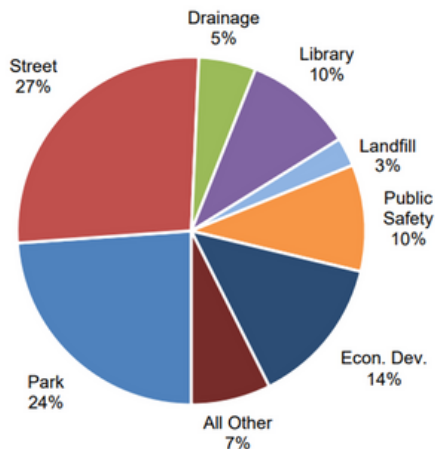
## Councilman Dylan Hedrick

I hope everyone is staying warm during this cold weather we are experiencing. On City Council, things are heating up as we are moving into our Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budgeting season. The CIP budget is a plan for funding projects which have a useful life of not less than five years and exceed \$25,000 in cost. Approved projects in this year often have budget implications for future years as funding for projects such as buildings and utility improvements are often spread over multiple years. You can read the budget on the City's website here: <https://www.garlandtx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16179/City-of-Garland-2024-Proposed-Capital-Improvement-Program-PDF>

This year's proposed CIP budget is the second largest in city history at \$559.3 million dollars, slightly under last year's largest CIP budget of \$568.2 million dollars. Spending is divided among three categories – tax-supported programs (such as parks, roads, and economic development), internal service programs (information technology), and utility revenue supported programs (meaning those projects supported by utility service fees such as water, wastewater, electric, storm and sanitation services).

Under the \$245.6 million allocated for tax-supported programs, streets and transportation receive the largest share of funding with \$65.9 million, followed by parks with \$58.7 million, and then by economic development projects with \$34.0 million. You can see the percentage breakdown here:

**2024 Tax-Supported Programs**



## District 7 Update continued...

On the utility revenue supported side, \$146.8 million is earmarked for electric utility projects with \$103 million and \$52 million going to wastewater and water projects, respectively.

Although costs for equipment and materials have increased significantly due to inflation over the past year, we are expecting no property tax increase due to the 2024 CIP. The total debt service tax rate will remain at 37.56 cents per property \$100 valuation. For utilities, no rate increases are proposed for water, electric or sanitation rates. Wastewater rates will increase by 2.9% to fund wastewater collection and treatment process improvements and the stormwater rate will increase by 12.8%, bringing rates in line with surrounding comparable suburbs, to fund future drainage improvements following the completion of several drainage studies currently underway

If you have any comments on the CIP budget, please contact me at 469-560-6099 or [council7@garlandtx.gov](mailto:council7@garlandtx.gov). I'm happy to walk you through the document and answer any questions you may have. It is my extreme pleasure to continue to serve the citizens of Garland and District 7.

## Commercial Solicitation

### Scott Youzva, Oakridge Resident

In Garland, per city ordinance, Commercial solicitations of homes requires a Permit. You can find more information on permits on the City's Code Compliance website at: <https://www.garlandtx.gov/Search?searchPhrase=HOME%20SOLICITATION>.

#### Permit required for commercial home solicitations.

One shall engage in a commercial home solicitation without having a valid, current written permit issued under the terms of this article by the Chief of Police. A permit is not required for a noncommercial home solicitation.

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



## Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

Libby Morse, Resident

If you have a sweet tooth, don't miss our February 1st meet-up at Piefalootin, located at 2441 Goldfinch Lane in Garland, 6:30pm. Please RSVP at 972-523-3069. Check out the yum on the menu at [www.piefalootin.com](http://www.piefalootin.com).

### 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](mailto:s.youzva@gmail.com)  
972-816-5116



## ONA Calendar:

- Fiscal Year: June 1 - May 31
- Membership Drive: Begins in May
- Board Meetings: Monthly; 1st Monday (except for August and December).
- 3 General Membership Meetings: Typically held in September, February and May.
- **Electing Board of Directors:**
  - "Nominating Committee" volunteers are presented to the general membership in the newsletter, then approved at the February General Membership Meeting.
  - Board of Director "Nominees" are voted on at the Annual Membership Meeting in May.

## 2024-2025 Nominating Committee

**Dan Nichols, Lee Litton, and Ruba Qewar**  
(Confirmed at the February General Meeting)

[Click here to view full bios and contact information.](#)

## 2024-2025 Elections

The ONA Board is made up of neighbor volunteers, like you. Qualifications are simple, be a resident of Oakridge, an ONA Member and willing to serve. On-boarding support is provided.

### **Open Board/Committee Positions:**

President

District Director's 2, 3, and 6

**[Find Your District/Director](#)**

You can find information on the ONA Board and position duties at <https://www.oakridgena.org/ona-board/>. To volunteer or recommend someone, email us at [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org) with "Count Me In" in the subject line. We'll take care of the rest.



## Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

What more special way to continue ringing in the New Year than surrounded by friends! On January 9th we met at Cecile LaBossiere's lovely home and snacked on goodies provided by Dottie Moseley, Ann Williams, Sally Weiss and Cecile herself. All I can say is that we must look hungry. There's always lots of great food! Thank you, Ladies. Our special guest was Garland's District 7 City Councilman and neighbor Dylan Hedrick. He was a wealth of information as he told us of the numerous projects that the city has in the works, as well as the many projects yet to come. I think we were all very pleased with our city's economic and progressive thinking. Now we'll see how well we scored. Given the same budget, Dylan gave us each 10 beads to spend however we saw fit among departments like parks and recreation, city services, economic development, roadways, etc. or simply put them all in one area. I'm not sure how we did but I doubt that any of us should run for office.

Next month we'll be meeting the day before Valentine's Day at Sharon Carlton's. Hope to see you there! 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](mailto:springcreekforestpreservation@gmail.com)
- Facebook Group Link:

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

## Oakridge Gentlemen

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

Greetings Gentlemen of Oakridge:

I'm passing along an article that was printed in the Seniorific News just a few weeks ago. This will become one of a series of items or stories I will pass along on Wednesdays as a prelude of our monthly meetings. This article was written by Claire Irvin, HHSC Age Well Live Well Coordinator.

"There are many ways we take care of our health, from eating healthy foods and moving our bodies, to visiting the doctor for annual exams...or otherwise. But social connection is one aspect of aging and living well that is often overlooked. People can become lonely when they lack social connections. Growing your social circle and building meaningful connections with others can help reduce isolation and loneliness. One place to start making connections is right in our own neighborhood. How often do we reach out to neighbors and see how they are doing? Do we go beyond a "hello" wave at the mailbox or apartment building lobby?

Our neighbors can be a community of built-in social connections. By fostering a community focused on connection and mutual support, we add variety to our social circles and provide an opportunity to build positive relationships close to home." This past Monday, Carol and I visited with a widowed lady; it was a short visit, but a most pleasant visit. We didn't stop for tea...or bring a gift. We just stopped by to say more than "hello". On Thursdays we visit an area hospital to look in on some of the patients. On most occasions, these are first time visits. We don't stay long, but we do chat and wish them well. It's a feel-good experience; and that goes both ways.

With that said, the invitation is always open to you to attend our Gentleman's Meeting Wednesday, February 21st at 10:30 am at the 14/18 Coffee House in the Spring Creek Church Building. Bring a friend. Let's talk about Oakridge.

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



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

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# Oakridge News

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



## Oakridge Residents 411s:

### New Residents: 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 supporting the neighborhood by joining the ONA. Join anytime online at [www.oakridgena.org/join](http://www.oakridgena.org/join).

## 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 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



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

