



OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

March 2024, Vol. 32, No. 3



It is exciting to be able to celebrate two holidays this month – St. Patrick’s Day and Easter that comes early this year. We were fortunate for the mild winter with just brief periods of truly COLD temperatures. Of course, you cannot rule out another freeze after all this is Texas.

The rule of thumb for our yards is to begin clearing out the remnants of winter, preparing the soil for planting bushes, shrubs, and flowers in April and summer months ahead.

Just a bit of St. Patrick’s Day humor -- Q: Why should you never iron a four-leaf clover? A: You don’t want to press your luck!

A bit of business. We held our General Membership Meeting February 22nd via zoom. We had a great update from our Councilman, Dylan Hedrick, on the state of the city. You can view the city videos regarding the updates and changes to the Visitor Center, North Garland Branch Library, Music Program beginning March 1, and the Red, White and You celebration on July 3, 2024, at City Council @ Other Public Meetings.

Councilman Dylan Hedrick reminded us that neighbors can contact his office with any questions regarding code compliance, parking, building, or other concerns at coucil7@garlandtx.gov or by phone at 469.560.6099.

Officer Jordan Murphy, our NPO reported that crime in Oakridge is low and attributed to activity of neighbors out and about. We were saddened by the burglary at the Golf Club and pray the culprits will be prosecuted and the owners get some relief. He further reminded us to keep vehicles locked, and remove valuables, especially keys and guns. He also thanked Oakridge for the continued support.

Communications Director, Cheryl Jones, announced she will not continue next season and will be devoting more time to business. Cheryl has done an amazing job for Oakridge. She deserves so much praise for her contributions and has offered to continue work with her successor during the transition. She has been a joy to work with and will continue to be a great neighbor and ONA volunteer.

It is official. Our 2024-2025 Nominating Committee is Lee Litton. Dan Nichols and Ruba Qewar approved at the General Membership Meeting. If you can carve out a few hours a month to serve Oakridge, please reach out to Lee, Dan, or Ruba. Help us to fill our open positions and to make the ONA better.

The 2024-2025 Membership drive will kick off April 30th, so save the date. We hope and believe this year will be one of the best years ever. Our goal is and continues to be “To Make the Best Better”.

If you have not joined the ONA yet, we invite you to do so— Neighbor is the key word in our name. Neighbor serving Neighbor in our Hood. We know “Service is Sacrifice” and “Hats off” to all those who have made sacrifices over the years. THANK YOU AND BLESSINGS!

If you're new to Oakridge,

Welcome



A "Welcome Bag" is coming your way! See "Oakridge 411s".

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. Let us know what you think.

Membership Stats - January 2024

Member Categories	Count
Renewals	237
First Time Supporters	10
Came Back after Hiatus	26
Total	273

2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP BY DISTRICT:

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%
Total	273	55	838	1166	23%

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 Flags

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



UPCOMING
EVENTS



www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events

Environmental

Joshua Lamb, Director

The Board has selected GoodBee Lawns as our Landscaping and perimeter maintenance vendor. They were highly recommended by Oakridge residents, and yields an annual savings of \$1,000.

Contract provides for:

- Plant and Bed Management (removal of previous seasonal color, change the mulch, new seasonal color)
- Turf Management (fertilizer and pre-emergent herbicide)
- General Maintenance (Mow and edge turf areas. blow sidewalks, streets and beds. Bush trimming and maintenance, weed control, trash control, and irrigation checks bi-weekly.)

We are also working to submit for Neighborhood Vitality Grant propose to change entrance lights to color changing lights to reflect seasonal holidays.

We solicit neighbor volunteers to help make our entrances and perimeter stellar. Contact me environment@oakridgena.org

Thanks again for your donations to the Beautification Fund!

Financial Report

Sarah Freeman, Treasurer



The 2023-2024 Actuals vs. Budget reports are available online at 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.

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.

Active Crime: Call 911 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)

Suspicious Activity: Call the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840. Remember to 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.

Siren Alerts notifying residents of incidents in our neighborhood are available to subscribers via our Website or by emailing safety@oakridgena.org.

Oakridge Crime Stats are available on the website at <https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/>. Contact us at safety@oakridgena.org to see how you can join us in keeping our neighborhood safe.

General Safety Reminders:

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

ONA Spring Party & Membership Drive

Stay tuned for dates and location



All Oakridge invited. Free food, fun, four legged friends, Garland's finest and you!

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/>.

ONA Charter

Board of Directors

We have received emails and calls regarding Duck Creek Golf Club and other code compliance related issues. The ONA's Charter is limited to the 9 Oakridge Entries and Perimeter Landscaping only. To be clear, the ONA has no authority over, and takes no position over private property matters!

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



Garland City Council, District 7
Councilman Dylan Hedrick

I hope you were able to join us on February 13th at the Atrium for the Mayor's annual State of the City address. The Mayor highlighted many of the 2019 Bond Projects which have been or are nearing completion including 25 new playgrounds, four splash pads, the Downtown Square, Holford Recreation & Aquatic Center, the Garland Senior Activity Center, Surf & Swim, and the North, Central and West Garland libraries. With so much activity going on it's easy to get excited about the future of Garland!

Looking towards the future, the Mayor made a big announcement that the annual Fourth of July celebration will be returning to our Downtown Square this year and be rebranded as Red, White and You. It will be the first time since 2008 that the event will be hosted at the Square and will include a light show with 1000s of synchronized drones. If you saw the drone show at the Christmas on the Square event, this one will be even bigger, longer and more impressive.

Finally, the Mayor recognized the VN United Football Club and the Vietnamese American Community of Greater Dallas (VACGD) with the Mayor's Make Your Mark Award for their valuable contributions to the City. For the past five years, VN United Football Club has held an Asian-American soccer tournament which has drawn teams from as far away as California and Canada.

The VACGD has also contributed significantly through voter registration drives, college scholarships and interest free loans. The groups host three annual events including the Lunar New Year celebration at Cali Saigon Mall, and the Asian American Heritage Festival in May, and the DFW Food & Music Festival in October. The Vietnamese Community Center on Belt Line Road now serves as a voting center. These organizations are certainly worthy honorees. The May municipal election filing deadline has passed and the incumbents from District 1 Jeff Bass and District 4 B.J. Williams will be reelected unopposed.

Councilman update continued:

The councilmember from District 2 is term limited, and two candidates – Eric Stuyvesant and Kristen Beard – will be competing for that seat. In District 5, incumbent Margaret Lucht is being challenged by Stefaney Garcia. Seventeen City Charter amendments are also up for consideration including those concerning City Council pay, length of Council appointee contracts, how Council vacancies are filled, and removal of Boards and Commission members from their positions. Election day is May 4, 2024.

Our free summer concert series is changing a bit this year with concerts being spread throughout the year. The first one will be at 7:00 PM, Friday, March 1, on the Downtown Square with Texas Country Legend Gary P. Nunn. Subsequent concerts will be held the first Friday of each month downtown. You can see the complete schedule here:

<https://www.visitgarlandtx.com/events/2023/music-made-here>.

Please reach out to me at 469-560-6099 or at council7@garlandtx.gov if there is anything I or the City can help you with. As always, it is my extreme pleasure to serve District 7 and the citizens of Garland.

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:

- <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:



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214-440-2229 www.duckcreekgc.com

Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

Libby Morse, Resident

Piefalootin was absolutely amazing! We had a great turnout and welcomed 2 new members, Yanela and Julie. The next meeting will be March 7th, 7pm at Patty's house. Check the events page for details and 2024 calendar. Please RSVP at 972-523-3069.

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



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.
- **Elections: February and May**
 - "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

[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

(Duties outlined in Article 3.4 of Bylaws)

District Director's 1, 2, 3, and 6

(Duties outlined in Article 4.4 of Bylaws)

Communications Director

(Duties outlined in Article 5.1.b of Bylaws)

We need volunteers! Contact nominating committee or email info@oakridgena.org with "Count Me In" in the subject line. We'll take care of the rest.

Information on all ONA Board and position duties at <https://www.oakridgena.org/ona-board/>.

Click link to locate your [District and Director](#)



Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

Our February Valentines coffee turned out to be, as Jan Reed so aptly put it, a “Gal”entines party. Sharon Carlton graciously welcomed us into her festively decorated home with steaming hot cider.

The lovely Valentine (Galentine?) decorations were courtesy of Gloria Turner who also served as a food hostess along with Jan Reed and June Southard. It was a beautiful table and people seemed slow in wanting to disturb it. Thank you, ladies, for taking such extra special care of us.

Our business meeting brought us the who, what, where and why of the various groups as announcements were made. But now it was time to reveal the real purpose of our gathering: BINGO!!! We played several games with prizes of, you guessed it, Valentines’ candy. A word of caution-be careful if you’re playing with Suzanne Snow. She’s very lucky! She was sweet enough to share her prizes for another game, but you never know.

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



2024 Fall Nature Programs Public Speaking Series at Spring Creek Forest. 1st Tuesday of each month via Zoom; Runs through to May 2024; 7:00PM to 8:30 PM. Click links below for contact/website/events:

- <https://springcreekforest.org/events/>
- Email: springcreekforestpreservation@gmail.com
- Facebook Group Link:
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/113504751995744>

Oakridge Gentlemen

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

The Oakridge Gentlemen meet on Wednesdays at the 14/18 Coffee House (10:30am) in the Spring Creek Church building, near Shiloh at Beltline. All Oakridge Men are welcome.

But before that, get a good night’s sleep.

Here’s some thoughts from Reader’s Digest May 2019 Edition.

- Tapping on your phone or laptop right up until bedtime is a bad way to decompress. Our brains react to the blue light emitted by computers, smartphones and LED bulbs.
- Caffeine can still sneak up on you. Hot chocolate and decaf coffee can contain up to 20 milligrams--enough to bother people who are sensitive. Alcohol is a problem too.
- Want to fall asleep faster? According to a 2017 study, have some lettuce---especially romaine.
- Lettuce contains lactucarium which has sedative properties and affects the brain.
- Now a word about sleep apnea! The muscles in the back of the throat relax too much, blocking breathing. This causes drops in blood-oxygen levels---a common sleep disrupted and potentially a dangerous one. When left untreated, sleep apnea can strain the cardiovascular system and raise your chances of developing heart problems.

If you think you may be at risk, ask your doctor about taking a home sleep test. A CPAP machine which uses a hose and mask to deliver constant air pressure may be the remedy. **Again, check with your doctor about any of these statements.**

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

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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 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.

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

