OAKRIDGE

Est. 1985

OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

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April 2024, Vol. 32, No. 4



ONA Update Vickie Litton, Acting President

Spring is here, and the Oakridge neighborhood is in blossom! I love seeing our neighbors out working in their yards, cleaning out flower beds and replanting. It is also good to see our neighbors out walking with and without pets. The substantial rain that we have received is a blessing. Nothing brings life to grass, trees and flowers like rain from Mother Nature.

April Fools' Day is the one day on the calendar when jokes and mischief are expected. The origin of April Fools' Day is unknown, but theories place its start hundreds of years ago. Some theorize that the idea dates back to ancient Rome and a festival called Hilaria held at the end of March, where people would dress up in disguises and mock or imitate others. There are other folklorists who believe that April Fools' Day originated in France and Scotland celebrated in other ways with the same theme of pulling jokes and pranks.

Our nominating committee approved at the February General Meeting is hard at work talking to neighbors and recruiting individuals to serve in the various areas in the 2024-2025 service year. I am hopeful for a full slate of nominees to fill all vacant positions. If you are new to Oakridge, Tenants or Owners, you are welcome and eligible to serve.

If you have already said yes, thank you! If you are considering, please reach out to a nominating committee member or email info@oakridgena.org. There is always room.

If you are not on Nextdoor or an ONA member, we invite you to both. We have included a Membership Form in the Newsletter.

The key word in our name is "Neighbor"-- neighbor serving neighbor in our hood".

See you in May.



If you're new to Oakridge,

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

Membership Update Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

We are getting ready to SPRING INTO the new year for ONA membership. As a reminder, our ONA membership calendar starts on May 1st and ends on April 30th. We will be placing the membership drive signs at the entrances in Mid-April as a friendly reminder to join us this year. We will be hosting the Spring Picnic this year and hope to see you there!

A special "thanks" to all the 2023-2024 supporters. We could not do what we do without you.

Please email any membership questions, comments or suggestions to oakridgemembership@gmail.com.

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





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:

oak ridgemembership @gmail.com.







www.visitgarlandtx.org/

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.

Environmental

Joshua Lamb, Director

We are working to submit an Neighborhood Vitality Grant 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!

Communications

Cheryl Jones, Director

The Communications Committee needs a few neighbors to create/edit/distribute our Newsletter using Canva; Update the website; Post to Nextdoor. Training provided. For more information, contact a nominating committee member or email communications@oakridgena.org. Please consider!

Oakridge Safety

Joan & Dan Nichols, Crime & Safety THIS IS A VIDER OF THIS IS A VIDER OF THE SAME OF THE S

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.

REMINDERS FOR SPRING

Spring and warmer weather are on the way which means more people may be working in the yards or venturing out for vacations. Criminals are also out and about. The best way to stay safe is with neighbors looking out for each other. Here are some tips from the Garland Police for keeping yourself and your neighbors safe.

Especially in the spring -

- Keep garage doors closed, especially when you are working in the yard or just stepping inside. Open garages are an easy target for thieves.
- Meet your neighbors Knowing your neighbors, the cars they drive, habits, and visitors can help to identify suspicious activity and look out for each other. Coming to the ONA events (district pop-ups, Spring Membership Drive) is a great way to meet your neighbors and have fun!
- 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. You can go to the Garland Police website to complete the Vacation Watch Request form

And all the time -

- Lock your cars to help deter thieves who are looking for an easy target.
- Remove valuables from your car including keys, purses, shopping bags, guns, electronics, money, medicine, and jewelry.
- 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. FedEx and UPS also offer similar options. Walgreens and others offer free delivery to the store.
 - 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 the police identify them later.

Crime & Safety Continued

- Video doorbells like Ring can be good deterrent and aid police in catching criminals (even if it is blurry). Add yours to the Garland Video Crime Watch by going to http://www.garlandpolice.com/331/Police to complete a short survey.
- 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.

As always, please feel free to see our monthly crime reports on the Oakridge Website or contact us with your Crime and Safety questions at safety@oakridgena.org.

Neighborhood and Police Collaboration Garland Police Department

On February 6, 2024, nine golf carts, valuing approximately \$90,000, were reported stolen from the Duck Creek Golf Club in the 2800 block of Diamond Oaks Drive. A neighborhood resident's doorcam video captured a light-colored truck pulling a trailer carrying several golf carts just before midnight on February 5.

The assigned detective, the area NPO, and the golf shop supervisor began researching potential marketplaces where the golf carts could be sold. The supervisor successfully located one of his stolen golf carts from a seller in Cameron, TX, on Facebook Marketplace. Ultimately, four golf carts were recovered, and this seller cooperated and worked with Cameron Police and Garland detectives to identify a suspect in the golf cart thefts.

The investigation is still ongoing, but this incident highlights the effectiveness of community-police partnerships and collaborative efforts in safeguarding our neighborhood. It shows that when the community and law enforcement work together, we can make significant strides in preventing and solving crimes.

Garland City Council, District 7

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

As the weather warms up as we move into spring, things are heating up on the City Council as we have two zoning cases of importance in District 7. The first was for a data center located east of the Wood Glen Neighborhood on Holford Road. The data center will be a complex of three buildings with supporting electrical substations located behind the buildings and hidden from public view.

I met with the developer several times at various planning and community meetings, and I believe they have done an excellent job of taking the citizens' feedback and adjusting the site plan, architecture and landscape plan accordingly to minimize the impacts of the site. You can see details of the site plan in the regular session agenda for the March 19, 2024, Council Meeting here: https://www.garlandtx.gov/801/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes

After discussion in our Council Meeting, including input from representatives of the Spring Creek Forest Preserve, the Council voted to approve the plan with a 7-2 vote. The project is part of the boundaries of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Zone #3 which the Council voted to expand in November 2023. The expanded TIF area includes areas surrounding the Medical District around the Walnut and Shiloh area and areas in South Garland near IH-635 which are primed for redevelopment after highway construction finishes in 2025.

The estimated \$1 billion of taxable real property and sales tax revenue generated from electricity use sales due to the new data center construction and expansions around SH 190 will provide money to invest in the Medical District with the intent of incentivizing a developer to build a new regional hospital.

The second zoning case is a new restaurant concept to be located in the triangle-shaped lot at the northwest corner of Holford Road and Arapaho Road. Swig is a soda-shop concept that allows you to purchase sodas and mix in various flavors such as vanilla and coconut. You can also purchase snacks such as sugar cookies and pretzel bites. The first public hearing is scheduled for the March 25 Plan Commission meeting with the Council hearing to follow the next month. You can see Swig's menu at swigdrinks.com.

Councilman update continued:

Finally, I had the opportunity to attend the newest restaurant on the Downtown Square's "soft-opening" this week. Fortunate Son is located at 500 Main Street at the southeast corner of the square and takes the place of the long since closed Garland Furniture location. The main attraction is the New Haven-style, thin-crust, coal-fired Neapolitan style pizza.

Attracting new and unique businesses around the square is exactly what we intended when the 2019 Bond election approved over \$20 million for redevelopment of the square and surrounding areas. I only hope the growth will continue and expand to surrounding areas due to our large commitment to reinvest in our city.

Finally, on March 19 the Council approved the contract for construction work to begin in earnest for the improvements to Callejo Road. The contract for just over \$12 million was awarded to A & B Construction for the complete reconstruction of Callejo Road, including paving, drainage, water and wastewater improvements from Botello Road to Campbell Road.

From the item's description, the improvements will include: a six-foot wide sidewalk along the east side and a 10-foot-wide enhanced sidewalk along the west side of Callejo Road. Also included are wastewater improvements along Townshire Road from Churchill Way to Hazelwood Drive.

The scope of work includes the demolition of approximately 7400 square yards of pavement, 5000 linear feet of water main, 275 linear feet of RCP storm sewer, and unclassified excavation of 16,500 cubic yards, and constructing approximately 6,000 square yards of sidewalk, 16,300 square yards of concrete pavement, various CIP retaining walls, 4,000 linear feet of RCP storm sewer, 50 linear feet of concrete box culvert, 5,200 linear feet of water main, 4,700 linear feet of wastewater, and related water and wastewater service connections. I know this construction will disrupt those living near and traveling through the area, but I ask for your patience as we work to improve the infrastructure in the area. I have asked City staff to communicate frequently with residents regarding closures and utility disruptions as appropriate.

As always, it is my extreme honor to represent you on the City Council. If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach me at 469-560-6099 or council?@garlandtx.gov.



Pickleball

Scott Youzva, Resident



If you're interested in Pickleball, you can catch a game at Duck Creek Golf Club. For more information, contact the golf club or give me a call. If interested, you can search for the "Pickleball at Duck Creek" Facebook Group for additional information. All levels of players are participating and we can get everyone on a court with players of equal experience.

I look forward to meeting anyone that wants to play or learn to play. I hope to "See you at the courts!"

Scott Youzva

<u>s.youzva@gmail.com</u> 972-816-5116





The ONA proudly supports the Garland Police Department's Foundation and its dedicated support for "First Responders" dealing with Cancer. Click link below for more information or for donations.

https://garlandpolicefoundation.org

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.

Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee needs you -- to fill open positions. It only takes a few hours a month. The open positions are below. Please contact Dan, Lee or Ruba.

Dan Nichols: dsnichols1@tx.rr.com; 214-507-9949 Lee Litton: lee.litton@outlook.com; 972-762-0938 Ruba Qewar: ruba_qewar@yahoo.com; 972-207-1911

Open Board/Committee Positions:

President (Article 3.4)
District Director's 1, 2, 3, and 6 (Article 4.4)
Communications Director (Article 5.1.b)

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

Click link to locate your **District and Director**

Commercial Solicitation

§ 26.51 Permit required for commercial home solicitations.

The city of Garland requires a Permit for Commercial solicitations of homes. For more information contact Code Compliance at 972-485-6400.

Solicitation permits may be obtained at the Garland Police Department's Records Unit, located at:

1891 Forest Lane, Garland, TX 75042

Download the application here: <u>Solicitation Permit</u> <u>Application (PDF)</u>

Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

Tuesday, March 12th was a beautiful morning to all gather at JoAnn Williams' lovely home for our monthly coffee. As usual, the food and drink choices were almost too many and too good to have to choose. Thank you to Diane Winter, Betty Cosgray, Ernie Gharis and JoAnn for spoiling us!

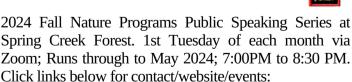
We were lucky to have Jerry Click of the Garland Fire Department speak to us on this fine morning about CPR. Although this wouldn't be an accredited course, he was there to remind us of some of the basics. A couple of our ladies practiced with Resusci Anne so they soon found out how exhausting it can be. As serious as this subject is, he was able to infuse enough humor into the presentation to hold our attention. That can be a tough job! If you ever have the pleasure of running into Mr. Click, ask him about his favorite melody when performing this task. Was it "Stayin' Alive"? I forget.

Soon we were into our business meeting as President Ann started by congratulating our Irish descendants with special little candies. Other committee reports followed and we were adjourned until next month's coffee at Sharon Eppler's.

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, 469-367-0802.

Preservation Society Programs

David Parrish, Oakridge Resident



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

Neighborhood Garage Sales



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

Oakridge Gentlemen

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

Oakridge Ladies and Gents...Enjoy!

This series of signs MAY make your day. Read them all and laugh yourself silly!!! At the end of the silly signs, you'll find my message!

Did I read that sign right?

- TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.
- In a London department store: BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS.
- In an office: WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.
- Outside a second-hand shop: WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING-BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL **BARGAIN?**
- Notice in health food shop window: CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS.
- Spotted in a safari park: (I sure hope so.) ELEPHANTS, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.
- Seen during a conference: FOR ANYONE WHO
- HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR.
- Notice in a farmer's field: THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.
- On a repair shop door: WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK.)

And the proofread winner is...Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead. Did I read that right?

Click here for the more chuckles.

Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread the stupidity and send this to someone to whom you want to bring a smile---maybe even a chuckle.

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.

Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

Libby Morse, Resident

We had such a great time at Patty's in March. We welcomed her next door neighbor Ann. Good food and beverages, and lots of conversation about sales and things happening/happened around the hood. Thank you Patty for hosting! The next meeting April 4th, at 7:00pm will be hosted by Sheila Wange. Check the events page for our 2024 calendar. Please RSVP at 972-523-3069.

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 by consider a position on the board.

Please see the open position listed on page 5 of this newsletter or on our website at https://www.oakridgena.org/ona-board/.

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association invites you to the

OAKRIDGE FAMILY SPRING PARTY SUNDAY, MAY 5 1-3 PM



Bring the whole FAMILY.

food & drinks provided by the ONA----hot dogs, hamburgers, etc.



Please think about walking to the cul-de-sac if you do not live too far away. **NEW LOCATION:** the cul de sac where Lone Oak Trl and Rocky Trl meet



OAKRIDGE ADVERTISERS

Business Owners and Service Providers, your business card here and our web site could reach over 1,100 households each month for just \$300 per year!

Easy Payments Terms for every budget:

Prorated per fiscal year 1-2-4 Payment Options.

Email communications@oakridgena.org to place your ad today!



Oakridge resident since 2013. I am here to assist you in your real estate needs!



J Elliott Estate Sales manages the transition process from start to finish! We sort, clean, stage and tag all items and leave you with an empty home.

Contact us today to get started! ic@ielliottestatesales.com









Oakridge News

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

PRSRT STD ECRWSS U.S.POSTAGE PAID EDDM Retail

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 powers and authority is limited to the maintenance of 9 Entries and subdivision perimeter landscaping. The ONA has no authority over and takes no position over private property matters. The Fiscal Year begins June 1 and ends May 31st of the following year. Membership is voluntary. Dues are \$60 annually per household. Click the link for information at 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/4086/Sidewalk-

Participation-Program

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Officers				
President, VACANT				
Vice President, Vickie Litton 972-762-2805				
Secretary, JC Elliott469-774-7114				
Treasurer, Sarah Freeman				
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 Harris469-955-1513				
Committees				
Communications, Cheryl Jones214-437-9132				
Crime & Safety, Joan Nichols 214-543-2546				
Environmental, Joshua Lamb682-558-5528				
Events, Jackie Reynolds469-649-5799				

Membership, Cecile LaBossiere 972-896-9413

Thank you for supporting the Oakridge Neighborhood Association!

Places wint /fill out completely	First Time Supporter
Please print/fill out completely Your information will be used for ONA communication purposes ONLY and will NEVER be given to anyone.	on Renewal
Street Address	
Contact 1	
First Name	Last Name
Email	Cell Phone
Contact 2	
First Name	Last Name
	Cell Phone
Invoice	Total Amount Enclosed
The ONA is not a mandatory HOA. It relies on volunteers and donations.	\$
Support Levels	Payment Method:
\$60+ Good Neighbor Level \$100+ Crepe Myrtle Level \$250+ Maple Level \$500+ Oak Level	Check/Money Order enclosed # Online Payment - PayPal link is available on the ONA website
What the ONA does	(www.oakridgena.org/join-us)
Perimeter Maintenance Events & Social Activi	vities :

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

General Member Meetings

Donations to Fire/Police Stations

New Resident Welcome Bags

Holiday Decorations

Seasonal Plantings

Monthly Newsletter

Crime Prevention & Safety

ONA Website

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

Oakridge Neighborhood Association PO Box 450145

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

Garland, TX 75045-0145