



# OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

July 2024, Vol. 32, No. 7



## Board of Directors Update Vickie Litton, President

Hello Oakridge, Happy 4th of July. We have so much to be thankful for and the 4th of July is a wonderful time to celebrate our great country and neighborhood.

The 2024-2025 Board of Directors are in place and the work has begun. We, the ONA Board, continue to review our responsibilities, activities, and methods to identify areas for improvement. Our goal is to continue improvement of our neighborhood. Your participation contributes to these efforts. We thank you and appreciate your continued support. Remember, ONA membership is not required, but it is desired!

This is an example of ONA residents looking out for each other. Kathy and Thomas Mai have been long time residents and friends. We share the alley together, and we have watched their children grow up. The Mai's have our contact information as well as another neighbor and friend, Beth Fagan.

Around 9 pm one evening Kathy and Thomas noticed a suspicious red vehicle that they did not recognize was circling Diamond Oaks and going down our alley. Kathy also saw that Beth's garage door was open. She called Beth but did not reach her. She called me to let me know the situation and her concern. I went next door to Beth's house and found her home. She came out into the yard. Kathy and I told her of our concern, especially since it was not like Beth leaving her garage door open. All was well. This is a good example of knowing your neighbors and watching out for one another.

Wishing you a great 4th of July and wonderful fireworks.



# If you're new to Oakridge,

# Welcome



## Not an ONA Member yet, Join us!

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

### Membership Update

Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

We have some exciting news for our Membership Campaign this year.

#### 1. FREE ONA POP UP EVENTS

- Our Pop-Up Events give you the opportunity to:
  - Meet Your Neighbors, Grab a Goodie Bag – Come and Go Anytime
- Details on the Event Locations, Day and Time will be posted on the [www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org) website and sent via Mailchimp.

#### 2. WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE

- Renew or Join the ONA and your name will be entered into our Weekly Drawing for a \$25 gift card.

You can be the next raffle winner if you join now!

#### 3. WHY SHOULD I BECOME A MEMBER AND MAKE A DONATION?

- Oakridge does not have a mandatory homeowners association (HOA) but has common areas that are NOT maintained by the city.
- Maintenance costs include the lighting, sprinkler systems, landscaping and beautification of 9 entrances and approximately one square mile around the neighborhood perimeter.
- Voluntary membership dues and donations allow the ONA to pay for the services and utility bills associated with maintaining these common areas.

4. JOIN US TODAY. Online or by Mail. See below.

It will only take a few minutes to contribute to your neighborhood and won't you feel better knowing that you're doing your part to keep our Oakridge Neighborhood looking good?

Thanks to Everyone that has already joined and renewed. We really appreciate the support, and we couldn't do it without you!

**Join ONA Here!!!**

[Click this link or scan QR Code](#)



Join Today!

*Pay using PayPal (fee) or Credit Card  
Most Major Cards Accepted.*

**Pay by Mail:**  
Print Invoice enclosed and Mail check/money order payable to ONA: PO Box 450145 Garland, TX 75045

District Directors are more than happy to pick up your payment. Just let them us know.

### Membership Flags



**To show our appreciation, your ONA Membership Flag will be delivered by your District Director or Membership volunteer. Find your District Director at <https://oakridgena.org/seven-districts-of-oakridge/>. Contact Membership at [oakridgemembership@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgemembership@gmail.com) if you flag is not delivered.**



## Financial Report

Sarah Freeman, Treasurer



The ONA Board is committed to be fiscally responsible for your membership and beautification dollars. The 2024-2025 Budget is available now 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, Contact us at [treasury@oakridgena.org](mailto:treasury@oakridgena.org).

## Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

Libby Morse, Oakridge Resident

No OWC this month. OWC is open to all women Oakridge. If you need a break once a month to relax, come and unwind with the Women of Oakridge. Contact Libby at [tomlib@tx.rr.com](mailto:tomlib@tx.rr.com). OWC has a private Facebook Group Page. Find us and join.

## Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

We are on our summer respite and will reconvene in September. 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 Sharon Eppler at 214-690-3340.

## Oakridge Gentlemen

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

The Oakridge Gentlemen meet on Wednesdays at 10:30am. All Oakridge Men are welcomed. Last Wednesday we met at Garland Cafe. Email Mark at [medwards@gmail.com](mailto:medwards@gmail.com) for the next meeting time and location.

## 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](mailto:environment@oakridgena.org)

Thanks again for your donations to the Beautification Fund!

## 2024-2025 Open Positions:

- **Secretary**
  - Document minutes for Board/General Membership Meetings
- **District 1, 3 and 6 Director**
  - Represents district, delivers member flags and welcome bags
- **Communications Director**
  - Appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board.

The ONA is continually looking for ways to streamline our processes and improve efficiency.

For more information and ways you can help, email us at [communications@oakridgena.org](mailto:communications@oakridgena.org).

## Neighborhood Garage Sales



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

# City of Garland

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Click the link or scan QR Code  
[www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events](http://www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events)



# Oakridge Safety

Lee Litton, Crime & Safety



This fiscal year (June 1, 2024- May 31, 2025) marks my first year as your Crime & Safety Director as Joan Nichols is stepping down from her years of service in this role. Joan and her husband, Dan, will continue to be a part of our Citizens on Patrol. We want to thank Joan Nichols for her long term of service and her dedication to making Oakridge the safest neighborhood in Garland.

## Fourth of July Safety Tips

The Garland Police Department is working to keep our city free from celebratory gunshots and illegal fireworks. During the Independence Day holiday, there will be additional officers working to keep us safe.


We have signs (in English and Spanish) posted at each of the entrances, highlighting the penalties of illegally shooting a gun and using fireworks.

We are looking forward to a safe Independence Day holiday! Please celebrate responsibly and be a good neighbor.



If you hear fireworks or gunshots, please call the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840.

The ONA proudly supports the Garland Police Department Foundation's support for "First Responders" dealing with Cancer. Click link below for more information or for donations. <https://garlandpolicefoundation.org>



## Crime & Safety Continued

### GARLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT – VACATION PATROL

The GPD offers this service for residents of Garland who like the Volunteer Police Unit to monitor their residence while they are traveling. If you have an interest in this service, please contact the Garland Police Department (972) 485-4840 or connect with their website at [garlandtx.org](http://garlandtx.org).



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.

After reporting a crime or suspicious activity, you can also email our NPO, Neighborhood Police Office, Officer Murphy at [murphyj@garlandtx.gov](mailto:murphyj@garlandtx.gov).

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).

Click the link for latest [Oakridge Crime Statistics](#).

## Garland City Council, District 7

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

A few weekends ago, I had the pleasure of taking a tour of the Holford Recreation Center as I joined the Parks and Recreation Board on their tour of various parks facilities. The steel frame of the building structure was in place; and one was able to get a real sense of what the building will look like when finished.

The first thing you notice when walking up to the building is how the structure rises above the park offering great views of the surrounding fields and future pool from the second story balcony and patio. The weightroom, meeting room, and recreation room will all be much larger than the previous spaces in the center, and the gym will feature two full basketball courts with an indoor walking track on the second story overlooking the gym.

We also were able to view the formwork of the pool starting to take shape. The lazy river, lap pool and children's play area were all visible with the staff offices/party rental area and the restroom/changing rooms already roofed in. I invite you to view pictures from my whole tour on my Substack at [dylanhedrick.substack.com/p/holford-recreation-and-aquatics-center](https://dylanhedrick.substack.com/p/holford-recreation-and-aquatics-center).

Later this month, Council will have an all-day Saturday meeting to kick off our budgeting season. The City Manager will begin our discussions by laying out his budget priorities. This year, the focus will be on discussing the results of our streets assessment survey, restoring a cost of living adjustment to city retirees, and preparing for another bond election next May.

We will also look to hire additional city staff as required to operate our new and larger facilities such as Holford Recreation Center and the West Garland Branch Library that are scheduled to open next year. I welcome any input you have regarding our budget spending and what your priorities are next year for our municipal budget.

Make plans to join us at our annual Fourth of July celebration named "Red, White and You" which returns to the Downtown Square Wednesday, July 3, after being at Firewheel Town Center for the past few years. The festivities start at 5:00 PM with the presentation of the colors followed by live music from Texas singer-songwriters Jon Stork at 5:30 PM and Randall King at 8:00 PM.

Pony rides, carnival games and a bomb pop popsicle station are available for the kids along with food trucks, a hat bar, and apple pie eating contest. The festivities will conclude with a drone light show at 9:30 PM. If you were Downtown for the LeAnn Rimes concert which opened the Square, this drone show promises to be much larger and even more impressive! I'll see you Downtown!

It is my honor to represent you on City Council. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way. Feel free to reach out to me at 469-560-6099 or [council7@garlandtx.gov](mailto:council7@garlandtx.gov).

### 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: [Solicitation Permit Application \(PDF\)](#).

### Pickleball Anyone?

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



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## 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 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>.

## 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, Vickie Litton ..... 972-762-2805  
Vice President, Yvette Bonavita ..... 214-734-2186  
Secretary, OPEN  
Treasurer, Sarah Freeman ..... 214-927-1148

#### District Directors

District 1, OPEN  
District 2, Charles Leonard ..... 972-619-9310  
District 3, OPEN  
District 4, Oliver Harter ..... 214-663-8862  
District 5, Juliard Ishizuka ..... 817-739-1139  
District 6, OPEN  
District 7, Joetta Harris ..... 469-955-1513

#### Committees

Communications, OPEN  
Crime & Safety, Lee Litton ..... 972-762-0938  
Environmental, Joshua Lamb..... 682-558-5528  
Events, Jackie Reynolds ..... 469-649-5799  
Membership, Cecile LaBossiere ..... 972-896-9413



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



# Oakridge News

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



PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S.POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM Retail

## 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](mailto: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](http://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.

# Thank you for supporting your neighborhood!