



OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

August 2024, Vol. 32, No. 8



Board of Directors Update

Vickie Litton, President

Happy August Oakridge! I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer, getting in those final vacations as we are. One of the best events to me in August is my nephew's birthday! He has grown up too fast.

We are having a milder summer so far compared to last year (of course milder for Texans is under 100-degree temperatures). Texas summer heat takes its toll on our aging cooling and water delivery systems. The environmental team is proactively monitoring our systems to quickly identify areas in need of repair. If you see water running or shooting, please let your district director know or email us at info@oakridgena.org.

As we have previously mentioned, our biggest expenditure is our entrances, approximately 85% of the ONA budget.

Our primary goal is continuous improvement of all nine entrances, and bringing down costs where we can. We still need help though, via membership dues, beautification funds, and boots on the ground. If you can help in any way, please email us at info@oakridgena.org.

As your summer winds down and students head back to the classroom, please know the ONA Board volunteer efforts and your continued support are appreciated.

THE OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION needs YOU! The key word in our name is Neighbor, that is you. Membership in the ONA is not required, it is desired. Until next time, Stay Cool!



If you are new to the Neighborhood...

Join the ONA and help us maintain and beautify Oakridge entrances!

Welcome



Membership Update

Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

A special thanks to everyone that has participated in our Annual Membership Campaign. We have 1166 homes in Oakridge and we currently have 221 residents that have contributed to the ONA!

If you haven't contributed to the ONA – please consider joining us. It's never too late to participate and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association is dependent on residents like you for funding!

If you have questions about the Neighborhood Association, please reach out so we can answer your questions, concerns, etc.... via email at oakridgemembership@gmail.com.

Membership Summary YTD

District #	SUM of Current Year Supporter (2024-2025)	SUM of Not yet renewed	SUM of Not yet supporting	SUM of # Households	% Supporting by District
1	43	16	126	185	23%
2	54	9	91	154	35%
3	7	8	126	141	5%
4	44	12	95	151	29%
5	22	13	155	190	12%
6	20	13	148	181	11%
7	31	13	120	164	19%
Total	221	84	861	1166	19%

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 if your flag is not delivered.

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 know.

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.

Neighborhood Garage Sales



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



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. 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.

Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

Libby Morse, Oakridge Resident

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. 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 for the next meeting time and location.

Environmental

Joshua Lamb, Director

We have submitted the Neighborhood Vitality Grant to change entrance lights to color changing lights to reflect seasonal holidays and other improvement. Specifics and status information can be found on the website.

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!

City of Garland

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click the link or scan QR Code
www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events



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
972-816-5116



Oakridge Safety

Lee Litton, 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.

After reporting a crime or suspicious activity, you can also email our NPO, Neighborhood Police Office, Officer Murphy at 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.

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

“Vacation Patrol”

Garland Police Department

The Garland Police Department offers patrol services for residents of Garland who would 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 at (972) 485-4840 or connect on their website at garlandtx.org.

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 \(PDF\)](#)

“Operation: Slowdown”

Lieutenant Pedro Barineau

Garland Police Step up Traffic Enforcement Efforts to Enhance Road Safety During “Operation: Slowdown!”

From Friday, July 19th to Sunday, August 4th, the Garland Police Department, working in collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), will be stepping up enforcement



across the city in an effort to reduce speeding and increase road safety through "Operation Slowdown." According to TxDOT, speeding was a contributing factor in nearly 25% of all fatal crashes in Texas in 2023, resulting in over 1,200 deaths.

During the "Operation Slowdown" initiative, Garland police officers will focus on high-traffic areas and known hotspots for speeding. This increased enforcement aims to:

- Deter speeding and aggressive driving behaviors.
- Raise awareness about the dangers of speeding.
- Reduce the number of speed-related accidents and fatalities.

Chief Jeff Bryan of the Garland Police Department stated, "Speeding is not only dangerous but also completely preventable. By participating in 'Operation Slowdown,' we are committed to making our roads safer for everyone. We urge all drivers to slow down and drive responsibly."

We encourage all residents and visitors to join us in this critical effort. Remember, slowing down saves lives.

#EndTheStreakTX #OperationSlowdown



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>

Garland City Council, District 7

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

On June 29, the City Council met in a special Saturday meeting to discuss the upcoming city budget and what our funding priorities should be for the next several years. To begin the discussion, Chief Communication Officer Tiffany Veno provided results of the Polco Citizen Survey. With responses from 1,193 residents, the survey highlighted areas citizens believed need improvement, such as street repair, sidewalk maintenance, and health and wellness services. Notably, there was a strong call for more trails and better street cleaning. These insights were a great lead into the budgeting discussion to follow as we consider where to spend budget dollars to enhance our city's infrastructure and overall quality of life.

City Manager Jud Rex then shared the results of the 10 Vision Focus Areas Survey, which surveyed the Council on 10 focus areas that relate to city functions. The Council ranked "Safe Community" and "Well-Maintained City Infrastructure" as top priorities which largely match the citizen survey results. Reliable utility services and sound governance also featured prominently.

We then discussed the FY 2024-25 budget outlook with an emphasis on Garland's financial challenges and opportunities. Our city faces unique hurdles due to an aging housing stock and a lower average house price compared to the metroplex. However, we are focused on diversifying our sales tax base through strategic redevelopment and creating new destinations to attract tourism and boost local revenue.

The council is also deliberating on retiree benefits, including the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for city employees. This discussion sparked varied opinions on maintaining current supplemental health benefits versus implementing COLA. At a subsequent public hearing held on July 16, the public speakers unanimously advocated for a restoration of the COLA with the Garland Fire Fighters Association advocating for a tax increase to fund the COLA restoration.

Your input on this matter is crucial as the final form the funding takes for this item may impact your property tax rate. I encourage you to watch the video from the Special Session, especially Item 7 concerning the budgeting items as Chief Financial Officer Matt Watson provided a wonderful explanation of the budgetary impacts of the implementation of a COLA: <https://garlandtx.new.swagit.com/videos/309287>.

Later in the meeting, Assistant City Manager Phil Urrutia then shared the results of the recently completed Facilities Condition Assessment. This was a survey of each building in the city's portfolio including everything from City Hall to libraries to the restroom facilities at parks. This study projected a \$32M maintenance and replacement cost to address immediate building needs and to keep our building portfolio in working order for the next decade. We will allocate a portion of this year's budget to start addressing the most significant building needs.

Next, Streets Director Tony Irvin presented partial results of our Streets Condition Assessment. This was a report by a consulting engineer who used LIDAR technology to scan every mile of every street and alley in the city. The full results will be due later this summer, and it will help us most effectively spend our street reconstruction and repair dollars to make the maximum impact to increase our overall Pavement Condition Index.

Finally, Assistant City Manager Andy Hesser and Economic Development Director Ayako Schuster provided details for a future economic development bond initiative. Council called for a new Bond Study Committee, and each council member appointing two members. The District 7 nominees are Camelot Neighborhood Association President Joe Thomas and Chip Van Pelt, who is my current nominee to the Cultural Arts Commission.

Even with the new bond committee kicking off soon, we are committed to completing ongoing bond projects. The Central Library is well under construction, and Holford Recreation and Aquatics Facility is scheduled to be completed in February. You can already see the three story pool slides if you drive by the site on Shiloh Road.

If you have any thoughts on our upcoming budget, I ask that you share your thoughts with me. Your participation in these discussions is vital in helping me form my opinions.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Subscribe to my Substack at dylanhedrick.substack.com for additional City of Garland political analysis. Please contact me at 469-560-6099 or council7@garlandtx.gov if I can do anything for you.

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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 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 but necessary to fulfill its charter. 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



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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.

Thank you for supporting your neighborhood!