



OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

September 2024, Vol. 32, No. 9



Board of Directors Update

Vickie Litton, President

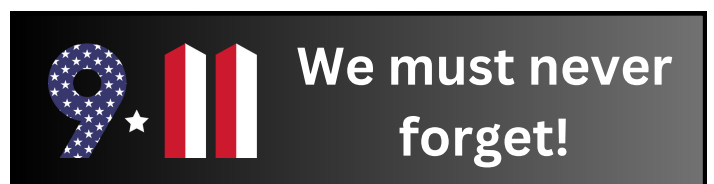
September is a time of commemoration and remembrance. May we never forget the events and aftermath of 9/11. It is also a time to celebrate all of us, the American Worker as well as my favorite date, my daughter's birthday. Identity theft is very real and with the introduction of Artificial intelligence (AI) a technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy it is getting scary. In conjunction to monitoring your credit regularly you may also want to put a fraud warning on your deed(s) to your personal property by contacting Dallas County at 214.653.7099 or www.dallascounty.org/propertyfraud to prevent the ownership of your property from being stolen.

The ONA General Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, September 26th at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Save the Date

If you can't attend but have questions or concerns, please share them via email at communications@oakridgena.org with "Question & Concerns" in subject line by September 23rd. A list will be compiled and published prior to the meeting. We want your voice to be heard.

Our Oakridge Neighborhood Association needs "neighbors", that is you. **Will you join us?** Membership is not required, it is desired and greatly appreciated so that we can continue to maintain our neighborhood.



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 225 residents that have contributed to the ONA!

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
1	43	16	126	185	23%
2	55	9	90	154	36%
3	7	8	126	141	5%
4	44	12	95	151	29%
5	22	13	155	190	12%
6	22	11	148	181	12%
7	32	12	120	164	20%
Total	225	81	860	1166	19%

Membership is still open. Join ONA Here!!!



Join Today!

Click this link or scan QR Code

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.

We still have 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.

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.

Neighborhood Garage Sales



Contact Jackie Reynolds
ONA Events Coordinator
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.

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.



September 1 - 19
NORTH TEXAS
GIVING DAY

North Texas Giving Day 2024 starts on Sep 1 and continues until Sep 19! It is time to start thinking about which local causes you want to support during the largest single-day giving event in the country! Find your passion and mark your calendar to give with purpose on or before Sept. 19! And, please, consider giving to one or more of the great nonprofits we have right here in Garland. Need a recommendation? My personal favorites are the Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest and the Achievement Center of Texas.
<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/search?orgScope=on&kw=Garland>


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!



Save the date
NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT
2024
October 1, 2024

Garland's National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

We need suggestions on where to have it since we are unable to use the Golf Club's parking lot. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Email us info@oakridgena.org.



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 ONA Crime Prevention and Safety Committee serves its mission to improve and maintain the quality of life in Oakridge.

The Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) initiative with GPD plays a vital part of keeping Oakridge safe. We are especially grateful for our NPO, Officer Jordan Murphy who continues to serve the Oakridge residents. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the National Night Out event October 2rd, so save the date.

As always, call 911 for an active crime, or the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840. Subscribe to "Siren Alerts" to be notified of incidents in our neighborhood on our website or email us at safety@oakridgena.org.

Visit <https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/> for all Crime Prevention and Safety Information and Tips.

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



Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

After a summer hiatus, the Oakridge Daytimers will be kicking off our September Coffee at Gloria Turner's lovely home. What has everyone been doing over the summer months? We are certainly going to find out when we regroup in September! If you're new to the neighborhood or recently retired or you've just been debating coming to one of our coffees, I encourage you to come check us out. You'll meet a friendly group of women who will be happy to help you feel a key part of this great neighborhood! We look forward to meeting you!

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 214-690-3440.

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 \(PDF\)](#)



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

It's that time of year again when we review and debate the City of Garland's budget for FY 2024-2025. This year's proposed budget will be the largest in the City's history as it will eclipse the \$1 billion mark for the first time. The new budget expenses this year will address the City Manager's four focus areas: 1) adequate staffing for new facilities, 2) maintain compensation and merit increases for city employees to stay competitive, 3) enhance infrastructure and maintenance funding, and 4) maintain high levels of reserves to respond to unforeseen challenges.

New staff positions include one full-time library assistant at the new West Branch Library, and two full-time staff members to operate the new Holford Recreation Center. The Police Department will add a Mental Health Clinician Position, and Sanitation will add two residential sanitation drivers and two commercial sanitation drivers to meet demand for our residential routes and new commercial accounts. Information Technology will add a Senior Network Administrator and Desktop Systems Specialist to fortify City's computer network.

A 3% merit increase is proposed for general schedule employees, with market adjustments for police and fire civil service. Thanks to the good management of our City's healthcare program, no increase is proposed for employee or retiree health insurance expenses.

Street funding will increase by \$8 million to our largest ever amount of \$41.6 million annually to respond to the results of our whole-city streets and alley condition assessment. Our transportation signs and marking program will continue as we restripe our crosswalks and stop bars and continue with traffic sign replacement. I hope you have noticed the new street name signs with the firewheel logo at major intersections.

Parks will continue one of my favorite initiatives – the wildflower median planting pilot program – this year with new sites to be added to the previous locations.

Turf replacement is scheduled for many of our sports fields and additional security cameras and dog waste stations will be added to several parks as well.

The replacement of fire fighters' personal protection equipment will continue as scheduled, and the Fire Department will add a HAZMAT vehicle to their response fleet. The Police Department will add investigation extraction software as a tool to assist their investigations. Reserves in the General Fund will rise to 59 days of operation expenditures and \$1 million will be added to Sanitation fund reserves, above 45-day fund balance requirements. These reserves become very important when we are forced to respond to events out of our control such as the straight-line windstorms at the end of May. Unexpected expenses for contracting additional crews and storm cleanup response are paid out of these reserve funds. The balances in our utility funds (water, wastewater, electric) will be increased above the minimum balance to mitigate the effects of the volatile electric market and weather patterns.

Overall, the proposed tax rate will remain constant at 68.97 cents per \$100 of valuation. However, the total tax you pay may increase due to increased property values. No change is proposed to the electric utility rate. There will be slight adjustments to water, sewer, trash/recycling, and stormwater rates which will result in an increase for an average homeowner of \$4.32 a month.

I encourage everyone to read through the city budget on the City's website at <https://www.garlandtx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19609/FY-2024-25-Proposed-Budget-PDF>. Each year, we strive to provide the highest quality public services in the Metroplex while maintaining competitive rates and fees. I welcome any comments you may have between now and the September 3 Council Meeting where we are scheduled to approve the budget. Please reach me at 469.560.6099 or council7@garlandtx.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

**City of
Garland**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

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



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offering special commission rate for my neighbors!

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Fax: 972-487-9092

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Arlington, TX 76010
Tel: 817-459-1311
Fax: 817-459-1317



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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



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 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!