



# OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

December 2024, Vol. 32, No. 12



hello  
December

## Board of Directors Update

Vickie Litton, President



Seasons Greetings Oakridge! I hope that you all had the best Thanksgiving ever and enjoyed your time with family and friends ne ar and far. December from the Latin word decem, “ten” because this had been the tenth month of the early Roman calendar. We will celebrate so many wonderful festivities this month with the most important celebration being the birth of Jesus Christ. I love this time of year with all the wonderful decorations, lights, food, friends and family. We are so excited that we will be able to spend part of the holiday with our daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, Iver! They will be here in the last week of December. It will be my best Christmas gift ever.

In a community as diverse as Oakridge, the season may be celebrated in many ways. However, I am sure we all share in the love, joy, and peace of the holiday season. However you celebrate or commemorate this season, Lee and I wish you and yours Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year. Remember, the key word in Oakridge Neighborhood Association is “Neighbor”. Your membership in the ONA is not required; it is desired.



**Membership is still open.  
Join ONA Here!!!**

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

Check, Money Order, PayPal (fee) or Credit Card  
Most Major Cards Accepted.

Join Today!

Pay by Mail:

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

District Directors will pick up your payment upon request.





**Wishing you the love, joy  
and peace of the holiday  
season.**

**Oakridge Neighborhood Association**





# 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

As we wind down for this year and roll into the holidays – I’m thankful for being a part of this wonderful neighborhood and for the friendships that have formed and neighbors I have met during my many walks. It’s always so nice to see a friendly face, share a quick good morning as we start our day. I wish all our residents a Very Happy Holiday Season!

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.

District #	SUM of Current Year Supporter (2024-2025)	SUM of Not yet renewed	SUM of Not yet supporting	SUM of # Households	% Supporting
1	48	12	125	185	26%
2	58	7	89	154	38%
3	9	6	126	141	6%
4	50	8	93	151	33%
5	26	10	154	190	14%
6	25	8	148	181	14%
7	35	9	120	164	21%
Total	251	60	855	1166	22%

## 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/>.

If you have not received your 2024-2025 Flag, email Membership at oakridgemembership@gmail.com.

## Welcome Star Toups

Our new ONA Communications Director



“Howdy, I am a proud Texan for 25 years, with my husband and I calling Oakridge home for the past 11. We’ve raised two remarkable daughters: one is blazing trails in global supply chain management, and the other is just beginning her college adventure in SLC.

In the world of IT consultancy, I wear many hats as both a Salesperson and IT Consultant. I manage global corporate accounts and serve as the go-to person for our clients. My role involves keeping our team up to date on market trends, sourcing, and customer-facing materials. My passion lies in helping people and solving problems. Curiosity, a desire to help, and putting people first are what I bring to the table. I'm a quick learner who tackles problems in unique ways every single day."



I look forward to my new adventure.

## We still have Open Positions:

- **Secretary**
  - Document minutes for Board/General Membership Meetings.
- **District 1, 3, 5 and 6 Directors**
  - Represents district, delivers member flags and welcome bags.

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).

## Oakridge Neighborhood wide Garage Sales



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

## Environmental

Joshua Lamb, Director

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!

## Muscular Dystrophy Association

David Parrish, Oakridge resident



Dear Friends, 2024 makes 20 years and over \$60,000 raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. These funds provide support to families, like ours, and research to find cures and treatments. The job is not done, and we are asking you to dig deep and give, today.

<https://mda.donordrive.com/participant/75249>

If you wish, simply mail your check made payable to the Muscular Dystrophy Association to:

David Parrish, 2526 Pepperidge Dr., Garland, TX 75044. # Make a Muscle. Make a Difference.

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>.

## Oakridge Safety

Lee Litton, Crime & Safety



The Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) initiative with GPD plays a vital part of keeping Oakridge safe. Our NPO Officer is Jordan Murphy, [murphyj@garland.tx.gov](mailto:murphyj@garland.tx.gov).

To help keep the neighborhood safe:

- Report safety concerns to [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org).
- GPD Non-Emergency Line - 972-485-4860
- Emergencies including "Active Crimes", Ambulance or Fire unit, Call 9-1-1.
  - 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).

Get Oakridge "Select Incident Report" at <http://www.garlandpolice.com/393/Crime-Safety>.

Subscribe to "Siren Alerts" to be notified of incidents in our neighborhood on our website or email us at [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org).

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

## Commercial Solicitation § 26.51

The city of Garland requires a Permit for *Commercial Solicitations of Homes*.

Permits can be obtained at the Garland Police Department's Records Unit located at 1891 Forest Lane, Garland, TX 75042.

For more information contact Code Compliance at 972-485-6400. Download the application here: [Solicitation Permit Application \(PDF\)](#).

# BIRTHDAY





## Daytimers Coffee

Oakridge Resident

We enjoyed our November Meeting at Jane's. With autumn upon us, she had her home showing off the colors of the season with a festive table arrangement and assorted hot and cold beverages. I think everyone's favorite was the spiced warm cider! Our food hostesses Gloria, Miriam and Margaret surprised us with an array of sweet and savory treats and Jane was kind enough to host and provide a charcuterie board!

Our meeting theme was "CRAFTS" and wow.... This group is talented. We had such a range of craft projects I had no idea so many different items could be turned into beautiful decorations, keepsakes, something comfy. Very surprising and almost everyone had a story to tell that brought the craft items to life and made me appreciate that it is so much more than just something to do; truly a memory embedded in each thoughtful item. Sharon displayed her knitting talent with a throw blanket and her daughter Jessica shared stories of warmth and comfort. Pam showed us a beautiful handstitched quilt her mom had made that brought a chorus from the group "Where did they find the time to do this?", Chris had her picture book of the Father Christmas Dolls she has made throughout the years and brought one along to show us how it was made. Detail and patience to put these together and they looked so lifelike. Ann had a picture frame that was backed with brushed velvet and costume jewelry carefully placed in the shape of a Christmas Tree. Ann took us on her journey as she spoke about her flea market adventures and pieces that brought back memories of loved ones that had worn the jewelry for special occasions or Sunday Best. Jane is starting a new hobby and introduced us to canning. She has a small garden in the side yard and took some of her tomatoes and canned them. I learned something since my mother did a lot of canning but I never understood how you could keep food available for so long and when you opened the jar it was still ok to EAT!

## Daytimers continued

Jessica also shared her talent with several of her mermaid art projects. I hope I captured everyone's contribution... there were so many beautiful crafts and stories I may have missed a few.

We also received updates on our Daytimers that could not make the meeting. We missed you; we hope to see you next month and we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. We are a supportive group so please reach out if you need us. We also had Carol as a first-time visitor – she is a book club participant but wanted to check out a Daytimer's Meeting this month. Glad you joined us!

Daytimers is open to all female residents of Oakridge and meets on the second Tuesday of the Month at 10:00 am. After visiting, we welcome you to join us. Annual dues of \$20.00 are used for guest 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.



## HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

The ONA is looking for volunteers for Holiday Decorations. Each year District Directors and other board members take time to put up holiday decorations around the neighborhood. These decorations add a touch of holiday cheer to our entryways and the bridge over the golf course. Contact us at [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org) to lend a hand or if you see these little holiday elves putting up decorations, be sure to give them a friendly wave and say thank you.







**Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)**  
 Libby Morse, Oakridge Resident

Had a great turnout for November's Painting with a Twist! It was fun to see the talent and camaraderie with the group.



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.



**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



The celebration of African American culture honoring family, community and heritage.  
 Dec. 26-Jan 1st

**City of Garland**

UPCOMING  
 EVENTS

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



**Oakridge Gentlemen**  
 Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

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



## Garland City Council, District 7

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

On November 16, Garland held its fifth “Build Garland Day,” which was a celebration of groundbreaking and ribbon cuttings for projects starting construction or completed from the 2019 bond election. The day included four stops around town and included a wide variety of projects from the Parks, Street, and Fire Departments.

Our first stop of the day was in South Garland where we broke ground on the new Surf and Swim complex. This project is a complete teardown and rebuild of the iconic swimming facility that has served Garland swimmers for more than 45 years. The new facility will have a lazy river, large aquatic play structure, three water slides and an “Double Surf Air Wave Rider” which simulates surfing a real wave giving truth to the name “Surf and Swim.” The complex is scheduled to be open for the summer 2026 swim season. You can read more details about Surf and Swim from a previous post on my Substack here: [dylanhedrick.substack.com/p/the-new-surf-and-swim-is-one-step](https://dylanhedrick.substack.com/p/the-new-surf-and-swim-is-one-step).

Our next stop was the ribbon cutting for the new Street Department facility. This new building houses the administrative offices, inspectors, surveyors and meeting rooms for those who work keeping our streets in good order. Although it is not a public facing facility, it is certainly an appreciated upgrade by our city workers as it replaces a 45 year old facility with worn out linoleum flooring and dated wood paneling. The new facility has roll up doors from the large meeting room which open to a covered patio. The large conference room has a beautiful canvas mural with iconic depictions of Garland and the equipment that the Department uses every day.



Our third stop was the groundbreaking for the expansion to Naaman School Road. With no eastbound access road along President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT) between Brand Road and Lavon Drive (SH 78), this heavily used roadway serves as a main thoroughfare between those two points.

The new roadway will double the number of lanes in either direction and be raised out of the 100-year floodplain thus eliminating the need to use floodgates during high rainfall events. Curbs and gutters, a storm drain system, and hiking trail along the north side of the roadway will be included. The \$36.9 million project is scheduled to be completed in mid-2027.

Finally, we reached the end of our tour at the Garlands newest fire station – Fire Station 6 – north of PGBT and west of Campbell Road. This building replaces the old fire station on Holford Road with bigger apparatus bays to accommodate the larger, modern fire fighting vehicles, individual dorm rooms to prevent disease spread, separate bunker gear cleaning and storage facilities to prevent contamination, and a large kitchen, dining, and living room.



Fire Station 6 is one of three new stations planned as a result of the 2019 Bond Program. Fire Station 1 and Fire Station 7 will also be replaced and are scheduled to be completed in 2026.

It is so important to celebrate our wins as we make progress towards completing our bond projects. Our goal on council was to have most of the projects complete within seven years of passing the bonds and we are well on our way to doing so. I appreciate everyone who voted for the eight bond propositions who made these projects possible. I am already looking forward to the next round of ribbon cutting coming next work as we look to open Holford Recreation and Aquatics Facility next year. I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve as your council representative in District 7. Please reach out to me at 469-560-6099 or [council7@garlandtx.gov](mailto:council7@garlandtx.gov) if there is anything I can do for you.



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Whatever your reason for the Season, we wish you.  
**Happy Holidays!**



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GOLF CLUB

214-440-2229 | [www.duckcreekgc.com](http://www.duckcreekgc.com)



## 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 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>

### 2024-2025 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, OPEN  
District 6, OPEN  
District 7, Joetta Harris ..... 469-955-1513

#### Committees

Communications, Star Toups ..... 469-371-3222  
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!