

Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

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Neighborhood Update with ONA President Dwight Davis

by Dwight Davis
ONA President

Our blue street sign toppers with white letters have been installed by the City of Garland Department of Transportation on all 74 street signs throughout the Oakridge neighborhood.

The "Spring into Summer" Parking Lot party for the entire Oakridge neighborhood on May 26, 2016 was an excellent success. We had about 150+ in attendance, with free hamburgers, hot dogs, popcorn and with a bounce house for the children. Our hats are off to

Mark Edwards, ONA Vice President for his excellent efforts in building a team and getting everything in place for the party. We had a few helpful suggestions that we will put into effect at our next party and gathering to make improvements to better serve the community at these functions.

We now have 289 members for our Annual 2016-2017 ONA year that began on June 1st. That is about 25% of our 1166 homes. Approximately 65% of the ONA community were not even members or have never joined ONA. This is sad because our goal is community

beautification of entrances and to take care of the mandatory maintenance of the mowing of our perimeter grass around the brick walls of Oakridge and the city utilities associated with the entrances and grass. We sure do need your help.

It takes from 400 to 500 as a minimum to handle our requirements. Your ONA membership influences your home value that is reflected in the appearance of your neighborhood. See the ONA web site for membership application and/or to pay online at www.oakridgena.org



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Bill Olive Retires as Oakridge Safety Director

By Bill Olive
ONA President

Old man Father Time, Mother Nature and Dr. Jeff T. have finally made it clear to me that it is time to step down from the positions of Crime/Safety and Citizens Patrol of Oakridge. I never thought in 2002 when I became involved with the Garland Police and Fire Departments that I would be in for such a fantastic experience. The highlights of my involvement were meeting so many Oakridge residents and a special Alaskan Husky named Maggie.

I want to thank all of you who have helped Brenda and me in our attempt to make our neighborhood a bit safer. A great thanks to many who have helped patrol during this time (Jerry, Debbie, Mark, Ken, Donna, Cass, Bill E., Joe, Brenda, Paul, Jim, Nancy, and Dianna). Over the years we have had 14 Neighborhood

Police Officers.

With their help I have been able to understand and do a job that provided them with helpful information. It's a compliment when an officer calls you at home asking for assistance in finding a person with a warrant. We did find the person and an arrest was made. There have also been several instances when we have been asked to help locate vehicles.

Because of Garland's citizen fire and police academies I have learned a mountain of knowledge regarding how these departments work. My goal of 100 ride out hours with the GPD fell short (I think I reached 88) but gave me a clear glimpse behind the "thin blue line." I will always cherish the friendship I've made with so many firefighters and police officers.

Whether in a black and white police squad or riding in the big red truck/engine, the fun quickly turns to serious-

ness when these men/women are dispatched. I could take hours telling you all of the many experiences I had but you too can do so by signing up for the fire and/or police academies. Go to the Garland website and look for these under community programs.

In closing let me again thank all Oakridge residents for the wonderful time we have had being your patrol ambassadors. I'm sure you know how much I owe to Brenda who acted as the patrols communication director. Everyone in dispatch knows "Brenda" from the Oakridge Patrol.

We are also proud to announce that Debbie Pandak will be taking over the Citizens Patrol as its Coordinator and with upcoming approval be the ONA Board will be its Crime/Safety Director. Debbie will make you proud so give her the same support you gave us.

God bless you all and Oakridge.

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