

# Oakridge News

[oakridgena.org](http://oakridgena.org)

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## Neighborhood Update with ONA President Dwight Davis

by Dwight Davis  
ONA President

We Several of our ONA members met with Mike Ussery, the owner of Duck Creek Golf Club on Thursday, October 27, along with Scott LeMay our City Councilman, in order to discuss potential repurposing concepts for property that was formerly used as swim and tennis operations when Oakridge Country Club existed.

The City of Garland has asked that the pool be removed and filled in or put back into use as a swimming pool. Given that Duck Creek Golf Club operates as a daily fee golf course, Ussery has said all along that he does not plan to reestablish a swim and tennis operation. He has had discussion with several prospective purchasers of the property for a continued tennis operation use; however, no one has stepped up to the plate with a concrete plan or resources to continue that or a similar sports use.

Ussery has also explored the potential for repurposing of the property for residential development. He has spoken with several homebuilders in regard to possible infill development of homesites on a portion of the property currently occupied by the swimming pool and tennis courts. Such a lot



development would have an entrance from Big Oaks Drive with required city setbacks and a lot development concept plan submitted to the City.

In consideration of the current homeowners, Ussery has envisioned this residential repurposing plan so that the planned homes would not eliminate open space views now enjoyed by home owners on the southwest side of Big Oaks.

It was discussed that while some of the lots might be irregular in shape with a cul-de-sac approach, they would provide for homes compatible with the homes on the Big Oaks and adjoining areas.

This ONA newsletter goes out to all 1166 homeowners in Oak Ridge, and Ussery is interested in any of your

comments, ideas, or feedback concerning this proposed repurposing plan. The ONA also really wants and needs your input to this project which will be an integral part of our community. Ussery needs to have a firm approach and executable repurposing plan to City by December 31st.

If you wish to provide feedback, you can contact Mike Ussery at 512-347-1244 or e-mail: [ussery@oncoursestrategies.com](mailto:ussery@oncoursestrategies.com). You can also contact me, Dwight Davis, ONA President at 972-675-9195 or e-mail: [Dwight@dwrightdavis.org](mailto:Dwight@dwrightdavis.org)



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# Meet Your ONA Neighbors – Sam and Vanny Sim



by Dwight Davis  
 ONA President

Sam and Vanny Sim live at 2317 Lone Oak Trail. They moved in just 11 months ago in December, 2004. They lived across Garland near I-30 and Belt Line for a number of years before they located this Oakridge home. Sam and Vanny are ONA members and really appreciate the ONA neighborhood and have supported by giving extra amounts to support the ONA beautification fund.

Sam has a Masters in Accounting and works at Accenture as a pricing consultant with their sales clients to handle their requests for quotes and other requests for business pricing information. He works from home most of the time. Sam loves sports and was self-taught at tennis and golf. While Sam is left handed, he plays golf right handed.

Vanny has a Masters of Architecture and works as a specification writer with architectural drawings with Corgan, a leading Architecture Firm that serves large aviation, commercial, educational, and healthcare clients. Some of Corgan's work in the Dallas area, include Parkland Memorial Hospital, and the interior design architecture for the New Toyota North American Headquarters and Fossil Corporate Headquarters. She love antiques, nostalgia, and vintage furniture. Vanny is also a great cook and she is self-taught. One of her greatest mentors for cooking is Master Chef Julia Child.

Both Sam and Vanny are foodies and love to try new food places at least once, and more if it is great food. They have two dogs which they love very much. Oliver is a 5-year-old Collie Lab mix and Bazil is a 10-year-old German Shepherd. Both Sam and Vanny are fantasy football players as well as big Cowboy Football fans. They just celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary with a trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico which is on the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula. Both of their parents were refugees to America from Cambodia and Vietnam. They are proud to be the first generation from their families to be college graduates.

Sam and Vanny attended our "Spring into Summer" parking lot party at the Duck Creek Golf Course on May 26, 2016. They enjoy the ONA and what we are doing for the community. We certainly appreciate these fine ONA members who live in our ONA neighborhood.



# Daytimers Back the Blue

by Dianne Winter  
ONA Daytimers

On Tuesday, November 8, the Daytimers were treated to a special occasion at the home of president, Gloria Turner. The home beautifully reflected the Thanksgiving season with the decorations and a bountiful table of brunch dishes prepared by the food hostesses. All this was shared with the three dozen attendees who had dressed in blue to show support and respect for the Public Service Officers in the Fire and Police Departments.

Those that were present at this meeting experienced a gracious hostess, delicious food, a beautiful setting, fellowship and fun. But in addition to all that the program provided safety measures for home and personal use.

Officer Kristi Shepherd for the Garland Fire Department tackled the problem of fire safety. She has served in the department for 15 years as a firefighter and paramedic and the last two in recruiting and public education.

She was well qualified to share what she had learned in that time and pass the safety information to the Daytimers about medication lists and locations, care of fire detectors, and fire prevention.

With a great dose of humor and stories that imprinted the mind with the information he wanted to convey, Officer Mike

Hatfield, Public Relations Officer, with 23 years of experience in the Garland Police Department delivered safety measures and guidelines to the audience. Using stories about his family and self experiences he described and demonstrated measures and actions at home or shopping.

Questions from the members were answered by both speakers and brochures and websites were distributed for future use. Members were impressed by these representatives and expressed their support and respect for the service that is provided by the Garland Fire and Police Departments and will continue to "Back the Blue."

A few announcements were made which included the preparations for the next meeting. To learn about your neighborhood and enjoy the Christmas fellowship of your neighbors please attend the December gathering of Daytimers at the home of Lila LaGrasse, 2125 Diamond Oaks, on Tuesday, December 13th, at 10 am. Think about a Christmas memory to share and bring a neighbor. See you there!

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$20.00 annual dues. Daytimers promote the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Any questions should be directed to president, Gloria Turner, 972 530 0082.



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# Please Mind Your Speed in our Neighborhood

by Mark Edwards  
Former ONA Safety Director

Did you know that the traffic light at the intersection of Shiloh Road and Big Oaks Drive was placed there after serious lobbying by members of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association Board?

Mark Monroe was the City Council person representing Oakridge at the time. Shiloh Road was a speedway. Drivers had a clear run from Beltline to Buckingham and sometimes exceeded speeds of 50 or 60 miles per hour.

It was a real challenge trying to cross Shiloh to get to Holford Park, to drive your kids to Ethridge Elementary School on Sam Houston or just making a left-hand turn onto Shiloh Road.

With persistent conversations with Councilman Monroe, the ONA was able to convince him and the Streets Division that a study should be done to see if a traffic

light should be installed. The study determined that indeed a traffic light would be beneficial. That traffic light cost the Streets Division about \$100,000 at the time, but I'm sure you'll agree it was an excellent investment in our safety.

The posted speed Limit thru the Oakridge Subdivision is 30 miles per hour, but some drivers exceed that limitation by driving 40 and 50 miles per hour especially on Big Oaks and Diamond Oaks Drives.

Some time ago, a radar unit and speed monitoring devices were checking for speeders on Diamond Oaks. The device found that quite a few drivers breaking the law.

While 30 miles per hour sounds like a reasonable speed limit, driving on a street with cars parked on both sides at 25 miles per hour or less can be precarious. And consider the problem of a fire truck or emergency vehicle getting thru that "canyon" of cars and trucks.

Please be mindful of this and if possible, park your vehicles in your driveway, in the alley, or in your garage.



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