

# Oakridge News

*oakridgena.org*

*October 2017, Vol. 25, No. 10*



## Neighborhood Update with ONA President Dwight Davis

by Dwight Davis  
ONA President

### **ONA Welcomes Three New Board Members**

At our last ONA General meeting in September, we presented three new board members to the ONA members. These new board members were well received by the ONA members present and unanimously ratified.

Shine Macy, who works for AT&T, was elected as our new Marketing Director and will be assisting the board with our Marketing, IT changes, and new web site roll out. Scott Barnes, who also works for AT&T, was elected as our new District 5 Director.

Lee Litton, who is retired, was elected Assistant Safety and Security Director. Lee will be working with Debra Pandak our Safety and Security Director, along with Tommy Barnes, our Neighborhood Garland Police Officer. Our goal is to help reduce any and all crime in Oakridge by working directly with the police to keep them informed of any suspicious or

questionable activities we identified in Oakridge.

Lee is now working to reinstitute and revive the Citizens On Patrol program in Oakridge. He will be working with others to accomplish this. The Citizens on Patrol drive the neighborhood day and night at varying times.

### **ONA Board Plans for Environment and Web Site**

David Parrish, the ONA Environmental Director, laid out the plans for the beautification upgrades. We have a watering system that is several decades old that required a lot of repairs to get it fully functional. We will be moving into the fall and a seasonal planting of flowers of color will be coming soon.

We are in the planning stages of delivering a new and fully functional and user friendly web site. We are looking into a system that will merge with our other systems, as well as move into the mobile app access space, which may be an updated approach and more user friendly for our members.

### **Three ONA Bylaws Passed at General Membership Meeting**

The Board put together three ONA Bylaws that were considered at our General Membership meeting. Please review them on the website at [http://www.oakridgena.org/Documents/ONA\\_bylaws.pdf](http://www.oakridgena.org/Documents/ONA_bylaws.pdf).

### **Volunteers Still Needed to Serve the ONA**

As the President, I was voted to serve as the Acting Directors for both District 2 and District 3. Within several weeks Nancy Whitson, our District 1 Director, is selling her house and moving out of Oakridge.

We will certainly miss her for all the years of service she has performed on the ONA Board. Certainly we could use more volunteer support.

Should anyone want to serve as the District 1 or District 3 Director, or come in as an Assistant Director in various positions within the ONA organization please contact me to discuss these at 972-675-9195 or [dwight@dwightdavis.org](mailto:dwright@dwightdavis.org).



# General Meeting Environmental Update Recap

by David Parrish  
ONA Environmental Director

Oakridge maintains about 1.6 miles of parkway (grass); nine entrances with flower beds on each side; two entrances with medians with grass, trees, and flower beds; five sprinkler systems; trees and four small parkway flower beds (on Shiloh) around the perimeter; and a small piece of grass along Stoneridge.

Some of the challenges Oakridge faces include aging sprinkler systems, numerous dead or diseased plants, a lack of seasonal color, and balancing plant selection with water use.

Our strategy for addressing landscaping needs is to remove dead and diseased plants, build on existing landscape features, engage homeowners adjacent to entrances, focus on annual planting of flowers in five entrance beds where we can water separately from the parkway grass strips, plant the remaining beds with more drought tolerant flora, and rebid the contract to assure the best value for ONA.

If you see something, do something (e.g., pick up trash, report a problem with a sprinkler); become an ONA Flag Waver; and join the Environment Committee.

Who Ya' Gonna Call? David Parrish, 972-530-3351, ONAenvironment@gmail.com.

## The Tree Power, Free Tree Giveaway

The City is providing free trees for Garland residents to conserve energy and beautify the community. To receive a free tree, simply prove your Garland residency by providing a valid Texas driver's license (with a Garland address) or a current City of Garland utility bill. Only one tree will be given per household. Call 972-205-3588 for more information.

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
(or until supplies last)

Haskell L. Roach Garden Center  
1221 Spring Creek Drive (in Winters Park)

# Daytimers Explore a Little Known Texas Artist

By Dianne Winters  
ONA Daytimers

The recipe for the superb autumn Daytimers' meeting on October 10th, included a visit to the beautiful home of Dana Hopkins with chrysanthemums, pumpkins, a giraffe, a pretty mask, a neighborhood guest, good food, happy members, valets, and an interesting speaker.

Announcements were made by president Shirley Heald, saying that the Go Go gatherings would cease for now; Lori Oswald presenting birthdays; and treasurer Peggy Crenshaw reporting a count of 45 paid memberships, making this a record high for the month of October.

Jan Perry Loyd introduced the speaker, Marla Fields, who presented a short film about a little known Texas artist, Frank Reaugh. She explained that he had been very innovative in the arts movement in Texas from the late 1800's through the 1920's. He had many art students he taught during month-

long trips through west Texas and some of the more famous of his students became known as the "Dallas Nine." He was the first to combine visual art with poetry/prose and was known as the Pastel Poet, having made his own pastels as well as several inventions.

He gifted the University of Texas with 200 of his paintings, most of which are still there, but not in a museum named for Reaugh as originally agreed upon. Marla has produced a 60 minute documentary film as well as a 90-minute director's cut about this important Texas artist who has not received the recognition he deserves.

Jan Perry Loyd and Susan Conner, program leaders, will cook up another great meeting, "Feast or Famine," with Shannon Reeves speaking on the nutritional value of your Thanksgiving meal. Plan to meet with them on Tuesday, November 14th, 10 AM, at the home of Gloria Turner, 2309 Rocky Trail. Daytimers is a social organization for women that requires residence in Oakridge and \$20.00 annual dues.



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# Finding Your Flood Risk

Dylan Hedrick  
ONA Communications Director

After seeing the devastation from Hurricane Harvey in Houston, the flooding of residences is top of mind for Texans. At our last ONA General Meeting, one new ONA resident questioned the likelihood of her home being flooded after seeing Duck Creek creep uncomfortably close to her house during a recent rainfall event.

In my career as a civil engineer, I frequently work with issues of flooding and the best ways to drain stormwater runoff to protect lives and property. I would like to share a few tips I have learned with you.

First, you must know your flooding risk. The concerned resident's home was adjacent to Duck Creek, although the golf course separated the property from the creek. I looked up the home on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) website and entered the home address. I will place a link to FEMA's FIRM website on [oakridgena.org](http://oakridgena.org) so you can visit and enter your own home.

I found that the house was out of the 100-year floodplain (meaning areas of a 1% chance of annual flood), but adjacent to the floodway (meaning a channel of a stream or areas surrounding which carry the 1% annual chance flood). Areas next to creeks are frequently used as parks and golf courses and are intended to flood or convey stormwater in the event of a large rainstorm event much like the resident saw during the recent rain.

Although Oakridge does not typically have flooding issues, I encourage those who live along the creek to speak with their insurance agent about possibly purchasing flood insurance.

After finding your risk, what can we do about it? Fall is here and leaves have begun to drop from the trees. On my civil engineering site inspections, I have often seen storm inlets clogged with trash and organic debris that does not allow stormwater to enter the drain.

A required item for development per Section 31.06 (D) of the Garland Charter and Code of Ordinances states that:

Each property owner shall keep the drainage channels and/or drainage and floodway easements traversing or adjacent to his property clean and free of debris, silt, and any other substance which may impede the flow of stormwaters or result in unsanitary conditions. This includes all necessary mowing, weeding, litter pickup, and other normal property owner responsibilities.

I encourage you to keep the gutters and inlets clear to allow the infrastructure to work as intended. Finally, if you have any other stormwater concerns or issues, please call the Garland Stormwater Hotline at 972-205-2180.



**Rodgers Baptist Church**  
801 W. Buckingham Road, Garland, TX 75040  
972-675-4800 • <http://rodgersbaptist.net>




**OUR SERVICE SCHEDULE**  
Sunday School 9:15 A.M.  
Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Service 7:00 P.M.  
Nursery provided for all services

*It's all about living to bring God glory!*

**Fall Fun Fest**  
**Tuesday, October 31, 2017**  
**5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.**  
inside the gym at  
**Rodgers Baptist Church**  
801 W. Buckingham Road  
Garland, TX 75040

**Everything is FUN and FREE**  
**Lots of CANDY and FOOD**

Game Booths  
Hot Dogs  
Bounce House  
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**Come dressed up in your costumes!**

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Join the ONA Today!

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

# Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 450145  
Garland, TX 75045-0145

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## Local Postal Customer

# Going Solar Makes Dollars and Sense

by Glen Suhren  
ONA Resident

If you would have told me three years ago I would be generating over 80% of my annual electricity usage from the sun, my response would be no way! It's too expensive! My roof does not have a good solar exposure! Garland Power & Light would not allow it! I was wrong on all accounts.

What happened? First at the Dallas Sierra Club meeting, about 3 1/2 years ago, Larry Howe talked about how Solarize Plano was making solar work in Plano. Next GP&L offered customers an attractive package to promote residential solar.

Hmm...I thought this might work, but as an engineer I needed more data. First question, what is my present annual electrical consumption? GP&L data was the source. Next how much could I get from solar? The National Renewable Energy Laboratory online program, PVwatts, was a great source. Plug in a few numbers and PVwatts indicates a 4KW system would provide 50%

of my annual electricity from solar. Next what about cost and who is qualified to install a system?

With the help of Solarize Plano and other Garland residents, we found a supplier and installer. The total price was reasonable and with GP&L's \$5000 credits plus a 30% federal tax credit everything wrong turned right. Then one day in late August 2014, the supplier appeared at 9:00AM and completed the entire installation by sunset. With the addition of energy savings though more insulation, new windows, and common sense awareness, we surpassed the 50% energy use target for solar. Plus free energy is great and GP&L is paying me for the excess electricity I generate in the fall and spring. The cost was less than \$1.25 a watt for a completed system.

If you are interested, visit energysaver program at the GP&L website for detailed information. Also feel free to contact me at [gcsuhren@msn.com](mailto:gcsuhren@msn.com) for firsthand knowledge on solar.



*Trusting God*  
**NO MATTER WHAT**



*"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6*

## Rodgers Baptist Church

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Garland, TX 75040  
972-675-4800

<http://rodgersbaptist.net>



Ron Thomas  
Senior Pastor

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