

Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

May 2018, Vol. 26, No. 5



OAKRIDGE FAMILY SPRING PARTY

SATURDAY, MAY 19th—4:00 TO 7:00 PM
DUCK CREEK GOLF COURSE PARKING LOT
(Corner of Big Oaks and Diamond Oaks)

The 2018-2019 Membership
Campaign is underway!
See the insert for more
information!

It is also **Armed Forces Day**. Wear your uniform or cap.
Bring the whole FAMILY. Bring a **FLAG** and wave it proudly.



FREE FOOD!!!
Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips,
Cotton Candy, Popcorn and Drinks
(plus cookies made by the Daytimers)



- Jump in the **BOUNCE HOUSE**
- Challenge your neighbors at **CORNHOLE**
- Check out the **CLASSIC CARS** and **SWEET RIDES**
- Meet **Officer Tommy Barnes**, our Neighborhood Garland Police Officer
 - Meet a **Garland Fire Department** Crew
 - Come check out the Fire Truck and EMS Unit.
 - Meet the Pros from the **Duck Creek Golf Club**



Our Journey to Oakridge

by Dylan and Katie Hedrick

We'll never forget the day we loaded up the moving truck set to travel 1,700 miles from Baltimore, Maryland to Garland, Texas in June 2015. We were filled with nervous anticipation of so many dreams that were about to come true.

Katie would be starting a tenure-track position at Southern Methodist University in the Math Department. She'd been working toward this goal for 12 years. Dylan would soon start working for Half Associates, the civil engineering firm he interned for during college.

Dylan met Katie while she was still in graduate school at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Dylan, after graduating from Rice as an undergrad, was going back to Rice to receive his MBA. When Katie graduated with a doctorate in mathematics, she dragged Dylan reluctantly away from his native state to Maryland where Katie could fulfill a three-year post-doctoral commitment at Johns Hopkins University.

We enjoyed our three years in Maryland, but it never felt like home. We never got used to driving in snow, and while the Chesapeake crabs are good, they don't compare to a good brisket or enchilada.

Also, Dylan is the kind of Texan who tries to convince everyone that Texas is bigger and better than anywhere else. He proved his point by winning our church's annual chili cook-off the Texan way (no beans, of course). He also loyally cheered for his beloved Houston Astros, wearing their jersey around Camden Yards even through the 100-loss rebuilding years.

When Katie received her offer from SMU, we were both thrilled to be moving back to our home state.

We were also very excited about owning our first house. We diligently saved money for years while living in cramped apartments too small for a growing family of three after the birth of our daughter Kara in May 2014. We were constantly tripping over toys and longed for space to spread out.



Finding a house was a challenge. We sat at our computer in Maryland and marked favorites from among those our realtor sent us, only to see them fly off the market days later in the hot North Texas housing market.

Our house hunting plans accelerated when riots began in Baltimore in response to the death of Freddie Gray. While we

understood the anger, it was sad to watch the inner-city youth destroy businesses in their own community. Katie was greeted at work the next day by armed National Guard officers. We decided the time was right to get out of town, and we booked a flight to Dallas for the next weekend. We had only Friday afternoon and Saturday to tour homes, make a decision, and make an offer.

Thankfully, the house we now own in Oakridge had just gone on the market. We fell in love immediately. It felt so open with the golf course out back, had a big playroom upstairs for our daughter, and had enough space in the garage for the home gym Dylan wanted. We made an offer that afternoon. It felt like everything was falling into place.

Things got more interesting on moving day. As the movers were loading the final boxes into the truck, our realtor called to tell us that there was an unsigned document that would prevent the bank from granting us the loan. Little did we know that our house was referred to as the "FBI house" in the neighborhood due to a raid by federal agents in which the previous owner was arrested and convicted for Medicare fraud and running a "pill mill." He began serving a 12-year prison sentence and forfeited the house.

The house was technically owned by the U.S. government now, and the realtor working for them wasn't returning any calls. Our realtor didn't know whom to call at the government, and she advised us to let this house go and look for another when we got into town.

Continued on next page



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We were crushed. It had been a month since our offer was accepted, and it was hard to let it go. We tried to hide our feelings from our one-year-old Kara, who was struggling to cope with the only home she had known, our small apartment, being turned into a maze of towering boxes.

We caught a break the next day. Our realtor visited the house to make sure there was no damage from the extensive rain that had hit Dallas that week. Our neighbor Keta came over to see what was happening with the sale. When she found out the problem, she gave our realtor exactly what we needed—the phone number of the U.S. Marshall in charge of the case. The U.S. Marshall didn't even know the house was supposed to be closed on that week, and he immediately sent his deputy to the attorney's office to sign the missing document. Thank you, Keta!

We have now lived here for three years, and our home has surpassed our expectations. We love our house more and more as we slowly make improvements, and it is rewarding to invest our time, energy, and money into our home. Dylan is perfecting his smoked brisket, and Katie can play her organ without worrying about noise complaints from apartment neighbors. This has also been a great place to raise our daughters. Kara enjoys play dates with a few of the kids on our street, and our youngest daughter Elissa loves to watch the dogs walk by in the evening.

What we appreciate most about Oakridge is the community of which we are now a part. It was a welcome change when many neighbors welcomed us to Oakridge, taking the time to get to know us beyond the polite "hello." We have enjoyed getting to know and becoming friends with many of you. We are truly blessed to call Oakridge home.

I would like to feature your family next in our Get to Know A Neighbor series. Please email ONA Communications Director Dylan Hedrick at dylan.hedrick@gmail.com if interested.

The **Oakridge Women's Club** is open to all women of Oakridge. We all share a strong and common bond in the love of our children, families, and community. We welcome prospective members to join us at all meetings. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 7pm.

Join for pot luck or dine out dinners, hot tub side chats, water aerobics, holiday parties, progressive dinners and support sessions—all to get to know each other and unwind. We share hosting, snacks, beverages, and always a few laughs! The Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women of Oakridge. Email Libby Morse at TOMLIB@tx.rr.com for information and the next meeting location. OWC is on Facebook and Nextdoor.

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Before After




Rodgers Baptist Church
801 W. Buckingham Road, Garland, TX 75040
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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

Ron Thomas, Senior Pastor

It's all about living to bring God glory!




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Oakridge News

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Dallas's "Diamond" Discussed by Daytimers

by Dianne Winter
ONA Daytimers

Daytimers are wealthy. That is correct. They have a wealth of volunteer hours that they contribute to community causes. Many members shared their volunteer choices at the April 10th Coffee at the home of Suzanne Snow. The home was decorated with signs of Spring and the table was laden with delicious goodies that were prepared by the food hostesses.

Lori Oswald announced birthdays and president, Shirley Heald, asked for volunteers to bake cookies for the ONA May event. She also announced the officers for the next year.

Program leaders, Jan Perry Loyd and Susan Conner, surveyed the group for information for programs next year and announced the details of the May luncheon that will be the last

meeting until September.

Shirley Heald began the discussion and review of volunteer experiences. Several Daytimers shared the work they do to assist the elderly, disadvantaged, homeless, veterans, and language learners with physical, financial, health, emotional and spiritual needs. Kudos to the volunteers!

Come visit with the Daytimers at the May 8th Luncheon at 11:30 am at Cafe Max. Call Peggy Crenshaw 972-530-1645 for details and cost.

Daytimers is a social organization for women that requires residence in Oakridge and \$20.00 annual dues. Daytimers promotes the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Any questions should be directed to president, Shirley Heald, shirleyheald@verizon.net or 469-387-5641.

Come to the ONA Annual Meeting May 24

The Board invites all Oakridge residents to attend the ONA General Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM, May 24, at the Duck Creek Club House.

The owner of Duck Creek Golf Club, Mike Ussery, will be present to discuss the future development of the golf course.

Also, the following Officer positions will be up for election: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. District Director positions up for election include District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, District 5, District 6, and District 7.

All Officers serve one-year terms. District Directors serve staggered two-year terms. Odd Districts (1, 3, 5, 7) are voted in odd years and even Districts (2, 4, 6) are voted in even years for two-year terms. Elections may be held in off years to fill vacancies as needed. Nominations may be made by the General Membership during the Annual Meeting.

We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to serve on the Board. If you wish to join us, please contact your District Director or let us know on the ONA membership renewal form!

Current ONA Officers

President - Cheryl Jones - 214-437-9132
VP - Mark Edwards - 972-414-8525
Secretary - Sharon Parrish - 972-530-3351
Treasurer - Meg Green - 903-288-6573

Current ONA District Directors

District 1 - Open
District 2&3 - Dwight Davis - 972-675-9195
District 4 - Keta Woods - 469-877-7099
District 5 - Scott Barnes - 602-791-2492
District 6 - James Aaron - 972-530-8148
District 7 - Barbara Mairs - 972-414-2623

Current ONA Committee Chairs

Membership - Open
Commun. - Dylan Hedrick - 713-677-4999
Marketing - Shine Macy - 469-231-8534
Environ. - David Parrish - 972-530-3351
Safety - Debra Pandak - 214-535-7923

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

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



Ron Thomas
Senior Pastor

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