

Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

June 2018, Vol. 26, No. 6



Neighborhood Update with ONA President Dylan Hedrick

by Dylan Hedrick
ONA President

As your newly elected president, I am humbled and honored to be voted to serve the Oakridge Neighborhood Association for the 2018-2019 Membership Year.

I am thankful to outgoing President Cheryl Jones for her work with the ONA over the past several months, including revamping the ONA website. I am excited about the new board we have assembled to accomplish our ONA goals for this year.

I am also grateful for all the volunteers which made the May Spring Party such a success. The Daytimers provided delicious cookies and treats, the chefs prepared the hotdogs and hamburgers, the firemen of Station 11 provided the ladder truck, and a big thanks to ONA Vice

President Mark Edwards for all his efforts in planning and organizing the event. We hope to make it even bigger and better next year.

At the May General Meeting and the Spring Party, the ONA conducted surveys to help determine what the neighborhood would like to see from its Board. One response which kept coming up was the desire for more neighborhood social events beyond the May Spring Party.

We on the Board have heard you, and we are announcing our July 4 Kids' Parade and Homemade Ice Cream Contest. We invite all to kids bring their red, white and blue decorated bicycles and wagons to the corner of the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot at the corner of Big Oaks and Diamond Oaks Saturday, June 30, at 10:00 AM for a patriotic parade.

We will march down the Diamond Oaks sidewalk, cross the Duck Creek bridge, turn around and come back. We hope to have the neighborhood come out and line the sidewalk to support the kids.

Afterwards we will have a homemade ice cream contest with fabulous celebrity judges (Celebrity Judge Taylor Swift is unconfirmed as of now.) Awards will be given to Best Overall, Best Vanilla, and Most Original Flavor. We hope to see you and your family there.

Later in the summer, we want to plan ONA happy hours at locations to be determined and a fall Harvest Fest. Keep an eye on the newsletter for more details later.

If you have any neighborhood concerns or wish to volunteer for the ONA Board, as we have open positions available, please call me at 713-677-4999 or email me at dylan.hedrick@gmail.com.

Feathers, Food, Fellowship and Fun: Until September, We Are Done

by Dianne Winter
ONA Daytimers

Forty Daytimers demonstrated these words with a luncheon at Café Max on May 8th. President, Shirley Heald, provided the feather decorations and all the Daytimers joined in the fellowship and fun. Special guests were founder, Roberta Jones, and Dylan and Katie Hedrick.

Birthday announcements were made by Lori Oswald and members were reminded by Chris Beyers of cookie duty for the ONA picnic. A Western singer—impersonator provided music for the entertainment and for the members to try their line dancing skills. Fun and exercise!

Shirley Heald thanked all the officers who served to make

this an excellent year and Jo Ann Williams presented her with a gift of appreciation from the group. There were excellent programs throughout the year and an addition of several new members.

Most of the current officers will serve next year. They will be incorporating new and exciting ideas. Come to kick off the new year on September 11th, the second Tuesday, 10:00 am, and share the fun and fellowship of the Daytimers. Watch your ONA newsletter for details.

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, shirleyheald@verizon.net (469) 387-5641.

Meals on Wheels Truly Delivers

by Mary VanPelt
Oakridge Resident

I just started volunteering for Meals on Wheels this last month by delivering meals one day a week near our neighborhood. It is not much, but it is a beginning.

Sometimes we spend too much time focusing on things that really do not matter, and I wanted to put my time and attention to something that would hopefully make a difference in someone else's life. Maybe I could not only deliver a meal but also give someone a much-needed smile or a willing ear.

I have spent years with my head down and my shoulders hunch over a computer working as fast as I can, speaking mainly about work and rarely about

anything personal.

I grew up in a small, midwest town in a happy family of eight with a wonderful Mary Jane existence. We did not have much, but it was perfect in my eyes! I had security, food and a bed to safely lay my head on at night. What more did I need? I always saw my parents quietly giving back to the community, and it made an impression on me. Anyway, I wanted to try to get back to my roots of what was important to me, and it is not money and prestige.

Please know I have a long way to go on this journey, but at least it is a start in the right direction. I hope you too will give a little of your time to volunteer for Meals on Wheels and try to make a difference in someone else's life.

Meals on Wheels delivers nutritious,

freshly prepared hot meals to 4,000 Dallas County residents Monday through Friday. These individuals are the hidden hungry—they are homebound and unable to access resources like food banks and grocery stores. Texas has the 7th highest rate of hunger among seniors in the nation.

Meals on Wheels is administered in the Dallas area by VNA, a nonprofit organization that helps elderly neighbors and loved ones maintain their independence by providing the services that allow them to age where they are happiest and most comfortable—at home. VNA's mission is to help people age with dignity and independence at home. Volunteer or donate by contacting them at 214-689-2639 or hopperk@vnatexas.org.

Our Journey Back Home

My husband, Lee Litton, and I grew up in Garland attending Freeman Elementary, Bussey and Jackson Junior High and Garland High School. Vickie's family moved to Garland in 1959; Lee's a few years later. At the time, Garland had a population of about 10,000, and North Garland Road was North Star Road—a two-lane road.

We were married in 1991 in Anchorage, Alaska, and finally found our way back home to Garland in 1997. We have lived in many locations in Garland from Western to Alamo to Lou Rock to Casa Blanca to 11th Street to Bowie, and the list continues.

We first rented our home on 2502 Golden Oaks Drive from the owner for one year who then sold the house to Oakridge residents who had several rental proper-



Lee Litton, Vickie and their oldest grandson Carson

ties in various areas. The new owner purchased the house with the condition that we remained as renters, which we were

happy to do.

We rented our home from the new landlord for approximately two years and really wanted to buy the home, but Lee has just started a new business, and we could not get a loan.

Our wonderful landlord offered to finance the home so that we could purchase from them, which we did. We had our landlord for several years before being able to secure a home loan of our own.

We loved Oakridge from the first time that we drove down Diamond Oaks Drive. The homes were beautiful and lawns so well manicured. We met most of our neighbors on our street and have remained friends all these years. We consid-

Article continues on next page



2334 W. Buckingham Road, Suite # 230
Garland, TX 75042

Richard AQUI

P: 972-487-0260

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er our next door neighbor as part of our family.

Even as renters, we became part of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA). The ONA dues of only \$60 per year are the least expensive neighborhood association fees that we ever encountered. For example, our daughter's dues in Pflugerville, Texas were \$600/year and mandatory.

It is vital that each and every Oakridge resident pay this nominal fee each year in order to keep our neighborhood the same as we first moved here in 1997.

If you have not paid your dues this year, we urge you to do so. It does so much to preserve our neighborhood. We also urge everyone to get involved in the ONA board. We desperately need "new blood" to fill the board positions as well as representatives for the various districts.

Maybe if each of us made a point to speak to our neighbors on our street explaining the benefits of the ONA and how it benefits them, we could get more families to join.

We have always thanked our good Lord for leading us to our home and for having such good neighbors. We love Garland and Oakridge.

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.

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Rodgers Baptist Church

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Ron Thomas, Senior Pastor

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!



DUCKCREEK GOLF CLUB

214-440-2229 duckcreekgc.com

ONA Patriotic Parade and Homemade Ice Cream Contest

Join us **Saturday, June 30**, at **10:00 AM** at **Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot** at the corner of Big Oaks and Diamond Oaks. Kids are invited to decorate their bicycles, tricycles and wagons in patriotic style as we parade across the Duck Creek Bridge and back. We hope the neighborhood will come out to cheer them on!

Afterward we will have a **homemade ice cream contest** with celebrity judges awarding prizes for Best Overall, Best Vanilla and Most Original Flavor.



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Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
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ONA Environmental Update

by David Parrish
ONA Environmental Director

Join our Green Team: Consider yourself invited to check out the Environmental Committee as we work on planning and maintaining our (your) neighborhood landscaping. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 20, 7:00 pm at 2526 Pepperidge Drive. Kindly RSVP to environment@oakridgena.org.

Landscape Update: We now have flowers at eight of our nine entrances. Shrubs along Stoneridge east of Big Oaks have been trimmed back, so residents may now use the sidewalk. Sprinklers are working and running weekly (2x/week at five entrances). Challenges remain. The neighborhood will address

them as we move forward.

How can you help? Get out and talk to the people on your street. Encourage them to join the ONA. Recycle. Pick up trash around the neighborhood. Encourage others to do the same. Donate to the ONA Beautification fund. ONA pledges to be good stewards of these funds.

June and July Official Flag Holidays: Flag Day- June 14; Fathers Day- June 17; Independence Day- July 4. U.S. flags should be displayed from sunrise to sunset, as weather permits.

Questions/Issues/Feedback: Please, contact the Environmental Committee at: environment@oakridgena.org (or you may leave a voicemail at 972/530-3351).

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 all meetings. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 7pm.

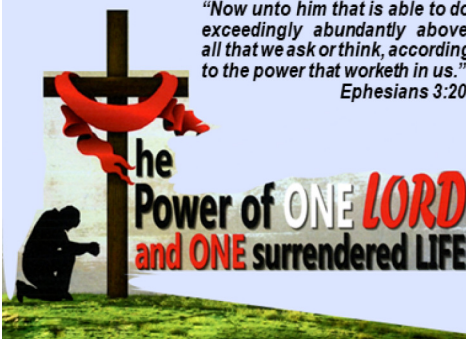
Join for pot luck or dine out dinners, hot tub side chats, water aerobics, holiday parties, progressive dinners and support sessions—all to get to know each other and unwind. We share hosting, snacks, beverages, and always a few laughs! The Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women of Oakridge. Email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

ONA Spring Party

Thanks to all who came out and all who helped!



"Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."
Ephesians 3:20

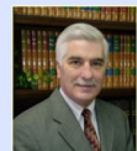


Rodgers Baptist Church

801 W. Buckingham Road
Garland, TX 75040

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<http://rodgersbaptist.net>



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Senior Pastor

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