

Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

December 2018, Vol. 26, No. 12



Neighborhood Update with ONA President Dylan Hedrick

by Dylan Hedrick
ONA President

Hello Oakridge neighbors. The lights are strung, the halls are decked and there is still plenty of time to enter our **Oakridge Holiday Light decorating Contest**. This is your chance to show off your best holiday lights display at your house and be featured in our newsletter and website.

Awards will be presented for the most colorful light display, best traditional light display, judge's choice, best kids decorations, and best block.

You can nominate yourself or a neighbor by sending nominations to lights@oakridgena.org by December 24, or visit the home page at oakridgena.org

for more information. Winners will be announced in the January newsletter.

The **Bylaw Review Committee** is continuing its work, but there is still time if you wish to be involved. The committee is open to any ONA member and will meet to discuss proposed changes to the ONA Bylaws. The changes will be voted upon at the February general membership meeting. A current copy of the Bylaws is on our website oakridgena.org. If you would like to participate, please email us at info@oakridgena.org.

Also, several spots have opened up on the board for **District Director** positions as some board members have resigned due to other commitments. If you are interested in serving your community through

volunteering with the ONA, please contact me at info@oakridgena.org.

I am proud to serve as your ONA president, and if you have any compliments, concerns, or criticisms, please email me at info@oakridgena.org or call me directly at 713-677-4999.

Stay warm though this holiday season and I hope your days are filled with joy, family and fellowship. I am looking forward to a great 2019 with the ONA, as we have several great community events planned for the new year.



ONA Leadership Contact Information

ONA Officers

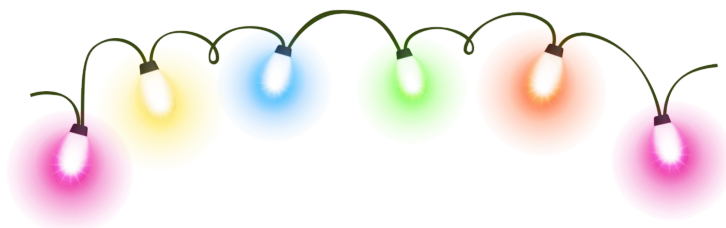
President—Dylan Hedrick—713-677-4999
VP—Mark Edwards—972-414-8525
Secretary—Sharon Parrish—972-530-3351
Treasurer—Keith Engler—972-834-0096

ONA District Directors

District 1—Mary Van Pelt—972-496-1744
District 2—Dwight Davis—972-675-9195
District 3—Dwight Davis—972-675-9195
District 4—Keta Woods—469-877-7009
District 5—Open
District 6—Open
District 7—Barbara Mairs - 972-414-2623

ONA Committee Chairs

Mbrship.—Jane Mayers – 972-530-1538
Commun.—Ken Weidaw—214-616-0970
Marketing—Shine Macy—469-231-8534
Environ.—David Parrish—972-530-3351
Safety—Joan & Dan Nichols—214-543-2546
Social—Johanna Weidaw—646-420-8334



Oakridge Holiday Lights Decorating Contest

Awards for most colorful light display, best traditional light display, judge's choice and best block.

Send nominations to lights@oakridgena.org or nominate through our website on the Home tab of oakridgena.org

Citizen's Police Academy Provides In Depth Look at the GPD

by Dylan Hedrick
ONA President

The sirens blared as we sped across town to a domestic disturbance call we just received on the dispatch computer. My heart was pumping as we approached the house, but Officer Palmer was calm and cool. He told me to stay in the car as he investigated.

When he returned, he told me that thankfully it was just a loud argument between a young couple. This was just one of the calls we answered as I participated in my ride-along as part of the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA).

Twice each year over 12 weeks, the Garland Police Department (GPD) opens its doors to give about 30 citizens an in depth look at every division within the department. During our session, Police Chief Mitch Bates spoke about the dangers and benefits of being a police officer. We heard presentations from officers and detectives focusing on domestic violence, crimes against children, gang prevention, traffic enforcement, patrol operations, narcotics, and internal affairs.

We also saw presentations from the SWAT unit, Intelligence (undercover) Unit, the Bomb Squad, the DPS helicopter pi-

lots, the K-9 unit, the communications dispatchers, and the forensic specialists.

As part of the CPA, four extra curricular activities were also available to further deepen my understanding of the workings of the department. I had the opportunity to do a patrol observation on an eight hour shift, in which we responded to three domestic disturbance calls, helped a traffic accident, arrested a shoplifter in Firewheel Mall, pulled over a driver with her headlights off, and checked on an alarm in a self storage facility.

I also spent four hours in the communications office listening to 911 calls being answered and dispatched to the responding officers.

One Saturday evening, I spent four hours observing the intake at the city detention center where citizens who were arrested spent the evening.

Finally, I tested my decision making in the FATS (Fire Arms Training Simulator) that presented various situations, such as a convenience store robbery or a traffic stop, as whether to use deadly force.

Two of the most popular additional activities my class members and I participated in was the day we traveled to the firing range to test our accuracy firing the same weapons issued to the officers. Later

that day we went to the parking lot of Williams Stadium and drove patrol cars through a timed obstacle course. It was exciting to drive the big Tahoes with full lights and sirens as fast as we could around the traffic cones.

The 12-week course ended like it began with a talk from Chief Bates. It was interesting how our questions and perspectives changed after seeing it first hand. What struck me was the variety of career paths available within the department and how each person truly enjoyed their role in keeping the citizens of Garland safe.

All of us certainly grew in appreciation for what these brave men and women face each day and we could not express our gratitude enough.

We also joined the Garland Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association, which allows us to stay connected to the department by participating in fundraisers and benefit activities for our police.

If you are interested in joining the Citizen's Police Academy, and I highly encourage it, the next class in spring is already taking applications. Find more information on the GPD webpage. www.garlandpolice.com/gov/lq/safety/police/cpa/default.asp



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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

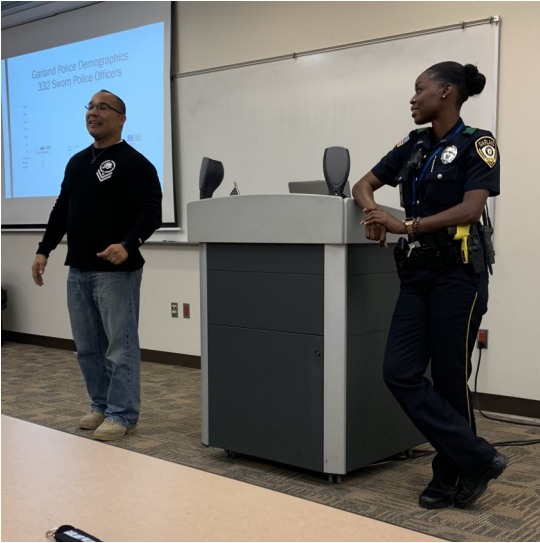
It's all about living to bring God glory!

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Donna Feher
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Overnight Stays in Your Home or Mine





Top Left: Officers Irizarry and Jones speak about women in policing

Top Right: K9 Diesel is ready to pounce

Middle Left: Officer Nguyen demonstrates the bomb robot

Middle Right: Officer Plaia shows off his flying "squad car"

Bottom Left: I try on the 80 lb. bomb suit

Bottom middle: A classmate hits a cone on the obstacle course

Bottom Right: Class graduation day with Chief Bates



"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

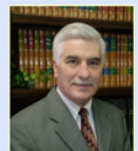
the Power of ONE LORD and ONE surrendered LIFE

Rodgers Baptist Church

801 W. Buckingham Road
Garland, TX 75040

972-675-4800

<http://rodgersbaptist.net>



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

Join the ONA Today!

oakridgena.org

Oakridge News

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

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Local Postal Customer

The Citizens on Patrol Keep Watch in Oakridge

by Dan Nichols
ONA Safety Director

The COP (Citizens on Patrol) is back! You may notice a car with an orange light and Citizens on Patrol sign driving throughout the neighborhood. Thanks to Mark Edwards and Lee Litton for patrolling the past few months.

We are excited to have an additional 12 neighbors attending the upcoming COP training on January 15. If you are interested in participating, go to <https://www.garlandtx.gov/gov/lq/safety/police/cop.asp>.

Please be diligent this Holiday season—crime spikes during this time as thieves are looking for packages in unlocked cars,

mail boxes and on front porches. Do not leave valuables in your car if you must park on the street.

Thieves are also targeting cash-business owners' homes and watching when they leave for work. Be aware of suspicious vehicles driving down streets and in and out of alleys.

Check on neighbors or have your neighbors keep watch if you plan to be out of town. The Garland Police Department also has a Vacation Home Watch program. Information can be found through their website at garlandpolice.com.

Report suspicious persons and vehicles with license plate #'s to Garland police at 972-205-2042 and email Officer Barnes at BarnesT@garlandtx.gov.



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*Oakridge resident over 30 years
offering special commission rate for my neighbors!*