



Oakridge News

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Neighborhood Update

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Hello Oakridge. Each May we see some changing of the guard in the ranks of the resident volunteers that serve the ONA as Officers and District Directors. This year we welcome quite a few new faces as well as renewing terms for several veterans with years of service. As one of the incoming residents, I am proud to serve our great neighborhood as President of the Association. I'm energized by a number of recent conversations over shared ambitions for the coming year.

First things first – I want to thank the loyal ONA membership for your support as we continue to work hard to keep the landscaping beautiful, along with keeping intact our eye on safety and building community. Your membership, support and participation are much appreciated.

And...we have work to do. The main challenge we intend to take on is Neighborhood Inclusion. Our Association has membership from only 25% of Oakridge households, which means that 75% of the households in the neighborhood don't belong to the ONA. While one of the upsides to voluntary membership is that those who don't want to don't have to join, I think we can do much better than 25%.

We've heard two possible sources driving the lack of participation so far:

1. We can do a more effective job of communicating the value proposition of the ONA.
2. We are not clear about that fact that we want everyone in the neighborhood involved.

Oakridge opened in the mid 80s as a premier subdivision with exclusive membership in a private Golf Course, Country Club, Tennis Courts and Swim Club. Some of the residents were lifetime members of the Country Club, many of who continue to be very supportive and active in the ONA. And...history has taken the neighborhood on a journey. Along the way the cultural fabric of the neighborhood has changed. The structure of the ONA Board, its by-laws and processes may convey to some people, to a certain extent, that the ONA is an "exclusive" association. I assure you it is not. Whereas the 80s were filled with great memories,

it's time to make new memories in 2019 with a model that embraces our diverse cultures and changing demographics.

We see increasing diversity in the general membership, as indicated by the crowd at the Spring Fling – what a wonderful mix of folks. More of that please.

The challenge we'd like to highlight is that in order to have a healthy future in the neighborhood, we need some of the new neighbors to drive and lead this organization. I know you're out there! You are tempted to join, to come to a meeting, to put yourself out there. But for some reason, you don't do it.

- Are we sending out signals, quite unintentionally, that say you are not welcome?
- Are we not communicating in ways that work?
- Are we still seen as Country Club folks attempting to hang onto a bygone time?

We hope not, but if so then help us start dismantling that. We want you to help us update the ONA to reflect the current demographics. We believe that we need to change our message, how we communicate that message, and how we value having an Association of Neighbors. And we need input, fresh ideas, feedback and opinions.

This year the ONA plans to dig in, actively focusing on an "inclusive" model that makes it clear to every single person in Oakridge that you are welcome, valued, and needed! We are a diverse Association of Neighbors and with your help, we will not only grow membership but grow as neighbors and friends.

You'll hear from us going forward on this and we'll figure it out together.

We want to hear from you – be it via your District Directors (www.oakridgena.org), email (info@oakridgena.org), face to face, on the phone (602 791 2492), anonymously via letter (Oakridge Neighborhood Association - P.O. Box 450145 – Garland, TX 75045) – however you do it. We're watching Nextdoor now, you can find us there as well.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be of service.

Oakridge Landscaping

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Landscaping for our neighborhood perimeter and entrances is managed by two groups: Platinum Landscaping and ONA Environmental Committee volunteers. ONA membership dues pay for Platinum Landscaping to take care of the mowing and edging of the perimeter parkways (edges around our neighborhood). Everything else - mulch, plants, trimming, some sprinkler repairs, landscape lights, flags - is handled by the ONA Environmental Committee volunteers.

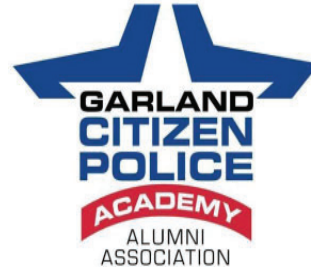
Many volunteers generously donate their time to keep the neighborhood entrances looking beautiful. We have an adopt-an-entrance approach where volunteers (or teams of volunteers) choose to take responsibility for one or more entrances and/or medians. Since the largest portion of our volunteers live on the west side of the neighborhood, most of the entrances on the west side have been or are being planted with some color plants. Whereas, on the east side we have cleaned and mulched the beds and trimmed the hedges but are not planting color this spring.

We need more volunteers - especially if you live on the East side of the neighborhood (close to Shiloh or Beltline). This is a great opportunity to connect with your neighbors and have fun! If you are interested in joining the ONA Environmental Committee, please contact David Parrish (okcanoe@tx.rr.com).

We also want to express our gratitude to those of you who have given money to support beautification of the neighborhood. During the 2018 membership year, households in Oakridge donated \$4,548 for neighborhood beautification. This year (2019), we have already received \$3,358. Thank you for your contributions!

Thank You!

A big *thank you* to Bruce Miller Nurseries for helping us keep Oakridge looking beautiful by providing discounts on the plants for our neighborhood entrances. Consider visiting Bruce Miller for your next landscape or garden project.



Citizen Police Academy

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime Prevention & Safety Director

Oakridge had four residents participating in the Garland Citizen Police Academy Class #53. This 12-week program is a great way for citizens to become educated on the inner workings of the Garland Police Department and support our men and women in blue. The next class begins August 1, 2019.

Go to the ONA Website to submit your application and see fun photos at <http://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/> or contact us at safety@oakridgena.org to find ways you can get involved in the Oakridge Crime Watch.

Security Cameras

Crime rates have gone down in our neighborhood thanks to attentive residents and our Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.) program.

Residential security cameras have also been a tremendous help in reducing crime. At the ONA General Meeting in May, Officer Barnes (our Neighborhood Police Officer) emphasized what a great help it has been for Garland Police to have footage from residential video cameras. He encouraged all residents (who are financially able) to consider adding cameras to their properties.

JOIN

oakridgena.org/join

The 2019-2020 Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) Membership Drive is underway! Visit oakridgena.org/join to fill out the membership form and pay online.

The ONA Board

President Scott Barnes
 Vice President..... Mark Edwards
 SecretarySharon Parrish
 Treasurer Keith Engler
 District 1 Director Mary Van Pelt
 District 2 Director Paula Griffin
 District 3 Director Dottie Moseley and Lila La Grassa
 District 4 Director Keta Woods
 District 5 DirectorMichelle Mizerak
 District 6 Director Linda Horton
 District 7 Director Sharon Carlton

ONA Spring Fling

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Member

The ONA Spring Fling was a fun distraction from the rainy weather. It was nice to see so many neighbors come, despite the event having been rescheduled due to rain. People donned their hats and headed out to welcome the sunshine and enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, homemade cookies (thank you Daytimers!), and fun activities. It was a special treat for adults and kids alike to see (in the words of my 7-year-old daughter) a REAL firetruck and ambulance. We look forward to the next ONA event!



A Farmer's Market

Summer is a great time to visit a local Farmer's Market. The Farmer's Market at Firewheel Town Center (located by Macy's on Firewheel Parkway) is open for business every Saturday and Sunday from 10 am - 5 pm. They offer food items as well as many artisan products.

Your Oakridge District

Did you know the Oakridge Neighborhood is divided into 7 districts? Each district has a District Director who serves on the ONA Board, providing input on behalf of Oakridge residents. They also have several responsibilities, including setting out holiday decorations and distributing "ONA Member" flags. Learn which district you live in by finding your street and district number below.

- Beaver Run District 1
- Bending Oaks Trail District 1
- Big Oaks Drive (2501-2842) District 7
- Big Oaks Drive (2901-3221) District 5
- Creighton Drive..... District 6
- Crestedge Drive District 6
- Diamond Oaks Drive (2001-2322) District 2
- Diamond Oaks Drive (2325-2521) District 1
- Fulton Drive District 7
- Golden Oaks Drive..... District 1
- Grand Oak Drive District 4
- Greenview Circle District 1
- Greenview Drive..... District 1
- Hearthside Lane District 3
- Hickory Bend Drive District 7
- Laurel Oaks Court District 5
- Laurel Oaks Drive..... District 5
- Lone Oak Trail..... District 2
- Meadowridge Drive..... District 6
- Moss Trail District 2
- Oak Point Drive (2601-2937) District 4
- Oak Point Drive (3001-3126) District 2
- Oak Springs Drive (2701-2817)..... District 4
- Oak Springs Drive (2901-3017)..... District 2
- Overview Lane..... District 3
- Peakwood Drive..... District 3
- Pebblestone Drive District 7
- Pepperidge Drive District 7
- Richoak Drive..... District 7
- Ridge Oak Court District 1
- Ridge Oak Drive District 1
- Ridge Oak Place District 1
- Ridge View Lane District 1
- Rocky Trail..... District 2
- Rolling Oak Lane (2001-2013) District 4
- Rolling Oak Lane (2101-2222) District 2
- Shady Oaks Court District 2
- Stoneridge Drive (2610-2742) District 6
- Stoneridge Drive (2801-2882) District 5
- Suncrest Drive District 6
- Willow Ridge Drive District 4
- Winding Oak Trail District 4
- Windy Ridge Lane..... District 4



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Oakridge Neighborhood Association
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Hats Off to Daytimers

by Dianne Winter, Oakridge Daytimers

Hats off to Daytimers as forty members gathered – dressed in hats – to celebrate the 20 years of this organization that has knit together women during those years. Founder Roberta Jones was honored, and several past members were present for this get-together. Outgoing president, Shirley Heald, was presented with a gift for her service this year.

The organizational committee cleverly decorated the room at First Baptist Church Richardson with photos from the scrapbooks of past activities. Thanks for those memories that commemorated the history of the past years! In addition there was a beautiful display of hats that exhibited the theme of the entertainment.

Tasty food and creative entertainment were other highlights of the meeting.

Janie Oliver, retired music minister, turned her love of music and hats (as demonstrated by her ownership of over 300) into a presentation of the historical perspective of hats from early to modern paired with songs for each type. Janie perfectly illustrated the 20th year anniversary

theme: “Hats Off to Daytimers.”

The officers for the upcoming 2019 – 2020 year were announced with Chris Beyers donning the president’s hat.

The Daytimers do not meet June through August so please join them at 10:00 am, Tuesday, September 10th, 2019 at the home of Gloria Turner, 2309 Rocky Trail, as they begin their 21st year!

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, Chris Beyers, at cbeyers2000@yahoo.com or 972-530-8292.

City of Garland Pools

With Memorial Day weekend behind us, all the Garland Pools (Surf & Swim, Bradfield Pool, Holford Pool, and Wynne Pool) are officially open for business.


Visit the City of Garland’s Aquatics webpage for information about pool hours and swim lessons. <https://www.garlandtx.gov/154/Aquatics>

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