



Oakridge News

oakridgena.org July 2019, Vol. 27, No. 7

Neighborhood Update

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Hello again Oakridge.

Newsletter Update

I hope the new border on our front page will catch your eye and start to put into action our theme of Inclusion. We are working hard to update the look and content of the newsletter to grab your attention. Do you like it? Are we getting across our message? Keep in mind the changes to the newsletter are a visible part of the update we're doing at the Board level to serve the neighborhood.

Newsletter Delivery Victory!!!

We did accomplish our first goal of the year with the newsletter last month – we managed to get a copy to every house in Oakridge! We have been dealing with challenges on that front and believe we overcame them in June. Having a monthly communication that goes to all Oakridge neighbors is important to us. Even more important is to move you to communicate back to us.

Neighborhood Inclusion

The message I would like to keep putting out there is that I believe we're stronger as a neighborhood when we know each other. Why and what that looks like are worth taking some time to write about.

Why? I was drawn to Oakridge in part by the lack of an HOA. We have a degree of freedom from standards of conformity that exists in neighborhoods with an HOA, and that was attractive to me. I've lived in several places where the whole HOA thing was a little overbearing. I'd get a nasty letter over the most minute issues, and it often felt like there was an authority that I was subject to that was run by some folks with too much time on their hands. The intent was good but the way it showed up was just overbearing. We don't have that in Oakridge. I enjoy that. I like the independent spirit that we have. On the other hand, we could use more that connects us as neighbors. The ONA can be a more effective means of creating opportunities for us to meet and get to know each other.

What does that look like? Good question. At this stage we can only guess and try – and that we'll continue to do. But along the way we will look for input to guide us. My hope is to keep the things that work while opening them for a possible update.

Updating ONA's Celebration of Oakridge

How can we more effectively celebrate our Oakridgeness together? Take the Spring Fling – maybe we can expand that to celebrate the diverse cultural fabric we have in Oakridge. Maybe next year we can set ourselves up to celebrate that and to create an event where we can show each other what that really means. Our Events and Communications teams will be taking on these challenges in the coming months.

I will mention that the level of membership is lower than I thought. We have 1,166 households total in the neighborhood and 224 ONA supporters – so we're at 19%. This is up over last year. We will get some data on that together this month and publish it in August. We will be allocating some space in this monthly newsletter to getting the facts out there so we can watch this journey together.

Coming Themes in the Neighborhood Update

Beginning next month, we'll be working on being clearer about the basic value proposition of the ONA. Between our Communication, Environmental, and Crime/Safety teams, there is a lot of great work going on that I'd like to tell you about.

Let Us Hear From You

So I'll keep repeating a theme – we want to hear from you. Invite your District Directors for coffee or tea (find their contact information on page 4 of this newsletter or at www.oakridgena.org), email us (info@oakridgena.org), let us know when we can drop by and say hello, call me on the phone (602 791 2492), write to us anonymously via letter (Oakridge Neighborhood Association – P.O. Box 450145 – Garland, TX 75045), and post on Nextdoor. We'll be watching and listening.

Crime & Safety Committee

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime Prevention & Safety Director

Consider volunteering to help keep our community safe. Here is a list of volunteer opportunities.

To help you decide which opportunities work best with your schedule, we have noted the time commitment (low, medium, high) required for each volunteer activity.

Crime Watch Lead. (Low time commitment) We are looking for additional Crime Watch leads – especially for the larger streets. This does not require anything more than what good neighbors do normally: A) know your neighbors and who belongs and who does not; B) Proactively call police when you see suspicious activity and provide specific details; C) Subscribe to Siren Alerts; and D) Be willing to share your contact info (email, cell) with the Crime & Safety committee as well as help with investigation if warranted by Officer Barnes (our Neighborhood Police Officer).

Citizens on Patrol (COP). (Medium time commitment) We are looking for additional COPs to conduct patrols at least a couple hours each month or whatever your schedule will allow. COPs must complete a background check and attend a 3-hour training (usually held a couple times a year on a Tuesday evening) through the Garland Police Department. We will provide you with a magnetic sign and lights when you patrol and ask you to report your patrol hours to us either via an app or email monthly so that we can compile a report for GPD.

National Night Out. (Medium time commitment) Host a gathering on your block for National Night Out (in October). We would like to see several volunteers throughout Oakridge host block parties. If we have enough neighbors involved, we will coordinate a “parade” through Oakridge with our COPs and local GPD & Fire Department. Let us know if you would like to serve as a block party host in your area.

Citizens Police Academy. (High time commitment) Become an active supporter of our men and women in blue. Requires completing a background check and attendance at a 12-week course held Thursdays from 7-10 p.m. The August 1st class is full, but they are taking applications for February 2020. Upon graduation, there are several volunteer opportunities through the Alumni Association, including driving a patrol car to check on Vacation Watch requests.

Assist with monthly Oakridge Crime Stats. (Medium time commitment) If you like to stay on top of the Crime Stats for our area, then this volunteer opportunity may be perfect for you. We are looking for a person interested in compiling stats for our monthly Oakridge Crime Stats report. This would involve pulling crime stats from the GPD website at the beginning of each month to identify crime incidents from District 14 & Oakridge streets and updating our Excel spreadsheet and graphs to be included in the monthly report.

We'd love to hear from you! Contact us (safety@oakridgena.org) with any other ideas you have for keeping our neighborhood safe, or if you want to volunteer.



*Officer Barnes, ONA Spring Fling
(photos courtesy of Joan Nichols)*

Donna's Pet & House Sitting
Home: 972-495-8599 Call: 214-395-5403
Donna Feher
Partnered With Sue Hageland
Oakridge Area Resident for 30+ Years

Insured - Certified in Pet First Aid/CPR

Overnight Stays in Your Home or Mine

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David's Meat Market
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4010 N. Jupiter Road Open Tues.-Fri. 10am - 6pm
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www.davidsmeatmarket.com

Environmental Committee

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Help keep Oakridge beautiful! Here are some ways you can volunteer to beautify the neighborhood.

Pick up trash. When you go for a walk in the neighborhood, work in your garden, or even when you head for your mailbox, keep an eye out for trash. Picking up trash whenever you see it doesn't take a lot of time, but it does make a big difference in keeping our neighborhood beautiful.

Maintain Lawns and Gardens. Keeping your lawns and gardens well-tended will help keep our neighborhood beautiful. If you know a neighbor who needs a little help with their lawn or garden, pitch in and help. Be a good neighbor.

Adopt an Entrance. Consider working with your neighbors to adopt the neighborhood entrance near your home. Contact the Environmental Committee (environment@oakridgena.org) for things you can do to improve your neighborhood entrance.

For more volunteer opportunities or if you have questions or need to report Oakridge landscape issues, contact us at environment@oakridgena.org.

Entry Lighting Improved

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Our four main Oakridge entrances (Laurel Oaks, Big Oaks, Diamond Oaks, and Ridge Oaks) all have lights that turn on at night. Due to wear and tear, many of the lights have been in desperate need of repair. Keith Engler, our ONA Treasurer/Electrician, generously donated his time and expertise to repair or replace all the fixtures. In the process, he also replaced the bulbs with bright, cost-efficient LED bulbs. Thank you, Keith!

Garden Websites

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

If you are a gardener or love reading about plants, you may enjoy these useful and interesting links:

Bruce Miller Nursey (the unofficial nursery of Oakridge)
<http://bruce millernursery.com/>

Dallas County Master Gardeners
<https://dallascountymastergardeners.org/>

GISD Schools Gardens
https://plano.bubblelife.com/community/if_liz_were_queen/library/35589271/key/356073790/Garland_The_Garden_City

ONA Newsletter

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Newsletter Editor

We are looking for some volunteers to help with bundling and mailing the ONA newsletter each month. Here are the tasks involved.

Pick up and Bundle. Each month, the newsletters need to be picked up from the printer and then bundled for mailing.

Deliver to the Post Offices. The newsletters must be taken to 2 post offices in Garland (one post office processes the newsletters for bulk mail, the other post office will actually deliver the newsletters).

If you are able to help with any of these tasks, please contact us at communications@oakridgena.org.

ONA Website

The ONA website (www.oakridgena.org) provides information for joining the ONA and additional resources for residents.

The website is also in the process of being updated. We thank you for your patience as we make corrections and changes to better serve the Oakridge community.

If you have any questions or concerns about the ONA website, please contact us at communications@oakridgena.org. Thank you!

New City Website

The City of Garland's website has a new look and feel. Take some time to check it out at <https://www.garlandtx.gov/>.

The "Residents" tab provides information on everything from City Services to Adoptable Pets to Employment Opportunities. You can also sign up to receive notifications about various events and alerts by clicking on the green "Notify Me" button.

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excelairheat@gmail.com

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 Barnes602-791-2492
 Vice President, Mark Edwards.....972-414-8525
 Secretary, Sharon Parrish469-939-2270
 Treasurer, Keith Engler972-834-0096
 District 1 Director, Mary Van Pelt 972-496-1744
 District 2 Director, Paula Griffin214-403-6300
 District 3 Directors, Dotty Moseley214-703-3532
 and Lila La Grassa.....972-530-8618
 District 4 Director, Keta Woods469-877-7009
 District 5 Director, Michelle Mizerak214-962-7795
 District 6 Director, Linda Horton.....972-977-6969
 District 7 Director, Sharon Carlton.....972-345-9741
 Crime & Safety Committee, Joan Nichols214-543-2546
 Environmental Committee, David Parrish469-733-6089
 Membership Committee, Jane Mayers972-365-0427

What does the ONA do?

Here are a few of the things the ONA is able to do thanks to your support dollars and the generous help of many volunteers:

- maintain neighborhood entrances and perimeter
- create, print, and mail a monthly newsletter
- partner with our Neighborhood Police Officer and Citizens on Patrol to promote neighborhood safety
- welcome new residents
- decorate entrances during for National Holidays
- provide holiday meals to Fire Stations 3 and 11
- organize neighborhood social activities

ONA Membership Drive

by Jane Mayers, ONA Membership Committee Director

The 2019-2020 ONA Membership Drive is off to a great start! Thank you to everyone who has sent in the voluntary dues and to those who have contributed to the neighborhood beautification fund.

Here is a look at the numbers this year compared to last year:

	Supporter Renewals
This Year (6/21/2019)	224
Last Year (6/21/2018)	197

	Dues
This Year (6/21/2019)	\$13,440.00
Last Year (6/21/2018)	\$11,820.00

	Beautification
This Year (6/21/2019)	\$5,926.00
Last Year (6/21/2018)	\$2,735.00

Your support dollars are used for the benefit of ALL residents in Oakridge. Without general maintenance of the neighborhood perimeter, entrance beds, sprinkler system, and medians our beautiful neighborhood would be unmanicured and our property values would suffer. If you haven't sent in your support dollars, we encourage you to do so.

The ONA Member flags are bright red this year and are very visible from the street. So, when you notice a flag in your neighbor's yard, please thank them for their support of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

Visit oakridgena.org/join for more information on joining the ONA. For questions concerning membership, email us at membership@oakridgena.org.



photo courtesy of Joan Nichols

2019 ONA Spring Fling



photo courtesy of Joan Nichols

2019 ONA Spring Fling



photo courtesy of Joan Nichols

2019 ONA Spring Fling



Your Oakridge District

In the June newsletter, we posted a list of the Oakridge neighborhood districts. However, we discovered a mistake with the Big Oaks addresses. Below is the corrected list. Find your street below to learn your neighborhood district number.

Beaver Run	District 1
Bending Oaks Trail	District 1
Big Oaks Drive (2501-2606)	District 7
Big Oaks Drive (2609-2847)	District 6
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

ONA Spring Fling

by Mark Edwards, ONA Vice President

We had a huge response to the ONA Spring Fling this past May. Residents from all parts of our community contributed to a record-setting crowd. Everyone enjoyed the food, the bounce house, great tunes, and friends. And right in the middle of it all was a Garland fire truck which got a big response from everyone! At one point, they even brought in an ambulance. And later, the firemen came by again to pick up some great grub! Big favorites at the event were the ice cream, popcorn, and cotton candy. Thanks to the Garland Fire Department for bringing themselves and their vehicles and thanks to the City of Garland for the party trailer!



photos courtesy of Joan Nichols

2019 ONA Spring Fling



Oakridge News

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

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Local Postal Customer

Volunteer Opportunities

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) always has plenty of opportunities for volunteers. See if any of these areas are interesting to you, then contact the ONA to find out more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

ONA Board Members (officers and district directors)
send an email to info@oakridgena.org

Membership Committee (welcoming new residents)
send an email to membership@oakridgena.org

Communications (newsletter, website)
send an email to communications@oakridgena.org

Environmental (landscape, sprinklers, perimeter)
send an email to environment@oakridgena.org

Crime & Safety (crime watch, Citizens on Patrol)
send an email to safety@oakridgena.org

Holiday Decorations (neighborhood entrances)
send an email to info@oakridgena.org

Event Planning (social events, meals for fire stations)
send an email to info@oakridgena.org

Grill/Chef/Cook (for neighborhood events)
send an email to info@oakridgena.org



*The Cooks/Chefs for the 2019 ONA Spring Fling
(photo courtesy of Joan Nichols)*

Red Light Cameras

Statement posted June 5 on NextDoor by GPD

As of June 1, 2019, the City of Garland no longer operates its Safelight Garland (Red Light Camera) program. All intersection cameras are now turned off. Payments will no longer be processed. Registration holds are no longer in effect.

Oakridge Women's Club

by Libby Morse

The Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women in the Oakridge neighborhood who share a strong and common bond in the love of our children and families. All ages. We welcome prospective new members at all meetings.

We meet the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. Join us for holiday parties and dinners out. We share hosting, snacks, beverages, and a few laughs!


E-mail Libby Morse at TOMLIB@tx.rr.com for the next location. We will not have a meeting in July. We will meet in August at a restaurant TBD. Call me for more information: 972-523-3069.



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