



# Oakridge News

[oakridgena.org](http://oakridgena.org)

August 2019, Vol. 27, No. 8

## Neighborhood Update

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Hello Oakridge!

Wanted to take some time this month to start to lay out some fundamentals about the ONA.

### Neighborhood Association

Soon after the founding of Oakridge in 1985, the ONA was started. Per the Bylaws, the purposes of the Association are to assure the beauty, safety, and stability of the area and the surrounding community, and to promote neighborliness and pride among the residents. We accomplish that through a series of committees that do the work required. The ONA is a 501(c)(4) organization (nonprofit, dues are non-deductible) and has bylaws that govern its actions. These bylaws are available on the ONA website ([www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org)) under "Resident Resources".

### Membership Committee

Jane Mayers and Michelle Mizerak lead this team, which takes care of the logistics of membership – printing and distributing membership forms, collecting money and coordinating with the Treasurer and Welcome Wagon teams, and working with the District Directors to make sure the supporters get their flags. We are currently taking a fresh look at what updates we can make to our messaging, communications, and events to encourage a broader support base in the neighborhood. There are 1,166 homes in Oakridge and we currently have 304 members, so approximately 26% of the homes in Oakridge are supporters of the ONA (and that number is growing).

### Environmental Committee

This team is led by David Parrish and is composed of quite a few supporter volunteers. Their scope is to oversee the care/maintenance of the grass/trees outside the perimeter wall and the entrances. While this may sound simple, let's unpack these tasks a bit to get an appreciation for what this team does.

*Perimeter Upkeep:* We hire a service to mow the grass outside the perimeter of the neighborhood. This service is governed by a contract and keeping the service levels

and cost in line requires an annual review of that contract. This process takes a couple of months each year as we search for competitive companies to do the work, make sure they are qualified to do business with the ONA, and then negotiate a level of service and an annual fee. This year we are also having the trees pruned, which requires a separate process of reviewing requirements and then agreeing on a fee.

*Entrance Landscaping:* As anyone who has driven around Oakridge knows, we have quite a few entrances – 9 to be exact. The plants and general upkeep of each of those entrances (including the center islands at Ridge Oak and Laurel Oak) requires significant work. Most of our entrances have been adopted by supporter volunteers and they spend the time necessary tending to the entrance. This year alone, the Environmental team spent several days distributing over a dozen pickup truck loads of mulch to the beds! We are very fortunate to have this group of volunteers, and part of the reason I am detailing this process is so that we all understand that it's only through the continued process of new volunteers coming forward that our neighborhood can stay beautiful.

*Lighting/Sprinklers:* Our Treasurer, Keith Engler, has put in significant time over the past few months bringing all the lighting at the entrances back up to working order. He has also spent many hours rehabilitating – with the help of Environmental Committee volunteers – many of our sprinkler systems. We are amazingly fortunate to have folks like Keith that have both the ability and willingness to take this on.

### Communications Committee

Heather and Eric Englebretson handle our newsletter and website. Readers have commented positively on our recent newsletter updates and we're thrilled that you've noticed and like the work we're doing. We are now working on getting the website spruced up. What you don't see is that it takes more work than you might expect to get the newsletter printed and mailed each month. We've overcome issues that kept the newsletter from reaching all our residents, but we have yet to figure out how to make

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Neighborhood Update by *Scott Barnes, ONA President*

the mailing process easier. Once the newsletter is printed it must be bundled a certain way, and it takes two trips to two different post offices each month to get it on its way to your mailbox. Anyone with ideas on how to simplify this process please raise your hand!

### Crime Prevention & Safety Committee

Team Nichols (Joan/Dan) keep an eye on the neighborhood and coordinate quite a bit of crime prevention activity that has contributed in a major way to keeping us all safer. You can subscribe to the neighborhood crime watch email (also called the "Siren Alert") on our website. This team coordinates with the Garland Police to make sure we're a productive and positive force. Overall crime rates are down, and we believe this is a contributing force to that trend.

### Events

Sherrri Rutherford leads the Events team. Here we take care of organizing events like the Spring Fling and Holiday

### Save these Dates!

ONA General Membership Meeting, 9/26, 7 p.m.

Garland's National Night Out, 10/1

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Celebrations. We are looking at how we can better direct our efforts to include more of the neighborhood in this area. Oakridge has historically had block parties that — as I hear it — were great for getting folks out to meet each other. We're working on what we can do with that going forward. More on Oakridge Events as they develop.

### Budget

To complete the picture let's talk money for a minute. Our Treasurer, Keith Engler, has a very involved job tracking everything related to the ONA budget - from taxes to expenditures to planning. The ONA takes in and spends (nonprofit) approximately \$20k per year. We spend \$16k on landscaping, entrances, and watering, \$3k on the newsletter, and \$1k on events and miscellaneous items. There are no paid positions on the ONA Board.

### Overall

How fortunate we all are that there is such a group of able and motivated volunteers out here to get all this work done. Next time you see them doing their thing, take a few minutes to stop and chat for a bit. In order to keep these functions vital and improving, we need new supporters to join us and become part of our efforts. We have a great time together and would very much like new folks to come join us. We could use the help, and we'd like to get to know you.

## ONA Meeting Minutes

by *Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications*

The ONA hosts General Membership Meetings 3 times a year as well as monthly Board Meetings. The minutes from all meetings are made available on our website (<https://www.oakridgena.org/>) on the "Resident Resources" page.

Please note all minutes must be approved before they can be posted. Minutes are approved whenever the next meeting is held. For example, the General Membership Meeting minutes for May will not be approved until the next General Membership Meeting (September).

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Oakridge Neighborhood Association  
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### Oakridge Daytimers

by Jan Reed, Oakridge Daytimers

The Oakridge Daytimers is a social and community information organization for women who reside in Oakridge. The Daytimers' leadership supports the Oakridge community, Garland Fire and Police Departments, and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

Any questions about joining should be directed to the current president for 2019-2020, Chris Beyers (cbeyers2000@yahoo.com, 972-530-8292), or Jan Reed (jreed58@gmail.com, 972-896-1104).

Though the Daytimers do not meet in the summer months (from June through August) you are invited to join them for the Fall Kickoff at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 10th, 2019 at the home of Gloria Turner (2309 Rocky Trail). Come meet your neighbors as we begin our 21st year!

Membership is open to all female residents. Membership dues of \$20.00 are used for speakers, community support, and the annual end of year luncheon.

We hope to see you in September!

### General Membership Meeting

Join us for the next ONA General Membership Meeting. All Oakridge residents are invited to come!

**Thursday, September 26, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Achievement Center of Texas (ACT)**  
**2950 North Shiloh Road, Garland**

*Parking is available at the ACT and along the short driveway between the ACT and the Shell station. Additional parking is available at the dentist office (facing Beltline). Parking attendants will be available to help direct you to available parking.*

View this Newsletter in **COLOR!**

All newsletters are posted in color at:  
<http://www.oakridgena.org/newsletters>

### Oakridge Women's Club

by Libby Morse, Oakridge Women's Club

Oakridge Women's Club meets the first Thursday of the month. We usually have about 7-10 ladies from the neighborhood and we meet for laughs and support.

If you want to know more, give me a call and I can give you details about the August 1st or September 5th meeting. In July we met at Quiggly's and made glass and mosaic projects.

We welcome new members!! Call Libby 972-523-3069. We hope to see you in September!

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