

Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

August 2019, Vol. 27, No. 8

Neighborhood Update

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Hello Oakridge!

• anyoung haseyo • ahlan bekum • sà wàtdii • shalom • xin chào • namaste • konnichiwa • tena yistilign

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) 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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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

Sherri 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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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 info@oakridgena.org

President, Scott Barnes	602-791-2492
Vice President, Mark Edwards	972-414-8525
Secretary, Sharon Parrish	469-939-2270
Treasurer, Keith Engler	972-834-0096
District 1 Director, Mary VanPelt	972-496-1744
District 2 Director, Paula Griffin	214-403-6300
District 3 Directors, Dotty Moseley	214-703-3532
and Lila La Grassa	972-530-8618
District 4 Director, Keta Woods	469-877-7009
District 5 Director, Michelle Mizerak	
District 6 Director, Linda Horton	972-977-6969
District 7 Director, Sharon Carlton	972-345-9741
$Communications, Heather Englebrets on \;$	214-562-7857
Crime & Safety Committee, Joan Nichols	214-543-2546
Environmental Committee, David Parrish .	469-733-6089
Membership Committee, Jane Mayers	972-365-0427

District Directors

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications

What is an ONA District Director? ONA District Directors are non-paid volunteers who serve 2-year terms on the ONA Board. They are elected during the May General Membership Meeting.

What exactly does an ONA District Director do? Here are just a few of the ways they support Oakridge:

- deliver Welcome Baskets to new residents in their district
- deliver ONA member flags to new & returning members
- place and remove seasonal decorations
- place and remove meeting notices
- serve on the Board as a representative for their district

This is a small snapshot of the many hats these hardworking volunteers wear. A more detailed explanation of their duties can be found in Section 4.4 of the ONA Bylaws (http://www.oakridgena.org/bylaws-and-governing-documents).

The next time you see someone setting out ONA Member flags, hanging decorations, delivering Welcome Baskets, or placing reminder notices on doors, be sure to say "hello" - or even better, thank them and consider volunteering to help them with their tasks.

iNaturalist Nature App

by Carol Garrison, ONA Environmental Committee

There's a wonderful tool that can enhance your walk through nature, whether you're strolling along Duck Creek or taking a hike in the Spring Creek Forest Preserve. The best part is that *it's FREE!*



With the iNaturalist app, you can have help identifying that strange bug you just encountered or the plant you have never seen before.

iNaturalist is a citizen science project and online social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists. This app is built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe and may be accessed via its website or from its mobile application.

Go online (https://www.inaturalist.org/) or download the app, load up photos of creatures or plants or insects you encounter on your daily walks, and let this dedicated group of citizens help identify what you've seen!

Here are 2 iNaturalist groups already working on compiling local observations. Consider adding your photos!

Spring Creek - https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/spring-creek-plano-richardson-garland

Duck Creek - https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/duck-creek-greenbelt-garland-texas

Watering Your Lawn



Source: http://garlandwater.com/530/Water-Utilities

After having received so much rain, it's easy to forget the City of Garland follows a water conservation schedule.

Between April 1st and October 31st:

- Residents may water twice each week using an inground sprinkler system. (Residents can choose which days.) Keep in mind that outdoor irrigation is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Watering with a hand-held device, soaker hose, or drip irrigation is allowed any time on any day as long as excessive runoff does not occur.

For the latest information on watering schedules in Garland, visit: http://garlandwater.com/530/Water-Utilities.

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Oakridge Neighborhood Association P.O. Box 450145 Garland, TX 75045-0145 PRSRT STD ECRWSS U.S.POSTAGE PAID EDDM Retail

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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