



Oakridge News

oakridgena.org September 2019, Vol. 27, No. 9

General Membership Meeting ALL Oakridge Residents Welcome!

Thursday, September 26th

Social Gathering (free drinks & snacks) at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting starts at 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 (used by the post office trucks) between the ACT and the gas station. Additional parking is available at the dentist office (facing Beltline). Parking attendants will be available to help direct you to available parking.

Neighborhood Update

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Greetings Oakridge.

Thank you very much for your feedback on our newsletter. We are a service organization; therefore, feedback from our members and other neighborhood residents does mean a great deal to us.

Having written in the past few articles about the particulars of the current ONA, this month I will explain the difference between a Neighborhood Association (NA) and a Homeowner's Association (HOA). I will wrap up with a view of what our service potential is for our neighbors.

Neighborhood Association vs. Homeowner's Association

- A Neighborhood Association (NA) is voluntary. A Homeowners Association (HOA) is generally mandatory.
- An NA has no authority or means of enforcement. An HOA can typically levy fines and penalties on homeowners.

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) is concerned with:

- maintaining the entrances and perimeter landscaping;
- communicating with the residents; and
- maintaining a neighborhood watch in liaison with the City of Garland.

HOAs often have considerably more areas of concern and even authority, such as housing upkeep and design conformity.

What the ONA is Not

The ONA is not an organization that will be working on issues that pit one group of neighbors against another.

Common Challenges

Now, this does beg the question of how Oakridge neighbors – ONA Members or not – address areas of common concern. As the ONA President I'd like to make it clear that the ONA is not here to enforce the following issues:

- Parking – This is a matter for the City of Garland. The ONA has no authority or means of helping with this.
- Upkeep of Individual Properties – This is a matter for the City of Garland. The ONA has no authority or means of helping with this.
- Home Use (Boarding Houses) – This is a matter for the City of Garland. The ONA has no authority or means of helping with this.
- Golf Course – While many of us are curious about the future of the central feature of our neighborhood, the ONA has no authority or means of helping with this.
- Perimeter Wall – Many of us are curious about the maintenance of the perimeter brick wall. However, the ONA has no authority or means of helping with this.

Why is it Important to Address These Topics?

These topics are important because the ONA is here to bring the neighborhood together. Getting involved in any of these other matters eventually pits some neighbors against other neighbors – and that works against our desire to bring neighbors together. The ONA is here to promote neighborhood unity. We want every single neighbor involved. Yes, we have differences – let's make that our strength. Yes, we agree on some things and not on others – let's make that an asset. The point is that we are all neighbors and we are better as a team than as a bunch of individuals that don't know each other.

ONA Direction

With that laid out, I feel like we've taken the first portion of the year to establish a clear view of the ONA's purpose,

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Neighborhood Update by *Scott Barnes, ONA President*

vision, and commitments. We've also clarified what are not going to be the ONA's areas of involvement. From here we will concentrate largely on how we expand our connection to the neighborhood residents and how we best serve the neighborhood in the role of promoter of unity.

ONA Opportunity

We need new membership involvement in our activities and our leadership. It's that simple. We need and appreciate the funding that comes from memberships, and for this group to survive we need more folks to raise their hands and help us lead this forward. We have room for anyone that wants to help, and I will say more on that next month.

I'm still learning, so feel free to jump in and educate me on anything you feel needs further discussion. Our interest is to draw in participation from more of the neighborhood. We believe that our neighborhood is stronger when we know and interact with each other regularly. The ONA Board of Directors sincerely appreciates the opportunity to be of service and hopes more of you will reach out and join in as we work to improve our neighborhood.

ONA: Making Events *Special*

by *Sherri Rutherford, ONA Events Director*

It is the time of year when we look forward to our lives getting back to normal with school, football, and cooler weather. Ahhh! It is also time to get our ONA Special Events planned. The ONA's goal is to get neighbors meeting neighbors. On my street alone, we have had a near 50% turnover of homes since the last block party. That's a lot of new neighbors to meet. We can add value to our neighborhood just by meeting our neighbors and having short social conversations with them. How does that work? Several of my new neighbors met in the street one afternoon just by chance. By the time we left, I had the name of a new housekeeper, a guy to upgrade landscaping, and other neighbors walked away with the names of pet groomers and sitters.

The ONA plans to continue some of our annual events like

the **Spring Fling** where the entire neighborhood comes together for food, firetrucks, and friends. Another annual tradition is to provide **Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners** for our 2 fire stations. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to express thanks by contributing to a nice feast for the firefighters who stand ready to be at our homes at a moment's notice.

Now, what would the Holidays be without Holiday decorations? **Decorating Oakridge entrances** has long been a favorite neighborhood activity. We will let you know when it is time to decorate so you can stop by and hang some garland or just give us your artistic eye for decorating. Also, don't forget to show your individual Holiday spirit with your **Holiday yard decorations**. Every year, we drive the neighborhood and look at the decorations. This makes a great family time activity – even our dogs love it. Let's get the competition going for the best Holiday yard in Oakridge.

In addition to our usual events, let's look at adding some new opportunities. Perhaps an event for **hazardous waste disposal** to get rid of old medication, paint, and shred those old useless mounds of documents that we all have. I have also been asked about bringing back the **Holiday Caroling** Oakridge did so many years ago. It is a really fun time and no singing voice is required.

As I recall, our most successful former social events were probably the **block parties**. Let's bring them back – with a twist. Let's do block parties unique to our own blocks. A few ideas include an ice cream social, a scavenger hunt, and Saturday morning coffee and donuts. Apparently, karaoke is also very popular at block parties.

What are your ideas? We want your creativity! Please think of the things you like to do on your block or in your district and share them with me via email at srutherford2313@yahoo.com or – better yet – tell them to me in person at the general meeting on September 26th at 7:00 p.m. (Achievement Center of Texas). We would love to hear your ideas.

Donna's Pet & House Sitting
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Spring Creek Preserve

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Did you know we have a remarkable natural treasure located just a few miles from our neighborhood? Spring Creek Forest Preserve is located at 1770 Holford Road. The Forest represents an old-growth bottomland hardwood forest with some of the oldest and tallest trees in the county.

The Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest hosts a series of interesting speakers the first Tuesday evening of each month, plus nature hikes on the fourth Sunday of each month from September through April. All are open to the public. Consider attending the upcoming Public Hike with Rich Jaynes on Prairie Ecology (Sunday, September 22, 2019, 3:00 pm, Spring Creek Forest Preserve, 1787 Holford Road). For more information visit: <https://springcreekforest.org/>.

We will share a bit more about this natural treasure in next month's newsletter, so stay tuned!

Tree Pest - Bagworm Moth

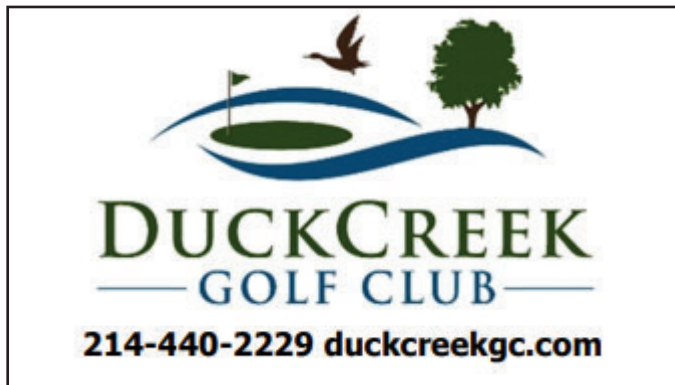
by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director



Bagworm Moth Cocoon

Insects comprise an estimated 90% of all animals on Earth. They are a key part of the ecosystem providing benefits such as aesthetics (e.g., butterflies), silk, honey, and pollination. One in three bites of foods we eat are the product of insect pollination. (source - <https://www.si.edu/spotlight/buginfo/benefits>)

A few insects are pests. One in particular - the evergreen bagworm moth - infested a juniper tree at the Winding Oaks Trail entrance. The tree has been removed and we will watch our other trees and shrubs more closely. Be on guard for signs of this pest (see photo of moth's cocoon). For more information, please visit the following Texas A&M Extension website. <https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2015/09/17/bagworms-in-the-fall/>



Oakridge Night Out

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director



Oakridge Parking Lot Tailgate
Tuesday, October 1st, 6:30 – 7:30
Duck Creek Golf Parking Lot

Join us and Garland Police as we celebrate Oakridge Night Out - "Tailgate" style!

The purpose of National Night Out is to build strong partnerships between the police and communities and to promote crime awareness programs such as Neighborhood Community Watch groups.

We will meet in the parking lot of the Duck Creek Golf Club. The Garland Police and Fire Department will be there, as well as some cuddly Pets-for-Adoption. Bring your tailgate gear – chairs, beverage of your choice, snacks, and games (football, frisbees, etc.).

To get more details and updates, visit the Crime Prevention & Safety page or subscribe to receive our emails. Both of these can be found under "Resident Resources" on the ONA website (www.oakridgena.org/resources).

Crime & Safety Update

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

Crime rates in our neighborhood continue to be low. We appreciate you all for being part of the Oakridge Crime Watch. We offer a special thanks to the Citizens on Patrol (COPs) who continue marked patrols at all hours of the day and night. Oakridge prides itself on a long history of active involvement with members watching out for one another. The ONA Crime Prevention and Safety Committee serves the ONA's mission to improve and maintain the quality of life in Oakridge. Call 911 for an active crime. Call the non-emergency number (972-485-4840) when you see suspicious activity. Siren alerts notifying residents of incidents in our neighborhood are available to anyone who has subscribed through the ONA website (oakridgena.org) or by contacting us at safety@oakridgena.org.



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#1

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Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
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Oakridge Daytimers

by Jan Reed, Oakridge Daytimers

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

Though the Daytimers do not meet in the summer months (June through August) you are invited to join us for the Fall Kickoff at 10:00 am, Tuesday, September 10th, 2019 at the home of Gloria Turner (2309 Rocky Trail).

Come enjoy refreshments and get to know your other female neighbors as we begin our 21st year!

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

After visiting, if you would like to join, annual membership dues of \$20.00 are used for speakers, community support, and the annual end of year luncheon.

We hope to see you on September 10!

The ONA Board (info@oakridgena.org)

- President Scott Barnes
- Vice President..... Mark Edwards
- Secretary Sharon Parrish
- Treasurer Keith Engler
- District 1 Director Mary VanPelt
- District 2 Director Paula Griffin
- District 3 Directors..... Dotty Moseley & Lila La Grassa
- District 4 Director Keta Woods
- District 5 Director Michelle Mizerak
- District 6 Director Linda Horton
- District 7 Director Sharon Carlton
- Communications..... Heather Englebretson
- Crime & Safety Committee Joan Nichols
- Environmental Committee David Parrish
- Events Sherri Rutherford
- Membership Committee Jane Mayers

Oakridge Tree Trimming

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Hopefully, you have had a chance to enjoy the freshly trimmed trees at our ONA entrances and on our perimeter parkways. Our landscaping contractor did an excellent job for a very reasonable price. You may wish to take a quick look at the trees on your property. Are there dead limbs? Does it have a dense canopy that gives too much shade for your lawn? Do the branches threaten your house? Are you in compliance with city code? If you are looking for someone to trim your trees, we recommend Gabriel Fernandez and his team at **Platinum Landscaping**. Mr. Fernandez can be reached at 469-215-0296.

JOIN the ONA

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.

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