



Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

October 2019, Vol. 27, No. 10

Neighborhood Update

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Hello Oakridge.

Over the past few issues of this Newsletter we've walked through how the ONA is put together, what its purpose is, and our intended path. I appreciate you following along. I won't monopolize the front page of our newsletter beyond this month; I consider it a privilege to have had the chance to lay this out for the neighborhood.

As a recap, the ONA is here for:

1. Beautification – taking care of select pieces of landscaping (entrances/perimeter)
2. Communication – connecting us through this newsletter and the website
3. Events – bringing us together
4. Crime Prevention/Safety – keeping us informed and connecting us with Garland Police

We are about pulling our neighbors together (all of us). The ONA is not built to be divisive.

I've had a few comments over the past month that indicate that some of you feel the same gap as I do – the gap where an HOA generally sits. Many of us are very used to having appointed representatives to take care of issues like we outlined in last month's newsletter. We pay our taxes and things get taken care of. This neighborhood was set up with nothing to fill that gap. We, the neighbors of Oakridge, must fill that gap directly. That's different...kind of like our neighborhood.

With that said, I'd like to wrap up this intro series of articles with an appeal to my neighbors to get involved. The ONA is a volunteer organization and, when we have a lot of folks helping, it is a lot of fun. When there's only a few of us, it gets pretty taxing.

We live in a neighborhood that requires upkeep. We also have very, very low annual fees for doing so (and it's voluntary on top of that!). However, that does not mean the upkeep is free. We need help and we need our neighbors to come help us.

We (all the neighbors in Oakridge) currently benefit from

an amazing amount of work from a very small band of volunteers. I would like to see us help that group by donating time. Doesn't have to be much – an hour or two here and there. It would be a great thing to bring our children too – service work is a wonderful example to set for our younger generations.

It's an amazing group of people and I hope that next time you see us pulling weeds or planting at the entrances you'll say hello.

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DFW Solar Tour

contributed by Connie Suhren, Oakridge Resident

Saturday, Oct 5, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

North Garland High School, www.dfwsolartour.org

The DFW Solar Tour will take place on October 5, 2019. In Garland, a learning center will be set up at North Garland High School from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the HST wing at the rear of the building. There will be a short video on how solar works, information from Garland Power and Light on the energy saving programs and renewable energy programs, a short presentation on a **home in Oakridge that has solar panels**, and electric vehicles on display. The home in Oakridge can be visited to view the solar setup. This free annual event is sponsored by the North Texas Renewable Energy Group (NTREG), a non-profit organization that was created to promote the usage of renewable energy. More information can be found at www.dfwsolartour.org.

The featured Oakridge home is 2218 Rolling Oak Lane.

ONA Membership Update

by Jane Mayers, ONA Membership Director

As the ONA Membership Drive wraps up for the 2019-2020 membership year we are pleased to announce the ONA has 324 paid supporters. This is an impressive 34% increase in number of supporters compared to this time last year. We want to say THANK YOU to our new and renewing supporters and THANK YOU to the supporters who contributed to the beautification fund!

Even though the membership drive is over, it is never too late to join the ONA and support your neighborhood. Visit oakridgena.org/join.

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Neighborhood Update by *Scott Barnes, ONA President*

Even more so, I hope you'll come to understand that this neighborhood was set up in way that requires our attention and involvement. We cannot put our heads in the sand as a neighborhood and expect that things will just work out. We must have new and more volunteers come out and join us if we are to keep this tradition alive.

We need volunteers – of all ages. We need to help this Organization evolve and grow to look like our neighborhood does currently.

So I close this series with an appeal – come help us. I want most of all to meet you, and we need to pull together as neighbors for this ONA concept to work long term.

Thank you.

Texas Native Wildflowers

by *David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director*

Plan for spring flowers this fall by planting a wildflower garden in your alley parkway. It is easy and seeds are readily available from local stores such as North Haven Gardens or from reliable Texas sources such Wildseed Farms or Native American Seeds. Both Sources have fascinating, educational catalogs which are recommended reading for gardeners of all levels. Oakridge residents - the Van Pelt - swear by their "Native Texas/Oklahoma Wildflower Mix" from Wildseed Farms. The mix contains Coreopsis, Coneflowers, Black-Eyed Susans, Indian Blankets, and a bunch of other flowers. After a few years, they have found that the plants come back naturally (if you allow them to go to seed). Wildseed Farms is also a charming place to visit, if you are ever in Fredericksburg.

Other neighbors are lodged firmly in the Native American Seed camp. The Parrishes planted native, low growing buffalo grass (Thunder Turf from Native American Seeds) in a bare area along with wildflowers. The native grass is thriving while the exotic, thirsty St. Augustine and Bermuda grasses are drying up and blowing away.

How to Plant: In mid to late October hoe four approximately one-inch wide and one-inch deep trenches along your parkway. Sprinkle in seeds and cover with a high-quality organic potting mix. Pat down soil, water, and let Mother Nature do her thing for flowers in the Spring.

- **Wildseed Farms**, Fredericksburg, TX
<https://www.wildseedfarms.com/>
- **Native American Seed**, Junction, TX
<https://www.seedsources.com/>

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Spring Creek Preserve

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Last month we mentioned the Spring Creek Forest Preserve located at 1770 Holford Road. As summer temperatures begin to ease up, we encourage you to visit this natural treasure. ADA-compliant concrete trails and natural-surface (dirt) trails winding through the forest allow you to experience nature with friends and family.

Across the creek at 1787 Holford is Spring Creek Park Preserve. This area features a limestone prairie with wildflowers and other plants unique to that environment. A self-guided interpretive trail along a 0.8 mile natural-surface loop will help you learn more about the ecology of the park.

Soon, another ADA-accessible concrete trail off Ranger Drive (behind Naaman Forest High School) will lead hikers into the third part of the Preserve, supplementing the natural-surface trails along the creek.

The Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest invites you to support the forest by becoming a member. Join our monthly volunteer work days and enjoy special member-only events such as private hikes and celebrations. For more information visit: <https://springcreekforest.org/>.

Cool Weather Garden

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

If you want to add some color to your landscape consider these annuals: Pansies, Violas, Panolas, Ornamental Cabbage, and Kale. For more options and planting suggestions, check out this post from Covington's Nursery (<http://www.covingtonnursery.com/gardening/fall-and-winter-color-for-north-texas/>).

Need more ideas? Covington's, Bruce Millers, North Haven Gardens, and the Collin County Master Gardeners all send regular emails with helpful hints, recommendations, training classes, and bargains. Many offer classes on range of gardening and landscaping topics.



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Citizens on Patrol

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Director

Congratulations to our newest Citizens on Patrol!

We are happy to introduce our most recent Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.) graduates – Dotty Moseley and Sue Ratcliffe. Look for us and say hello as we patrol the neighborhood! We will be the ones with a magnetic sign and lights.



The Garland Police Department's Citizens On Patrol (C.O.P.) program is an extension of the Neighborhood Crime Watch program and provides an opportunity for citizens to take an active role in crime prevention in their neighborhood. C.O.P. members must complete a training class provided by the police department and are instructed in effective ways to patrol their neighborhood in a car, on foot, or on a bicycle. The objective of the program is to provide more eyes and ears on the streets of Garland, observing and reporting crime and/or suspicious activity. For more information on the Citizens On Patrol program, call Officer Pesta at 972-485-4896 or go to the Crime & Safety page on the ONA website at www.oakridgena.org/resources to get a link to the Citizens on Patrol Application.

Oakridge Crime & Safety

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Director

Oakridge prides itself on a long history of active involvement of its members in watching out for one another. The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA), through its 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 or 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 or by emailing safety@oakridgena.org.



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Oakridge Daytimers

by Jan Reed, Oakridge Daytimers

The Oakridge Daytimers kicked off their 21st year on September 10th with a light breakfast and coffee at the home of Gloria Turner. The theme was Getting to Know Your Neighbors and those present answered creative questions about themselves. We also welcomed new member Paula Griffin to the group. Daytimers is open to all female residents of Oakridge and meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

The October meeting will be on October 8th at 10 a.m. in the home of Lila La Grassa, 2125 Diamond Oaks. After visiting, we welcome you to join us. Annual membership dues of \$20.00 are used for speakers, community support, and the annual end of year luncheon. Any questions about joining should be directed to the Membership Coordinator, Peggy Crenshaw (peggy.crenshaw67@gmail.com or 469-371-1618) or Daytimers President for 2019-2020, Chris Beyers (cbeyers2000@yahoo.com or 972-530-8292).

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, October 8th!

Neighborhood Entryway

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

On September 14th the Environmental Committee volunteers hosted a workday at the Richland neighborhood entrance along Shiloh Road. Most of the previous landscaping had been removed and the entrance was in serious need of some attention. Led by the fearless Mary Battaglia, volunteers Joanna Albright and Scott Barnes removed weeds and added amendments to enhance the soil. When the weather cools down, volunteers will be adding drought tolerant shrubs and flowers.

A big THANKS to all these hard working volunteers!

Oakridge Special Events

by Sherri Rutherford, ONA Events Director

The ONA is well on its way to putting the Special Events Calendar together. First up on the calendar is the Thanksgiving firefighter's dinner for fire stations 3 and 11 to be delivered on Thanksgiving morning. The Daytimers ladies are providing their wonderful desserts. The firefighters are deciding if they would like the traditional menu or if they want to change it up a bit. There is certainly room to add your favorite family dish to the menu. Please contact me (srutherford2313@yahoo.com or 972-496-5454) if you would like to contribute a dish or make a monetary contribution to feed the firefighters who will be working on Thanksgiving to protect our homes.

On Sunday, December 8th at 5 p.m. we will begin an evening of caroling and conclude with an after-caroling party hosted by Margaret Fowler. (The Cowboys play on Thursday night so caroling won't be a conflict with the game.) If you want us caroling at your home, please let me know. Maybe you know someone in the neighborhood whose spirit would be lifted by some old-time caroling or possibly young families that have never experienced the caroling tradition. Residents will be notified if carolers will be coming by their home - we don't want to catch anyone in their PJ's! More details on this event in the next newsletter. Please be sure to contact me (972-496-5454 or srutherford2313@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate in this event or add a home to our caroling route.

Tree Power Free Tree Giveaway

Free trees for Garland residents! Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (while supplies last) at the Haskell L. Roach Garden Center (1221 Spring Creek Drive). Show your Driver's License (with your Garland address) or a utility bill, then pick up a free 4-6 foot tall tree.



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