



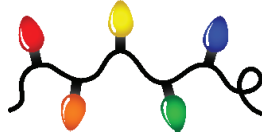
Oakridge News

oakridgena.org December 2019, Vol. 27, No. 12

Oakridge Winter Wonderland

by Sherri Rutherford, ONA Events Director

It is time to transform Oakridge into a Winter Wonderland this holiday season. The Oakridge Christmas decorating contest this year will offer prizes for 1st place (\$100), 2nd place (\$50), and 3rd place (\$25).



Our 3 independent judges will be touring the neighborhood December 16th-18th to pick out the best, most creative decorations. Let's give them beautiful homes to pick from and don't forget to enjoy the decorations with a family drive through Oakridge.

Christmas Meals/Treats!

by Sherri Rutherford, ONA Events Director

THANK YOU! A big thank you to everyone who donated their time, provided food, and made monetary contributions to provide Thanksgiving meals and treats to Fire Stations 3 & 11 and the Garland Police Department.

Our holiday meal tradition continues now with Christmas. We will provide meals to Fire Stations 3 & 11 and sweets/treats to the Garland Police Department. All Oakridge Residents (adults and kids!) are invited to contribute. Here are some ways to get involved:

1. Make or purchase a favorite **food**.
2. Volunteer to help **deliver** on Christmas Day.
3. Write notes of **appreciation** for the fire/police crews.
4. Make a monetary **donation**. Send donations to: ONA, P.O. Box 450145, Garland, TX 75045.

Contact Sherri Rutherford to let her know how you would like to be involved (972-496-5454 or srutherford2313@yahoo.com).

View this Newsletter in **COLOR!**
Newsletters are posted in color at:
<http://www.oakridgena.org/newsletters>

Holiday Safety Tips

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Director

The Garland Police Department has several good tips to keep in mind for the holidays:

- **Hide and Lock.** Do not leave shopping bags and gifts visible inside your car. Remind your out-of-town guests to lock their cars and remove valuables.
- **Vacation Watch Request.** Complete the Vacation Watch Request form online (<https://www.garlandtx.gov/640/Volunteers-in-Policing>) to have Volunteers in Policing check your home if you plan to be out of town. Free for all Garland residents.
- **Mental Health Situations.** Holidays can be stressful. Contact NAMI North Texas at (214) 341-7133 if you or someone you know needs help. If the person involved poses AN IMMEDIATE THREAT OF DANGER to themselves or someone else, call 911 and inform the dispatcher that you are calling about an individual with a mental health condition.

In addition to the above safety tips, please keep an eye out for any suspicious activity and report it (even if you are unsure) to the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840. When reporting suspicious activity, try to provide the following information:

- **Behavior.** What was the person doing that made you suspicious?
- **Details.** Provide details about hair, clothing (head to toe), and any identifying marks. Race or gender alone is not enough.
- **Vehicle.** What is the make, model, color, license plate? What direction was it traveling?
- **Location and Time.** Provide an address, any landmarks, the date, and time.
- **Video Footage.** If you have security camera video, please email Officer Barnes at BarnesT@garlandtx.gov.

Citizens On Patrol (COP)

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Director

You may have noticed our COPs patrolling on Halloween - which marked 1-year since restarting the program. Thanks to all our COPs, Crime Watch volunteers, and Garland Police who continue to keep our neighborhood safe.

We would like to recognize Lee Litton who has consistently patrolled and logged the most marked patrol hours this past year. Lee along with his wife, Vickie, have also completed the Citizens Police Academy program. Thank you for your support to the Garland Police and our neighborhood!



Lee and Vickie Litton

Visit our website at <https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/> for more information on these programs, including how to sign up.

Oakridge Beautification

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

This fall, your Environmental Committee is staying busy cleaning up beds and planting some color for the Winter. The Committee is very appreciative of all the monetary support from Oakridge residents toward the Beautification Fund. In fact, we are putting the final touches on a plan to foster the effective use of your Beautification dollars. We will provide more details on this plan in upcoming newsletters.

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 available at <https://www.oakridgena.org/meeting-minutes/>.

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

JOIN the ONA
[oakridgena.org/join-us](https://www.oakridgena.org/join-us)

Leave the Leaves!

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Oakridge is fortunate to be home to an urban forest of mature trees. With winter time and trees, you get a thick blanket of leaves on the ground. Let's pause and remember that Mother Nature recycles tree leaves to provide plants with nutrients in the spring. Local organic gardening expert Howard Garrett says, "Leaves should never be blown, raked, put in bags, and sent to the landfill." Instead, he recommends that we mulch those leaves back into our lawns by shredding leaves with our lawn mowers or by composting them. (See reference 1 for more details).



The conservation organization The Xerces Society asks us to "Leave the Leaves." Many butterflies, moths, and many other pollinators overwinter in the leaf litter. Leaving your leaves is a simple, energy efficient way to be a friend to Mother Nature. (See reference 2).

The winter of 2019-2020 is a great time for Oakridge to dump the antiquated practice of bagging leaves. Instead of bagging, let's mulch, compost, or - better yet - leave the leaves for our beautiful friends, the butterflies.

References:

1. Howard Garrett, *the Dirt Doctor*, (2014) *Leaf Management*, https://www.dirtdoctor.com/garden/Leaf-Management-Update-Newsletter-2014_vq4266.htm
2. *The Xerces Society*, (2017), *Leaves the Leaves*, <https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>

Local Compost Resources

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Composting is a great way to feed your garden and reduce what goes into your trash. If you are considering stepping into the world of composting, here are some local compost resources to help you get started.

Go Green Garland, Worm Composting Class, Saturday, January 18, 2020, <https://www.gogreengarland.org/2092/Go-Green-Garland>

Texas Worm Ranch, 2636 National Circle, Garland, TX 75041, <http://txwormranch.com/>

Texas AgriLife, Composting, <https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/composting/>

2019 Garland Awards

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Last month, Oakridge was honored with 2 awards: **2019 Garland Newsletter of the Year** and **2019 Garland Neighborhood of the Year**.

The 2019 Garland Newsletter of the Year has been given to us in recognition of the positive changes we made to the newsletter this year.

The 2019 Garland Neighborhood of the Year Award is given in recognition of a specific neighborhood project that benefits the community both inside and outside the neighborhood. Oakridge received this award for the annual Holiday Meals for the Fire Stations.

Here are some interesting facts about the newsletter and the tradition of providing holiday meals - both of which are an important part of Oakridge's history.

Neighborhood Newsletter

How much do you know about the history of our newsletter? The Oakridge newsletter has been around for almost 3 decades and has changed formats - and hands - many times. Here are some things you may not know about the newsletter:

- The newsletter started in 1991 as a Crime Watch Flyer circulated to all residents. At that point, it was titled "Neighborhood Crime Watch Newsletter". The first official issue - Volume 1, No. 1 - of the newsletter as we know it today ("Oakridge News") didn't occur until after the Oakridge Neighborhood Association was chartered in August of 1992.
- "Oakridge News" was first distributed by hand to all Oakridge residents. Volunteer block captains delivered the newsletters to doorsteps.



photo courtesy of Michelle Mizerak

Awards shown with some of the ONA Board Members. (Left to Right: 3rd row - Sherri Rutherford, Dan Nichols, Keith Engler, Jane Mayers; 2nd row - Heather Englebretson, Sharon Carlton, David Parrish, Mary Van Pelt; Front row - Mark Edwards, Scott Barnes, Sharon Parrish)

- After several years of being distributed to all Oakridge residents, the newsletter became a publication for ONA members only. This was for a number of reasons - one of which was the cost of postage. In recent years, the ONA made the decision to once again provide the newsletter to all Oakridge residents.
- "Oakridge News" is currently between 4 and 6 pages long, however there was a time when it reached a robust 16 pages.

Holiday Meals

Providing holiday meals to fire stations is a 27-year-old tradition in Oakridge. Here are some things you may not know about this holiday tradition:

- The Oakridge tradition of providing holiday meals began in 1992.
- Thanksgiving meals are a more recent addition to this tradition. Originally Oakridge only delivered Christmas meals.
- Oakridge currently delivers meals to Fire Stations 3 and 11. However, when the tradition began, Oakridge only served meals to Fire Station 3 and the Garland Police Department.
- Oakridge stopped providing meals to the Garland Police Department due to the difficulty of coordinating a meal with the Garland Police Department work shifts. (This year, we are pleased to once again include the GPD in this tradition by providing snacks and treats on Thanksgiving and Christmas!)
- Over the years, different fire stations have been assigned to Oakridge. When Oakridge first started delivering holiday meals, we served Fire Station 3. In 1997 we added Fire Station 6, but then dropped it in 2005 when we picked up Fire Station 11. Oakridge actually had one year where it served Christmas meals to three fire stations (3, 6, 11)! Since 2005, Oakridge has been serving Fire Stations 3 and 11.
- For several years, the Oakridge Country Club (which no longer exists) donated the main course for these meals while Oakridge residents provided side dishes and desserts. When the Oakridge Country Club was no longer providing the main course, local grocery stores stepped in to donate the meats. In the past few years, Oakridge residents have provided the meats along with side dishes and desserts.
- Each year we ask the fire stations if they have any food preferences. Some years they want turkey, sometimes ham, and one year they even wanted steaks!

City Parking Enforcement

by Dylan Hedrick, City Councilman and Oakridge Resident

Hello Oakridge neighbors,

As a City Councilman, the number one complaint I receive from constituents is what can be done about illegal parking on city streets. Thankfully, at the November 5 City Council meeting, we voted unanimously to implement a parking enforcement program administered through the City Marshals office.

The goal of the new program is to increase compliance with existing City parking ordinances and State laws already on the books.

The violations subject to ticketing include vehicles parked:

1. on the roadway side at the edge of a curb of a street (parked facing the wrong direction);
2. on a sidewalk;
3. in an intersection;
4. on a crosswalk;
5. alongside or opposite a street excavation or obstruction if stopping, standing or parking the vehicle would obstruct traffic;
6. in front of a public or private driveway;
7. within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
8. within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
9. within 30 feet on the approach to a flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign, or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway;
10. within an alley so as to interfere with the free and interrupted movement of traffic;
11. in a fire zone;
12. where signs are erected prohibiting parking;
13. in a manner such that any portion of the vehicle extends more than 102 inches from the face of the immediately adjacent curb, if the street has a curb, or edge of pavement, if the street does not have a curb; and
14. on public property in a marked parking space and not entirely contained within the limits of a single parking space designated by surface markings for that space.

The new ordinance makes parking violations a civil matter rather than a criminal one, thus making it easier to enforce, and allows local Garland civil courts to hear appeals.

Marshals will enforce parking ordinances seven days a week using a handheld electronic device which takes a pic-

ture of the license plate and violation, notes the infraction, and prints a citation. The citation is then placed on the windshield of the vehicle. The car owner can either pay the violation in person, by mail, or online, or will have a chance to dispute the citation through a Municipal Court hearing. The electronic enforcement devices will allow the city to gather GIS data for each violation and focus enforcement efforts on the areas of town with the highest number of violations.

Fines will be graduated from \$25 to \$75 for the first, second, and third infractions to encourage compliance. After a third unpaid violation, a new type of car boot called "the barnacle" will be placed on the vehicle until the fine is paid.

The plan is to implement a six-month awareness campaign before any fines are issued. City Marshals have been instructed to use discretion when issuing tickets to make implementation as fair as possible. The last issue of the City Press had some information and additional notice will be provided in GP&L electric bill inserts.

Finally, the eAssist app will have a parking enforcement section added to allow citizens to report parking violations.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this new policy. I may be reached at 469-560-6099 or council7@garlandtx.gov.

Dylan Hedrick
Garland Councilman District 7



Christmas on the Square

Source: City of Garland Website

Add a bit of twinkle to your holidays by checking out Christmas on the Square in Downtown Garland. This free event is open nightly from December 5-31 and boasts more than 100,000 lights!



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Meet Your Neighbors

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

The Parrish Family are longtime residents of Oakridge and active volunteers with the ONA.

This month we'd like to highlight the Parrish Family for their work in raising funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) in memory of their son, Matthew.



For the 17th year, the Parrish Family took a lap for victory over Muscular Dystrophy in the 2019 MDA Muscle Walk of Dallas on October 5th at Oak Point Park in Plano. The Parrishes walk to

honor the memory of their son, Matthew, and other family members lost to neuromuscular disease. This year, their Team - Matthew's Raiders - was a Top Ten Fundraising Team. They raised over \$3,400 to fund medical research and to support families who (like the Parrishes) are served by MDA.

Over the years Matthew's Raiders has raised \$50,000 for the programs at the Muscular Dystrophy Association. **Of course, it's never to late to support MDA, just go to: <https://mda.donordrive.com/team/6758>**



Would you be interested in sharing your story for "Meet Your Neighbors"? Do you have a neighbor who would be great to feature in this section?

Please contact us at communications@oakridgena.org with your story or with the name of someone we might be able to feature.

Recycle Food Oils

Source: City of Garland Website

Did you know that pouring even small amounts of fats from cooked foods can cause problems in your pipes? To help keep grease out of drains, the City of Garland is participating in the regional Holiday Grease Roundup, encouraging residents to recycle the grease rather than pour it down the drain. During the holidays (November 25-January 6) you can take your kitchen grease and oils to one of two locations to be recycled.

Garland Recycling Drop-Off Center
1426 Commerce St.
Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hinton Landfill Citizens' Convenience Center
3175 Elm Grove Road
Mon.–Fri. 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Important Numbers

- Emergencies 911
- Garland Animal Services..... 972-205-3570
- Garland Police Non-Emergency Number..... 972-485-4840
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas 214-828-1000
- Poison Control Center 800-222-1222

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Oakridge Daytimers

by Jan Reed, Oakridge Daytimers

The Oakridge Daytimers met on November 12th with a delicious breakfast and coffee at the home of Jan Perry Lloyd. The theme was Thanksgiving and included related activities such as naming someone each person was particularly grateful for and why, matching Charades of Thanksgiving activities, and signing up to show appreciation for our community police and firefighters at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Daytimers is open to all female residents of Oakridge and meets on the second Tuesday of the month. 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).

The next meeting will be on December 18th, 10:00 AM, at the home of Betty Prickett, 2013 Diamond Oaks. We look forward to seeing you!

The ONA Board wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!

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 Committee..... Heather Englebretson
- Crime & Safety Committee..... Joan & Dan Nichols
- Environmental Committee David Parrish
- Events Committee Sherri Rutherford
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