



Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

January 2020, Vol. 28, No. 01

Decorating Contest Winners

by Sherri Rutherford, ONA Events Director

The neighborhood looked so beautiful for the holidays. Thank you to everyone who decorated, adding to festive cheer to our streets.

Thank you to our judges - Fire Stations #3 and #11 and Laura Castillo (Garland Neighborhood Vitality Program). They had their hands full with so many beautiful houses to view. We asked the judges to provide us with the top 5 homes. The final results were really close. In fact, second place was a tie. The winners of the Oakridge Christmas Decorating Contest are:

1st place

2809 Hickory Bend, *The Mairs*

2nd place

(a tie between two homes!)
2202 Moss Trail, *The Crooks*
2605 Oak Point, *The Whittingtons*

3rd place

2501 Big Oaks, *The Nguyens*

Winter Event Ideas Needed

by Sherri Rutherford, ONA Events Director

Well now that the holidays are over, we have a few months before our Spring ONA events. Let's plan a neighborhood get-together for February (after the Super Bowl, of course).

Since it will likely be chilly outside, let's focus on events with an indoor venue. It has been suggested that we have a bowling event. This would be for everyone in the community - no need to be a bowler. Maybe we could have a competition for most gutter balls (that's something I could win). If you have other indoor event ideas please let me know (srutherford2313@yahoo or 972-496-5454).

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

Holiday Meals and Treats

by Sherri Rutherford, ONA Events Director

The Oakridge community (including kids!) truly answered the call to provide Holiday dinners and treats for Fire Stations 3 & 11 and to the Garland Police Department. The Fire Stations and the Police Department all expressed their thanks for the wonderful food and gratitude for the community support.

A huge thanks to the Daytimers for providing such a variety of desserts and treats. This group of ladies always supports Oakridge events in a big way.

So many volunteers expressed how happy they were to participate in these dinners and treats and how proud they are of our neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who provided food, made deliveries, created notes and cards of appreciation, and made monetary contributions.

Did you know that First Responders keep a stash of teddy bears and stuffed animals for kids that may need comforting in a scary situation (such as a car accident)? Since our residents were so generous with food and treats, we didn't have to purchase a lot of additional food. That left us with extra money from monetary donations. We decided to take that money and purchase stuffed animals for the First Responders to use in emergency situations. Thank you to our generous donors for making this possible!

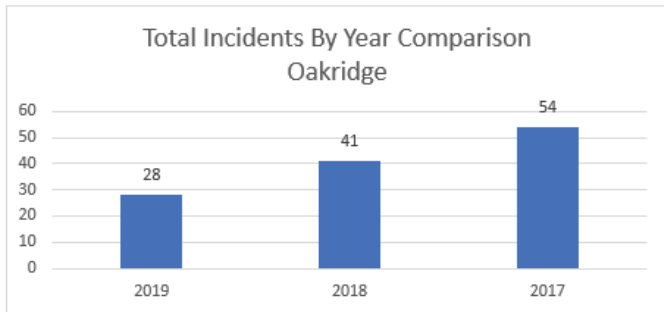


Lowest Crime Rate Yet!

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Director

Oakridge is on track for the lowest reported crimes on record. We would like to thank everyone, especially our COPs, Crime Watch volunteers and Garland Police who together made this happen.

Visit our website at <https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/> to see our final Crime Report for the year and other useful resources.



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Tips for Staying Safe

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Director

The Garland Police Department has several good tips to keep in mind all year long:

Lock your cars and remove valuables. Thieves are looking for easy targets and stealing guns, electronics, money, medicine and jewelry from unlocked cars.

Porch Pirates. Here are some ways to avoid becoming a victim:

- Track your deliveries online.
- See if you can have your package delivered to a remote pickup site. Amazon has several hub lockers around the city. They'll give you the code to open the box. FedEx and UPS also offer similar options.
- Instead of having that Playstation delivered to your front door, consider having it shipped to your office.
- If you must have deliveries shipped to your house, talk to your neighbor and see if they can collect the package while you're away.
- Consider getting a video doorbell. They may not always stop a Porch Pirate in their tracks, but they can help police identify them.

Report suspicious activity. If you see suspicious activity or something or somebody THAT SEEMS out of place, **CALL 911** or the non-emergency number at **972-485-4840**. Share any security camera video that might be helpful with Officer Barnes at BarnesT@garlandtx.gov.

Crime Watch, Be Involved

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 at 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 our website or by contacting us at safety@oakridgena.org.

For more information on the Crime & Safety Committee in Oakridge, email us at safety@oakridgena.org.

A New Year Begins

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Welcome to 2020, Oakridge!

Your ONA team of volunteers is looking forward to a productive year.

My hope for this year continues with a desire to see more of my neighbors involved in the ONA.

To that end I'd like to point out that we are already beginning the process of collecting nominations for ONA Board Members. Election of ONA Board Members occurs in May, but the nomination process begins now and continues through the first few months of the year.

At the February ONA General Membership Meeting, the ONA Board will submit a list of people to serve on the Nominating Committee. Following General Membership approval, this committee will work to identify new Board Members. At the May General Membership Meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a list of names to the General Membership for the 2020-2021 ONA Board Election.

We could use some fresh faces in this process.

If you feel moved to help our neighborhood and want to know more about the nomination process or election of the ONA Board, please reach out to one of us and talk about the opportunity to help.

If you are already familiar with the process and are ready to get involved, call us and we'll talk through the right way to make that happen.

Our phone numbers are available on page 4 of this newsletter. You can also email us at info@oakridgena.org.

We need folks that want to make a difference in the Neighborhood to raise their hands and get involved.

It is my hope that we can invigorate the ONA and make it an experience that folks enjoy and look forward to. We are making good progress and will continue to move forward.

Reach out to one of us with the contact info in this newsletter and let's work together to take the ONA onward and upward.

ONA Financial Update

by Keith Engler, ONA Treasurer

First of all, I want to thank the ONA for trusting me with their finances. Jane Mayers manages the ONA Membership and she keeps a separate financial summary so we have a solid system of checks-and-balances.

I keep the ONA Finances in QuickBooks and I create regular financial summaries for the ONA Board, such as the report shown below.

	Revenue Summary	Membership	Beautification	Advertising	Interest	Total
Category 1	2018 Total	\$ 21,817.58	\$ 4,730.96	\$ 2,175.00	\$ 2.14	\$28,725.68
	As of 12/21/2019	\$ 20,005.00	\$ 7,891.00	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 3.03	\$29,474.03
	Difference	\$ (1,812.58)	\$ 3,160.04	\$ (600.00)	\$ 0.89	\$ 748.35

	Mandatory Operating Expenses	Monthly Budget	Months Remaining	Total Budget
Category 2	Newsletter	\$ 134.17	5	\$ 670.85
	Postage	\$ 187.89	0	\$ -
	Platinum Scapes	\$ 620.83	5	\$ 3,104.15
	storage	\$ 71.00	0	\$ -
	Utilities	\$ 300.00	5	\$ 1,500.00
	First Responder Gift Basket Collected	\$ 130.00	1	\$ 130.00
	Total Operating Expenses Remaining			\$ 5,405.00

	Savings Account Balance	\$ 20,005.49
Category 3	Checking Account Balance	\$ 14,718
	Total Operating Expenses Remaining	\$ (5,405)
	Special Events Money Budgeted	\$ (1,800)
	Beautification Funds Remaining	\$ (6,614)
	Un-Earmarked Funds	\$ 899

Category 1 is a comparison of the fiscal year-to-date compared to all of last fiscal year. You can see that we exceeded the revenue of last year by \$748.00. This was mostly due to the extra money given for beautification.

Category 2 is a list of the monthly Mandatory Operating Expenses. Notice that we paid our postage and storage through the end of the Fiscal Year (May 31st). We estimate our average utilities will be \$300 per month, but occasional leaks in our sprinkler system do affect that amount.

Category 3 shows discretionary money remaining after subtracting the mandatory recurring expenses from our current checking account balance. We have an estimated \$899 as a reserve buffer. This category also shows that we have over \$6,600 remaining in the Beautification Funds. The ONA Board is working with the environmental committee to determine how to best use that money to improve the neighborhood appearance. We have \$1,800 budgeted for special events, however, as with personal finances, it is good stewardship to take care of mandatory expenses first.

Again, thank you for trusting me with the ONA finances, and feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.

Keith Engler, MBA
ONA Treasurer



Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 450145
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Oakridge Daytimers

by Jan Reed, Oakridge Daytimers

Betty Prickett hosted the Daytimers Christmas coffee on December 11th. Food was prepared by Jane Mayers, Ann Conrath, Nell Burt, and Joanne Williams.

Our special program from Marty Van Kleeck was an excerpt from the Bath House/One Thirty Production "Three Cups of Tea", based on the standing tradition of the outgoing presidential 1st Lady holding a welcome tea for the incoming new 1st Lady. Ms. Van Kleeck portrayed the ultimate southern belle, Lady Bird Johnson, as she prepared to host the elegant Patricia Nixon.

Daytimers helped to provide Christmas desserts and snacks for Fire Departments 3 and 11 as well as our Police Dept.

The January Daytimers meeting will be on Jan. 14th at Ann Conrath's home (2131 Windy Ridge Lane) at 10:00 a.m. And the February Meeting will be on February 11th at Suzanne Snow's (2722 Big Oaks) also at 10:00 a.m. All Oakridge female residents are invited. Dues are \$20 and paid to Membership Coordinator, Peggy Crenshaw (peggy.crenshaw67@gmail.com).

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	214-962-7795
District 6 Director, Linda Horton.....	972-977-6969
District 7 Director, Sharon Carlton.....	972-345-9741
Communications, Heather Englebretson	214-562-7857
Crime & Safety Committee, Joan Nichols	214-543-2546
Environmental Committee, David Parrish	469-733-6089
Events Committee, Sherri Rutherford	972-496-5454
Membership Committee, Jane Mayers	972-365-0427

Happy New Year!

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