



# Oakridge News

oakridgena.org February 2020, Vol. 28, No. 02

## General Membership Meeting ALL Oakridge Residents Welcome!

**Thursday, February 27th**  
**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.*

## Spring Fling

by Sherri Rutherford, ONA Events Director

**May 17th**  
**4 p.m.**

It may be only February, but our Spring Fling will be here before you know it! Be sure to mark your calendars for our Spring Fling on Sunday, May 17th, from 4-7 p.m. Duck Creek Golf Course will make the North end of their parking lot available for the event again this year. The ONA has reserved the City of Garland’s Block Party trailer which has tables, chairs, and games. We will have free food and—as always—first responders will bring their equipment for show-and-tell (always a popular attraction for kids and adults alike). Make plans now to be at the Spring Fling to enjoy some neighborhood fun and catch up with community members that you haven’t seen in a while.

Stay tuned for more details about the 4 block parties scheduled between the end of April and first of June. The purpose of the block parties is to meet your closest neighbors in a smaller setting on the streets of Oakridge. We will have games for adults and children along with various types of food. As the block parties come together, more details will be available in the ONA newsletters, on the ONA website, and through Nextdoor.

As always, if you have questions or comments please contact me at srutherford2313@yahoo.com or 972-496-5454. I would love to hear your ideas.

## Service Opportunity

by Linda Garza, Oakridge Resident

I want to introduce you to a brand new Facebook group called the **Garland/Richardson Group of Gifting (Sell Nothing)**. What is “gifting”? Here is the story of my first experience gifting items to someone else:



*I offered a box of toys and games free to someone who could use it. A mom who had recently moved into our Garland community came and got it. She was so appreciative, she voluntarily sent a picture of her child with the toys (see photo to the left)!*

The concept of this Facebook group is to “give where you live”. Consider gifting some of your items to help others in our community. If you are looking to clean out your closets, toy boxes, and garages, and you have some items you think someone else might enjoy, consider joining our group. I hope to make this a successful group by bringing neighbors together with acts of kindness, sharing, and giving. Even though our group says “Garland/Richardson”, we are open to surrounding cities. In fact, a number of Wylie and Sachse residents have joined the group.



## Flag Holidays

by Kent Crenshaw, ONA Environmental Committee

One of the services provided by the ONA Environmental Committee is deployment of flags around Oakridge entrances on U.S. flag holidays—including election days (March Primary, March 3; City Elections, May 2) as well as the traditional holidays of New Year’s, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Residents are also encouraged to fly their flags. U.S. flags should be displayed from sunrise to sunset, as weather permits. For a list of U.S. Flag holidays for 2020 go to <https://www.oakridgena.org/environment/>.

If you need help or have questions, please contact us at [environment@oakridgena.org](mailto:environment@oakridgena.org).

# Be a Good Neighbor

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Director

Good Neighbors Reduce Crime.  
*Would you be Mine?*

While Mister Rogers may not have been nominated for Best Picture this award season, we feel it is worth sharing some good reminders for being neighborly.



The most effective means of reducing crime in the neighborhood is an organization of neighbors helping one another. It's a fact: concerned neighbors reduce crime. Putting into practice the time-honored "good neighbor" policy is still the single most important factor in solving problems—including crime.

Here are a few good neighbor tips:

1. It's always smart to get to know your neighbors. The "rule of 5" is to at least know your 2 neighbors on both sides and 3 across the street or alley. Practice small acts of kindness: smile, wave, or say "hello". Welcome new neighbors, maybe bring by a plate of cookies.
2. Be aware of your neighbor's habits, such as when they are generally at work. Also notice whether they have small children or teenagers or if they are elderly and may need extra assistance from time to time. This awareness will make the neighborhood a much tighter community and everyone will be able to better prevent crime.
3. Get to a level where you can at least trust one of your neighbors. This is a good idea especially if you plan on being away for a few days or more. By giving a copy of your keys to a trusted neighbor, you can have them pick up your mail or just make sure everything is okay at home.
4. Share your contact information or at least a phone number. Create a neighborhood group text with a few

trusted neighbors so it can be readily accessible in case of an emergency. Many of our neighbors are also on NextDoor where you can private message them.

Here are some upcoming opportunities for you to get to know your neighbors:

- Join us and Officer Barnes at the ONA General Meeting, Thursday, Feb 27 at 7pm. *Bring your neighbors!*
- Come to your local Block Party! (Details to be provided in upcoming newsletters and on the website.)
- Participate in Crime Watch. We have members on every street in Oakridge who keep watch for suspicious activity and are contacts for us, if needed, to assist with a crime in the area. We would love to have someone on every block. Visit our website at <https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/> or contact us at [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org) to see how you can join us in keeping our neighborhood safe.

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.

## Come Across a Loose Dog?

*call 972-205-3570, option 1*



Did you know that it's illegal to have dogs off-leash in the City of Garland - including in the parks?

Any time a citizen comes across a loose dog, whether it's aggressive or not, citizens can call and contact the animal services dispatch line (972-205-3570, option 1) and an animal services officer will be dispatched to that location. For emergencies, call 911. The first step in controlling aggressive or off-leash animals is reporting them.



## Don't Cut That Tree Down!

by Mark Edwards, ONA Vice President



Thinking about cutting down that beautiful tree? Read this first!

A few weeks ago, one of our Oakridge residents was thinking exactly that after they heard that tree roots could damage the foundation of the house (which is a very real possibility). A tree trimming firm was called. They came and looked and said they could cut it down for \$1,500. Problem solved, right? Wait! Instead of cutting the tree down, how about calling an arborist? Arborists—tree doctors—know everything about trees: planting, trimming, treating, and preserving.

The arborist came out and assessed the problem. Could the foundation be protected? Could the tree be saved? The arborist answered “yes” to both questions and suggested digging a trench between the tree and the foundation: 3 feet deep and 12 inches wide—cutting and removing the roots during the digging.

(Note: Before digging, the homeowner is responsible for calling 811 to have underground utilities flagged.)

What is the cost of digging a trench? Less than half the cost of cutting the tree down completely.

Is this method effective? Yes. Using this method will provide excellent protection for your foundation for 10-12 years. If you're still the owner of that house and that tree in 10-12 years, you MAY need to do it again.

Protect your foundation while saving a tree that will live on for generations providing shade (cooling), controlling erosion, bringing oxygen into our lungs, and adding beauty all year round.

Arborists in this area include: Texas Tree Surgeons, Preservation Tree Service, and Arborological Services.

## ONA Beautification Funds

by Keith Engler, ONA Treasurer

The appearance of the entrances and perimeter of Oakridge are important, so I want to thank those of you that gave extra money for Beautification. This year, ONA Members gave an extra \$3,160 in Beautification funds compared to last year. I want to take a moment to update you on the status of these funds. First, a quick summary of the ONA budget over the last year-and-a-half.

When I took over the ONA Treasury in July 2018, I realized that we were on track to spend more than the General Membership dues supported; therefore, I broke down the budget into Mandatory Expenses and cut all other expenses—including watering and planting. (I explained the overall financial picture last month in the January Newsletter, which you can reference for more details.) Due to the budget cuts, we finished the 2018-2019 membership year with an extra \$3,000, which we spent on tree trimming, irrigation repairs, entrance lights, and organizing the storage facility. We are on track to finish this fiscal year with a balanced budget again and still have over \$6,000 remaining in the Beautification account.

Rather than just sticking flowers in the ground, the ONA Board of Directors (BOD) feels we need a more cohesive plan to best use the money donated by ONA Members. Therefore, we are getting quotes from landscape companies. We are also generating a Standard Operating Procedure on when and where to plant seasonal color and investigating our options for getting additional Neighborhood Vitality Funds to make the common areas less expensive to maintain.

Thank you for your patience as we go through this process of due diligence and establishing a landscape plan that will work not only for this year but for the sustainable future.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions, compliments, or concerns.

Keith Engler MBA, (972) 834-0096

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### Oakridge Daytimers

by Jan Reed, Oakridge Daytimers

The January meeting of the Oakridge Daytimers was held in the home of Ann Conrath. Food Hostesses Dianne Winters, Sharon Carlton, Peggy Crenshaw, and Chris Beyers provided a delicious breakfast. We welcomed visitor Mary Van Pelt, who lives on Ridge Oak, and is the ONA Director for District 1 in our neighborhood.

The program theme for January was "Quality Senior Living" and the guest speaker was Linda Ender from Senior Source, a nonprofit agency that focuses on senior citizens' quality of life and community resources - including job finding skills, health and financial planning resources, etc. She spoke to the group about telemarketing fraud: preventing it and what to do if you are a victim.

President Chris Beyers also presented Daytimer business items, and various activity coordinators discussed upcoming dates. If you are interested in visiting our Book Club, it meets the 3rd Friday of each month. Contact Peggy Crenshaw for upcoming books and discussion locations. Mahjong, Bridge, Canasta, and Bunko groups meet various days and evenings. For more details, join us for the next Daytimers Coffee on Feb. 11th at 10:00 A.M. in the home of Suzanne Snow, 2722 Big Oaks.

### 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
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- District 2 Director, Paula Griffin .....214-403-6300
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