



Special Edition Oakridge News

oakridgena.org | March 2020

Message from the ONA

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Dear Neighbors,

As we collectively make our way along during the current health crisis, the ONA Board wants to update you on our response to the situation - which is to stand down on any activities that gather people together. We are cancelling activities through May at this point, we will resume when it's safe to do so.

This special edition of our Newsletter is designed to give you the specifics on how we plan to stay connected, and to offer some other resources that might be of use over the coming weeks. As we stand down for a period here, we reiterate that your best sources of news going forward are from our City/State/National governments.

Please know that we are thinking about you in the coming weeks as this plays out.

Crime Safety Tips

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Director

We would like to restate some reminders for being a Good Neighbor along with Crime Prevention Tips as our neighborhood prepares for the reality of COVID-19. Our new reality is changing by the minute but - as we write this - now includes:

- Schools and Rec Centers are closed indefinitely. We may see a rise in mischief as unsupervised students look for something to do.
- More people working from home. We may see new habits, such as cars parked on the street without leaving.
- Our most vulnerable neighbors - the elderly, sick and those suddenly with no income - may be worried about basics like food.
- More online shopping to avoid in-person contact at a store. This means more delivery vehicles and packages being delivered.
- Social distancing, gatherings, large parties are discouraged. This means out-of-town family may not be able to travel to visit and neighbors won't be making in-person visits. This can leave people feeling isolated and scared.

The most effective means of reducing crime in the neighborhood is still 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 especially in these difficult times. Here are a few other good tips and reminders:

- Lock your cars and remove valuables. Thieves are looking for easy targets and are stealing guns (especially if loaded), electronics, money, medicine, and jewelry from unlocked cars.
- Track your deliveries online and watch for packages, then bring them inside in a timely manner.
- Scammers are already at work! Beware of scam phone calls, emails, and websites making claims that prey on COVID-19 fears. Don't fall for it!
- Continue watching out for each other. Be sure you have your neighbor's phone number to call and check on them (rather than dropping by in person).

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. Consider adding your surveillance camera to the new Garland Video Crime Watch program – more to come in our April newsletter. Feel free to reach out to Officer Barnes at BarnesT@garlandpd.gov or us at safety@oakridgena.org with any questions or concerns.

April e-Newsletter

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

The April newsletter will only be delivered in electronic format, not hard copy. In May, we will return to the standard hard copy delivery. This decision was part of a cost-saving effort which allowed us to print and distribute the special edition you are now reading.

When the April newsletter is ready, we will post it on our website (oakridgena.org). Then we will post a link to the newsletter on NextDoor. We will also send the link in an email to all Oakridge residents who have a valid email on file with the ONA (whether through the membership roster or the Siren Alert). **A small number of hard copies will be available for those who have limited access to the internet or to a computer.** Please contact Heather Englebretson (communications@oakridgena.org or 214-562-7857) to obtain a hard copy of the April newsletter.



Oakridge News

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Helping Our Community

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Communities all over the world are being hit hard by this pandemic - and not just for health reasons. Due to business closures, people are finding themselves without jobs. Due to age or compromised health, many people are stuck at home unable to get medications or necessary grocery items. Due to limited supplies at stores, many people are in need of certain necessities that others might have in surplus. Every day we are hearing more stories from residents in need.

While the ONA isn't set up to provide such services to our neighbors, we do have a wonderful newsletter that is distributed to all 1,166 Oakridge households. For any Oakridge residents that are organizing groups of volunteers to help meet the needs of other residents, the newsletter could be one way for you to publicize what you are doing and garner additional support. (Promoting neighborliness is, in fact, one of the original purpose's of the ONA!)

If you have something you would like to include in the newsletter that would benefit others in the neighborhood, send an email to ONA Communications at communications@oakridgena.org.

Please note, this does not apply to business ads. To advertise a for-profit business, the ONA offers ad space in the newsletter for purchase. Email communications@oakridgena.org for more information.

Social Events Cancelled

All ONA social events - including block parties and the annual Spring Fling - have been cancelled. We will revisit the ONA Social Events calendar in the fall.

Need Assistance?

If you are considered at a higher risk for contracting airborne illnesses due to age or a compromised immune system, you may find yourself in need of some assistance getting groceries or picking up prescriptions.

If you need assistance, contact the Board by email (info@oakridgena.org) or by phone. While the ONA is limited in resources, we do know some residents who are eager to help those in need. When possible, we will try to connect the able-bodied residents with those who need assistance.

ONA Website

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

The ONA has created a special page on its website for ONA-related information (e.g. cancelled events, rescheduled meetings, etc.). The web page can be accessed by going to oakridgena.org/covid-19 or by visiting the home page (oakridgena.org) and clicking on the "Covid-19" link under the "Oakridge News & Events" heading.

Note: The ONA website is NOT a source of medical information.

Entertaining the Kids

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Do you have a house full of kids to entertain? Here are a few ideas. Visit the website (oakridgena.org/covid-19) for more!

Build a Fort. Use pillows, blankets, boxes, furniture, chairs, and/or tables. Be creative!

Games! Board games. Card games. Dice games.

Cook Together. Teach kids new things in the kitchen. Bake cookies, scramble eggs, roll enchiladas.

Make Salt Dough. It's like play-doh, except the ingredients are in your kitchen. Check online for a recipe.

Read Aloud. Go through your bookshelves and dust off your favorite stories. Share them with the kids.

The ONA Board, info@oakridgena.org

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District 3 Directors, Dotty Moseley	214-703-3532
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District 6 Director, vacant	
District 7 Director, Sharon Carlton.....	972-345-9741
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