



Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

April 2020, Vol. 28, No. 04

ONA Membership Drive

by Jane Mayers, ONA Membership Committee Director

April kicks off our Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) Support/Membership drive for the new fiscal year. The ONA's fiscal year starts June 1st and ends May 31st.

There are 2 ways to join or renew:

1. Through the website (www.oakridgena.org/join-us/)
2. By Mail - Print and complete the Support/Membership form (the last 2 pages of this newsletter). Mail the completed form to us with your check.

How the ONA uses your donations is explained in detail on the membership form (page 5 of the newsletter). If you have any ideas regarding how the ONA uses your funds, please feel free to contact the ONA board members (contact information is on page 3).

Entryway Landscaping

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

It is springtime and we are busy updating several of our neighborhood entrances. Ailing plants are being removed or replaced and the main entrance beds are receiving a shot of seasonal color. Also, shrubs and ornamental grasses are being added to recreate some balance at a few entrances.

Are we done? Nope! But we hope we are beginning to do justice to the Beautification Dollars that you entrusted to the ONA. Watch for more details in the May and June newsletters!

Speaking of entrances, we are currently looking for volunteers to serve as Environmental Stewards of the various ONA entrances. As a Steward, your job would be keeping an eye on the landscape beds at your entrance. If you see any issues arise (weeds, sprinklers, trash, damaged plants, etc.) then you would take appropriate action to tackle the problems. As a part of the ONA Environmental Team, Stewards are not alone in tackling these problems - backup assistance is only a phone call or a text away. The Team needs your help! Are you ready, willing, and able to join us? If so, contact David Parrish, ONA Environmental Director, at environment@oakridgena.org or 972-530-3351 (voicemail, so leave a message).

The Cost of False Alarms

by Jane Mayers, ONA Membership Committee Director

If you have a home security system, please be aware of the City of Garland's Alarm Ordinance and how false alarms are handled.

The City of Garland defines a false alarm as: "A burglar alarm notification to the Police Department that is uncorroborated by eyewitness, video, or photographic evidence and where police officer(s) respond within thirty minutes of being notified and from an inspection of the interior or exterior of the alarm site find no evidence that criminal activity occurred."

False alarm fines will be assessed starting with the fourth false alarm. (False alarms remain on file for 12 months.) Fines are as follows:

False Alarm Count	Charge
1 to 3	\$0
4 to 5	\$50
6 to 7	\$75
8 plus	\$100 & Permit Suspension

For additional information call (855) 664-4346 or visit the website at: www.crywolfservices.com/garlandtx.

Charitable Giving

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

There are SO many places needing donations (and the list is growing) – where should you begin? Start with the charities you already support. Do you currently provide donations to a certain food pantry, church, clothes closet, or shelter? Consider increasing your current donation amount.

If you are considering new charities, be diligent in your research. There are plenty of scams out there trying to convince you to part with your money over the phone, through email, or even through a phony website. Do your research. There are plenty of reputable sources online (such as www.charitynavigator.org) who have compiled the names of well-known, legitimate charity organizations.

If you plan to give money, you want to make sure it goes to good use (rather than into someone's wallet)!

Showing Support

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

As you can imagine, with the current health crisis our local grocery stores have been slammed with unprecedented traffic and demand. In addition, there is often verbal abuse from anxious customers speaking unkind words. This unfortunately has generated a lot of additional stress for employees.

Our neighborhood has a long history of showing support for our community – such as through our holiday meals program where we deliver food to the Garland Police Department and Fire Stations 3 & 11. Since the ONA had to cancel all spring events, the Board opted to take some of the event money and use it to purchase lunch and dinner for our local Albertson's employees as a gesture of appreciation from all of you - the residents in Oakridge.

We picked a day and made arrangements for Papa John's to deliver enough pizza to feed the employees for lunch and dinner. The employees were very touched by the kind gesture.

A big thank you to Michelle Mizerak (ONA District 5 Director) for doing the "legwork" (making phone calls) to arrange this food "hug" from our neighborhood to the employees at Albertson's.

To all of the essential business employees (including food necessities and first-responders), we are exceedingly grateful for all you are doing!



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Video Crime Watch Program

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

When a crime happens, it is helpful for the Garland Police Department to know which homes and business have video cameras in the area where the crime occurred. Those videos can aid the police in their investigation. The GPD has recently launched a program (Garland Video Crime Watch) that will provide them with a map of video cameras in Garland (strictly optional and for police use only—not for public access). If you have a video surveillance camera, we encourage you to go online and add your video camera(s) to the map. All surveillance cameras count, no matter how small or insignificant you think it may be. The system is strictly voluntary and cannot provide direct access to any surveillance system. If the police believe footage from your camera may be helpful, they will contact you using the contact information you provide.

In the past, the only resource the police had for video cameras in our neighborhood was the private database kept by our ONA Crime & Safety Committee. Currently that private database contains 40 Crime Watch members who have voluntarily let us know they have video cameras. This means that the GPD must go through the ONA to gain that information. We would love to have all our Oakridge residents with video cameras add their information to the Garland Video Crime Watch map—that way the GPD could access this information directly.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Oakridge could lead the City of Garland in the number of sign-ups? As of this week, there are 4 residents participating in the Garland Video Crime Watch program. To sign up, go to the GPD website (www.garlandpolice.com/331/Police) then scroll down to the "Garland Crime Watch Video" section.

If we have enough people add their cameras to the program, we will receive a plaque to hang beneath our Crime Watch signs throughout the neighborhood, indicating we are a Video Crime Watch neighborhood. This visible statement of our level of security would be a big deterrent to criminals looking to target our neighborhood. The police have already seen a decrease in car break-ins in other neighborhoods with this program.

Sign up today and let's make it clear to criminals: Don't Mess with Oakridge!

Beautiful Oakridge

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Right now for many residents, walking through our neighborhood is the only option for getting out of the house. It also happens to be a great opportunity for enjoying the many beautiful flower beds in our neighborhood.



Here is a photo of a beautiful, yellow Columbine flower we recently saw. View this photo - and many others - on our website photo gallery (www.oakridgena.org/oakridge-photo-galleries).

Do you have some lovely garden photos to add? Send us a photo (environment@oakridgena.org). We will add the best photos to our gallery.

Would you be interested in having your garden featured in a future newsletter? Send us a photo and description of your garden (environment@oakridgena.org).

Saving the Birds

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Nearly 3 Billion Birds Gone Since 1970 - A recent scientific study revealed that bird populations across the U.S. and Canada are down by a staggering 2.9 billion adult birds. Leading the list of offenders in this massive decline of birds are outdoor cats.

While most of us have little control over feral cat colonies, we can exercise control when it comes to our own pets. Put simply, scientists recommend we keep our pet cats inside.

For more information and 7 simple ways you can help the birds visit: www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back/

Remember to Breathe

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

When we are anxious or scared, we often forget to breathe deeply. Instead, we take shallow, quick breaths. This type of breathing tends to make us more tense, which is the opposite of what we need in moments of anxiety.

Take multiple opportunities during the day to stop and practice breathing deeply for at least 5 minutes. There are many techniques (and apps) available to encourage you to practice deep breathing. Here is one to get you started:

*Breathe in through the nose for 4 counts.
Hold for 4 counts.
Breathe out through the mouth for 4 counts.
Hold for 4 counts.
Repeat for several minutes.*

JOIN

oakridgena.org/join-us

The 2020-2021 Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) Membership Drive is underway! Join online (www.oakridgena.org/join-us) or mail the completed membership form (last 2 pages of this newsletter).

The ONA Board

(info@oakridgena.org)

President, Scott Barnes602-791-2492
Vice President, Mark Edwards.....972-414-8525
Secretary, Sharon Parrish469-939-2270
Treasurer, Keith Engler972-834-0096
District 1 Director, Mary VanPelt 972-496-1744
District 2 Director, Paula Griffin214-403-6300
District 3 Directors, Dotty Moseley214-703-3532
and Lila La Grassa972-530-8618
District 4 Director, Keta Woods469-877-7009
District 5 Director, Michelle Mizerak214-962-7795
District 6 Director, vacant
District 7 Director, Sharon Carlton.....972-345-9741
Communications, Heather Englebretson214-562-7857
Crime & Safety Committee, Joan Nichols214-543-2546
Environmental Committee, David Parrish469-733-6089
Events Committee, Sherri Rutherford972-496-5454
Membership Committee, Jane Mayers972-365-0427

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Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
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Oakridge Daytimers

by Jan Reed, Oakridge Daytimers

The March meeting of the Oakridge Daytimers was held in the home of Dana Hopkins. Food Hostesses Mary Patty, Kathy Arden, Jan Perry Lloyd, and Lucy Brock provided a delicious breakfast.

Guest speaker for March was local Dallas horticulturist Dana Wilson from North Haven Gardens. The theme was "Container Gardening" and Ms. Wilson shared information about choosing the correct pots or large containers and correct soil preparations for our container plants. All who were present received a coupon on their next purchase.

Oakridge Daytimers meets the second Tuesday morning of the month at 10:00 for coffee and brunch followed by special guest speakers. Join us for the next Daytimers meeting on April 14th at the home of Chris Beyers, 2205 Fulton Drive. The theme will be "Something Amazing I Have Witnessed". We will share stories of amazing things we have experienced. May's meeting will be the annual Spring Luncheon. Contact president Chris Beyers (cbeyers2000@yahoo.com) 972-530-8292) for more information.

Out to Lunch Brunch

by Margaret Fowler, Oakridge Daytimers

Ladies Daytimers celebrated the first "Out to Lunch Brunch" at Osaka's Japanese Restaurant in Sachse on February 20th. Those in attendance were: Chris Beyers, Dotty Moseley, Jane Mayers, Margaret Fowler, Suzie Gentry, Sue Ratcliffe, Sandra Stevens, and Sally Weiss.

They all enjoyed the great food, the ambiance, and the culinary art of the chef. Hope to see you next time.

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Supporting your neighborhood is like investing in your home.

What the Oakridge Neighborhood Association does

- Sources and hires qualified landscape contractors to mow, water, trim, remove trash from, and maintain your entrances and perimeter.
- Creates, prints, and mails a monthly newsletter.
- Maintains our neighborhood Website.
- Plans, organizes, and funds social activities
- Partners with our Neighborhood Police Officer and Citizens on Patrol to provide crime and safety information.
- Welcomes new residents and delivers a "Welcome Basket" containing community information.
- Plans, organizes, and funds three General Membership meetings.
- Coordinates holiday meals and treats from Oakridge residents to the Garland Police Department and Fire Stations 3 and 11.
- Decorates entrances during Christmas and on flag days.
- Attends quarterly meetings and civic events hosted by the City of Garland.
- And more...



A neighborhood that is attractive, well-maintained, safe, and vibrant can raise the pride of its residents and increase the value of the homes in it. The goal of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association is to ensure Oakridge is one of those exemplary neighborhoods.

ONA is NOT a mandatory HOA - it relies on the **voluntary** support of Oakridge residents to accomplish its mission.

Nothing happens without your support!

ONA Support Levels

Please consider your level of support. Giving more than the Good Neighbor Level could mean improvements to our entrances, new landscaping designs, more events, a better newsletter, and more. Let us know your vision for Oakridge!

- \$60 Good Neighbor Level
- \$100 Crepe Myrtle Level
- \$250 Maple Level
- \$500+ Oak Level

An ONA flag will be placed in your front yard to indicate your support.

Thank you for supporting the Oakridge Neighborhood Association!

Please print/fill out completely

First name _____ Last name _____

First name _____ Last name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

E-mail(s) _____

Your information will be used for ONA communication purposes **ONLY** and will **NEVER** be given to anyone else.

In the event that a neighborhood directory is published, the ONA has permission to include my information.

First Time Supporter

Renewal

Owner

Tenant

Resident since?

Invoice

\$60+ Good Neighbor Level Amount _____

\$100+ Crepe Myrtle Level Amount _____

\$250+ Maple Level Amount _____

\$500+ Oak Level Amount _____

Total Amount Enclosed

\$ _____

Method

Check/Money Order

PayPal

PayPal link on ONA website:
oakridgena.org/join-us/

Please, now get involved!

Areas of interests (check all that apply)

Officers (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer)

Crime Prevention/Safety

District Directors

Holiday Decorations
(Installation, Removal)

Membership (Welcome Committees)

Events Planning (Annual Events, Block Parties)

Communications (Newsletter, Website)

Grill/Chef/Cook

Environmental (Landscape, Sprinklers, Walls)

Mail check or money order (no cash) and completed form to:

Oakridge Neighborhood Association

PO Box 450145

Garland, TX 75045-0145

An ONA flag will be placed in your front yard to indicate your support.