



Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

July 2020, Vol. 28, No. 07

Translating our Words

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Dear Oakridge,

We press forward on our journey to connect the Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) more fully to all of our neighbors. One way we can connect is through language – a powerful component of culture. Last month we asked for assistance from our neighbors in translating newsletter articles. In response, Oakridge resident Vikram Parag Shah has graciously offered to help with translating articles into South Asian languages.

In this issue of the newsletter, you are seeing the results of our collaboration with Vikram. This article is being offered in Hindi and English. We hope it connects further with more of our neighbors and we hope more of you are inspired to reach out and help us shape Oakridge and the ONA going forward.

We continue to extend an invitation to anyone else who would like to help with translations. Oakridge residents speak many different languages, and we would like to be able to feature some of those languages throughout the year.

Since we are in the middle of our membership drive, this is also a good time to remind everyone that the ONA is a collection of neighbors – it's not a group of people who are disconnected from Oakridge. We are a service organization by and for the neighborhood. All of the work we do is on a voluntary basis at the request of the collective neighbor base.

We, as the Oakridge Neighborhood, are better together than apart. This is a call to reach out and be a part of your neighborhood group. Collectively we will work together to know, learn from, and watch out for each other.

Thank you.

Translating our Words (Hindi)

Hindi translation by Vikram Parag Shah

प्रिय ओक्रीज निवासियों,

हमारा मानना है कि ओक्रीज नेबरहुड एसोसिएशन (ONA) हमारे सभी पड़ोसियों को जोड़ने का एक माध्यम है। भाषा और इसका सही अनुवाद लोगों को जोड़ने का एक शक्तिशाली तरीका है। पिछले महीने हमने समाचार पत्र के लेखों के अनुवाद में अपने पड़ोसियों से सहायता मांगी। जवाब में, ओक्रीज निवासी विक्रम पराग शाह ने विनम्रतापूर्वक दक्षिण एशियाई भाषाओं में, लेखों के अनुवाद की पेशकश की है।

समाचार पत्र के इस अंक में, आप विक्रम के साथ हमारे सहयोग के परिणाम देख रहे हैं। यह लेख हिंदी और अंग्रेजी में प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है। हमें उम्मीद है कि यह प्रयास हमारे पड़ोसियों को जोड़ेगा। हम आशा करते हैं कि आप में से अधिक लोग इस प्रयास में भाग लेने के लिए प्रेरित होंगे और ओक्रीज नेबरहुड एसोसिएशन (ONA) को अच्छी दिशा देंगे।

हम उन अन्य लोगों को निमंत्रण देना चाहते हैं जो अनुवाद में मदद करना चाहते हैं। ओक्रीज निवासी कई अलग-अलग भाषाएँ बोलते हैं और विभिन्न संस्कृतियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। हम वर्ष भर उन भाषाओं में से कुछ को शामिल करना चाहेंगे।

चूंकि हम अपनी सदस्यता अभियान के बीच में हैं, इसलिए हम सभी को यह याद दिलाना चाहते हैं कि ओक्रीज नेबरहुड एसोसिएशन (ONA) पड़ोसियों का एक संग्रह है - यह उन लोगों का समूह नहीं होना चाहिए जो अपने पड़ोसियों से अलग हो जाते हैं। हम पड़ोस द्वारा और पड़ोस के लिए बनाया गया एक सेवा संगठन हैं। सामूहिक पड़ोसी आधार के अनुरोध पर हम जो काम करते हैं, वे सभी स्वयंसेवक आधार पर होते हैं।

हम, ओक्रीज नेबरहुड, अलग होने के बजाय एक साथ बहुत कुछ हासिल कर सकते हैं। उम्मीद है कि यह प्रयास सभी को आपके पड़ोस समूह का एक हिस्सा बनने के लिए प्रेरित करेगा। साथ मिलकर हम एक-दूसरे के लिए काम कर सकते हैं, सीख सकते हैं और एक-दूसरे की देखभाल कर सकते हैं।

धन्यवाद।

विक्रम पराग शाह

Parking Enforcement

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Garland's Parking Enforcement division has mainly focused on parking violations that create an immediate health and safety issue. However, the City of Garland will eventually resume normal parking enforcement operations and this means they will be issuing a lot more tickets for parking violations.



Many of us are a bit rusty on our knowledge of parking violations. Did you know we are not supposed to park within 30 feet of a stop sign or other traffic control sign? It's also against the law to park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant. You don't have to look far within Oakridge to find parking violations such as these - and many more.

Perhaps now is a good time for all of us to refamiliarize ourselves with the parking laws in Garland. Visit the City of Garland's website to see a complete list of parking violations: <https://www.garlandtx.gov/3668/Neighborhood-Parking-Enforcement>.

Stayed tuned for parking enforcement updates in future newsletters!

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oakridgena.org/join-us

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New Entrance Landscaping

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Thanks to the generosity of our residents through their donations to the Beautification Fund we have been able to fix up our neighborhood entrances. All entrance beds have been updated with seasonal color (flowers), ornamental grasses, a few shrubs, and some attractive rock features. We also have one entrance and two medians planted with water tolerant plants.

We hope you feel we have been good stewards of your funds. Please help us keep it looking beautiful by picking up any trash you see and by letting us know if you see anything that needs attention (uprooted plants, wilting flowers, sprinkler needing repairs, etc.). We can be reached at environment@oakridgena.org.

Environmental Volunteers

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Did you know our volunteers contribute an estimated 600 hours per year of service valued at over \$15,000? Our volunteers maintain the entry beds (watering, mulching, weeding, picking up trash), deploy U.S. Flags to the entrances for the 2 dozen Flag Holidays each year, and handle nearly all sprinkler repairs (saving us thousands of dollars each year).

Let us know if you are interested in joining our team! Contact us at environment@oakridgena.org.

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JOIN

oakridgena.org/join-us

The 2020-2021 Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) Membership Drive is underway! Now is the time to show your support. Join the ONA or renew your support through our website: www.oakridgena.org/join-us.

2020-2021 ONA Board

At the Annual Meeting on June 25th, members approved the ONA Board for the 2020-2021 membership year. Here are the newest additions to the ONA Board:

- Billy Ray Thomas – District 2 Director
- David Whittington – District 4 Director
- Melanie Busby – District 5 Director
- Brett Trutna – District 6 Director
- Michelle Mizerak - Vice President (Michelle previously served as our District 5 Director)

The Board is currently looking for volunteers interested in serving on the **Membership Committee** or the **Events Committee**. For more information, please email us at info@oakridgena.org or contact Scott Barnes (602-792-2492).



The 2020-2021 ONA Board members are listed below.

President, Scott Barnes	602-791-2492
Vice President, Michelle Mizerak	214-962-7795
Secretary, Sharon Parrish	469-939-2270
Treasurer, Keith Engler	972-834-0096
District 1 Director, Mary VanPelt	972-496-1744
District 2 Director, Billy Ray Thomas.....	214-734-1017
District 3 Directors, Dotty Moseley	214-703-3532
District 4 Director, David Whittington	214-892-8939
District 5 Director, Melanie Busby	972-989-2253
District 6 Director, Brett Trutna	214-274-5251
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

Have a question for the board?
Have an idea to share?
Email us! info@oakridgena.org

ONA Door Prizes

by the ONA Membership Committee

All Oakridge residents who joined the ONA (or renewed their support) by July 1st were eligible to win a door prize. Door prize winners will be announced in the August newsletter.

Support our Advertisers

COVID-19 is having a negative impact on a lot of businesses. Small businesses in particular have been hit hard. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the different advertisers in our newsletter. There are individuals and families behind each of these business names. As you are able, please consider giving them your business the next time you need to purchase a product or service.

Asking for Tech Skills

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Do you have technology skills? The ONA could use some support with maintenance of their website (WordPress) and integrating MailChimp and PayPal. Contact us if you are able to help in this area (communications@oakridgena.org).

2020-2021 ONA Budget

by Keith Engler, ONA Treasurer

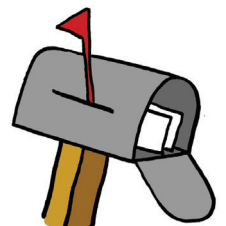
The ONA budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was approved at the June 25th Annual Meeting.

To view the annual budget, please visit the ONA website at <https://www.oakridgena.org/financials-main/>.

Replacing Mailboxes

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Is it time to give your mailbox a facelift? Perhaps the wooden post has started to rot, causing your mailbox to lean to the side or sink down into the ground. Maybe the mortar is crumbling and the bricks have started to fall away. These leaning, sinking, and crumbling mailboxes not only look crummy, they may also fail to meet USPS requirements.



According to the USPS website, curbside mailboxes should be 41"-45" from the road surface and 6"-8" back from the curb. Mailboxes are also supposed to display the house number. Before replacing your mailbox, be sure to visit the USPS website for a complete list of requirements (<https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>).



Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
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ONA Recognition

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Last fall the ONA was honored to receive 2 awards from the City of Garland: 2019 Garland Neighborhood of the Year (in recognition of our annual holiday meals for the Fire Stations); and 2019 Garland Neighborhood Newsletter of the Year.

The City of Garland went on to submit the ONA for consideration for the Neighborhood of the Year Awards at the National level (through NUSA - Neighborhoods, USA).

This past May, NUSA named the winners and finalists for the NUSA 2020 Neighborhood Awards. In the "Social Revitalization/Neighborliness" category for the NUSA 2020 Neighborhood of the Year Award, the ONA was recognized as a finalist for our annual holiday meals to the fire stations.

In the "Print Format Newsletter" category for the NUSA 2020 Neighborhood Newsletter Awards, the ONA was recognized as a finalist for Oakridge News.

Visit NUSA's website to see the full list of award recipients. <http://nusa.org/>



These recognitions belong to the many Oakridge residents who donated to and/or participated in the annual holiday meals, and whose support and input make the newsletter possible. Congratulations Oakridge!

Newsletter Hard Copies

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Thank you to everyone who responded to the article last month about hard copies of the newsletter. Based on the large number of responses we have received from Oakridge residents wanting to receive hard copies of the newsletter in the mail, we will continue mailing hard copies each month.

A number of residents have suggested we could save money if we individually mailed newsletters only to those who want hard copies. Believe it or not, with our current bulk mailing postal rate it is actually cheaper for us to continue mailing the newsletter to the entire neighborhood rather than paying for individual postage.

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