



Oakridge News

www.oakridgena.org

October 2020, Vol. 28, No. 10

Neighborhood Walk & Greet

by Jackie Reynolds, ONA Events Director

Many Oakridge residents headed outside for the recent Neighborhood Walk & Greet. The beautiful evening weather welcomed a wide range of ages and faces outside: from playful kids and grandkids to our more seasoned residents. Even a few of our furry residents came out to enjoy the fun. This was a great opportunity for neighbors to meet neighbors. The feedback we received was quite positive and we are looking to offer similar events in the future.



SCAN ME

Looking for more photos?
Scan the QR code (see left)
or go to <https://www.oakridgena.org/oakridge-photo-galleries/>



Oakridge Food Drive

by Jackie Reynolds, ONA Events Director

On **Sunday, October 18th, from 2–4 p.m.**, the ONA has arranged for local nonprofit Good Samaritans (“Good Sam”) of Garland to bring a truck to Oakridge to collect donations. The truck will park in the northeast corner of the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot. Bring at least 5 items OR donate at least \$5 and receive a packaged ice cream treat as a Thank You for your donation! (ONA board members will follow safety protocols with masks and gloves when distributing the frozen treats.) Visit the ONA website (<https://www.oakridgena.org/2020-october-food-drive/>) for a list of donation items.

A big **Thank You** to Mike Huynh, Store Manager at the Dallas Superstore (Cali Saigon Mall), who generously donated the money for the frozen treats to distribute at our food drive.



Newsletter Translations

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Over the past few months, our newsletter has included articles translated to Hindi. The translations have been very well-received by members in the Oakridge community and we are exceedingly thankful to Vikram Parag Shah for his continued donation of time in doing translations. We have given Vikram a short break for this issue of the newsletter, but we plan to have him continue the Hindi translations.

We want to take this opportunity to remind everyone we are still interested in other residents who would like to translate short articles to their native language. Oakridge is a beautifully diverse community where a number of languages are represented. If you are interested in helping with translations for the newsletter, we would love to hear from you. Please email us at communications@oakridgena.org.

JOIN or RENEW

oakridgena.org/join-us

Remember that memberships need to be renewed each year. It's not too late to renew your membership for the 2020-2021 membership year. Visit our website to join or renew: www.oakridgena.org/join-us.

2020-2021 ONA Board

President, Scott Barnes602-791-2492
 Vice President, Michelle Mizerak214-962-7795
 Secretary, Sharon Parrish469-939-2270
 Treasurer, Keith Engler972-834-0096
 District 1 Director, Mary VanPelt 214-868-9854
 District 2 Director, Billy Ray Thomas.....214-734-1017
 District 3 Directors, Dotty Moseley214-703-3532
 District 4 Director, David Whittington214-892-8939
 District 5 Director, Melanie Busby972-989-2253
 District 6 Director, Brett Trutna214-274-5251
 District 7 Director, Sharon Carlton.....972-345-9741
 Communications, Heather Englebretson214-562-7857
 Crime & Safety, Joan Nichols214-543-2546
 Environmental, David Parrish469-733-6089
 Events, Jackie Reynolds469-649-5799
 Membership, Vikram Parag Shah972-900-2776

Oakridge Crime Watch

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee



The Oakridge community has a long, proud history of involvement in Crime Prevention and Safety. Oakridge residents actively watch out for one another and report suspicious activities. Thanks to these diligent residents, Oakridge continues to have an extremely low crime rate.

Through the Oakridge Neighborhood Watch Group, residents are continuing this history of crime prevention. The ONA Crime Prevention & Safety Committee oversees the Oakridge Neighborhood Watch Group. In addition, they monitor monthly crime reports for Oakridge, communicate important crime & safety information to residents through the Siren Alert, and work to maintain the strong partnership our community has with the Garland Police.

Visit the ONA Crime Prevention & Safety page (<https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/>) to learn more about the resources available to our residents, including:

- Monthly Crime Reports with statistics about reported incidents within Oakridge
- Links to Garland Police programs like Video Crime Watch, Vacation Watch, Citizens On Patrol, and Citizens Police Academy
- Archived Crime Watch articles
- Photo galleries from past events like the National Night Out caravan
- Contact info to reach your Neighborhood Police Officer Barnes, Garland Police, and Oakridge Crime Watch

Participating in the Oakridge Crime Watch Group is a great way to help keep our neighborhood safe. Contact us at safety@oakridgena.org to become a part of our community Crime Watch group.



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“Do Not Call” Registry

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Committee

Most of us receive unwanted phone calls from time to time: sales calls, surveys, robocalls, scams. Here are some ways you may be able to reduce the number of unwanted calls:

- **Add your number to the National Do Not Call Registry.** This registry allows you to opt out of telemarketing calls, though it does not apply to calls from charities, surveys, debt collectors, or political calls. To add your phone number to the list visit <https://www.donotcall.gov/> or call 1-888-382-1222 from the number you want to register. To verify whether or not you have already added your phone number visit <https://www.donotcall.gov/>.
- **Report unwanted calls.** Did you know that robocalls (when a machine talks instead of a live person) that are trying to sell you something are illegal? These should be reported even if your number isn't on the National Do Not Call Registry. As for unwanted sales calls, if you are on the National Do Not Call Registry and you are still receiving unwanted sales calls, those should be reported. To report unwanted calls visit <https://www.donotcall.gov/report.html>.
- **Learn how to block calls on your phone.** This feature comes in handy when you repeatedly receive unwanted calls from the same phone number. Call-blocking is handled differently depending on the phone you have. Learn more by visiting <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-block-unwanted-calls>.

Phone Tip! Don't believe your caller ID. Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine. This tip and more can be found at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0060-10-things-you-can-do-avoid-fraud>.



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Asking the Chief

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee

We were fortunate to attend a recent Zoom call with Garland Chief of Police Jeff Bryan where he tackled several difficult questions from the audience. We appreciated his candor and willingness to hear from the community.

Here are a few of the topics that were addressed:

- **Peaceful protests:** *The Chief and officers marched in solidarity and sadness with protesters in Garland in response to the George Floyd killing.*
- **Militarization of the police:** *The Garland police believe their duty is to serve and protect our community—which is not the same mission as the military.*
- **De-escalation:** *Officers in GPD have extensive training and involvement in role-play simulated events. Many officers are transfers from other police forces so they are experienced. GPD has a number of proactive programs to promote positive community relations.*
- **Riot gear:** *Garland has not had riots, looting, or situations of excessive force like other cities. The riot gear and SWAT vehicle are only designed to protect police and be defensive.*
- **Use of force:** *GPD abandoned choke holds years ago and most officers never fire a weapon. For those resisting arrest, police have tazers and pepper spray (which cause the least amount of harm). Hardly ever is there a reason to use a club or gun.*
- **Community programs:** *Citizens Police Academy is a great program which provides great insight into all aspects of policing. A 1-day youth program is being developed. Classes will resume when it is safe. School Resource Officers, Neighborhood Police Officers, and the boxing gym are proactive ways that the Garland Police build relationships with the community.*
- **“Defunding” police:** *The Chief agrees that resources are needed to address homeless and mental health needs in the community. The infrastructure is not in place to do so. For now, GPD responds and partners with organizations who can help.*
- **Coronavirus:** *The GPD is following Dallas County and CDC guidelines to keep officers and the public safe by wearing masks and practicing social distancing where possible.*

Suspicious activity?
Call 972-485-4840 (non-emergencies)
Crime in progress? Call 911



Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 450145
Garland, TX 75045-0145

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Oakridge Daytimers

by Jan Reed, Oakridge Daytimers

The Oakridge Daytimers has not yet resumed our monthly coffee meetings. The feasibility of holding in-person gatherings is monitored month-to-month. When it is safe to resume in-home gatherings, notice will be posted in the Oakridge newsletter and on the ONA website. We all miss the opportunity to socialize with neighbors, share conversations, and laugh together. Those days will return, we just have to be patient and stay safe.

Contact president Chris Byers (cbeyers2000@yahoo.com) or Jan Reed (jkreed58@gmail.com) for questions about our organization.

Oakridge Food Drive

Sunday, October 18th, 2-4 p.m.
Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot

Bring 5 items or donate \$5 to receive
a FREE ice cream treat!

Details on page 1 of the newsletter.

Bulky Trash...did you know?

Are you planning to do some household remodeling? Be sure you know the rules for bulky trash.

Small Projects. According to the City of Garland's website, they will pick up "building, construction and remodeling materials from small household remodeling projects completed by the resident and arranged in manageable piles (allowed four times per calendar year)." Visit their website for more details (<https://www.garlandtx.gov/495/Accepted-Unaccepted-Materials>).

Large Projects. City Code states that "construction and demolition debris generated in connection with a major renovation project" shall not be placed for collection at any property in the City. "Such items shall be removed by the building contractor, owner or occupant of the premises at their own expense." (Section 52.30(19)) Be sure to talk to your contractor about hauling away the debris or make other arrangements - such as asking the City for an open top container (<http://garlandwastewizard.com/562/Residential-Roll-Off-Services>).

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