



Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

January 2021, Vol. 29, No. 01

City Council Update

by Dylan Hedrick, District 7 City Councilman, Oakridge Resident

Editor's Note: This article was written in mid-December. Please keep this timeframe in mind when reading dates, numbers, or statistics.

Hello Oakridge Neighbors,

As we reach the end of what has been a most difficult year, I would like to provide you a year-end update as to what has been happening on City Council and throughout the City of Garland in 2020.

I hope that you are continuing to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic as we are nearing 15,000 resident cases in Garland or about 6% of the city population testing positive. This week Pfizer's vaccine began rolling out across the country. In preparation to distribute the vaccine, Garland's Health Department conducted a "drive-thru" vaccination trial run several weeks ago, and I am confident that we will be ready to distribute the vaccine when it is available.

With the economic distress the pandemic has brought to many citizens, I am happy to say the City Council provided some property tax relief for homeowners by increasing the homestead exemption from 8% to 10% and the senior/disabled exemption from \$51,000 to \$56,000 in June. We felt it was important to deliver some economic help to homeowners on exemptions that haven't been increased in over a decade.

At the end of October, we reached a resolution with the North Texas Municipal Water District regarding their unfair water fee structure. Previously under the "take or pay" system, we were charged based on our highest municipal water usage year which was 2006 - 14 years ago. Due to conservation measures which have caused our city's water use to drop by 20% since 2006, we were paying 120% of what we should have been paying for each gallon of water used to compensate for the unused water.

As per the new agreement, our new rate structure will

be phased in over 13 years and will be based upon a five-year rolling average of actual usage. This new rate structure will incentivize conservation and result in a savings of \$9 million for Garland water customers over the 13-year timeline.

This year we also implemented a Home Improvement Incentive Rebate Program. This program allows homeowners to be reimbursed for making improvements to the exterior of their homes. The initial funding was expended very quickly and now we have a waiting list. Council approved a second tranche of funding for the next fiscal year and applications will open January 4. Please see the city website at garlandtx.gov for more information.

Continued on p.2

Decorating Oakridge

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

During the holidays, it was a pleasure to see so many homes and yards in Oakridge adorned with twinkling lights and decorations. Thank you to everyone who brightened their corner of the neighborhood this holiday season.

It was also nice to be greeted by cheerful decorations in our neighborhood entryways. (Did you notice the wooden bears at the Laurel Oaks entrance off Beltline? Thank you Barbara Mairs for that fun addition each year!) Thank you to ALL the residents who helped add cheer to our neighborhood entrances!



Continued from p.1

City Council Update by Dylan Hedrick

I am very proud to say that many of the projects approved under the 2019 \$423 million Bond Program are now being designed or are under construction. On December 10, we celebrated the groundbreaking for the new Animal Shelter to be located at 1900 State Highway 66. Next month, we will have even more ground breakings for the new Police Evidence Facility, two fire stations, and several playgrounds throughout the city.

We also continue to dedicate funding towards improving our streets throughout the city. Our budget dedicated to street reconstruction is nearly \$30 million this year which is double the level from five years ago. The improvement has been measured through a grading system called the Pavement Condition Index (PCI). The city-wide PCI for major streets reached a low of 74 in 2018, but through our efforts, it has risen to 80 today. Similarly the PCI for alleys reached a low of 64 in 2018, but has now improved to 71. Also, construction for the complete rebuild of Interstate 635 in Garland is currently underway. New entrance and exit ramps are being added along the project which will provide better access to south Garland. The project is expected to be completed in late 2024.

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve the citizens of Garland and of District 7 over the past year. I pray that you and your families stay safe during this ongoing pandemic and that 2021 will bring us a return to normalcy. Please contact me at 469-560-6099 or at council7@garlandtx.gov if there is anything I can do for you.

Dylan Hedrick
District 7 City Councilman



AR ACCLAIM
Restorations.com
Complete Restoration Services, Just Acclaim Away!

Jason Chinh Nguyen
Project Manager
8951 Collin McKinney Pkwy, Suite 701
McKinney, TX 75070


Cell: 214-924-8359
Office: 214-775-0021
www.acclaimrestorations.com
jasonN@AcclaimRestorations.com

Small Ways to Volunteer

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Our neighborhood can always use volunteers to help keep things clean - and you don't have to volunteer with the ONA to make a difference. Here are some ways you can volunteer to serve Oakridge in your own section of the neighborhood.

- **Pick up trash:** The next time you go for a walk, grab a trash bag and pick up trash you see on the sidewalks and streets. Trash items are especially plentiful on Tuesdays since that is trash pick-up day; the wind easily snatches loose bags and lightweight items as waste services trucks are dumping the green bins. Trash also collects under and around the brick walls and entryways.
- **Watch the Entrances:** If you notice that one of the neighborhood entrances needs attention (broken sprinklerhead, landscape lighting problems, damaged or dying plants), notify our Environmental Committee Director at environment@oakridgena.org.
- **Crime Watch:** Residents are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. Be alert and aware of people in and around your home. If you notice suspicious activity, please call the police non-emergency number at 972-485-4840. (For emergencies or crimes in progress, call 911.)
- **Report City Issues:** Abandoned vehicles (and other parking violations), dead animals, and City Code issues can affect the beauty and value of our neighborhood. Thanks to the eAssist app, these issues can easily be reported to the City of Garland. (For more information, see "Reporting City Issues" on page 5 of this newsletter)



Support Garland Parks by participating in Garland's 75-Mile **Get Out & Walk** Virtual Race.

Registration ends Jan. 16th

Register at: <https://www.goneforarun.com/virtual-race-get-out-and-walk-garland-2020/gtx-0001.html>

Meals for First Responders

by Jackie Reynolds, ONA Events Director

A big “Thank You” to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for the Garland Police and Fire Stations 3 and 11. Oakridge residents were generous in providing volunteer hours, preparing food, and making monetary donations. The monetary donations went toward purchasing food and containers for food. We also had enough money remaining to purchase some stuffed animals for the police department to use with children in need.

Since we are in the middle of a pandemic, we worked with both the police and fire stations to provide food within their specified protocols. While the traditional buffet-style fare worked well for the small crews at each fire station, the police station (with a much larger group of people to be fed) needed something different.

So for the police station, we created individual portions that were packaged ahead of time (similar to boxed lunches). This extra step required a little more coordination and volunteer hours – but we had volunteers ready and willing to tackle the challenge.

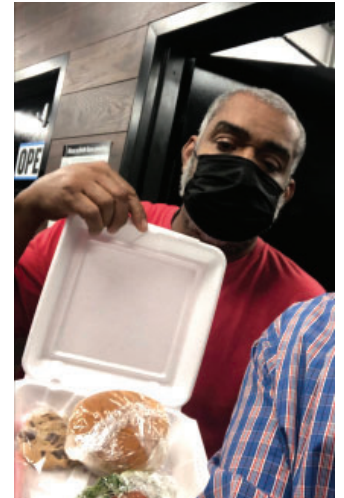
For Thanksgiving, Chef Dale with *In the Cut Cafe* volunteered to make food and assemble 50 boxes for the Police Station.

For Christmas, Oliver Harter joined Joan and Dan Nichols to assemble 50 boxed meals for the Police Station – which included delicious hams smoked by Oakridge resident Chris Williams.

ONA President Scott Barnes provided a tasty turkey for Fire Station 11. The Oakridge Daytimers generously provided desserts and side dishes for

both Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, many delicious side dishes and desserts were cooked by residents from all over our neighborhood.

It is a joy to be able to see Oakridge keep this tradition alive, particularly during such a challenging year. Both the fire stations and the police department very much appreciated the food.



Above Left: Stuffed animals are dropped off at GPD. Above Right: Chef Dale (In the Cut Cafe) cooked and assembled 50 boxed Thanksgiving meals for GPD.



Above: Sharon Parrish helped deliver Christmas goodies to Fire Station #3.



Above: Joan Nichols helped deliver 50 boxed Christmas meals for GPD.

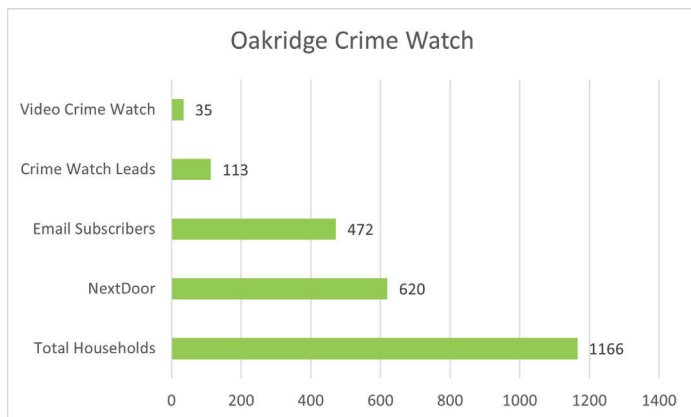


Above: Oliver Harter & Dan Nichols prepped the hams (smoked by Chris Williams) and assembled the boxed meals for GPD.

Oakridge Crime Watch

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

The most effective means of reducing crime in the neighborhood is an organization of neighbors helping one another. The Oakridge Crime Watch is a great example of this kind of organization.



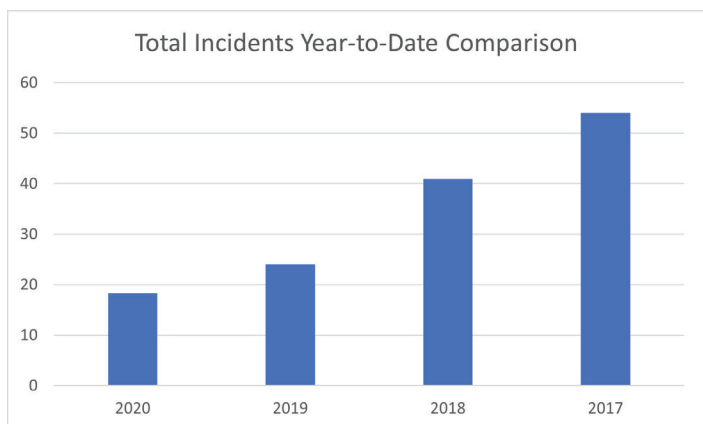
How can you become part of the Oakridge Crime Watch?

- **Subscribe** to get Crime Watch email updates, events, and “Siren” alerts. Siren alerts notifying residents of incidents in our neighborhood are available to anyone who has joined the Oakridge Neighborhood Association, subscribed to email alerts on our website (<https://www.oakridgena.org/resident-resources/>), on NextDoor, or by contacting us at safety@oakridgena.org.
- **Become a Crime Watch Lead** for your street or block by reaching out to us at safety@oakridgena.org. It is nothing more than being a good neighbor and contacting Garland Police when you see suspicious activities. We may contact you if a crime has occurred in your immediate area.
- **Report suspicious activity.** If you see suspicious activity or something (or somebody) that seems out of place, call the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840 (or call 911 for emergency or crime in progress). Remember to include details that go beyond race and gender such as behavior, vehicle description, location, time of day, hair, clothing, identifying marks, etc. Share any security camera video that may be helpful with Officer Barnes at BarnesT@garlandtx.gov.
- **Add Your Camera to the Video Crime Watch Map.** External surveillance cameras – including

video doorbells – can be added to the Garland Video Crime Watch Map by visiting <http://www.garlandpolice.com/331/Police>.

- **Be a good neighbor.** It’s always smart to get to know your neighbors. The “rule of 5” is to at least know your neighbors on both sides and 3 across the street or alley. Practice small acts of kindness – smile, wave, or say “hello”. Welcome new neighbors.
- **Be aware of your neighbor’s habits,** such as when they are generally at work, if they have small children or teenagers, and if they are elderly and may need extra assistance from time to time.
- **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 post or private message them.

Concerned neighbors reduce crime and our statistics prove it. Check out these low numbers for 2020!



ONA Board Openings

Consider volunteering with the ONA for the 2021-2022 membership year (which begins June 1st). Three of our District Director positions (districts 1, 3, and 7) need to be filled for the 2020-2021 membership year.

To view a list of the streets in each district, visit: <https://www.oakridgena.org/seven-districts-of-oakridge/>.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the ONA Board, please email info@oakridgena.org.

Reporting City Issues

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

The City of Garland's eAssist app can be used to report a wide range of common issues quickly. Here are a few examples of issues you can report:

- parking violations (such as abandoned vehicles)
- deceased animals (such as dead squirrels)
- potholes
- damaged or dim streetlights (not traffic lights)
- high grass or weeds
- missed garbage/recycling pick up
- request a trash or recycling container


Download the City of Garland's eAssist app on your mobile device or access it on Garland's website. Visit <https://www.garlandtx.gov/> and click on the yellow "eAssist" button (scroll down the page a little and the button is in the middle).

If you've never used eAssist before, you'll be prompted to sign up when you first use it. You have the option to link it to a Facebook account (if you have one) or just sign up independently from Facebook.

2020-2021 ONA Board

info@oakridgena.org

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	214-868-9854
District 2 Director, Billy Ray Thomas.....	214-734-1017
District 3 Director, 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, Joan Nichols	214-543-2546
Environmental, David Parrish	469-733-6089
Events, Jackie Reynolds	469-649-5799
Membership, Vacant	



Your friendly neighbor for 20+ years and Dentist

Dr. Huy Le, D.D.S
17194 Preston Rd Ste 224 Dallas, Texas 75248
972 233 9399



Personal Service

David's Meat Market
Owner
Devon McDougall

Choice Iowa Beef (972) 495-8315
Custom Freezer Orders Call-in Orders Welcome
4010 N. Jupiter Road Open Tues.-Fri. 10am - 6pm
Garland, Texas 75044 Saturday 10am - 5pm
www.davidsmeatmarket.com

Donna's Pet & House Sitting
Home: 972-495-8599 Cell: 214-395-5403
Donna Feher
Partnered With Sue Hageland
Oakridge Area Resident for 30+ Years



Insured - Certified in Pet First Aid/CPR

Overnight Stays in Your Home or Mine



Local Asian Marketplace!
Fresh Meat & Seafood!

3347 W. Walnut St., #101 2430 E. Pioneer Pkwy.
Garland, TX 75042 Arlington, TX 76010
Tel: 972-272-1993 Tel: 817-459-1311
Fax: 972-487-9092 Fax: 817-459-1317

Add Your Business Card!
Reach over 1,000 residents every month

To purchase ad space, contact us at
communications@oakridgena.org



Oakridge News

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

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Local Postal Customer

Brick Wall Repairs

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Since the ONA maintains the landscaping and mowing around the brick wall, it is understandable how residents sometimes assume the ONA is also responsible for repair and maintenance of the brick wall surrounding Oakridge. However, the ONA does not have any responsibility for repair and maintenance of the brick wall.

The Owners of the Wall: The property owners along the perimeter of the Oakridge Neighborhood are responsible for the repair or replacement of damaged brick walls on their property. (Masonry contractors are the ones who handle this type of repair.) If your house backs up to a brick wall (like my house does), then you own part of the brick wall; it is part of your property.

Auto Accidents: If the damage is due to an automobile accident, then property owners must work with the at-fault driver (or the insurance company) to repair the wall and replace any perimeter landscaping plants that were damaged during the accident. (For questions about matching landscaping plants, please contact the ONA Environmental Committee at environment@oakridgena.org.)

Matching the Bricks: The original brick styles are no longer available, but if it is helpful in researching bricks that will be a close match, we have provided the original brick style names below. When making repairs residents are encouraged to match the existing brick as closely as possible (or to clean and reuse brick from the damaged wall).

- For the perimeter wall on Jupiter, Beltline, and Shiloh north of Big Oaks Drive: Acme Brick "Blend 10" (no longer available)
- For the perimeter wall on Shiloh south of Big Oaks and Buckingham: U.S. Brick "Old Town" (no longer available)

RE/MAX Associates of Dallas

Jeff Stone
Managing Broker
214-957-4386

Oakridge resident over 30 years
offering special commission rate for my neighbors!

EXCEL AIR & HEAT
LET ME BE YOUR AC MAN

DENNIS BUTNER
SALES & SERVICE

SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS
FREE ESTIMATES
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
972-841-5103
TACLB36068E
excelairheat@gmail.com

DMW Construction
Remodel-Restoration-Repairs

David Whittington
Owner
214-892-8939

20+ Years Experience
DMWConstruction19@gmail.com

DUCKCREEK
GOLF CLUB

214-440-2229 duckcreekgc.com