



# Oakridge News

[oakridgena.org](http://oakridgena.org)

March 2021, Vol. 29, No. 03

## Becoming Involved

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Hello Neighbors,

You've been reading the newsletter and things are beginning to make sense –

- ☞ Oakridge is a community which sees great value in *bringing neighbors together*.
- ☞ The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) is a wonderful way to *bring neighbors together*.

You think to yourself, *Wow, that's cool!*

Then it hits you—*I'd like to be a part of that.*

Excellent! What should you do next? Here are a few options.

**ONA Membership** – ONA members are also called *supporters* because they are the very foundation of the ONA. It is through member support that we can beautify the entries and perimeter, we can create events that encourage residents to meet each other, and we can share important information through our newsletter. If you're not a member, join us! (<https://www.oakridgena.org/join-us/>)

**ONA Board** – We need Directors and other functional team members. We need people who enjoy caring for the neighborhood and connecting with neighbors. And – LUCKY YOU – it's election season for the ONA! If you are interested in serving on the board, contact the ONA Nominating Committee Chair, Cheryl Jones ([jonesclj@verizon.net](mailto:jonesclj@verizon.net)) or email [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org).

**Volunteer** – Here are a few examples of volunteer opportunities with the ONA.

- Environmental – It's a little cold at the moment but before you know it warm weather will be here and you can help us fix up the neighborhood. For more info on environmental committee opportunities, email [environment@oakridgena.org](mailto:environment@oakridgena.org).

- Clean the Creek – Join us for one of our Duck Creek Clean-ups! The next clean-up is scheduled for April 11th. (See page 2 of the newsletter for more details.)
- Crime Watch – Become a Crime Watch lead for your street or learn more about the Citizens On Patrol program. For more information visit <https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/> email [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org).
- Support Your District Director – Offer to help your District Director distribute membership flags, set out meeting signs at the entrances, or decorate the entry ways and stop signs for the holidays. Call your District Director (numbers are on page 5 of this newsletter) or email [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org).

It is important for you to know that Oakridge residents value building a community where neighbors know neighbors. When we come together we can make improvements to our neighborhood, keep crime incidents low, and build something bigger than ourselves that benefits the whole community. Oakridge believes that we're better together – so be a part of the together.

Remember Oakridge doesn't have an HOA – that's not what this is. It's not about rules and compliance and government. This is a volunteer group of neighbors that values knowing each other, believes that we're stronger together, and does things to build bonds between neighbors.

Are you tempted to get involved yet?

Go ahead and do it!

### Upcoming ONA Events

(see page 2 for details)

March 26, Walk & Greet  
April 11, Creek Clean-up

## Oakridge Walk & Greet

by Jackie Reynolds, ONA Events Director

**When: Friday, March 26th, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Last September Oakridge residents came out of their homes at sunset to meet neighbors and enjoy the lovely weather. This event was so popular we decided to bring it back this spring!

Please join us on Friday, March 26th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for a chance to meet your neighbors and enjoy the sunset. Take a walk through the neighborhood or simply have a seat outside with an icy beverage as you greet passing neighbors.

The ONA board members will also be strolling through the neighborhood and they look forward to meeting both new and familiar faces.

## Duck Creek Clean-Up

by Melanie Busby, ONA District 5 Director

**When: Sunday, April 11th, 7:45-9:30 a.m.**

Have you noticed the trash gathering in and around the creek (Duck Creek) that runs through Oakridge?



Last fall, we had a number of volunteers (including some high school students) come help us clean out the creek. It would be nice if the creek stayed clean, but wind, rain, and runoff will always bring more debris. It's time for another creek clean-up day!

The ONA has once again coordinated with Brent Hurt and Steve Johnson (the owners of Duck Creek Golf Club) to set aside a time for volunteers to gather and clean up Duck Creek on Sunday, April 11th, from 7:45-9:30 a.m.

If you are willing and able to help, come meet up at the Diamond Oaks bridge that crosses the creek (near the club house) on April 11th at 7:45 in the morning. Dress comfortably and bring gloves. Trash bags will be provided.

Let's clean up the creek!

## Plant Swap?

Does the idea of a neighborhood plant swap (neighbors sharing different cuttings, plants, and seeds) appeal to you? Perhaps you are an avid gardener or maybe you are looking to get started on your green thumb.



The ONA Events Director wants to see if there is interest in Oakridge for something like this. If you have an interest in seeing this come together, send Jackie Reynolds an email ([jackiesr@twc.com](mailto:jackiesr@twc.com)).

Depending on the level of interest, we will look at planning an Oakridge plant swap.

## 協泰 Hiep Thai

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## Winter in Oakridge

Our record-setting winter storms in February left plenty of damage in their wake. But there were also a few bright spots as neighbors headed outside to create the rarest creature of all - a Texas Snowman.



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## Storm Recovery

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Whenever there are natural disasters (such as the winter storms in February) it's a sure bet that scam artists will soon pop up.

If you find yourself in the position of needing a contractor, be extra diligent in doing research and asking questions. The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) provides a list of ways you can avoid contractor scams. Tips include getting more than one bid, being aware of misleading language, and refusing to pay up front. Did you know that after a disaster, it's against the law for out-of-town contractors to ask for a down payment before they start? Check the TDI website for more information. (<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/takefive/contractor-scams.html>)

When it comes to financial assistance for disaster recovery, be especially wary of anyone asking for your Social Security number or other sensitive information. FEMA's website cautions everyone to *beware of visits, calls or emails from people claiming to be from FEMA asking for your Social Security number, bank account or other sensitive information. Giving out this type of information can lead to identify theft.* (<https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/texas-winter-storms-dr-4586-rumor-control>)

Finally, if a disaster affects the entire city (like the February winter storms), then be sure to check the city's website (<https://garlandtx.gov/>) for legitimate sources for financial assistance, food, counseling, and other helpful resources.

Stay safe Oakridge!

## COVID-19 Resources

Source: <https://www.garlandtx.gov/3739/Recovery-Resources>

If the pandemic has you struggling to make ends meet, be sure to visit the City of Garland's website. They have partnered with community organizations to help Garland citizens impacted by COVID-19. Available help includes financial assistance, job training and placement assistance, no-cost medical services, counseling programs, and more. <https://www.garlandtx.gov/3739/Recovery-Resources>

# ONA Budget Update

by Keith Engler MBA, ONA Treasurer

The ONA budget is looking good as we enter the last quarter of our membership year (which runs June 1st through May 31st). The charts below offer the current balance and any remaining expenses as of 2/21/2021.

The annual budget of \$17,388.24 showing the Mandatory Operating Expenses

		Mandatory Operating Expenses	Monthly Budget	Months Remaining	Remaining Budget
<i>Mandatory Annual Budget</i>		Newsletter (7 months without Insert)	\$134.17	7	\$939.19
		Newsletter (w/Insert Jun, Jan, Mar, Apr, May)	\$212.30	5	\$1,061.50
		Postage (Annual)	\$190.06	12	\$2,280.72
		Platinum Scapes	\$620.83	12	\$7,449.96
		Storage (Monthly)	\$71.00	12	\$852.00
		Avg Utilities per month estimated	\$350.00	12	\$4,200.00
		Website Domain Costs (due April)	\$196.87	1	\$196.87
		Annual Bulk Mail Fee due in June	\$168.00	1	\$168.00
		Annual PO Box Fee due in October	\$240.00	1	\$240.00
		<b>Total Mandatory Operating Expenses</b>			

The annual Budget versus the Actual dues collected to date. We have a surplus over the budget of \$4,196.76.

	Revenue	Membership	Beautification	Advertising	Interest	Events	Total
<i>Budget versus Actuals</i>	2020-2021 Budget	\$17,388.24	\$8,778.50	\$1,725.00	\$18.96	\$-	\$27,910.70
	2020-2021 Actual	\$21,085.00	\$8,778.50	\$2,125.00	\$18.96	\$100.00	\$32,107.46
	\$ Difference	\$3,696.76	\$-	\$400.00	\$-	\$100.00	\$4,196.76
	Member Difference	62					

The expenses of \$4,717.09 remaining for this fiscal year

		Mandatory Operating Expenses	Monthly Budget	Months Remaining	Remaining Budget
<i>2020-2021 Remaining Expenses</i>		Newsletter (7 months without Insert)	\$134.17	0	\$-
		Newsletter (w/Insert Jun, Jan, Mar, Apr, May)	\$212.30	3	\$636.90
		Postage (prepaid: Until June 1 2021)	\$190.06	0	\$-
		Platinum Scapes	\$620.83	4	\$2,483.32
		Storage (prepaid: Until June 1 2021)	\$71.00	0	\$-
		Avg Utilities per month estimated	\$350.00	4	\$1,400.00
		Website Domain Costs (due April)	\$196.87	1	\$196.87
		Bulk Mail Fee due in June	\$168.00	0	\$-
		Annual PO Box Fee due in October	\$240.00	0	\$-
		<b>Total Operating Expenses Remaining</b>			

The projected funds of \$4,123.28 remaining at the end of the fiscal year

	<i>Savings Balance</i>	\$20,002.62		
	<i>Beautification Collected</i>	\$8,778.50	<i>Events Budgeted</i>	\$2,000.00
	<i>Beautification Spent</i>	\$5,042.78	<i>Events Spent</i>	\$353.68
	<i>Beautification Balance</i>	\$3,735.72	<i>Events Balance</i>	\$1,646.32
<i>2020-2021 Remaining Cash</i>	<i>Checking Account Balance</i>		\$14,222.41	
	<i>Beautification Balance</i>		\$(3,735.72)	
	<i>Total Operating Expenses Remaining</i>		\$(4,717.09)	
	<i>Special Events Money Budgeted</i>		\$(1,646.32)	
	<i>First Responder Funds Remaining</i>		\$-	
	<i>2021-2022 Dues paid Early</i>		\$(162.50)	
	<i>Projected Funds Remaining</i>		<u>\$4,123.28</u>	

## Your Oakridge District

The ONA board is looking for volunteers to serve as District Directors. If you are in districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 then it's a great year for you to volunteer! Contact us at [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org) to volunteer.

Beaver Run (2425-2434).....	District 1
Bending Oaks Trail .....	District 1
Big Oaks Drive (2501-2606) .....	District 7
Big Oaks Drive (2609-2847) .....	District 6
Big Oaks Drive (2901-3221) .....	District 5
Creighton Drive.....	District 6
Crestedge Drive .....	District 6
Diamond Oaks Drive (2001-2322) .....	District 2
Diamond Oaks Drive (2325-2521) .....	District 1
Fulton Drive .....	District 7
Golden Oaks Drive .....	District 1
Grand Oak Drive .....	District 4
Greenview Circle .....	District 1
Greenview Drive .....	District 1
Hearthside Lane (1901-2131).....	District 3
Hickory Bend Drive .....	District 7
Laurel Oaks Court .....	District 5
Laurel Oaks Drive (2702-3225) .....	District 5
Lone Oak Trail .....	District 2
Meadowridge Drive.....	District 6
Moss Trail .....	District 2
Oak Point Drive (2601-2937) .....	District 4
Oak Point Drive (3001-3126) .....	District 2
Oak Springs Drive (2701-2817).....	District 4
Oak Springs Drive (2901-3017).....	District 2
Overview Lane (2002-2228) .....	District 3
Peakwood Drive.....	District 3
Pebblestone Drive .....	District 7
Pepperidge Drive .....	District 7
Richland Drive .....	District 6
Richoak Drive.....	District 7
Ridge Oak Court .....	District 1
Ridge Oak Drive .....	District 1
Ridge Oak Place .....	District 1
Ridgeview Lane.....	District 1
Rocky Trail.....	District 2
Rolling Oak Lane (2001-2013) .....	District 4
Rolling Oak Lane (2101-2222) .....	District 2
Shady Oaks Court .....	District 2
Stoneridge Drive (2610-2742) .....	District 6
Stoneridge Drive (2801-2882) .....	District 5
Suncrest Drive .....	District 6
Willow Ridge Drive .....	District 4
Winding Oak Trail .....	District 4
Windy Ridge Lane .....	District 4

## Nominating Committee

*by the ONA Board*

The ONA is entering election season which means now is a great time to express your interest in serving on the board as an officer or one of the district directors (we are specifically looking for directors in districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

If you are interested in serving on the board in the upcoming membership year (June 1st - May 31st), please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Cheryl Jones, at [jonesclj@verizon.net](mailto:jonesclj@verizon.net) or email the board at [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org) and we will connect you with the Nominating Committee.

The ONA Nominating Committee members are Cheryl Jones (Chair), Joetta Harris, and Libby Morse. In accordance with ONA bylaws, the Nominating Committee was approved by the general membership at the General Meeting on Thursday, February 25th.

## 2020-2021 ONA Board

[info@oakridgena.org](mailto: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, Vacant.....	
District 5 Director, Melanie Busby .....	972-989-2253
District 6 Director, Vacant.....	
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, Cecile Labossiere.....	972-896-9413





# Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association  
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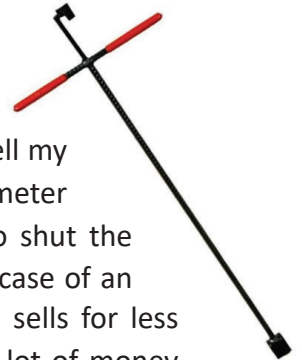
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## Shutting Off Your Water

by Keith Engler MBA  
ONA Treasurer | Sir Fixalot LLC



I have been doing handyman work since 2009 and I typically tell my customers to purchase a water meter shut-off tool. It makes it easy to shut the water off to the whole house in case of an emergency water leak. This tool sells for less than \$20.00 and can save you a lot of money and frustration. I like this particular tool (see photo) because it also has a built-in key for opening most water meter boxes in Oakridge.

It is also essential to make sure that you can access your water meter box. Therefore, if you have a lawn service, ask them always to weed eat around your meter and verify the lid opens freely.

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