



Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

April 2021, Vol. 29, No. 04

Join Us

by Cecile Labossiere, ONA Membership Director

Home Sweet Home! These words certainly came to mind during the pandemic as we endured and found ourselves spending a lot more time in our homes and neighborhood. Thankfully Oakridge is a clean, safe neighborhood where we can go for walks, exercise, or simply enjoy the outdoors. During the past year many of us had the opportunity to meet each other. Overall I feel that Oakridge neighbors have generally gotten to know each other better.

The past twelve months have pressed many of us to reflect on what's important in life and how we can make this world just a little bit better. As I personally considered these things, I quickly came to realize I could make an impact right here at home by volunteering as Membership Director for the Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA).

I have lived in Oakridge since 1995 and feel fortunate to have found a neighborhood that is committed to maintaining a sense of community. When I drive into the neighborhood I see neighbors walking, gardening, picking up their mail, or riding their bikes. When we pass each other we offer greetings through a wave of a hand or a friendly hello. When something looks out of place we knock on our neighbors' doors to make sure they are okay or to let them know their garage door is open. These may seem like small displays of neighborliness but many places do not have this sense of community. I know this is what makes Oakridge a place I am proud to call home.

As we prepare for the ONA Membership Drive, I hope that each resident will take a moment to reflect on the place they call home, what a difference their contribution can make, and the value of the neighborhood association that holds us all together as a community. The ONA is at the heart of what makes Oakridge so special. The resident volunteers of the ONA are focused on:

- Maintaining the Oakridge entrances and perimeter landscaping;

- Coordinating events that promote opportunities to meet your neighbors;
- Managing our Crime Watch Program in conjunction with Garland Police;
- Decorating the Neighborhood for the Holidays, Flag Days, etc.;
- Keeping the neighborhood informed and connected through a monthly newsletter and other forms of communication; and
- Welcoming new residents.

In case you were wondering:

- Oakridge has 1166 homes.
- The 1166 homes are split into 7 ONA districts so that we can be more effective in managing and supporting activities in each district.
- Each district has an ONA District Director.
- What district are you in? Find out on our website (www.oakridgena.org/).

The ONA is not a mandatory association, so we rely on the generous contributions of our residents thru our Annual Membership Drive. Our membership campaign will kick off this month (April) and membership updates will be published in the newsletter. Please consider joining us today and supporting the community you call home. There are 2 ways to join:

1. Visit our website at www.oakridgena.org/join-us/. The online form and payment portal make it easy!
2. Complete the membership form included with this newsletter and mail it in (address is provided on the form).

Are you a New Oakridge Resident?

Contact us at info@oakridgena.org to receive your free welcome bag!

*Generously sponsored by the
Oakridge Neighborhood Association*

Don't Miss Out

During the Membership Drive the ONA will be providing various opportunities for residents to come ask questions, learn more about the ONA, grab a goodie bag, or enter to win a drawing.

These pop-up events will be announced through email and posted on NextDoor and the ONA website (www.oakridgena.org/).

Serve on the ONA Board

by the ONA Board

Are you interested in serving on the ONA board? Please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Cheryl Jones, at jonesclj@verizon.net or send an email to the board at info@oakridgena.org.

Trash Tips

Source: <http://www.garlandtx.gov/>

When setting out your trash, remember the number 4:

- 4 feet between brush and bulky goods piles
- 4 feet between carts (trash and recycling)

For Garland's website for more information:

<http://www.garlandtx.gov/3663/Environmental-Waste-Services>

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!

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Spring Safety Tips

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime Prevention & Safety Director

Spring and warmer weather are on the way which means more people will be outside doing yard work or simply enjoying the spring weather. Unfortunately criminals are also out and about. The best way a community can stay safe is having neighbors that look out for each other. Here are some tips from the Garland Police for keeping yourself and your neighbors safe.

- **Lock your cars** to help deter thieves who are looking for an easy target.
- **Remove valuables** from your car including keys (such as your car keys!), purses, shopping bags, guns, electronics, money, medicine, and jewelry.
- **Close garage doors** especially when you are working in the yard or just stepping inside. Open garages are an easy target for thieves.
- **Pick up mail** in a timely manner. Consider going to the Post Office to mail checks or set up automatic payments. Thieves are looking for packages, checks, or identity information left in mailboxes overnight; they keep the valuable information and throw the junk in the street (a felony if caught).
- **Complete a Vacation Watch Request** (free for Garland residents). If you plan to be out of town, consider having Volunteers in Policing check your home while you are gone. Visit the Garland Police website to complete a Vacation Watch Request form (www.garlandpolice.com/640/Volunteers-in-Policing).
- **Consider getting a video doorbell** (like Nest or Ring). These can be a good deterrent for porch pirates and can aid police in catching criminals (even if the video is blurry). Visit www.garlandpolice.com/331/Police to add your video doorbell to the Garland Video Crime

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Donna's Pet & House Sitting
Home: 972-495-8599 Call: 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



Neighbor Recognition

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications

We love an opportunity to cheer our neighbors on! Oakridge neighbor and Home Depot employee Daniel Bell recently received a high honor from the Home Depot Southwest Regional Vice President commending Daniel on his service during the pandemic.



His wife, Carol Garrison, proudly posted the news to her Facebook account: "My husband received the Vice President's Recognition Award at the store today! This is a rare prestigious award. No one else at the store (including management) has ever seen someone receive this award. I am incredibly proud of my husband. He is an exemplary member of the Home Depot team. He educates co-workers on retirement plans. He has helped sign up a dozen for their 1st IRA! He has educated fellow college students on how to apply for tuition reimbursement. He constructed a set of wooden bed steps for an elderly man who thought buying a rickety metal step stool for his ailing wife would be inadequate for her safety when getting into bed. He is amazing!"

Congratulations Daniel!

Our advertisers reach over
1,000 residents each month.

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

(Ad placement is rotated monthly)

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Jeff Stone
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Oakridge News

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

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EDDM Retail

Local Postal Customer

Continued from p.3

Spring Safety Tips by Joan Nichols

Watch map.

- **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 (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.
- **Discourage Porch Pirates** with the following:
 1. Track deliveries online and quickly retrieve packages from your porch as soon as they are delivered.
 2. Have packages delivered to your office building or a remote pickup site. Amazon has several hub lockers around the city. FedEx and UPS also offer similar options.
 3. Ask your neighbor to collect packages from your porch when you are away from home.
 4. Get a video doorbell (such as Nest or Ring). They may not always stop a Porch Pirate in their tracks, but they can help police identify them later.

As always, please feel free to contact us with your Crime and Safety questions at safety@oakridgena.org.

2020-2021 ONA Board

info@oakridgena.org

- 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 Director, Dotty Moseley214-703-3532
- District 4 Director, Vacant.....
- District 5 Director, Melanie Busby972-989-2253
- District 6 Director, Vacant.....
- District 7 Director, Sharon Carlton.....972-345-9741
- Communications, Heather Englebretson ..214-562-7857
- Crime & Safety, Joan Nichols214-543-2546
- Environmental, David Parrish469-733-6089
- Events, Jackie Reynolds469-649-5799
- Membership, Cecile Labossiere.....972-896-9413

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Fax: 817-459-1317

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Office: 214-775-0021
www.acclaimrestorations.com
JasonN@AcclaimRestorations.com



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!

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Please print/fill out completely

Address _____

Contact 1 Name _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Contact 2 Name _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Home Phone _____

First Time Supporter

Renewal

Owner

Tenant

Subscribe to email? **Y** or **N**

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

.....

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/

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.

The ONA is NOT a mandatory HOA.
It relies on volunteers and donations.

What the ONA does

Monthly Newsletter

Events & Social Activities

ONA Website

General Member Meetings

Crime Prevention & Safety

New Resident Welcome Baskets

Perimeter Maintenance &
Seasonal Plantings

Holiday Decorations &
Meals to Fire & Police

Contact info@oakridgena.org to volunteer!