



Oakridge News

oakridgena.org

July 2021, Vol. 29, No. 07

Don't Forget to Join!

by Cecile Labossiere, ONA Membership Director



Remember to send in your ONA membership form and dues!

We are counting on your support this year. Please take a moment to consider what your contribution can mean to the place you call "HOME". All of our membership dues are directly spent on improving your neighborhood. We are 100% volunteer and only ask for support from our residents once a year during our Annual Membership Drive.

The annual dues are \$60.00 and we spend those funds wisely. The organization is transparent and each member can access our spending, budget, newsletter, etc. online so that you know we are accountable to you—our members!

What would happen to Oakridge without your participation & support by becoming an ONA member?

- *Would the entrances have lighting?*
- *Would the seasonal flowers be planted?*
- *Would the grass be overgrown?*
- *Would we have social events so neighbors can meet each other?*
- *Would we have a newsletter to provide us with important information about our neighborhood?*
- *Would the crime rate increase?*

All of this is taken care of by your voluntary ONA. The beauty and safety of Oakridge would be lost without the ONA and members like you!!!

Please take a few moments to join us. The membership form is at www.oakridgena.org/join-us. From there, you will be able to:

1. complete and submit the form online; or

2. print, complete, and mail the form to Oakridge Neighborhood Association, PO Box 450145, Garland, TX 75045-0145

Thanks,

Cecile LaBossiere

ONA Membership Director

Have Questions? Please contact me at

oakridgemembership@gmail.com

Thank you!

Help us offer a big "Thank You" to these businesses for their generous contributions to the weekly prize drawings for our Membership Flag Race.

Baskin Robbins

\$35 gift card

Dallas Superstore-SF Supermarket

10 Goodie bags

Frank Marino's Texaco

Free Oil Change

Griff's Hamburgers

Three donations each of
2 Free Combo Meals

Panda Express

\$25 gift card

Pizza Hut

\$20 gift card

Is your District winning the Membership Flag Race?



Check the chart on page 3 to find out!

Working Together

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Hi Neighbors,

Our end-of-May General Membership meeting went well. Good to see you there! With a new Board elected and installed we are ready to take on the 2021-2022 year.

Our neighborhood association is doing well. Membership is increasing, areas where we spend our energy are improving, we have some first time Board Members from our recent elections, and we're financially in good shape. All very good things and I'm grateful for them.

Moving Forward

Let's keep improving. For that to happen we need more people to participate in leading and shaping the ONA. I'll be asking you to do this several times this year. We've got a good trend going over the past few years and the next step – the one that truly revitalizes and ensures the long-term health of this organization – is neighbor participation.

Our focus will continue to be bringing us – as neighbors and volunteers – together. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person sometime soon. Having navigated a challenging path over the past year (and become much more proficient at video conferences) I know that I, for one, look forward to seeing and talking to my friends and neighbors face-to-face.

Role of the ONA

One of the messages I believe we've been successful in getting across is that the ONA's purpose and focus is to strengthen the connectivity between all of us. Oakridge's lack of an HOA and some of the functions that generally come with that type of entity, surfaces regularly and – while I understand the points that are made – I maintain that the ONA is not a replacement for that institution and that we have a different purpose. The homeowners of Oakridge, should they want such a vehicle, will have to make that happen.

My hope at this point is that the ONA will become a vehicle for you to show that you understand the value of knowing your neighbors and that you believe that we are Better Together.

Some days it's tough to focus on the value of relationship but, when done right, relationships change the world in

very positive ways. We exist to help foster more of that in Oakridge.

Better Together

The ONA will continue to grow and thrive through the efforts of all of us as Oakridge Neighbors.

My ask of you is to become more active in the ONA this year. Join the Board, attend an event, help plant some flowers, but – most importantly – meet a neighbor and help strengthen the fiber of our neighborhood. Be Better Together.

My sincere hope is that all this great work and progress is leading to a more connected Oakridge. We have such a wonderful collection of people in this neighborhood and I continue to believe that we're better together.

Contact Us

We are interested in hearing from more of you. We want to hear your thoughts on all of the above. Are there things we can do to make this a Team that you want to join? Do you also value the collective strength of a connected neighborhood? What would get you up and moving to join us?

Send us that communication any way you like: email, letter, text, whatever works. Your District Directors are a good point-of-contact; a simple conversation can often make a big difference. Contact information can be found on our website (www.oakridgena.org/contact-us).

We are not a group apart from you – we are you. Let's connect and work together to strengthen Oakridge.

Watering Schedule

Source: City of Garland (link at end of article)

Between April 1st and October 31st, Garland water utility customers are asked to follow the Water Conservation Plan.



When watering your lawn or landscape, remember:

- No outdoor irrigation between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to prevent excessive evaporation
- Watering with a hand-held hose using an automatic shutoff nozzle, soaker hose or drip irrigation is allowed at any time.

For more information on Garland's Water Conservation Plan visit www.garlandtx.gov/567/Conservation.

The *Grand Prize Drawing* for the district with the highest percentage of members will be held *July 12th*.
Will your district win?



ONa Pop-up Events

by the ONa Board

During the Membership Drive the ONa District Directors will be hosting pop-up events in their districts. These are wonderful opportunities for residents to meet their district directors, chat with neighbors, learn more about the ONa, or grab a goodie bag.

All pop-up events will be hosted outside and will be announced through email and posted on the ONa website (www.oakridgena.org) and NextDoor.

Don't Mess with Texas

by Heather Englebretson, ONa Communications Director

If you lived in Texas in the 1980s, then you may remember the launch of the "Don't Mess with Texas" campaign to target littering. That campaign is still going strong and they have a website (www.dontmesswithtexas.org) with loads of information. Here are a few of their Litter Facts:

- You can be fined \$500 every time you litter in Texas. And, if what you toss weighs more than five pounds, you may have to pay up to \$2,000.
- Litter is trash that is not disposed of properly in a trash can. Apple cores and banana peels are litter too.
- Texans, ages 16 to 34, are those most likely to litter.
- 71% of litter consists of micro litter (two inches or smaller) such as cigarette butts, straws and gum wrappers.
- Cigarette butts make up the largest portion of micro litter in Texas.
- Items discarded from cars and trucks account for half of all litter along Texas roads.



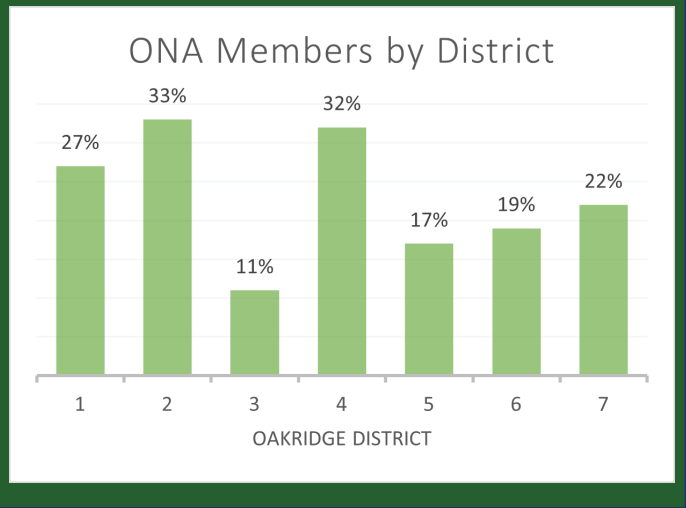
Littering isn't just unsightly, it's *illegal* in Texas. Any law enforcement officer in Texas can enforce the litter laws.

Let's keep Texas clean, y'all!

Membership Flag Race

Join the ONa today & help your District!

www.oakridgena.org/join-us/



2021-2022 ONa Board

info@oakridgena.org

- President, Scott Barnes480-512-2111
- Vice President, Michelle Mizerak214-962-7795
- Secretary, Sharon Parrish469-939-2270
- Treasurer, Keith Engler972-834-0096
- District 1 Director, Joanna Albright..... 973-879-5965
- District 2 Director, Billy Ray Thomas.....214-734-1017
- District 3 Director, Vanessa Washington...469-774-2425
- District 4 Director, Marty Dall.....505-410-0370
- District 5 Director, Melanie Busby972-989-2253
- District 6 Director, Joetta Harris469-955-1513
- District 7 Director, Michael Devanney 314-440-4350
- 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

What residents are saying about Oakridge...

"We like Oakridge because of all the friendly neighbors we've met while walking or while working in the yard."

~ Chase G., Oakridge Resident

Tell us what you love about Oakridge!

communications@oakridgena.org

iNaturalist Nature App

by Carol Garrison, ONA Environmental Committee

There's a wonderful tool that can enhance your walk through nature, whether you're strolling along Duck Creek or taking a hike in the Spring Creek Forest Preserve. The best part is that **it's FREE!**



With the iNaturalist app, you can have help identifying that strange bug you just encountered or the plant you have never seen before.

iNaturalist is a citizen science project and online social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists. This app is built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe and may be accessed via its website or from its mobile application.

Go online (www.inaturalist.org) or download the app, load up photos of creatures or plants or insects you encounter on your daily walks, and let this dedicated group of citizens help identify what you've seen!

Here are a few iNaturalist groups working on compiling local observations. Consider adding your photos!

Spring Creek Forest Preserve – www.inaturalist.org/projects/spring-creek-forest-preserve-garland-tx

Spring Creek – www.inaturalist.org/projects/spring-creek-plano-richardson-garland

Duck Creek – www.inaturalist.org/projects/duck-creek-greenbelt-garland-texas

Wacky Wednesdays at DCGC



Do you enjoy golfing? Would you like a chance to connect with other Oakridge residents?

Duck Creek Golf Club is currently hosting Wacky Wednesdays at 6 p.m. every Wednesday. Tee boxes are moved up to "wacky" places in this 9-hole, par-3 format. It only takes a little over an hour to play. At the end, golfers are randomly paired to win prizes and skins.

Sign up for a quick, fun round of golf with Wacky Wednesdays.

Contact the Duck Creek Golf Club for more details (214-440-2229).

An Evening with Moths

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Director

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2021

Location: Spring Creek Forest Preserve,
1770 Holford Road, Garland, TX

Time: 8:00-10:00 p.m.

The Garland Parks and Recreation Department and the Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest are hosting *An Evening with Moths*, with special guest Sam Kieschnick, Urban Wildlife Biologist from Texas Parks and Wildlife. This event is coordinated with National Moth Week which celebrates the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths.

This family-friendly activity event is all about moths! Most moths are nocturnal, so we will have several light sheets setup to attract moths that live in the Preserve. Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and help with identification. Bring a magnifying glass if you have one because many of these beautiful moths are very small. Come be a "Moth-er" with us.



July 17-25, 2021

nationalmothweek.org

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Overnight Stays in Your Home or Mine

Summer Safety Tips

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Director

Warmer Weather and summer vacations are upon us! Did you know that the Garland Police Department has a Vacation Watch program?

Vacation Watch

Uniformed volunteers in a marked Garland Police car check the homes of Garland citizens who are away from home on vacation to ensure that no burglar has broken in and taken their possessions. If you would like to have your home placed on the Vacation Watch list, please download the Vacation Watch Request Form which is available on the Garland Police Department website (www.garlandtx.gov/331/Police). This service is available to any homeowner within the city limits of Garland.

Crime Watch Opportunities

Citizens on Patrol (COP). Join our fleet of volunteer Citizens on Patrol (COP). We are the ones patrolling at various times during the day and night throughout Oakridge to help keep our neighborhood safe. Sign up now for the next class which will be hosted by the Garland Police Department



on Tuesday, July 20th, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. To be considered, complete the background check available on the GPD website at www.garlandpolice.com/gov/lq/safety/police/cop.asp. If cruising the neighborhood is not your thing, there are other ways to be involved with Crime Watch. We are all the eyes and ears of Oakridge. Feel free to contact safety@oakridgena.org to get involved.

Video doorbells like Ring can be a good deterrent and can aid police in catching criminals (even if the video is blurry). Add your doorbell camera to the Garland Video Crime Watch map by going to www.garlandtx.gov/331/Police (scroll down the page to the "Garland Video Crime Watch" section).

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.

ONA Crime Prevention & Safety Committee

Oakridge prides itself on a long history of active involvement of its members in watching out for one another. The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) through its Crime Prevention and Safety Committee serves the ONA's mission to improve and maintain the quality of life in Oakridge.

Call 911 for an active crime or the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840 when you see suspicious activity. Siren alerts notifying residents of incidents in our neighborhood are available to anyone who has subscribed or by emailing safety@oakridgena.org.

Our advertisers reach over 1,000 residents each month.

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

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Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
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Matching Bricks

by Heather Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Over the years, many repairs have been made to the brick wall that surrounds Oakridge. As repairs are completed, you may have noticed the new bricks don't match the original bricks. Why is this?

Well, the original brick style is no longer available. Therefore, when repairs are necessary, the ONA encourages residents to either find a close match or clean and reuse the existing bricks (when possible).

For more information on our brick wall, please visit the ONA website (www.oakridgena.org) and click on "Resident Resources" at the top of the page.

Prescription Drug Drop-Box

Source: Garland Police Department (link at end of article)

When medicine is not disposed of properly, it can fall into the wrong hands (or mouths) or even end up in the water supply. But when it comes time to dispose of your medication, where can you go?

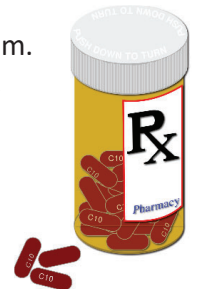
The Garland Police Department has a Prescription Drug Drop-Box in its front lobby (1891 Forest Lane) for all of your used or expired prescription medications.

Lobby hours are:

Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For questions regarding the Prescription Drop Box Program please call 972-205-2018.

www.garlandtx.gov/331/Police



New to Oakridge?

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

*Generously sponsored by the
Oakridge Neighborhood Association*