

Crime Stats and Stop Signs

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

Crime Stats are Low

We are pleased to report that **Crime Statistics for Oakridge remain very low**. The stats for our neighborhood are posted monthly on the ONA website (www.oakridgena.org). Our crime rates continue to be low, low, low thanks to our COP's, Crime Watch leads, and all of you who watch out for each other. Let's continue this trend!

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.

Contact Officer Barnes (BarnesT@garlandtx.gov) with any security camera video footage that may be helpful.

Slow the Roll at Oakridge Stop Signs

Garland Police are ticketing drivers who are rolling through Oakridge stop signs. We hope this will be a deterrent for people cutting through our neighborhood and will help keep us safe.

ONA Crime & 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 contacting us at safety@oakridgena.org.

Do you like to cook?

Do you love to cook? Do you know someone else who loves to cook?



"A Taste of Oakridge" is our theme this year for National Night Out (Tuesday, October 5th). We need volunteers like you to help us celebrate the cultural diversity of our neighborhood with food.

If you love to cook or you know of someone who enjoys cooking, please let us know so we can be sure to reserve a spot for your delicious food!

To sign up, please send an email to Joan Nichols at safety@oakridgena.org.

Dog Care in Hot Weather

Source: ASPCA, <https://www.aspc.org>

Our Texas heat can be rough on dogs. Keep these tips in mind:

- The layers of a dog's coat help protect them from overheating and sunburn. Therefore, rather than shaving your dog, stick to trimming longer fur.
- On hot days, keep in mind that dogs with flat faces (like Pugs) are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively.
- Hot pavement (especially asphalt) can burn sensitive doggy feet. Also, being close to the ground, your dog can heat up quickly when standing over hot pavement.
- Dogs that are young, elderly, overweight, have short muzzles, or have dark fur are at a higher risk for overheating.

For more tips, visit the ASPCA (<https://www.aspc.org>) and do a search for "hot weather safety".

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Overnight Stays in Your Home or Mine



Thank You ONA Members!

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

As we wrap up our Membership Campaign, I wanted to recognize the generous voluntary contributions from our



residents. Our supporters are important to us and we really couldn't do anything without YOU!

I hope that each and every supporter knows how much we appreciate your willingness to contribute to the Oakridge Neighborhood Association and help us remain an integral part of the Oakridge Community. As you know, it takes all of us to build a community and neighborhood that we can take pride in and be proud to call HOME.

The ONA is part of your community and we value our residents!

Thanks – Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

Have Questions? Please contact me at oakridgemembership@gmail.com

ONA Supporters 2021-2022



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Nicholson Memorial Library

Source: City of Garland (link provided in article)

The Nicholson Memorial Library System in Garland began as a single, 1,200-square-foot library. Over the years it grew into a system of libraries with 3 branches and 120,910 square feet of space.

The library was created as a memorial to Garland residents—Mrs. Missouri Nicholson and her son (and former Garland Mayor) S.E. Nicholson—who lost their lives to a tornado in 1927. A former bank building on the Garland Square was remodelled to house the memorial library and a community center.

The 1,200-square-foot library opened in 1933 with 2,344 books and a single volunteer who kept it open for 10-12 hours per week.

To learn more history about Garland Tribute buildings, visit <https://www.garlandtx.gov/3506/Exhibits> and click on the photo titled “Garland Tributes”.

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Garland eAssist

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Did the City forget to pick up your bulky trash? Is there a dead squirrel in the road? Have you noticed a broken streetlight? Is there an abandoned car sitting on your street? Do you have a noise complaint?



The Garland eAssist app is a fast way to report a wide range of *non-emergency* issues. Popular service requests include parking violations, potholes, streetlights (not traffic lights), trash on private property, graffiti, deceased animal, and standing water in meter box.

Once you submit a request, you will receive email updates letting you know when the request has been received and when it has been resolved. (Emails notifications will be sent to the email address you provide when you first sign up.)



You can access eAssist online (visit GarlandTX.gov and click on the yellow eAssist button) or you can download the free eAssist mobile app from the Apple and Google Play Stores.

Save these Dates!

ONA General Membership Meeting, 9/23, 7 p.m.
National Night Out, 10/5

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Watering Your Landscape

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

The City of Garland is currently operating under the Water Conservation Plan. This means between April 1st and October 31st:

- Garland water utility customers may water twice per week using an in-ground sprinkler system. Customers have the flexibility to choose which day of the week to water.
- 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 visit <https://garlandtx.gov/569/Conservation-Plan-Watering-Schedule>.

Volunteer for NNO

National Night Out (NNO) is right around the corner (Tuesday, October 5th) and **we need lots of volunteers!** From setting up tables to planning activities for kids, there is plenty to be done.

As a volunteer not only will you be making National Night Out a success for the whole neighborhood, but you will also be getting to know other residents.

To volunteer, please send an email to Joan Nichols at safety@oakridgena.org.

Video Crime Watch

If you have a home surveillance camera or doorbell camera, consider adding them to the Garland Video Crime Watch Program. For more info, visit the Garland website at <https://www.garlandtx.gov/331/Police> and scroll down the page to "Garland Video Crime Watch".

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Slab Leaks

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications

What is a slab leak? A leak in the pipes under the concrete foundation of your home



Many of the homes in this area are reaching the age of when slab leaks start to appear. In fact, many Oakridge residents have already experienced slab leaks.

What are some of the signs of a slab leak? A quick search online will tell you some of the basic signs: a mildew/moldy smell, the water pressure in your house seems lower than usual, there's a spike in your water bill, your flooring has unexplained water damage, and (with hot water leaks) there may be warm spots or "hot spots" on the floor.

Who fixes slab leaks? Plumbers—though not all plumbers will fix slab leaks. Be sure to do your research and ask questions. Consider asking your neighbors, family, or friends for plumber recommendations and advice. Here is some slab leak advice* shared by Oakridge residents on NextDoor:

If you suspect you have a leak, go to your water meter at the street. Take a picture of the meter count, note that if the flow meter or little red dial is moving. Wait 10 minutes (don't use the water) and go and check the meter again to see if there is any loss. – Mary B., Oakridge Resident

Call a reputable plumber. A licensed plumber! Look into doing a total rerouting of the damaged line by connecting a new line through your attic. Check with your insurance company to see how this will affect any coverage as well as payment for the work to be performed. – Eric S., Oakridge Resident

This [rerouting of the damaged line by connecting a new line through the attic] is how our leak was repaired. Very happy with it. Our first clue was a warm area on the living room floor and we don't have heated floors. – Peggy S., Oakridge Resident

Expect a huge dusty mess if they have to go through the slab. Go to the hardware store and buy the multiple pack of plastic drop cloths, cover everything, put rags/plastic under the door to keep the dust down. Turn off the AC and block the return

and vent ducts. Been there done that! – Mary B., Oakridge Resident

Slab leaks sometimes occur when residents have work done on their home's foundation. One Oakridge resident strongly urges homeowners to test for leaks after foundation repairs or lifts:

You always get tested after a lift. If the home is older and/or has cast iron, odds are it will have a leak/ brake after lift. Some cities require post test. All cities should. – Keta W., Oakridge Resident

Finally, be sure to check with your insurance company to see if your insurance policy covers slab leaks. Many insurance companies will not cover slab leaks or they will only cover a portion of the cost.

*Comments have been edited for clarity and to accommodate space limitations. To view full comments, do a search on NextDoor for "slab leaks, have you had one?" and view the post by Heather Englebretson.

Energy Saving Tips

Source: GP&L (link at end of article)

As we enter the hottest part of our summer, consider adding some energy saving tips to your daily routine. Here are a few suggestions offered by GP&L:

- Dry loads of clothes back to back to take advantage of heat built up in the dryer.
- When not using a fireplace, keep flue dampers closed. Otherwise, air conditioning and heating continuously escape.
- If using your oven for an hour or more, shut the kitchen off from the rest of your home and turn on the stove exhaust to help take heat out of the kitchen.
- Let foods cool before placing in refrigerator unless the recipe specifies otherwise. Warm food will cause your refrigerator to run more.
- Try to schedule cooking in the morning so that kitchen heat does not contribute to air conditioning use during the hotter parts of the day.
- Defrost (manual) freezers before the frost exceeds a quarter inch thick. Greater frost buildup makes the freezer work harder, running longer than necessary.

For more tips, visit <https://www.gpltxas.org/save-energy-money/energy-conservation-tips>



Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
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Newsletter Funding

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Oakridge News (the official name of the newsletter) was first published in October of 1992. Though it was initially only printed for ONA members and delivered by hand, the newsletter is now distributed by mail to all 1,166 Oakridge households.

In its almost 30-year history, the newsletter has varied in length from a concise 4 pages to a robust 16 pages. Thanks to Keith Engler (current ONA Treasurer) who spent considerable time scanning and uploading, our website is home to 313 issues of the newsletter tracing all the way back to 1992. Residents can access these newsletter archives by visiting the ONA website at www.oakridgena.org and clicking on "Resident Resources" at the top of the screen.

While the newsletter content and layout are free (handled by volunteers), the printing and postage cost money. Funding for these services comes from 2 sources:

1. generous contributions of our ONA Members; and
2. selling advertising space.

Thanks to our ONA Members and our advertisers, we can look forward to a full 12 months of newsletters in the 2021-2022 membership year!

If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter, please email communications@oakridgena.org. Ads are \$300 for 12 months. All ads are the size of business cards. The location of the ad placement in the newsletter is rotated monthly.

2021-2022 ONA Board

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