



# Oakridge News

www.oakridgena.org September 2021, Vol. 29, No. 09

## National Night Out

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

National Night Out (NNO) 2021 is set for **Tuesday, October 5, from 5:30-7 p.m.** in the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot.

Our theme this year is “A Taste of Oakridge” with food celebrating the diversity of our neighborhood. We hope you will join us in the fun along with Garland Fire, Police, and some cuddly Pets-for-Adoption.



Here are the details:

- The event is free for Oakridge family and pets.
- Register on the Oakridge Website (<http://www.oakridgena.org>).
- Bring your own chairs and beverages.
- We are still looking for volunteers who want to show off their culinary skills. Consider signing up to contribute some food. To participate, email us at [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org).
- Get your questions answered regarding what it means to be a valued ONA member and how much you mean to our community. A representative will be available to answer your questions.

The purpose of NNO is to build strong partnerships between the police and communities and to promote crime awareness programs such as Neighborhood Community Watch groups.



As we make plans for NNO, we are mindful of the spread of the Delta variant (Covid-19) and are monitoring the situation closely with Garland Fire and Police. We will confirm plans and communicate as we get closer to the NNO date.

## Mental Health Fair

by Amanda Esquivel, Owner of Room for Change

On Saturday, September 25th, from 10am-1pm, Room for Change will be hosting the Garland Community Mental Health Fair in the parking lot of their second counseling clinic at 618 Clara Barton Blvd., Garland, TX (across the street from the VA Medical Center).

Residents are invited to come to this free event to learn about the mental wellness and substance resources available in this area. There will also be informative and fun activities such as photo opportunities, DOOR PRIZES, wellness screenings, FREE FOOD, crafts, and more! Feel free to bring the whole family, there will be something for everyone!

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Esquivel at [amanda@roomforchange.info](mailto:amanda@roomforchange.info).

## ONA General Meeting

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Committee Director

Due to the recent concerns regarding the Delta variant of Covid-19, the ONA Board is following Garland City Council’s lead to move from in-person meetings to online-only meetings. Therefore, the ONA will host the September General Membership meeting online rather than in-person. The meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, September 23rd, at 7:00 p.m.

As with previous online meetings, the Zoom link and other details will be made available on the ONA website ([www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org)).

### New to Oakridge?

Contact us at [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org) to receive your free welcome bag!

*Generously sponsored by the  
Oakridge Neighborhood Association*

## Crime Rates Remains Low

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

Crime in Oakridge continues to remain low. To view monthly crime reports, visit [www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org) and go to the Crime Prevention & Safety page (located under Resident Resources).

In addition to providing monthly reports, the Crime Prevention & Safety page also provides a link for you to sign up for the Video Crime Watch Program.

Coming soon: We will be providing more information on the catalytic converter thefts and the lockbox program. So stay tuned!

### Save these Dates!

**ONA General Membership Meeting, 9/23, 7 p.m.**  
**National Night Out, 10/5, 5:30-7 p.m.**

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## New Section: Good Neighbor

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Committee Director

All around Oakridge unseen heroes pick up trash, watch out for their neighbors, report potholes, and lend a helping hand. These residents aren't doing these things to be recognized; they are doing these things because they care for the neighborhood they call home.

We would like to recognize these neighbors (without giving away any names or addresses). It is a way for us to say THANK YOU and an opportunity to show others what being a Good Neighbor can look like.

If you have a story to share for the Good Neighbor Spotlight, please email us at [communications@oakridgena.org](mailto:communications@oakridgena.org). We will post your name as the one submitting the story, but we will not provide the name or address of the neighbor being thanked.

To kick off the Good Neighbor Spotlight, we are posting the following story.

## Good Neighbor Spotlight Stranded Car

by Joetta Harris, ONA District 6 Director

My husband and our dog were on their way home when his car suddenly died. They were only partially through the intersection of Big Oaks and Diamond Oaks. A neighbor lady drove by and saw that my husband and dog were stranded, so she gave them a ride home.

About ten minutes later our neighbor from across the street called my husband to say he noticed his car was abandoned on the side of the road. My husband explained what had happened. Our neighbor told my husband not to worry and said he would tow my husband's car back to the house. Next thing you know, the car was safely parked on the side of our house. We are so very grateful for our wonderful neighbors!

## Enjoy Cooking?

If you like to cook, sign up to bring a dish of food and help us celebrate National Night Out, "A Taste of Oakridge" (October 5th). To sign up, please send an email to [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org).



# City Councilman Update

by Dylan Hedrick, District 7 City Councilman, Oakridge Resident

Hard to believe that the summer is coming to a close and children are already back in school.

August also means that we are well into our “Budget Season” on City Council. This is the time of year where the City Manager presents the proposed city budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The previous year, the approved budget was very conservative given all the unknowns presented by the pandemic. Fortunately for the city, sales tax revenue—the city’s second largest source of revenue—is projected to increase by 16.6% or \$4.8 million from last year and the certified property tax base—from which property tax is derived—reached \$18.4 billion in valuation or an increase of 7.5% year over year. This means that we are able to increase the city budget to provide more services to the citizens of Garland, fill some key positions within the city staff, and restore employee merit and compensation increases to remain competitive in the job market.

The proposed budget includes four public safety positions—three new fire fighters and a police mental health clinician to provide resilience training for police personnel and assist officers in identifying mental health resources when they interact with our homeless population. Compensation increases are proposed for 9-1-1 Dispatch Operators and two new positions to support the new animal shelter—an Adoption Specialist and a Veterinarian Technician—are included in the budget.

With over \$117 million going towards Parks and Recreation projects as part of the 2019 Bond Program, an Aquatics Technician position is proposed to maintain the numerous new splash parks to be built around the city. Funds will also be used for various landscape and ball field maintenance projects to keep our fields in top

playing shape. Workout equipment at the recreation centers is proposed to be replaced and Big Art Day received more funding after last year’s successful event.

A fee and cost of service study was completed this year and various fees for permits and services will be increasing throughout the city to better recover the costs of providing those services, however fees will remain inline with our neighboring cities across the Metroplex. There will be no increases to electric, water or stormwater rates, but there will be a \$1.00 increase to sewer and trash collection rates.

We held an all day work session August 14 to discuss the city budget, and will be holding several additional public hearings as required by state law. All budget documents are located on the city’s website at <http://www.garlandtx.gov/3528/Annual-Budget-Documents>. If you are interested in providing your input, please contact me or attend one of our upcoming meetings.

As always, if there is something I can do for you please contact me at 469-560-6099 or email me at [council7@garlandtx.gov](mailto:council7@garlandtx.gov). I look forward to hearing from you.

## Fire Station 6

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Committee Director

While Oakridge is currently serviced by Fire Stations 3 and 11, some of our founding Oakridge residents may recall that Fire Station 6 actually served Oakridge for several years.



From 1997-2005 we even included Fire Station 6 in our annual tradition of providing holiday meals to the fire stations that service Oakridge.

Fire Station 6 has been in service on Holford Road since 1980. Thanks to the 2019 Bond Program, Fire Station 6 will be getting a new facility and a new location. The new station will be located at State Highway 190 near the Campbell Road intersection. The design of the new fire station will begin this fall. [Source: [www.garlandutilities.org/CivicAlerts](http://www.garlandutilities.org/CivicAlerts)]

## Quick Safety Tip

Source: <https://www.garlandutilities.org/CivicAlerts.aspx>

Sometimes scammers will come to your home claiming to be utility company employees collecting payments. **City of Garland utility employees will never ask to enter your home, or come to your home to collect payment.** If you have any concerns about your utility account, call City of Garland Customer Service at 972-205-2671.



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# Oakridge News

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### ONA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, September 23rd, on Zoom  
6:30 - log on & visit with other members  
7:00 - meeting begins

*Zoom link will be sent by email & will be available at [www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org)*

### 2021-2022 ONA Board

[info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org)

- President, Scott Barnes .....480-512-2111
- Vice President, Michelle Mizerak .....214-962-7795
- Secretary, Sharon Parrish .....469-939-2270
- Treasurer, Keith Engler .....972-834-0096
- 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 Busby.....972-989-2253
- District 6 Director, Joetta Harris .....469-955-1513
- District 7 Director, Michael Devanney ..... 314-440-4350
- 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
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