



Oakridge News

www.oakridgena.org

October 2021, Vol. 29, No. 10

Walk & Greet with Ice Cream

by Jackie Reynolds, ONA Events Director

Last fall and spring we scheduled an evening for neighbors to get out of their homes and greet each other. All around Oakridge residents headed outside for an evening stroll—or just to hang out in their front yards and greet neighbors passing by.



We are doing it again this fall, but with **free ice cream** this time! The ONA has arranged for the DFW Ice Cream truck to pass out FREE frozen treats in the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot. (Treats are courtesy of the ONA.)

This Walk & Greet with Ice Cream will take place on **Friday, October 15th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Head out of your home for a neighborhood stroll and if you happen to swing by the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot, feel free to grab an icy treat compliments of the ONA.

Food & Sock Drive

by Jackie Reynolds, ONA Events Director

The ONA has arranged for Good Samaritans of Garland to bring their truck to the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot for a Food & Sock drive on **Sunday, November 7th, from 2-4pm.** In addition to needing new socks, some of the food that Good Sam needs includes peanut butter, canned meat, canned green beans, canned corn, dry pasta and canned pasta sauce. Visit their website for more food donation ideas (<http://www.goodsamofgarland.org/>).



Come drop off food and/or sock donations and receive a free cookie! We look forward to seeing you there.

ONA Members Raffle

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, we are pleased to begin offering a monthly membership raffle for ONA members. Each month, beginning in October, we will

randomly draw the name of an ONA member to win a prize.

If you are an ONA member for the 2021-2022 membership year, then you are automatically included in the drawing. (Note: Members cannot win twice in the same membership year.)



Good Neighbor Spotlight

In this month's issue of the newsletter, Oakridge resident Mary VanPelt is shining the spotlight on some of her amazing neighbors.

Mary has watched a friendship developing between 2 couples that live nearby (Sue & Denis and Chase & Sarah). Here is what Mary has noticed about their friendship: *I have seen them together at neighborhood events, enjoying Chase & Sarah's daughter, walking, sitting on the curb, and strolling around all together on a golf cart! This is a great example to us all of what neighbors can be to each other!*

Mary also has praise for Mr. Eppler. Here is what she says: *I love seeing Mr. Eppler working around his yard. He is always ready for a friendly chat. He has created a cute Irish golf blessing for all to enjoy off the golf course. I hope you get a chance to enjoy it! Lastly, if you need a friend he is there to share his cheer & brighten your day!*

Is there an Oakridge resident who brightens your day? Is there a neighbor that routinely picks up trash around the neighborhood and helps keep the streets and yards looking clean? We'd love to hear about it!

If you have a story to share for the Good Neighbor Spotlight, please email us at communications@oakridgena.org. We will post your name as the one submitting the story, but you do not have to provide us with the name of the good neighbor you are spotlighting.

Residential Lockbox Program

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

The Garland Police Department's residential lockbox program is designed to expedite access to senior adults in their own homes during medical or other emergencies. The lockbox program also reduces the likelihood of property damage caused by first responders forcing entry into a home in response to an emergency call.

Eligibility

The lockbox program is open to all Garland residents who either live alone or must be left alone on a regular basis and:

- Are age 65 and above
- Are under 65 with a major medical issue that could render them incapacitated or unconscious

How the Program Works

- The eligible participant will complete a Lockbox Program Application (PDF) to the Garland Police Department. Applications can be found on the Garland Police Website, picked up at the front desk of the Police Department, or by contacting our Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO), Officer Barnes, at BarnesT@garlandtx.gov.
- Once the application is approved, Officer Barnes will contact the participant at their home to review the program.
- The participant will provide a spare house key to the officer and place the key inside the lockbox and set the combination.
- The officer will determine the best location for the lockbox that allows quick access for emergency responders but is not readily visible to the typical street or pedestrian traffic.
- The lockbox will only be used during an emergency call, and when responders can't make entry without

using force. At no other time will the lockbox be used or will entry be made without authorization.

- There is no cost to participate in the Lockbox Program, other than the cost of a spare key.
- A participant may withdraw from the Lockbox Program at any time by contacting Officer Barnes. After the key is returned to the participant, the empty lockbox will be removed from the residence and returned to the Police Department.

This program is paid for and sponsored by the Garland Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association.

Good Sam Needs Volunteers

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Committee Director

Good Samaritans of Garland ("Good Sam") needs volunteers! The pandemic has brought a large number of families and individuals needing food assistance. With the increased client load, Good Sam needs more volunteers. The volunteer form is available on their website. <http://www.goodsamofgarland.org/>

Also, consider attending their Ghost Tour fundraiser on Oct. 30th, 5-9pm. Learn about the history and mystery that surrounds downtown Garland, enjoy the atmosphere of downtown, eat at your favorite restaurant, and participate in a Good Sam Treasure Hunt for a prize. Visit their website for more details and to purchase tickets. <http://www.goodsamofgarland.org/>



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Congratulations!

In September, Dylan Hedrick's household joyfully increased by one!

Join us in congratulating Dylan Hedrick's family on the birth of their healthy, baby boy.

Welcome to the Oakridge neighborhood!

City Councilman Update

by Dylan Hedrick, District 7 City Councilman, Oakridge Resident

In my last update, I provided an update on the proposed City Budget for FY 2021-2022. I am proud to say that after much discussion and meetings, it was passed unanimously with minimal changes at our City Council meeting on September 14.

The \$815.6 million combined budget funds all city activities including city personnel, operations, capital, electric fuel & energy purchases, water purchases and debt payments among other expenses. This year's budget is an increase of 5.4% from the previous year and does not require a tax increase largely due to the additional property tax revenues received as a result of higher home values.

During our discussions, we decided to use the remaining SafeLight funds—a program which used revenue from red light camera infractions that is no longer allowed due to State law changes—for traffic safety items including lane striping and crosswalk marking improvements. We also decided to delay increasing the fees for EMS transports until mid-year to allow for additional time for public education. Finally, we decided to fund improvements to the Garland Police Boxing Gym from the General Fund. This worthy program provides a safe after-school youth program which trains over 100 youth in boxing and 45 children in karate each day.

I am happy to say that the City Budget met this year's goals of addressing operational staffing needs, enhancing parks and recreation operational funding, and restoring employee merit/compensation increases to remain competitive in the job market. After the continued uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe this year's budget is a sound financial plan for the upcoming year.

The next topic the Council will focus on is how to spend the \$53.5 million funding the City will receive from the

federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The rules set out in the act allow the funding to be used for a variety of purposes including public safety initiatives, additional bond projects that were left out of the 2019 Bond Program, new capital projects or community programs. The Council will be debating the allocation of these funds in our next several meetings so please provide me with your input on how you would like to see the funds used.

By the time you read this, one of the most popular events the City of Garland hosts will be complete. After a virtual event last year, this year's 0.5K Garland Guzzler fun run will return to the Downtown Square. This will be one of the final events to be held in the Downtown Square before construction begins on the redesigned Square passed as part of the 2019 Bond Program. Events such as Christmas in the Square will be moving to Firewheel Mall this year to accommodate the construction. Keep an eye on garlandtx.gov for future events and more information.

As always, it is my extreme pleasure to represent the citizens of District 7. Please reach out to me via email at council7@garlandtx.gov or by phone at 469-560-6099 if I can do anything for you.

Oakridge Recognition

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Committee Director

In 2020, Oakridge was recognized by NUSA (Neighborhoods, USA) as a Finalist for Neighborhood of the Year for providing annual holiday meals to fire stations. Oakridge was also recognized as a Finalist in the Neighborhood Newsletter Competition for "Oakridge News". Due to COVID protocols, the City of Garland was unable to formally recognize Oakridge during the 2020 year for these awards (something that is done at City Council meetings).



In the past couple of months, Garland City Council has been working to catch up on recognitions that were postponed back in 2020. At the September 14th City Council meeting, Mayor Scott LeMay formally recognized Oakridge for the 2020 NUSA awards.

To view more information on the awards or to view the Special Recognition document, visit: <https://www.oakridgena.org/oakridge-awards/>.

ONA Budget Update

by Keith Engler, ONA Treasurer

Note: The full budget for 2021-2022 can be found in the Financials section of the website (<https://www.oakridgena.org/>) under Resident Resources.

2021-2022 ONA Actual vs Budget as of 09/21/2021

Revenue	Membership	Beautification	Advertising	Interest	Events	Total
2021-2022 Budget	\$ 18,146.28	\$ 9,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,746.28
2021-2022 Actual	\$ 21,110.00	\$ 9,419.50	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 1.30	\$ 25.00	\$ 32,505.80
\$ Difference	\$ 2,963.72	\$ (180.50)	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 1.30	\$ 25.00	\$ 4,759.52
Member Difference	49					
Mandatory Operating Expenses			Monthly Budget	Months Remaining	Remaining Budget	
Newsletter (June-Sept Paid)			\$ 212.30	8	\$ 1,698.40	
Postage (Prepaid for Entire Year)			\$ 190.06	0	\$ -	
Platinum Scapes (June-Aug Paid)			\$ 620.83	9	\$ 5,587.47	
Platinum Scapes Beautification (June-Aug Paid)			\$ 800.00	9	\$ 7,200.00	
Storage (Paid through May 2022)			\$ 102.00	0	\$ -	
Avg Utilities per month estimated (June-Aug Paid)			\$ 350.00	9	\$ 3,150.00	
3-Year Website Paid until April 2024			\$ 462.81	0	\$ -	
Annual Bulk Mail Fee Due in June (Paid in June)			\$ 204.00	0	\$ -	
Annual PO Box Fee Due in October			\$ 240.00	1	\$ 240.00	
			Total Operating Expenses Remaining		\$ 17,875.87	
Savings Balance		\$ 18,000.32				
Events Budgeted		\$ 950.00				
Events Spent		\$ -				
Events Balance		\$ 950.00				
Ridge Oak Budgeted		\$ 500.00				
Ridge Oak Spent		\$ -				
Ridge Oak Balance		\$ 500.00				
Checking Account Balance			\$ 25,107.47			
Total Operating Expenses Remaining			\$ (17,875.87)			
Special Events Money Remaining			\$ (950.00)			
Ridge Oak Money Remaining			\$ (500.00)			
Minimum Checking Account Balance to avoid fees			\$ (2,000.00)			
Operating Funds Remaining (deficit)			\$ 3,781.60			

New to Oakridge?
 Contact us at info@oakridgena.org to receive your free welcome bag!
 Generously sponsored by the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

Are you an ONA member?
 Have you received your flag?

 If not, please contact us at oakridgemembership@gmail.com

Fall Home Checklist

by Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

With the arrival of Fall, here's a list of items to get your home in order before the holidays:

- Trim back overgrown and dead branches on trees and bushes.
- Check caulking and weatherstripping around windows and doors.
- Clean light fixtures in the family room.
- Wash and fluff pillows and bedding.
- Examine sofa pillows and throws for stains, too.
- Turn, rotate and vacuum mattresses.
- Test and replace smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries.
- Get the HVAC system serviced.
- Vacuum and sweep the garage. This is a good time to wash vacuum and de clutter vehicles, too.
- Service and winterize outdoor equipment. Drain fuel or add antifreeze to lawn mowers, weed whackers

and other machine not stored in a heated area.

- Clean Gutters.
- Vacuum the storage area. Purge things you no longer use.
- Clean master bedroom light fixtures.
- Assess holiday decorations before putting them up. Start while the weather is nice.
- Clean light fixtures in the bedroom.

Source: the Washington Post as published in the Dallas Morning News 2019

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Crime & Safety Update

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

We continue to have a low crime rate. Check out the monthly Crime Stats on the Oakridge Website (<https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/>) to stay current on what's happening and get tips on how to prevent crime in our neighborhood.

Catalytic Converter Theft Alert

Police around the country are currently dealing with a trend of thieves stealing and then selling catalytic converters. It only takes 30 seconds for thieves to steal one! Be on alert for suspicious activity around vehicles.

Anyone with video is asked to please email Officer Barnes at BarnesT@garlandtx.gov. Let's catch these guys and prevent Oakridge from being a target.

Safety Reminders

Porch Pirates. Continue to watch out for "Porch Pirates". Be diligent in retrieving your package deliveries. If you are unable to retrieve your package upon delivery, consider asking a neighbor to pick up your package.

Lock your Vehicles. Please lock your car and remove valuables—especially your guns and keys. If possible, put your car in the garage. Many thefts from vehicles happen when the vehicles are unlocked. Don't make yourself an easy target!

Discourage criminal activity. Make it a point to be a watchful, active neighbor. Take walks in the neighborhood and get to know your neighbors. Also consider adding outdoor security lights and cameras. All of these things help make our community less inviting to potential criminals.

Report any suspicious activity to the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840.

- Focus on behavior: What was the person doing that

made you suspicious?

- Details matter: Hair, clothing (head to toe), identifying marks. Race or gender alone is not enough.
- Vehicle: Make, Model, Color, Direction of travel, License Plate
- Location & Time: Address, date, time
- If you have security camera video footage, email Officer Barnes at BarnesT@garlandtx.gov

For more information on Oakridge crime watch, email us at safety@oakridgena.org. Be sure to check out the newsletter next month for more on our newly-posted Video Crime Watch Neighborhood Signs!

Trick-or-Treaters

With Halloween upon us, please keep in mind a lot little people will be visiting your home.

Be accepting.

- ◇ The child who is grabbing more than one piece of candy may have poor fine motor skills.
- ◇ The child who takes forever to pick out one piece of candy may have motor planning issues.
- ◇ The child who does not say "trick or treat" or "thank you" may be non-verbal.
- ◇ The child who looks disappointed when they see your bowl might have an allergy or is diabetic.
- ◇ The child who isn't wearing a costume at all might have a sensory issued (SPD) or autism.

Be nice.

Be patient.

It's everyone's Halloween.



Source: widely circulated & reposted information

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Oakridge Daytimers

by Sally Weiss, Oakridge Daytimers

After a 17-month hiatus due to COVID restrictions, the Oakridge Daytimers were finally able to reunite and once again meet with old friends and neighbors. We asked those who attended to be fully vaccinated. Masks were optional.

On Tuesday, September 14th, genial hostess Betty Prickett welcomed us into her lovely home which buzzed with excitement as more and more people arrived. It was quite a reunion! After a while the greetings were quieting down and refreshments were offered, furnished by food hostesses Chris Beyers, Ann Conrath, and Jo Ann Williams. Daytimer President Chris Beyers then began the business portion of our meeting reminding us of the different sub-groups we enjoy such as book club, mahjonn, bridge, canasta, etc. and getting updates on those various gatherings. Other possible future activities discussed, to name a few, were an out-to-lunch bunch, home movie day and board game day. A sign-up sheet was passed around to determine interest.

This year, programs for the Daytimer meetings will be spearheaded by Ann Williams with the help of Sue Ratcliffe. Ann began the conversation this day reading us a humorous list of the things we learned during the COVID shutdown. She reminded us of the fact that we had used SO MUCH disinfectant and sanitizers during that time that we were able to clean the toilet every time we used it!

October's meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12th at Chris Beyers, 2205 Fulton Drive. Plan to carpool, if possible, as parking is limited. We will be sharing stories of quilts that are special to us.

Daytimers is open to all female residents of Oakridge and meets on the second Tuesday of the month. After visiting, we welcome you to join us. Annual membership dues of \$20.00 are used for speakers, community support, and the annual end-of-year luncheon. Any questions about joining us may be directed to Chris Beyers at 972-530-8292.

2021-2022 ONA Board

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