



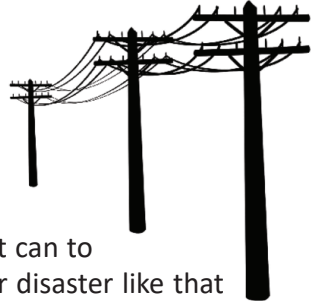
Oakridge News

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City Councilman Update

by Dylan Hedrick, District 7 City Councilman, Oakridge Resident

This month, I would like to update you on the progress Garland Power & Light has made since the February snowpocalypse. I know the wounds are still fresh from that natural disaster, but be assured GP&L is doing what it can to improve its operations if another disaster like that should ever occur. However, it is important to remember that the state’s power regulator ERCOT mandated that GP&L to shed load during the event, forcing GP&L to cut power to thousands of customers during the days from February 14 through 17.



At our November 15 Council Work Session, GP&L’s CEO Darrell Cline and COO Tom Hancock updated us on the operational and equipment changes that have been implemented over the past nine months.

Cline stated that unfortunately the communication from GP&L and the City was inconsistent and belated during the event when trying to convey information to its customers. Cline said that GP&L received 78,000 calls during the event. He compared that to the 72,000 total customers that GP&L serves; that’s more than one call per customer. Phone lines were jammed and recorded messages were not informative.

To remedy the situation, GP&L has hired additional call center representatives and will utilize a third-party call center for call overflows and after hours service. During outage events, more informative prepared messages will better notify callers of any changes and updates.

Additionally, other platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor will be used to more effectively communicate to customers. I also encourage you to sign up for notifications through the Everbridge platform. This allows the GP&L to send notifications to you directly via text and email to its customers. You can sign up for the alerts at <http://garlandtx.gov/3789/Garland-Alert-System>.

If you had friends in other areas of Garland, you may have noticed their power may have not gone out while yours did. The reason is they may have been on a critical load feeder which serves a fire station or other critical infrastructure. Additionally some of the other feeders of the 99 total in the GP&L service area are designated as “under-frequency feeders.” These feeders must stay energized to maintain the frequency integrity of the ERCOT grid. They would only be shut off when the normal 60 Hz frequency of electricity falls below specified levels.

Hancock said that GP&L is balancing load among feeders and adding equipment to its other non-critical circuits to allow them to be designated as under-frequency feeders. This will allow an additional 34 feeders to be added to the current number of 49 feeders which were available to be shut off during the event. Theoretically this will allow a more equitable distribution of outages and shorter outages if they are ever mandated by ERCOT again.

I know this is all quite complicated and highly technical. For this reason, GP&L is also updating its website to remove much of the electric industry jargon and make its processes and operations more easily understood by the non-technical customer.

Finally, I would like to end on a happy note concerning our bond program. We broke ground November 18 on the Downtown Square redevelopment project. This project was many years in the making and will likely be another 18 to 24 months until it is complete. When it is finished, we will have another gem of a destination in Garland which should draw residents and visitors for many years to come. I encourage you to buildgarland.com for updates on this project and as well as the other bond projects.

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday filled with family, friends, and food. If there is anything I can do for you, please don’t hesitate to reach out at 469-560-6099 or council7@garlandtx.gov.

Food & Sock Drive Success!

by Jackie Reynolds, ONA Events Director

Thank you to everyone who brought donations to the Food & Sock Drive in November. The donations went to support Good Samaritans of Garland ("Good Sam").

In addition to providing donations of new socks, Oakridge residents donated 1,358 pounds of food. Way to go!

For more information on ways you can help Good Sam directly, visit <http://www.goodsamofgarland.org/>.

Fats, Oils, and Grease

Source: link at end of article

If your holiday cooking leaves some grease in the pan, **don't pour it down the drain**. Fats, oils, and grease can coat the inside of plumbing pipes, leading to clogs and backed up sewer lines.



The City of Garland offers these tips for properly disposing of fats, oils, and grease:

- Collect liquid cooking, oil, motor oil and grease in a tightly sealed container and take it to the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center.
- Dispose of cooking grease and fat by pouring it into a sealed container, let solidify and then discard in trash.
- Put leftover food in the trash or compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.
- Use a paper towel to wipe greasy pots, pans, and dishes before washing them.

For more information, visit Garland's website: <https://www.garlandtx.gov/793/Fats-Oil-Grease>

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Disposing of Chemicals

by David Parrish, ONA Environmental Committee Director

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). Residents must dispose of household chemical products the responsible way: bring them to the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center!



All City of Garland residents with a current driver's license and proof of residency (a water bill or other utility bill showing proof of address) can bring all HHW to the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center free of charge.

For more information, please visit the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center website:

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/consolidated-services/hhw/>

Location: Home Chemical Collection Center - 11234 Plano Road, Dallas, TX 75243

Phone: (214) 553-1765

Check out the Garland Waste Wizard to determine what items go to your Recycle Bin, your Trash Bin, and to the Home Chemical Collection Center:

<http://www.garlandtx.gov/3674/Waste-Wizard>

Are you a business owner?

Consider advertising in the Oakridge newsletter and reach over 1,000 residents each month.

Business-card-sized ads only.

Placement of ads in the newsletter is rotated monthly.

\$300 per membership year (June 1 - May 31).

Email communications@oakridgena.org for more information.

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Donations for Officer Barnes

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

Oakridge has a 29-year history of doing things for First Responders during the holidays. Traditionally our giving is in the form of meals or food. However, this year we have a very special mission as we join together to support Officer Barnes (our Neighborhood Police Officer for the past 10 years) in his fight against breast cancer.



This holiday season (between now and December 20th) we are asking Oakridge residents to sign an e-card showing our support, and consider making a donation to help offset Officer Barnes' medical expenses.

The ONA will collect all Oakridge donations and will then make one large donation on behalf of the Oakridge Residents to the *Garland Police Never Walk Alone Foundation*, specifying that these funds are to be used to help Officer Barnes. [The Garland Police Department created the *Garland Police Never Walk Alone Foundation* to help officers like Officer Barnes who are battling illness and struggling to keep up with the medical and travel expenses associated with the treatments.]

Visit the ONA website (<https://www.oakridgena.org>) to sign the e-card from Oakridge residents. You can also make a PayPal donation through the website. (You do not have to make a donation in order to sign the e-card.)

If you prefer to make a donation by check, make your check out to the Oakridge Neighborhood Association and mail to: Oakridge Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 450145, Garland, TX 75045.

Officer Barnes is currently undergoing treatments for his metastatic breast cancer (stage 4). He is continuing to work and is staying positive.

Officer Barnes hopes that by sharing his story, he can help raise awareness and remove the misconception that breast cancer is limited to women. *Breast cancer affects both men and women. Men should not delay in reporting any unusual lumps to their doctor.*

Holiday Safety Reminders

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

In addition to actively looking out for our neighbors—which is one of the best ways to keep our neighborhood safe—there are several things we can all do to stay safe this holiday season. The Garland Police Department offers several good safety tips for us to keep in mind during the holidays and all year long:

1. Lock your cars to help deter thieves who are looking for an easy target.
2. Remove valuables from your car—including holiday packages, shopping bags, guns, electronics, money, medicine, and jewelry.
3. 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. (For an emergency or a crime in progress, call 911.) 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.
4. 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. To fill out the Vacation Watch Request form, visit <http://www.garlandpolice.com>.
5. Discourage Porch Pirates with the following:
 - Track deliveries online and quickly retrieve packages from your porch as soon as they are delivered.
 - Have packages delivered to your office building or a remote pickup site. Amazon has several hub lockers around the city. Walgreens, FedEx, and UPS also offer similar options.
 - Ask your neighbor to collect packages from your porch when you are away from home.
 - Get a video doorbell (for example, Nest or Ring). They may not always stop a Porch Pirate in their tracks, but they can help police identify them later. NOTE: Video doorbells can be added to the Garland Video Crime Watch by going to the Garland Police Website. <http://www.garlandpolice.com>

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

Oakridge Daytimers

by Sally Weiss, Oakridge Daytimers

Friendly faces and the smell of hot apple cider greeted us on this crisp November morning as we met at the lovely home of Ann Conrath. Thanks, Ann, and thanks also to Sharon Carlton, Sue Ratcliffe, and Peggy Crenshaw for providing the yummy refreshments.

Following the reports of our various committees, several of our ladies shared stories and histories of their favorite quilts. All of the quilts were quite beautiful and several were quite old, including an unfinished, intricate, baby quilt from 50+ years ago.

Our attendance at Daytimers has been somewhat smaller than in years past due to our adherence to CDC guidelines and our request that attendees be vaccinated. We so miss our absent friends and look forward to the time when we can all safely meet again without restrictions.

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 and the location of our next coffee may be directed to Chris Beyers at 214-697-9541.

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Oakridge Gentlemen

by Mark Edwards, Oakridge Residents

The Oakridge Gentlemen got together at the Duck Creek Golf Club on November 17th for their 2nd meeting. There were 3 new members who joined this month. We now have a total of 15.

I’m amazed at the diverse talent we have in Oakridge; so many interesting careers.


We talked about the Pandemic, the condition of the brick wall, inflationary costs, bit coins, and pipe organs that are made in Garland. Kudos were extended to the ONA Environmental Group that maintains the entrances; including those who put out flags on special occasions.

Kevin Herod, General Manager of the Duck Creek Golf Club, spent time with the group revealing some plans for the Golf Club—including New Conference Rooms, a full-service kitchen, and an all-day restaurant. These are things in the works, but it will all take time. Here are some additional items worth noting in regard to the Golf Club:

- The Golf Club is doing well financially and is the best bargain in golf for the area.
- The Swimming Pool at the club will NOT be rebuilt.
- The Tennis court will be used on a limited basis for playing Pickle Ball.
- Since they have a liquor license, no firearms can be brought to the property.
- No cars, trucks, or trailers can be parked overnight on their lot. They will be towed.

Next meeting of the Oakridge Gentlemen is Wednesday, December 15th, 10:30 a.m., at the Duck Creek Golf Club. Councilman Dylan Hedrick will be our special guest. All men in Oakridge are invited. The coffee is on me (Mark Edwards).

If you have questions, please call Mark at 214-673-8908.



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Join the Team

by Scott Barnes, ONA President

Hello Oakridge neighbors,

The end of another year is upon us. Getting the yard ready for cold weather, pondering the readiness of the grid for the months ahead, making my list for Santa—and starting the ONA Board renewal process.

In December we begin fielding ONA supporters that want to interview or make recommendations for Board position openings. Soon thereafter we start fielding Oakridge neighbors to fill spots on the Board.

We have accomplished quite a bit in the past few years, hopefully building on the work that came before us in a way that makes our predecessors proud and our neighbors inspired and happy.

Which brings me to the point—a call to rally, ringing the bell that causes a robust outpouring of members wanting to take up the mantle of managing this organization and serving this neighborhood. I know you're out there. I know that the current Board is moving in the right direction, yet we have not found folks ready to take that next step of becoming involved.

If this organization is to grow and thrive—if we as a group of neighbors are going to grow in our ability and willingness to work together to help each other—people need to raise their hands. People need to work for the good of their neighbors. These jobs take some effort and time, but the work is so worth it!

So grab your pile of *Oakridge News* back issues (you know you have that pile somewhere) and look through them. Think about what it takes to make that happen. Think about the reward that it is to be of service to your neighborhood—and ask yourself if it's time to help.

I do hope so. We need new, strong, diverse, and dedicated neighbors to grab hold of this Board and to drive it forward.

We meet once a month as a Board. We try to schedule neighborhood events every other month. There are general membership meetings three times a year.

Who out there is ready to take this on? Now is the time. Reach out to us at info@oakridgena.org.



ONA Treasurer Opening

If anybody wants to give back to their community, loves working with numbers, and has knowledge of QuickBooks and Excel, then step forward to **be the next ONA Treasurer**. Contact the ONA Board for more information (info@oakridgena.org).

ONA Raffle November Winner

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

Congratulations to ONA Members **Jan and Harvey Schrah** (Oakridge District 1), winners of the November Member Raffle. They won a Goodie Bag from SF Supermarket (located in Cali Saigon Mall).

Our monthly raffle for ONA members is made possible by the generosity of these businesses. Please join us in supporting them in appreciation for their donations.

Baskin Robbins

Dallas Superstore-SF Supermarket
(in Cali Saigon Mall)

Frank Marino's Texaco

Griff's Hamburgers

Panda Express

Pizza Hut

West Washington Foundation

Monthly Raffle Eligibility: All ONA Members (excluding current board members) are automatically entered for the monthly raffles. ONA Members cannot win twice in the same membership year.

New to Oakridge?

Are you new to Oakridge? We would love to send you a complimentary Welcome Bag filled with freebies from the City of Garland and helpful tips and information.



Contact us at info@oakridgena.org. Let us know you are new to the neighborhood and would like to receive a free Welcome Bag.

Welcome Bags are assembled and provided by the Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA).



Oakridge News

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The Oakridge
Neighborhood
Association wishes
you a happy and safe
holiday season!