



Oakridge News

www.oakridgena.org

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City Council Update

by Dylan Hedrick, District 7 Councilman and Oakridge Resident

February 11 was a great day for Garland as we held our second annual Build Garland Day. The City Council traveled to five sites around town to cut ribbons on projects that were complete or near completion from the 2019 Bond Program.

Our first stop was at Fields Recreation Center which was the second recreation center to receive upgrades in this bond cycle. The rec center received a new basketball floor, kitchen, workout equipment and outdoor shaded patio. With the COVID pandemic, outdoor spaces have become more important and the patio provides a great meeting space overlooking Embree Park. I am anticipating the day when we will hold the grand opening of the new Holford Recreation Center in District 7.

Our second visit was to Dorfman Park in south Garland where we saw the new lion-shaped climbing structure and playground. This was one of the first nine playgrounds to receive new equipment as part of the phase one playground upgrades. By the end of the Bond Program, 25 playgrounds will be upgraded throughout the city.

We then moved on to the City's Transportation Operations and Maintenance Facility. This facility, originally constructed in the 1950s, monitors all the traffic flow, hundreds of stop lights and tens of school zone flashers throughout the city. The technology upgrades brought the facility up to industry standards and improved the sign making shop where the 35,000 street signs throughout the city are manufactured and maintained.

The fourth stop was the new Police Property & Evidence Building. This building will more than double the existing facility, which is bursting at the seams with evidence from all the cases under investigation and being tried in Garland. The new building will have more security features, ease of evidence retrieval, and expanded cold storage for DNA evidence as required by state law.

Our final and most anticipated stop was the Garland Animal Shelter & Adoption Center. This building is a real jewel the city can be proud of especially when compared to the previous shelter. I encourage everyone to go out to the location at 1902 State Hwy 66 and see it for yourself. The shelter is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The staff is happy to welcome visitors to tour the facility and you may even leave with your newest furry family member.

You can view a short video showing the sights and sounds of the day here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuUA8f2xORE>

Also this month, the City Council passed the 2022 Capital Improvements Program Budget, which among other spending, allocated \$67M for parks projects, \$55M for streets and transportation projects, \$14M for drainage projects, \$5M for library projects and \$25M for public safety projects. A large portion of this funding will go towards the design and construction of the 2019 Bond projects in each of the above-mentioned categories. I am so proud that the Council has set as one of its priorities the deliverance of these projects which will have a lasting impact on the city for years to come.

Finally, candidates have filed for the city election in Districts 1, 2, 4 and 5. District 7 residents will not have a city election to vote on in this election cycle, but I still encourage you to vote in the Primary Elections being held now. You can see who is running locally by visiting <https://www.garlandtx.gov/256/Elections>.

It continues to be my greatest honor to serve you as your council representative. Please reach out to me at 469-560-6099 or at council7@garlandtx.gov if I can help you in any way.

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

Garland Enews

Source: www.garlandtx.gov



Keep up with the latest news from Garland by signing up for Garland Enews. From general city news to police announcements, you can customize the news you want to receive. Simply visit the Garland website at <https://www.garlandtx.gov/3545/City-Enewsletters>, then select a news category:

- **General City News** (Garland City Press Briefs, general news releases, neighborhood news, police announcements, and information about street and infrastructure projects)
- **Recreation & Arts News** (news from the Garland Parks and Recreation Department, the Aquatics Division, the Granville Arts Center, and more)
- **For Realtors** (Garland's special e-publication for Realtors)

Spring Creek Preserve

Did you know we have a nature preserve right here in Garland? Within this natural treasure, more than 650 species of plants & animals have been observed. Visit <https://springcreekforest.org/> for special events, nature walks, and volunteer opportunities.



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Supporting Officer Barnes

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

Last fall we learned that Officer Barnes, our NPO (Neighborhood Police Officer) for the past 10 years, was—and still is—battling stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. In November and December, Oakridge residents made a total of \$8,000 in donations to help Officer Barnes with his medical expenses. Additional contributors stepped forward in January, bringing the total donations to \$9,000.

In the past couple of months, many Oakridge residents have reached out to the ONA asking for ways they can continue to offer support and encouragement to Officer Barnes. In response to these requests, Officer Barnes has allowed us to create a site for him on Caring Bridge where we will post updates on his health in addition to any related links for support and donations. Oakridge residents will also be able to add notes of encouragement for Officer Barnes.



Here is the link for his Caring Bridge site: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/tommybarnes>.

We continue to support Officer Barnes in his battle and we look forward to the day he can return to patrolling our neighborhood in good health.





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Managing Broker
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Your Oakridge District

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

You may often hear the ONA mention Oakridge districts. We have 7 of them. Oakridge is a large neighborhood, therefore having it divided into districts is helpful for tracking membership numbers and for having representation on the ONA board.

The ONA Board has 7 District Directors who serve 2-year terms as representatives for each district in Oakridge. If you have neighborhood concerns or questions, talking to your District Director is a great way to get your message to the board. Here are the current directors:

- District 1, Joanna Albright 973-879-5965
- District 2, Billy Ray Thomas214-734-1017
- District 3, Vanessa West [Washington].....469-774-2425
- District 4, Marty Dall505-410-0370
- District 5, Melanie Busby.....972-989-2253
- District 6, Mike Devanney..... 314-440-4350
- District 7, Joetta Harris469-955-1513

If you would like to become a District Director and represent one of these districts, the Nominating Committee would love to hear from you (see page 4 of this newsletter for contact information).

As we head into our Membership Drive for the 2022-2023 membership year, the District Directors are each cheering on their districts, hoping to be the district with the highest percentage of ONA members. In the next couple of months, you will begin to hear more about our Membership Drive and Pop-up Events for each district.

Be sure you know your district number. Use the list on the right side of this page to find your street name and district number.



Oakridge Districts

- Beaver Run (2425-2434)..... District 1
- Bending Oaks Trail District 1
- Big Oaks Drive (2501-2606) District 7
- Big Oaks Drive (2609-2847) District 6
- Big Oaks Drive (2901-3221) District 5
- Creighton Drive..... District 6
- Crestedge Drive District 6
- Diamond Oaks Drive (2001-2322) District 2
- Diamond Oaks Drive (2325-2521) District 1
- Fulton Drive District 7
- Golden Oaks Drive District 1
- Grand Oak Drive District 4
- Greenview Circle District 1
- Greenview Drive District 1
- Hearthside Lane (1901-2131)..... District 3
- Hickory Bend Drive District 7
- Laurel Oaks Court District 5
- Laurel Oaks Drive (2702-3225) District 5
- Lone Oak Trail District 2
- Meadowridge Drive..... District 6
- Moss Trail District 2
- Oak Point Drive (2601-2937) District 4
- Oak Point Drive (3001-3126) District 2
- Oak Springs Drive (2701-2817)..... District 4
- Oak Springs Drive (2901-3017)..... District 2
- Overview Lane (2002-2228) District 3
- Peakwood Drive District 3
- Pebblestone Drive District 7
- Pepperidge Drive..... District 7
- Richland Drive District 6
- Richoak Drive..... District 7
- Ridge Oak Court District 1
- Ridge Oak Drive District 1
- Ridge Oak Place District 1
- Ridgeview Lane..... District 1
- Rocky Trail..... District 2
- Rolling Oak Lane (2001-2013) District 4
- Rolling Oak Lane (2101-2222) District 2
- Shady Oaks Court District 2
- Stoneridge Drive (2610-2742) District 6
- Stoneridge Drive (2801-2882) District 5
- Suncrest Drive District 6
- Willow Ridge Drive District 4
- Winding Oak Trail District 4
- Windy Ridge Lane..... District 4

ONA Nominating Committee

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications Director

At the February ONA General Membership Meeting, ONA Members voted on and approved 3 volunteers to serve as the Nominating Committee: Veronica Brown-Corbin (District 6), Vickie Litton (District 1), and Dan Nichols (District 4).

The Nominating Committee has a very important job. Their purpose is to compile a list of candidates who will serve as ONA Board Officers and Directors for the next membership year (which will begin June 1st).

If you are interested in serving on the ONA Board for the 2022-2023 year, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee to let them know of your interest. Here are the members of the Nominating Committee with their contact information:

Veronica Brown-Corbin

vbcorbin@hotmail.com (preferred)
214-642-4815 (call or text)

Vickie Litton

vickie.litton@outlook.com (preferred)
972-762-2805

Dan Nichols

dsnichols1@tx.rr.com
214-507-9949



ONA Raffle February Winner

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

Congratulations to ONA Member **Barbara Mairs** (Oakridge District 7), winner of the February Member Raffle. She 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.

Oakridge Daytimers

by Sally Weiss, Oakridge Daytimers

Once again, the Daytimers elected to cancel the February coffee due to the Omicron variant and the number of break-through cases being reported. We're all disappointed and understand the need for caution but miss our friends and chatting about happenings in our neighborhood. Thank goodness for the Oakridge Neighborhood Association's newsletter keeping us up-to-date!

Future coffees and programs will be scheduled on a month-by-month basis dependent upon health statistics at the time. In the meantime, take care to stay healthy and don't forget to check on friends and neighbors who may be in need of assistance.

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.

Oakridge Gentlemen

by Mark Edwards, Oakridge Gentlemen

The February Meeting of the Oakridge Gentlemen's Group was held at the Duck Creek Golf Club on Wednesday, February 16th; we met in the Clubhouse Restaurant.

Renovations to the Club continue as the owners are restoring the interior to its former condition. The room opposite the front door is almost completely refurbished...fireplace, large screen TV, comfortable seating. We understand the room was used to view the recent Super Bowl. Meeting rooms should be ready soon.

Our guests this month were two members of the Garland Health Department: Epidemiologists Ashton Tassin & Sam Arroyo. They took us through the Pandemic; from it's possible beginning, our current situation, and into its future and effect.

Even though we passed the peak for Omicron, there is still significant risk as we move along the long tail of the case curve.

4th dose of vaccine (2nd booster) has been approved for immuno-compromised individuals, perhaps 5 months after the last booster.

After the COVID pandemic, we will move to a COVID endemic, similar to Flu.

Some discussion of BA2 variant of Omicron. Public health community is not sure what this means yet. There is still the possibility of a surge in the summer months.

As we have been advised, all Americans should be immunized; masks should be worn in large group situations. (Records show that more women than men have received their "shots".) Percentage wise, some parts of the world have surpassed the number of immunized persons in America. Seven hundred and fifty Garland citizens have died of Covid; more than eighty-four thousand have died in Texas. We are approaching one million deaths in the US.

As a group, we are hoping the Health Department will have an article on COVID published in the City Press. [Official information on immunization from the Garland Health Department (as recommended by the CDC) is provided on the right side of this page.]

We also discussed proper food permit licensing of Food Trucks in Garland; and the Oakridge brick walls. We are

of the opinion that most residents of our community are not aware that if their property backs up to the walls, they are responsible for the maintenance of the brick walls.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 16th, 10:30 AM, at the Duck Creek Golf Club. Our guest speaker will be Garland Police Officer Wilson. He works with the homeless community and will give us an update on the current homeless situation in Garland.

All men in Oakridge are welcome to attend our next meeting. No membership requirements. Men who are still working from their homes may want to schedule an early lunch. Better idea...have lunch while you attend the meeting. Coffee will be provided—free.

Questions? Call Mark Edwards at 214-673-8908.

The booster schedule recommended by the CDC

- **Pfizer-BioNTech** – Everyone 12 and older can receive the booster at least 5 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. Teens 12-17 can only receive a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster, while adults 18 and older can receive either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna
- **Moderna** – Adults 18 years and older can receive a booster at least 5 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. They can receive either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna.
- **Janssen** – Adults 18 years and older can receive a booster at least 2 months after receiving their Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. They can receive either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna.

For the immunocompromised, the following schedule is recommended:

- **Pfizer-BioNTech** – Everyone 12 and older can receive the booster at least 3 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series (3 doses).
- **Moderna** – Adults 18 years and older can receive a booster at least 3 months after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series (3 doses).
- **Janssen** – Adults 18 years and older can receive a booster at least 2 months after receiving their Janssen COVID-19 vaccine (2 doses).



Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 450145
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Chocolate Crazy Cake

by H. Englebretson, Oakridge Resident

These days dietary restrictions are fairly common as people opt out of certain food groups due to medical reasons, religious observances, or even ethical concerns. This has led to a wide range of creative recipes and menu items that are “free” (gluten-free, dairy-free, etc.). It has also led to a rediscovery of recipes created during times of hardship (e.g., wars, the Great Depression) when families often had limited access to certain ingredients.



This Chocolate Crazy Cake (also called Wacky Cake)—which has its roots in the Great Depression—is free of eggs, milk, and butter. You can use the recipe printed below, or go online and do a search for “Chocolate Crazy Cake”—there are loads of variations!

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 3/4 cup grapeseed oil (or vegetable oil)
- 2 Tbsp distilled white vinegar
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups cold water
- Optional: frosting (make your own or buy a favorite)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Sift flour, sugar, salt, soda, and cocoa together into an ungreased 9x13” baking dish. (You read that correctly. Put the ingredients directly into the dish.)

Make three wells in the dry ingredients. Pour oil into one well, vinegar into second, and vanilla into third well.

Pour cold water over all, and stir well with fork. Bake at 350°F for 30 to 40 minutes, or until tooth pick inserted comes out clean. Cool completely, then frost (if desired) or sprinkle with powdered (confectioner’s) sugar.

If you have a creative recipe to share, email us at communications@oakridgena.org.

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info@oakridgena.org

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Vice President, Michelle Mizerak	214-962-7795
Secretary, Sharon Parrish	469-939-2270
Treasurer, Keith Engler	972-834-0096
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District 3 Director, Vanessa West [Washington]	469-774-2425
District 4 Director, Marty Dall.....	505-410-0370
District 5 Director, Melanie Busby.....	972-989-2253
District 6 Director, Mike Devanney.....	314-440-4350
District 7 Director, Joetta Harris.....	469-955-1513
Communications, Heather Englebretson.....	214-562-7857
Crime & Safety, Joan Nichols.....	214-543-2546
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Events, Jackie Reynolds	469-649-5799
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