



Oakridge News

www.oakridgena.org

April 2022, Vol. 30, No. 04

ONA Membership Campaign

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

Hello Oakridge Neighbors!

Preparations are underway for our Annual ONA Membership Campaign. For our neighbors that may not be familiar with the Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) I wanted to spend a few minutes describing who we are, what we do for our residents, and details about our Membership Campaign.

Who We Are

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) is a voluntary group of homeowners and tenants whose mission is to assure the beauty, safety, and stability of the area and the surrounding community, and to promote neighborliness and pride among the residents. We welcome all neighbors to become a part of this vibrant community of homeowners and tenants by joining the voluntary neighborhood association.

What We Do

Landscaping and Maintenance

- » Oakridge Entrances and Perimeter Landscaping, Sprinkler Systems and Lighting

Crime Watch

- » Managing our Crime Watch Programs in conjunction with Garland Police

Newsletter

- » Monthly Newsletter to every Oakridge Resident

Neighborhood Events

- » Hosting Events that promote opportunities to meet your neighbors

Welcome Bags

- » New Residents receive a Welcome Bag with City of Garland and Neighborhood information

Decorations

- » Decorate for the holidays, flag days, and other events that bring our community together

Membership Campaign

Our ONA Annual Membership Year aligns with the ONA fiscal calendar from June 1st to May 31st. Our Membership Campaign kicks off in April and we will be actively seeking membership renewals and new members during the months of April, May, and June. During the three months of the Membership Campaign we will place signs at the entrances, host pop-up events throughout the neighborhood, and encourage residents to consider renewing or joining the ONA.

Since we are a nonprofit and voluntary neighborhood association our primary source of revenue is the generosity of our residents who are willing to join the ONA. Our annual dues are \$60.00 a year and we are very focused on ensuring that every dollar is spent wisely and invested in our neighborhood.

Please take a few moments to consider the value we provide to the neighborhood and join today!

www.oakridena.org/join-us

Need more information?

Email us at oakridgemembership@gmail.com



FREE Donuts & Coffee

To kick off the Membership Drive, the ONA will be hosting pop-up events throughout Oakridge during April and May. All residents are invited to come and:

- ♦ enjoy free donuts and coffee
- ♦ visit with neighbors
- ♦ snag a goodie bag
- ♦ ask questions about the ONA

Pop-up events will be announced through email and will be posted on NextDoor and the ONA website (www.oakridgena.org).

Oakridge Gentlemen

by Mark Edwards, Oakridge Gentlemen

The monthly meeting of the Oakridge Gentlemen's Group was held at the Duck Creek Golf Club on Wednesday, March 16th. Up for discussion was the Homeless Situation in Garland. Guest speakers were from the Homeless Liaison/Task Force of the Garland Police Department: Officer Wendy Sheriff and Zoning Inspector from Garland Code Compliance Department, Dedra Johnson. We thank them for their insight. For details about the information we received, see the article "The Homeless in Garland" below.

The next meeting of the Oakridge Gentlemen will be on Wednesday, April 20th, 10:30 AM, at the Duck Creek Golf Club. Special guests may be in attendance—we invite you to join them.

No dues for membership. For more info, contact Mark Edwards at 214-673-8908.

The Homeless in Garland

by Mark Edwards, Oakridge Gentlemen

Handling the homeless is a full-time job. Garland Police work 4-10 hour days, but the Homeless Liaison/Task Force spends extra time outside those hours. It is difficult to determine the number of homeless in Garland, but there are hundreds. Recently, Dallas forced 1,500 homeless to leave Dallas. It is likely that many of them came to Garland. The officers know most of their names and have contact with their families.

Often the homeless live in a world of drugs, hunger, sex, crime, abandonment, and violence—which leads to mental issues. There aren't enough places to help them, nor do all of them want that help.

Many of them have no ID. The Task Force works with the DMV and others to solve this problem.

Why are they on the street? Can't get along with family; did not do well in school or at a job; some seeking adventure. In many instances they have been given a place to stay, but they don't stay there. They hit the streets again.

In many cases the homeless occupy private property; authorities step in and give them 4 days to remove their possessions. Police move in and remove what is left but keep it for 4 days. If not retrieved, the "recovered debris" is sent to the landfill.

How about the persons on corners begging for money? Hold it!!! On average, 8 out of 10 of those folks are not homeless; they are entrepreneurs. They are con artists—stealing from you, living off of you. Stories of them driving off in a Caddy or a Benz are true. The other two persons in

that equation NEED your help. But which ones? You have to make that decision.

You can help best through charities. The homeless are not horrible people! They are people who need HELP.

How can you help? Contact charities like Good Sam, Hope's Door New Beginning Center, The Salvation Army, and many others. They know the needs of these people better than you and I. Contact them and donate your usable clothes; things you haven't worn in months or years. See if your church is working with them.

The information for this article came from the March 16th meeting of Oakridge Gentlemen where guest speakers from the Homeless Liaison/Task Force of the Garland Police Department—Officer Wendy Sheriff and Zoning Inspector from Garland Code Compliance Department, Dedra Johnson—presented information on the Homeless in Garland. We thank them for their time.

VOLUNTEER



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



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ONA Raffle March Winner

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

Congratulations to ONA Member **Tuan Phan Di** (Oakridge District 2), winner of the March Member Raffle. The prize was 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?

Contact us at info@oakridgena.org to receive your free welcome bag!

Compliments of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

協泰 Hiep Thai

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Donna's Pet & House Sitting

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Donna Fehrer
Partnered With Sue Hageland
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Overnight Stays in Your Home or Mine



Oakridge Daytimers

by Sally Weiss, Oakridge Daytimers

At last, the Daytimers were able to meet again as the restrictions around the country and the world had started to ease. As the number of cases of COVID continues to decline we hope to be able to resume full participation by ALL our members as many of you have been sorely missed!

Betty Cosgray welcomed us into her magazine-ready home where she had arranged a stunning tablescape just especially for us. Our yummy morning munchies were prepared by Sue Ratcliffe, June Southard, and Sally Weiss.

The Daytimers were FINALLY able to welcome jeweler Leland Baker who has been in the business of buying, selling, trading, and designing jewelry for many, many years. As he passed around catalogs of his designs and sketches along with several pieces of jewelry, he entertained us with stories about some of his more memorable pieces. He finished by answering questions about the care of certain precious and semi-precious gems and, sadly, by collecting his jewelry pieces. Thank you, Leland.

We then spent a few moments bringing people up to date regarding some of our sub-groups such as book club, etc. and then went on to discussing our May luncheon. As our group is somewhat smaller this year our venue may vary considerably compared to previous years. Anyone with ideas may call Ann Williams, Sue Ratcliffe, or Sally Weiss. President Chris also mentioned that ONA has asked the Daytimers to once again supply dessert items for the neighborhood picnic scheduled for Sunday, May 15th from 2:00 to 4:00. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at our April coffee so be thinking of what you'd like to donate.

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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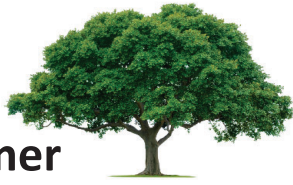


Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 450145
Garland, TX 75045-0145

PRSR STD
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RE/MAX Associates of Dallas




Jeff Stone
Managing Broker
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*Oakridge resident over 30 years
offering special commission rate for my neighbors!*

JOIN

www.oakridgena.org/join-us/

The 2022-2023 Oakridge Neighborhood Association Membership Drive is underway! Join us using the membership form included in this newsletter, or join us online at www.oakridgena.org/join-us.

2021-2022 ONA Board

info@oakridgena.org

President, Scott Barnes480-512-2111
 Vice President, Michelle Mizerak214-962-7795
 Secretary, Sharon Parrish469-939-2270
 Treasurer, Keith Engler972-834-0096

District 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

Committee Directors

Communications, Heather Englebretson214-562-7857
 Crime & Safety, Joan Nichols214-543-2546
 Environmental, David Parrish469-733-6089
 Events, Jackie Reynolds469-649-5799
 Membership, Cecile LaBossiere.....972-896-9413



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Owner
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Neighborhood Fixer
Daniel Augustus Nukala

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www.davidsmeatmarket.com

City Council Update

by Dylan Hedrick, District 7 Councilman and Oakridge Resident

For this month's update, I would like to focus on one area of our Council Meetings that gets little attention from the public, although it is always the largest allocation of taxpayer's dollars of any item on our agenda. The item I am referring to is the portion of the consent agenda that is for the approval of bid items. It is during this item that we as a Council approve the purchase of the many goods and services that the city uses to perform its duties as a municipal service provider.

Think of the City as a large conglomerate company that provides many items and services to its tax-paying citizens. Whereas a company like Apple may focus solely on technology products, the City of Garland must provide services across a wide variety of fields. You know many of the services already which include fire and police protection; weekly trash and bulk goods pick-up; water and electricity service; the operation of four libraries, six recreation centers, two senior centers, and dozens of parks; and the animal health services provided in our new Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, but there are many others as well.

I would like to highlight below some of the more interesting items (to me) that we approved from each Council Meeting since the beginning of the year.

During our January 4 meeting, we approved \$299,280 for the purchase of tubular steel for the construction of 138kV transmission structures. These structures form the large transmission towers along roadways and in easements that Garland Power & Light uses to safely and reliably relay power to our substations throughout the city.

On January 18, we approved \$1,822,302 in funding for the demolition of existing restroom and concession buildings and the construction of five new restroom and concession buildings at Bradfield Park, Central Park Football and Baseball Fields, Holford Park and Audubon Park. This project is a portion of Proposition D - Parks and Recreation from the voter approved 2019 Bond Program.

February 1 saw us approve the purchase of construction services of Landfill Cell No. 9 for \$5,825,000. Waste disposal at Hinton Landfill must follow strict Texas Commission on Environmental Quality standards, and we must construct future cells before the current ones are full. This additional cell will provide up to six years of airspace at the current rate of waste acceptance.

We approved the purchase of shelf-ready audiovisual library materials on February 15 for \$220,000. With new media and learning material constantly being produced,

this purchase will allow us to have the latest best-selling novels, reference materials and electronic resources available for check-out and use by our library patrons.

At our first meeting of March we approved \$566,609 for the replacement of water and wastewater mains in Forest Lane and Country Club. It is through purchases like this that we do our best to maintain the miles of underground infrastructure utilized by the city to provide fresh drinking water and to remove waste.

Finally on March 15, we approved \$205,500 for the purchase of two explosive ordnance disposal robots. The Police Department currently has two robots from 1998 and 2004 which are now obsolete and showing their age. The new robots will support our SWAT and Bomb Units.

At our March 15th meeting, we recognized our Garland Purchasing Department who won the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award for the 23rd consecutive year. Their efforts have saved the taxpayer more than \$8M over the past year through the procurement of over \$300M in goods and services while dealing with supply change and labor issues during the pandemic.

I am so proud of everything the City of Garland provides to its citizens while being good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars. I encourage you to view our Council Agendas posted on the City's website to see all of the other various goods and services that are purchased each council meeting.

Please reach out to me at 469-560-6099 or council7@garlandtx.gov if there is anything I can do for you.

Roach Feed and Seed

Source: <https://roachfeed.com/>

Many Garland natives already know about a local outpost called Roach Feed and Seed. Located in downtown Garland, in a building that was built in 1933, Roach Feed and Seed contains a garden center and pet shop as well as supplies for animals and livestock. In addition to having a storefront location, they have a website—<https://roachfeed.com/>—where you can view the different products they carry.

Have you been considering having backyard chickens? The staff at Roach Feed and Seed are happy to help you get started. They sell all the supplies, including baby chicks (available in both the spring and fall). Occasionally they even have hens for sale (call for availability).

Take time this spring to drop on by and check it out for yourself.



Supporting your neighborhood is like investing in your home.

What the Oakridge Neighborhood Association does

- Sources and hires qualified landscape contractors to mow, water, trim, remove trash from, and maintain your entrances and perimeter.
- Publishes a monthly newsletter.
- Maintains our neighborhood website.
- Plans, organizes, and funds social activities.
- Partners with our Neighborhood Police Officer and Citizens on Patrol to provide crime prevention and safety information.
- Organizes and funds neighborhood activities for the annual National Night Out.
- Welcomes new residents and delivers a "Welcome Bag" containing community information.
- Plans, organizes, and funds three General Membership meetings.
- Coordinates holiday donations from Oakridge residents to Garland Police Department and the Fire Stations who serve our neighborhood.
- Decorates entrances during Christmas and on flag days.
- Attends quarterly meetings and civic events hosted by the City of Garland.
- And more...

A neighborhood that is attractive, well-maintained, safe, and vibrant can raise the pride of its residents and increase the value of the homes in it. The goal of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association is to ensure Oakridge is one of those exemplary neighborhoods.

The ONA is NOT a mandatory HOA - it relies on the **voluntary** support of Oakridge residents to accomplish its mission.

Nothing happens without your support!

ONA Support Levels

Please consider your level of support. Giving more than the Good Neighbor Level could mean improvements to our entrances, new landscaping designs, more events, a better newsletter, and more. Let us know your vision for Oakridge!

- \$60 Good Neighbor Level
- \$100 Crepe Myrtle Level
- \$250 Maple Level
- \$500+ Oak Level



An ONA flag will be placed in your front yard to indicate your support.

Thank you for supporting the Oakridge Neighborhood Association!

.....

Please print/fill out completely

Your information will be used for ONA communication purposes ONLY and will NEVER be given to anyone.

Street Address _____

Home Phone _____

First Time Supporter

Renewal

Owner Tenant

Subscribe to ONA emails? Y or N

Contact 1

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Contact 2

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

.....

Invoice

The ONA is not a mandatory HOA.
It relies on volunteers and donations.

Support Levels

\$60+ Good Neighbor Level

\$100+ Crepe Myrtle Level

\$250+ Maple Level

\$500+ Oak Level

What the ONA does

Perimeter Maintenance

Seasonal Plantings

Monthly Newsletter

ONA Website

Crime Prevention & Safety

Events & Social Activities

General Member Meetings

Holiday Decorations

Donations to Fire/Police Stations

New Resident Welcome Bags

Contact info@oakridgena.org for comments or to volunteer.

Total Amount Enclosed

\$ _____

.....

Payment Method:

Check/Money Order enclosed

Online Payment - PayPal link
is available on the ONA website
(www.oakridgena.org/join-us)

.....

Mail check or money order (no cash)
and completed form to:

Oakridge Neighborhood Association
PO Box 450145
Garland, TX 75045-0145

An ONA flag will be placed in your front
yard to indicate your support.