



# Oakridge News

www.oakridgena.org

July 2022, Vol. 30, No. 07

## Note from the ONA President

by Billy Ray Thomas, ONA President

Hello Oakridge!

My service as your ONA President has just begun and, already, I am impressed by the people with whom I serve. Quite frankly I am in awe at the many moving parts of our Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) and the hours put in by the volunteers who keep those parts moving. I find myself thinking “WHAT IF”—what if they didn’t do it?

The hot weather arrived early this year, kicking off our Texas summer with dry weather and triple-digit heat. Along with the hot Texas summer comes many challenges for the ONA Environmental Committee. The Environmental Committee is made up of volunteers who work diligently to keep our neighborhood entrances maintained. They make sure that sprinklers are operating properly so that water resources are used wisely. They oversee the planting and changing of shrubbery and seasonal color as their budget permits, and they see to it that the perimeter around the entire Oakridge community is mowed and not neglected. They negotiate and manage our environmental recurring maintenance contract and monitor compliance. All of this work is done in order to assure the beauty of the area and the surrounding community. Under the leadership of David Parrish, the Environmental Committee and friends of the committee put in work throughout the year, in all seasons. They make sure that Oakridge remains an inviting, friendly, top tier and coveted community in the North Garland Area.

The work of the Environmental Committee is a very integral part of our ONA’s purpose. Under David’s leadership, the Environmental Committee members are able to maximize our return on every dollar spent in this area. Each year, some community members support the efforts of this committee by specifically contributing money (through the Beautification Fund) for their work. These resources are over and above their annual membership dues. We thank all those members for

their continued support. Feedback from the members help the Environmental committee to continually improve. If you see something (environmental issues), say something. This could be something you think is well done as well as something that you feel needs to be addressed.

The greater part of our success is YOU. We need all of you! If you haven’t joined our Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA), we invite you to do so. If you have not renewed your membership, remember that your renewal makes a big difference! Our membership goal this season is 100% Oakridge resident participation. Please join us!

IT TAKES ALL PARTS TO MAKE THE WHOLE!!!

Respectfully,

Billy Ray Thomas

## Volunteer Needed ASAP!

As of August, the ONA will no longer have someone to manage the ONA Communications (which includes the website and the newsletter). The ONA Board is looking for a volunteer to take on these responsibilities.

This is a great opportunity for someone wanting to improve their skills in writing, communicating, and basic website management.

Sound like too much? We can split it up. If you are only comfortable managing the website (WordPress platform), let us know! If you only want to take over the newsletter, let us know! Oakridge is a neighborhood of over 1,000 homes; surely there are residents who would be a great match for this volunteer position. *Are you one of them?*

Email [communications@oakridgena.org](mailto:communications@oakridgena.org) for more information.

## Don't Forget to Join Us!

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

If you have sent in your dues, we THANK YOU! You should have received your ONA GREEN MEMBER FLAG. If you haven't received your flag, please let us know via phone or email.



### Current Membership Year

Our current year membership statistics show we have quite a few members that have not renewed yet. We also have a lot of residents that aren't supporting the ONA.



Number of Households  
Not Yet Renewed/Not Yet Supporting

District	Not Yet Renewed	Not Yet Supporting
1	29	114
2	23	88
3	16	113
4	30	84
5	14	149
6	18	135
7	22	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>796</b>

Number of Households Supporting the ONA

District	Number of Households	2022-23 Supporters	% Supporting
1	185	42	23%
2	154	43	28%
3	141	12	9%
4	151	37	25%
5	190	27	14%
6	181	28	15%
7	164	29	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1166</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>19%</b>

### Join Us or Renew Your Membership Today

If you haven't joined or renewed yet, please take a few moments to send in your dues:

- **Online** – [www.oakridgena.org/join-us/](http://www.oakridgena.org/join-us/)
- **By Mail** – Oakridge Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 450145, Garland, TX 75045-0145.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments please contact us. Our focus and commitment to the neighborhood is based on the input and responses we

get directly from you, the residents of Oakridge.

The ONA is a voluntary neighborhood association; we work for you—the residents of Oakridge. Please do not hesitate to reach out and assist us in better serving the neighborhood. Communication is the key to being a better neighbor and association.

Thanks,

Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

Have Questions? Please contact me at [oakridgemembership@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgemembership@gmail.com)

## ONA Monthly Raffle Winner

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

Congratulations to ONA Member **Doris Cave** (Oakridge District 6), winner of the May Member Raffle. The prize was a \$20 gift card to Pizza Hut.

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 the Neighborhood?



The ONA assembles and delivers welcome bags to residents who are new to Oakridge. The bags contain an assortment of City of Garland promotional materials as well as some Oakridge informational items.

If you are new to the neighborhood and have yet to receive a welcome bag, please send us an email ([info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org)). We look forward to sending a bag your way!

## Holiday Decorating Committee



A number of residents have noted that our holiday decorations for the neighborhood entrances could use a little sprucing up. We agree! But we need volunteers who would be willing to tackle this project.

The ONA Board is considering creating a committee for the purpose of updating our entryway decorations for the holidays. Would you be interested in serving on a committee for that purpose? If you are interested, contact the ONA President at [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org).

## Oakridge Entrances

by H. Englebretson, ONA Communications

Do you know how many entrances there are in the Oakridge neighborhood?

There are 9 entrances. Beginning with the north side then going clockwise around the neighborhood perimeter, here are the entrances: Laurel



Oaks Drive, Richland Drive, Big Oaks Drive, Rich Oak Drive, Winding Oak Trail, Diamond Oaks Drive, Overview Lane, Ridge Oak Drive, and Greenview Drive.

The ONA Environmental Committee, who oversees these entrances, is completely comprised of volunteers. Just like any other volunteer, the time they can donate to volunteering is limited. Like most of you reading this newsletter, these volunteers have family members to care for, jobs to work, and households to manage. They can always use some extra help.

Thankfully, we have a neighborhood full of people who drive/walk/bike through these 9 entrances on a regular basis. This means there are a lot of eyes and ears that can report issues (broken sprinklers, damaged plants, etc.).

Please report any issues or concerns with the plants, lighting, or irrigation at our entrances to David Parrish at [environment@oakridgena.org](mailto:environment@oakridgena.org) or 469-733-6089.

By reporting issues to the Director of the Environmental, you are serving as an extension of the Environmental Committee! Thank you for volunteering your time.

*Note: The ONA Environmental Committee does not manage the brick wall, which is considered private property.*

## Oakridge Men's Group

by Mark Edwards, Oakridge Men's Group

### A Garland Marshal visits the Oakridge Men's Group

Although the Garland Marshals didn't enter the Garland Enforcement Program until a few years ago, Marshals have been in this part of the country for years; back when Texas was just a territory and before it became a state.

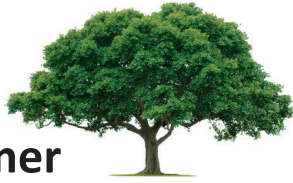
Marshals like "Matt Dillon" were here to "keep the peace". Marshal J.D. Norris does part of that enforcement in these modern times, right here in Garland. He wears more than a six-gun. He wears a bullet-proof vest, a taser, handcuffs and enough communications equipment to rival a modern-day Alexander Graham Bell—and he (and other Marshals) can arrest anyone in the state who violates the law.

Marshals are sworn peace officers who perform a wide range of duties, including service of process (process servers) seizing money and property under court order, evictions, serving tax warrants, and arresting individuals on bench warrants. Judicial marshals are employed by the judicial branch. They are enforcers of parking violations and deliver code violators with summons or warnings. Police officers don't handle this any longer.

If a person parks in front of your house, they are not violating the law. If they park next to the mailbox, they are not violating the law. However, if they are parked within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or within 30 feet of a corner or alley entrance, they are violating the law. If a car is blocking your driveway, or parked in your driveway, or parked across your sidewalk, then they are violating the law and you can get in touch with a Marshal to solve your problem.

The best way to get action on many problems—e.g., potholes, broken streetlight, tall grass, or parking situations—is to use Garland's eAssist app. With the eAssist app, you can submit more than 50 types of service requests, including contacting the Marshal's office. Garland's eAssist app provides an online platform accessible from the City's website ([www.garlandTX.gov](http://www.garlandTX.gov)). It is also available as a free app on the Google Play and Apple App stores.

Next meeting of the Oakridge Men's Group will be July 20th, 10:30 am at the Duck Creek Golf Club. All men are welcome. There is NO fee for membership. For more info, contact Mark Edwards at 214-673-8908.



Local Postal Customer

## 2022-2023 ONA Board

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

### Officers

President, Billy Ray Thomas ..... 214-734-1017  
Vice President, Vickie Litton ..... 972-762-2805  
Secretary, Sharon Parrish ..... 469-939-2270  
Treasurer, Veronica Brown-Corbin..... 214-642-4815

### District Directors

District 1, Joanna Albright ..... 973-879-5965  
District 2 Co-Directors  
    Jack Lang ..... 214-395-8596  
    Sallie Lang ..... 214-708-2870  
District 3, VACANT  
District 4 Co-Directors  
    Oliver Harter ..... 214-663-8862  
    Jackie Jones ..... 972-897-5133  
District 5, Melanie Busby..... 972-989-2253  
District 6, Ruba Qewar ..... 972-207-1911  
District 7, Joetta Harris ..... 469-955-1513

### Committees

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  
Membership, Cecile LaBossiere..... 972-896-9413

## Newsletter Distribution

**On June 1st, distribution of the newsletter changed.**

The ONA monthly newsletter is made available online at the beginning of each month. Hard copies of the newsletter will be mailed to the entire neighborhood ONLY in September, January, and May. By limiting the quantity of newsletters that are printed and mailed, the ONA is able to save a substantial amount of money and resources.

### What about residents who depend on hard copies?

A small number of hard copies will be available for residents who want to receive a hard copy every month. If you wish to be added to the list to receive a hard copy every month, contact your District Director (see the list of ONA Board members in this newsletter for contact information) or send an email to [communications@oakridgena.org](mailto:communications@oakridgena.org).

## Newsletter Advertising

Newsletter advertising runs from June 1st to May 31st each year and can be renewed annually each June.

It costs \$300 to run an advertisement (business card size only) in the monthly newsletter for a whole year. The ONA fiscal year runs June 1st - May 31st.

Ad placement is rotated monthly.

If you would like to place an ad in the newsletter, contact the ONA Treasurer at [treasurer@oakridgena.org](mailto:treasurer@oakridgena.org).



**Donna's Pet & House Sitting**  
Home: 972-495-8599 Call: 214-395-5403  
Donna Feher  
Partnered With Sue Hageland  
Oakridge Area Resident for 30+ Years

Insured - Certified in Pet First Aid/CPR

Overnight Stays in Your Home or Mine