



Oakridge News

www.oakridgena.org September 2022, Vol. 30, No. 09

National Night Out

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

National Night Out (NNO) 2021 is set for **Tuesday, October 4, from 5:30-7 p.m.** in the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot.

This year we are asking everyone to **bring an appetizer to share.** We hope you will join us in the fun along with Garland Police and Fire, and some cuddly Pets-for-Adoption.



Here are the details:

- The event is free for Oakridge residents and families. Pets are also welcome.
- Please register, so we can get an accurate count, on the Oakridge Website (www.oakridgena.org).
- Bring your chair and an appetizer to share.
- For those who want to purchase beverages, the Duck Creek beverage cart will have drinks for purchase.
- We are looking for volunteers who want to bring an appetizer or help with set-up or clean-up. To participate, email us at safety@oakridgena.org.
- Get your questions answered regarding what it means to be a valued ONA member and how much you mean to our community. A representative will be available to answer your questions.

The purpose of National Night Out is to build strong partnerships between the police and communities and to promote crime awareness programs such as Neighborhood Community Watch groups.

Look for the fall planting at our entrances!

Suggestions for improving our entrances, especially Ridge Oak.
Contact: environment@oakridgena.org.

Neighborhood Happy Hour

by H. Englebretson, Oakridge Resident

The ONA invites you **Thursday, September 29th, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** to come inside the Duck Creek Golf Club for a Neighborhood Happy Hour. We encourage you to purchase some drinks and/or food at the bar, then find a seat at one of the many tables where you can relax and chat with other Oakridge residents. This is a great opportunity to catch up with neighbors in a nice, air-conditioned building. It is also a wonderful excuse to check out the inside of Duck Creek Golf Club if you haven't already done so; the bar area is open to non-golfers and golfers alike.

After happy hour, stick around for the ONA General Membership Meeting, which will begin at 7:00 p.m.

All Oakridge residents, young and old, are welcome to attend!

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

ONA Food Drive

by H. Englebretson, Oakridge Resident

The price hikes on so many items have left many of our neighbors (both inside and outside Oakridge) struggling financially. As nonprofit organizations provide assistance to those who are struggling, their own supplies are dwindling.

Oakridge residents have always shown great generosity in contributing to food drives. The ONA wants to provide residents another opportunity to help our community.

On **Sunday, September 25, from 2-4 p.m.** the ONA has arranged for local nonprofit Good Samaritan ("Good Sam") of Garland to bring a truck to Oakridge to collect food donations. The truck will park in the Duck Creek Golf Club parking lot to receive your food donations. (Please see the list on page 4 for donation ideas or scan the QR code. ⇨)



We look forward to seeing you there!

City Councilman Update

by Dylan Hedrick, District 7 City Councilman, Oakridge Resident

Earlier this month, the City Council reviewed, debated and passed the city budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This year’s proposed comprehensive budget is the biggest in the City’s history as it totals \$966.1 million. The budget reflects an increase of \$149.3 million (18.3%) from the FY 2021/2022 adopted combined budget. The budget covers all of the city expenditures including personnel; operations; capital purchases; electric, fuel and energy; water purchases and debt payments

Some budget highlights include funding for public safety including nine firefighter positions to operate three new highway blocker vehicles, SWAT medical equipment and training, and ballistic shield protection equipment, body-worn cameras and taser cartridges for police officers.

The budget also includes funding to support maintenance and operation costs which will be incurred as the 2019 Bond Projects come online. With a doubling in size of the new Garland Animal Shelter, additional food and kennel labor costs are included. Also, additional parks equipment and chemicals are being purchased to operate our new splash pads and ball fields when they open next summer.

The budget includes \$500,000 for the continuation of the Office of Neighborhood Vitality Home Improvement Program, and we have discussed on council raising the maximum eligible home value to allow more citizens to be eligible for the cost sharing of home improvement projects.

We are upping the city’s reserves to \$11.2M which will allow us to react to unexpected financial shortfalls or emergency needs such as tornadoes or flooding.

After not receiving a raise during the pandemic, City staff will receive a 5.0% compensation merit increase. This will help the City better compete in an extremely tight labor market and hopefully provide more financial security to our dedicated city employees during these high inflationary times.

Due to inflationary pressures, the budget requires that we increase average monthly rates for water usage by \$3.43, sewer service by \$2.08, and trash collection by \$2.00. No rate changes are proposed for GP&L electric service and storm water as part of the Proposed Budget. The increase in water service is less than what would have been proposed if we did not have the NTMWD water rate case settlement in October of 2020.

I encourage everyone to go to the City of Garland’s webpage and read the proposed budget documents. The 522 page document lays out exactly how every penny of your valuable tax dollars are spent by your local municipal government. As always, we on the City Council strive to be good stewards of the valuable financial resources we are entrusted with through your tax payments.

If I can do anything for you or you have any questions on the budget, please don’t hesitate to contact me via phone at 469-560-6099 or by email at council7@garlandtx.gov.

ONA 2022-2023 Budget

by Veronica Brown-Corbin, ONA Treasurer

Below is an update on our budget status. We have been challenged this year with meeting our membership goals, however we are within budget. If you haven’t joined or renewed yet, please take a few moments to send in your dues (www.oakridgena.org/join-us/).

ONA Annual Budget for 2022-2023		
Mandatory Operating Expenses	Annual Budget	Previous Year Budget
Newsletter Printing (May, Sept, Jan)	\$637	\$2,548
Newsletter Postage (May, Sept, Jan)	\$584	\$2,281
Printing: Newsletter (50 copies/month)	\$257	--
Postage (First-Class \$0.58): 25 Newsletters	\$131	--
Platinum Scapes Monthly Mowing	\$7,450	\$7,450
Platinum Scapes Monthly Beautification	\$9,600	\$9,600
Storage	\$1,224	\$1,224
Avg Utilities per month (estimate)	\$4,200	\$4,200
3-year Website paid thru April 2024	--	--
Annual Bulk Mail Fee Due in Dec	\$265	\$265
Annual PO Box Fee Due in October	\$240	\$240
Total Mandatory	\$24,587	\$27,808
Total Mandatory	250	303
Annual Dues	\$60.00	\$60.00
Possible Expenses	Annual Budget	Previous Year Budget
Events & Community	\$950	\$950
General Maintenance	\$500	--
Total Additional	\$1,450	\$950
Total Addt'l. Members	24	16
Grand Total Expenses	\$26,037.38	\$28,758
Grand Total Members	274	319
Assets		Total
Money Market		\$ 18,025.00
Checking Account		\$ 2,000.00
Total		\$ 20,025.00

Note from the ONA President

by BillyRay Thomas, ONA President

Hello Oakridge!

Our General Membership Meeting will be held at Duck Creek Golf Club on September 29, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Meet and greet happy hour begins at 5:30 pm. This general membership meeting is the first since my tenure as ONA President. I look forward to being able to fellowship with our Oakridge neighbors and to the house being full.

Volunteers are still needed. Each new volunteer allows us to spread the activities in certain areas resulting in lightening the load for those already serving. We have such a unique opportunity. Together, we can make Oakridge an even better neighborhood than it is already. A few more hands would surely make a difference. Think about it!

ONA Board activities to date include beginning an in-depth review of all of the board's activities. The review includes: expenditures, events, programs and procedures. The purpose of the review is to identify areas where improvements can be made. This review is being guided by the requirements of our Bylaws and policies as well as the needs of our members and our neighborhood. It is hoped that any improvements identified and made will be translated into tangible actions.

We want to give a shout out to all of our members for their continued support to the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. We also want to encourage each resident of the Oakridge community to **JOIN** us.

Regards,
BillyRay Thomas



Save these Dates!

ONA General Membership Meeting, 9/29, 7 p.m.

ONA Food Drive, 9/25, 2-4 p.m.

National Night Out, 10/4, 5:30-7 p.m.



Scan To Register Now!

National Night Out
10/4, 5:30-7 p.m.
Please register,
so we can get
an accurate count.

Safety Reminders

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

Keep your garage door closed especially when you are working in the yard or just stepping inside. Open garages are an easy target for thieves.

Pick-up mail in a timely manner and consider going to the Post Office to mail checks or skip the mail and pay electronically. Thieves are looking for packages, checks, or identity information left in mailboxes overnight.

Be a good neighbor. It's always smart to get to know your neighbors. The "rule of 5" is to at least know your neighbors on both sides and 3 across the street or alley. Practice small acts of kindness—smile, wave, or say hello. Be aware of your neighbor's habits, such as when they are generally at work, if they have small children or teenagers, if they are elderly and may need extra assistance from time to time. Be sure to check on your neighbors.

Report suspicious activity. If you see suspicious activity or something (or somebody) that seems out of place, call the Garland Police non-emergency number at 972-485-4840 (or call 911 for emergency or crime in progress). 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 (BarnesT@garlandtx.gov).

Our advertisers reach over 1,000 residents each month.

To purchase ad space, contact us at communications@oakridgena.org

Donna's Pet & House Sitting

Home: 972-495-8599 Cell: 214-395-5403

Donna Feher

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Oakridge News

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

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ONA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, September 29th,
inside the Duck Creek Golf Club

5:30 - Neighborhood Happy Hour

7:00 - Meeting Begins

All Oakridge residents, young and old,
are welcome to attend!

Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to all the **VOLUNTEERS** that donate their **TIME** to Oakridge!

Will you **volunteer**? Will you give some of your **time** to the ONA? We need you, please consider volunteering for:

Communications Director- We need someone to lead communications, help with updates to the website, and produce the monthly newsletter.

Holiday Decorations- We need someone to oversee, not do yourself but coordinate, holiday decorations at the entrances and bridge. Also to advise the board, if needed, of decorations that need to be retired and replaced.

Help with Landscaping- We need someone to work with us and our landscaping contractor on suggestions for improving our entrances, especially Ridge Oak. Contact environment@oakridgena.org.

If interested in volunteering, please email info@oakridgena.org.

Appetizers needed!

We are looking for volunteers who want to bring an appetizer and help us celebrate National Night Out (October 4th) or help with set-up or clean-up. To sign up, please send an email to safety@oakridgena.org.



Suggested Food Drive Items

- Canned vegetables:
 - whole kernel corn
 - cream style corn
 - sweet peas
 - green beans
 - sliced carrots
- Canned meats:
 - tuna
 - chicken
- Canned soups
- Pastas
- Pasta sauce
- Boxed mac & cheese
- Boxed breakfast cereals
- Peanut butter
- Bottled waters
- Canned beans:
 - garbanzo beans
 - northern beans
 - black beans
 - pinto beans
 - kidney beans
- Canned fruits

2022-2023 ONA Board

info@oakridgena.org

Officers

President, BillyRay 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, VACANT
 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