

# Oakridge News

www.oakridgena.org

March 2023, Vol. 31, No. 03



## Note from the ONA President

by BillyRay Thomas, ONA President

Spring has sprung! At least it appears to but the way this weather has been thus far, I am not so sure. I guess for Texas, unpredictable weather comes with the territory. Well, spring is the time to make Oakridge beautiful by getting into the gardens, clearing out the remnants of winter and preparing for the summer months ahead. Whatever you do, have a great March Oakridge!

A bit of business. We held our General Membership Meeting February 23rd via zoom. We heard from our NPO Tommy Barnes who expressed his gratitude to Oakridge for the love and support shown to him and his family. He reminded us to be mindful of leaving valuables and firearms in unlocked vehicles. We had a great update from our Councilman who announced a City Sidewalk Repair program so be sure to check out the "Resident 411s". We were happy to have Brent and Elisha Hurt, owners of the Golf Club with us as well. Let us continue to send prayers and good thoughts to them as they anxiously wait to rebuild.

David Parish (Environmental) and Sharon Parrish (Secretary), two of our most tenured members announced they will be retiring from ONA service. Additionally, our Treasurer, Veronica Corbin and Ruba Qewar, District 5

Director announced they would be stepping down due to work demands. They deserve so much praise for their contributions, and it has been a pleasure to work with them.

Its official. Our 2023-2024 Nominating Committee approved at the General Meeting is Vickie Litton, Diana Edwards, and Dan Nichols. If you can carve out just a few hours a month for a worthy cause, please reach out to Vickie, Diana or Dan. Help us make the ONA better.

The 2023-2024 Membership drive will kick off April 30th, so save the date. We hope and believe this year will be one of the best years ever. Our goal is and continues to be "To Make the Best Better".

If you have not joined yet, we invite you to do so— Neighbor is the key word in our name. Neighbor serving Neighbor in our Hood.

We know "Service is Sacrifice" and "Hats off" to all those who have made sacrifices over the years. THANK YOU! Until next time.

## **ONA Nominating Committee**

by Cheryl Jones, ONA Communications Director

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is for the selection of nominees for officers and directors for the next operating year. Their role is to seek out, engage and provide volunteers information on the position of their interest. Prior to May Annual Meeting, they will present nominees to the Board for review, and then present to the membership through publication in the ONA Newsletter and Website. Note: Additional candidates may be nominated by any member at the Annual Meeting.

> Vickie Litton, Chair (District 1) vickie.litton@outlook.com **Diana Edwards** (District 3) islandgal79@gmail.com Dan Nichols (District 4)

> > dsnichols1@tx.rr.com

www.oakridgena.org Page 1



## 2023-2024 Board of Directors Elections

by BillyRay Thomas, ONA President

Please consider serving on the ONA Board. Qualifications are simple, be a resident of Oakridge, an ONA Member and can carve out a few hours a month. Contact the Nominating Committee or email us info@oakridgena.org.

The following seats are vacant for the upcoming operating year...

#### Officers:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer (Familiar with QuickBooks, Excel)

#### **Directors**:

- District Directors for Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7
- Environmental Director

Please get involved. Your neighborhood needs you! You can find more information on the ONA Board and position duties at <a href="https://www.oakridgena.org/ona-board/">https://www.oakridgena.org/ona-board/</a>.



## We would love your suggestions/ideas for future newsletter content.

Please send recommendations/comments to communications@oakridgena.org.

## Oakridge Resident 411s

by Cheryl Jones, ONA Communications Director

#### **New Residents:**

If you are new to Oakridge, WELCOME! You should receive

a Welcome Bag" from the Welcome Committee filled with goodies from the City of Garland, helpful tips, and ONA information. Contact us at <a href="info@oakridgena.org">info@oakridgena.org</a> for any questions. We hope you will consider ONA Membership. Join anytime via the website or scan the "Join OR Code".



Join Her

#### **Welcome to Garland Class:**

If you want to learn more about Garland, don't miss the **Welcome to Garland Class for new or born and raised residents**. Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m. to Noon at Garland City Hall (200 N. Fifth St). The class kicks off at 9 a.m. with "Coffee with the Garland Mayor". For more information or to register, click here <a href="https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejmuwsj5a2899777">https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejmuwsj5a2899777</a>.

#### Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA):

The ONA is a 501(C)(4) Non-Profit chartered in 1992. Its Fiscal Year begins June 1 and ends May 31st of the following year. Membership is Voluntary. Dues are \$60 Annually per household. Additional information on Oakridge and the ONA can be found at <a href="https://www.oakridgena.org">www.oakridgena.org</a> under "Resident Resources".

#### Oakridge District - District Directors:

Oakridge neighborhood is comprised of 1166 homes divided up into "Districts" by Street. Each District is represented by an ONA District Director. Locate your District and your ONA District Director at <a href="https://www.oakridgena.org/seven-districts-of-oakridge/">https://www.oakridgena.org/seven-districts-of-oakridge/</a>.

#### Oakridge Perimeter Walls:

If your home is on the outer perimeter, you will be responsible for the repair or replacement of damaged walls on your property. Detailed information is available on the ONA website at <a href="https://www.oakridgena.org/perimeter-brick-wall/">https://www.oakridgena.org/perimeter-brick-wall/</a>. Note: ONA Membership contributions provide for the maintenance, landscaping, and mowing "around" the perimeter walls.

#### <u>Sidewalk Repairs- City of Garland Cost Share Program:</u>

Per City Ordinance, if you own property in Garland, it is your responsibility to keep sidewalks, parkways, curbs, and driveways adjacent to your property in a good and safe condition and free from any defects and hazards. A property owner who qualifies in all three categories may now bear as little as 10 percent of the cost of fixing their sidewalk. Find out program details at <a href="https://www.garlandtx.gov/384/Sidewalk-Participation-Program">https://www.garlandtx.gov/384/Sidewalk-Participation-Program</a>.

Page 2 Oakridge News

### ONA Membership Update

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

#### **CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:**

District #	ONA Members	Non Renewal	Non Supporting	# Households	% Supporting	
1	55	19	111	185	30%	
2	55	11	88	154	36%	
3	17	8	114	141	13%	
4	52	14	85	151	34%	
5	34	9	147	190	18%	
6	38	7	136	181	20%	
7	41	9	114	164	25%	
Totals	294	77	795	1166	25%	

#### **RESIDENT SURVEY:**

#### **Responses**

23 Residents responded to the survey

#### **ONA Member**

15 were ONA Members

#### **ONA Rating**

13 were Very Satisfied

8 were Satisfied

1 was neither Satisfied or Unsatisfied

1 was Very Dissatisfied

#### **Comments**

We had quite a few comments from our survey. We will be consolidating and reviewing the comments at our next board meeting so that we can align the ONA strategic objectives to support the feedback we received. We will be sure to include updates to your feedback in our Monthly Newsletter.

#### ONA SURVEY RAFFLE WINNER

by Cecile LaBossiere, ONA Membership Director

Congratulations to our survey raffle winner is Richard Dzanski! I want to thank everyone that participated in the resident survey. We cannot improve our services to the residents of Oakridge without your input and participation so a heartful thank you!

## Are you an ONA member? Have you received your flag?

If not, please contact us at oakridgemembership@gmail.com



### Treasurer Update

by Veronica Brown-Corbin, ONA Treasurer

We are a VOLUNTARY Neighborhood Association, totally dependent on Membership Revenue and VOLUNTEERS to keep us going.

We are on track to our budget thanks to member generosity, and if no major increases in environmental, (our biggest expense) we should close out the fiscal year on target. We will continue to look for ways to best manage what we have with anticipation of increases in membership revenue and beautification donations.

ONA Financial Summary as of 2/23/2023											
	Revenue	Membership		Beautification	Ac	dvertising	Inter	est		Total	
Category	2022-2023 Budget \$	14,987	\$	9,600	\$	-	\$	-	\$	24,587	
	2022-2023 Actual \$	17,400	\$	8,780	\$	1,000	\$	2	\$	27,182	
1	\$ Difference \$	2,413	\$	(820)	\$	1,000	\$	2	\$	2,594	
	Member Difference	40									
	Mandatory Operating Expenses				Monthly		Months			Remaining	
						Budget	Remai			Budget	
	Newsletter (May, Sep, Feb	)			\$	212	2		\$	425	
	Postage (Sep paid)				\$	195	2		\$	389	
	Printing: Newsletter (50 co			an Paid	\$	29	2		\$	57	
	Postage (First-Class \$0.58):		5		\$	15	2		\$	29	
Category 2	Platinum Scapes (May-Jan I				\$	621	3		\$	1,862	
	Platinum Scapes Beautifica		aid)		\$	800	3		\$	2,400	
	Storage (Paid through Jan 2	022)			\$	102	3		\$	306	
	Avg Utilities per month esti	mated (May-Ja	n Pai	d)	\$	350	3		\$	1,050	
	3-Year Website (Paid until /	April 2024)			\$	463	0		\$	-	
	Annual Bulk Mail Fee Due in	n December			\$	265.00	0		\$	-	
	Annual PO Box Fee Due in 0	October (Pd thru	Oct	'23)	\$	240.00	0	1	\$	-	
				To	tal O	perating Exp	penses Re	maining	\$	6,519	
	Money Market Balance		\$	18,002							
Category 3	Events Budgeted		\$	950							
	Events Spent		\$	431							
	Events Balance		\$ \$ \$	519							
	General Maintenance Budg	eted	\$ \$ \$	500							
	General Maintenance Spen		\$	230							
	General Maintenance Balar	ice	\$	270							
	Checking Account Balance							13,520	_		
	Total Operating Expenses						\$	(6,519)			
	Special Events Money Rer	naining					\$	(519)	1		
	Officer Barnes Fundraising	3					\$	-			
	General Maintenance Mo	ney Remaining					\$	(270)	)		
	Minimum Checking Accou	nt Balance to a	void	fees			\$ \$ \$ \$ <b>\$</b>	(2,000)			
	Operating Funds Remaining	(deficit)					\$	4,213			
									-		





(830) 216-3784 Houses, Apartments, Offices



Local Asian Marketplace! Fresh Meat & Seafood!

3347 W. Walnut St., #101 Garland, TX 75042 Tel: 972-272-1993 Fax: 972-487-9092

2430 E. Pioneer Pkwy. Arlington, TX 76010 Tel: 817-459-1311 Fax: 817-459-1317

www.oakridgena.org Page 3



## City Councilman Update

by Dylan Hedrick, District 7 City Councilman, Oakridge Resident

As we move closer to spring, we are coming up to another election cycle for the City of Garland. The filing deadline was February 17 for the Mayor's race and those candidates in Districts 3, 6, 7 and 8.

I am extremely grateful that I will be able to serve the citizens of Garland and of District 7 for my third and final term as no other candidates filed to oppose me. Also, the current council members in Districts 6 and 8 were term limited, thus the unopposed candidates Carissa Dutton and Christopher Ott will serve in those Districts, respectively. Incumbent Mayor Scott LeMay will face Roel Garcia for Mayor, and incumbent Ed Moore will face PC Matthew in the District 3 race.

In Council business, we are considering façade improvements to the North Garland Branch Library. At our Work Session February 20, staff provided architect renderings of the proposed improvements. The red exterior sign, which frequently had lights that failed to light, will be replaced with a bright yellow library sign that will be visible from Winters Park across the street.

An outdoor space will be added with colorful murals and additional landscaping. Pedestrian access will be improved to better connect the library to the recreational facilities across N. Garland Avenue from the site. Funding will be provided through our Façade Improvement Program



through the Office of Neighborhood Vitality and cost sharing with the shopping center owner. This work will continue the improvements already made along the N. Garland corridor that includes entrance improvements to the Coomer Creek neighborhood and bridge beautifications to the bridge over the creek south of the intersection of Wagon Wheel Road and N. Garland Avenue.

Finally, the Council will consider the future of the Tinsley-Lyles House. The house is a historic structure built in the late 1800's by William A. Tinsley at Austin and First Street. The house was later purchased by R.H. Lyles in 1902 and subsequently donated to the City of Garland. In March of 2015, the Tinsley-Lyles House was moved to its current location north of the Central Library.

Since then, the house has fallen into disrepair as the structure has significant wood rot and has been vandalized multiple times. The cost to rehabilitate the mechanical and structural components of the house was estimated at \$265,000. While we attempt to preserve the history of early Garland residents, I fear that the repair and maintenance costs may outweigh the value provided by preserving this structure.

Reach out to me with your opinions on these matters or any other city issues. Please contact me at 469-560-6099 or <a href="mailto:council7@garlandtx.gov">council7@garlandtx.gov</a> if there is anything I can do for you. I look forward to hearing from you.



## 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: <a href="mailto:communications@oakridgena.org">communications@oakridgena.org</a>
for more information.

Page 4 Oakridge News

## Oakridge Daytimers

by Sally Weiss, Oakridge Daytimers

If red is your favorite color (and its mine) then Margaret Fowler's lovely home is where you should have been on Valentines' Day. Everything was colorfully decorated with heart streamers and Valentine-inspired plates, napkins and tablescape with tasty goodies from Elaine Davis, Shirley Heald and Mary Pattie. Thank you, Ladies!

As suggested in January's article, there was indeed a surprise waiting for us this day. What better entertainment could there be than crooner-extraordinaire Brad Ackland?! He sang in the style of Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Michael Buble, etc., perfect for those of our generation. He sang love songs to some of us individually and had this reporter swooning. For more information on Brad you can Google him and find the myriad events that he's available for, although he said he's booked well in advance.

Following our crooner, we still had a short business meeting and events of the various committees were discussed. We had been encouraged to make or buy a Valentine to bring so that when we departed, we were able to receive a random Valentine on the way out.

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 Ann Conrath at 469-367-0802.

### Oakridge Men's Group

by Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

The Oakridge Gentleman's Group meets every third Wednesday at 10:30 am. In the past, we have met at the Duck Creek Country Club. Since it burned last year, we are now meeting at the Spring Creek Church, 2660 Belt Line Rd., (14-18 Coffee Shop) on the West Side of the Church building just off Beltline Road.

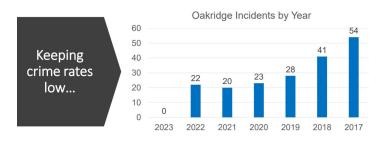
All men in Oakridge...Retired, Taking a Day off, On Vacation or just needing a break from the daily grind...are welcome. You will be surprised at the diversity and talent of all the men. We are not a Religious Group. Nor Political. Nor Controversial. We discuss everyday problems and situations. Enjoy each other's company. And enjoy the coffee.

## Oakridge Crime & Safety

by Joan Nichols, ONA Crime & Safety Committee Director

Oakridge prides itself on a long history of active involvement of its members in watching out for one another. The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA), through its Crime Prevention and Safety Committee, serves the ONA's mission to improve and maintain the quality of life in Oakridge.

Call 911 for an active crime or the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840 when you see suspicious activity. Siren alerts notifying residents of incidents in our neighborhood are available to anyone who has subscribed on our website or by contacting us at <a href="mailto:safety@oakridgena.org">safety@oakridgena.org</a>.



Lock your vehicle!

Most of the crime in Oakridge is theft from unlocked vehicles!

Remove valuables – especially your guns and keys.





The Garland Texan

www.oakridgena.org Page 5

**Oakridge News** 

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



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## OAKRIDGE FAMILY SPRING PARTY SUNDAY, APRIL 30 2-4 PM



DUCK CREEK GOLF COURSE PARKING LOT (Corner of Big Oaks and Diamond Oaks)



Bring the whole FAMILY.

FREE FOOD (Even if you are not an ONA member)!!! Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks

(desserts made by the Daytimers)

The 2023-24 membership campaign is underway!

Pet a dog available for adoption from the Garland Pet Shelter

Join the Oakridge neighborhood association at www.oakridgena.org/join-us



Want to know more about the workings of GPD? The Garland Citizens Police Academy offers a 13-week program that focuses attention on the internal values, philosophy, and operations of the Garland Police Department. Designed for citizens, the academy educates citizens about the "How's and Why's" of the department, and the citizen's role in the interaction of citizens and police. The March class is full but it's not too early to apply for August. Click the link for more info. <a href="https://www.garlandpolice.com/334/Citizen-Police-Academy">https://www.garlandpolice.com/334/Citizen-Police-Academy</a>.

#### 2022-2023 ONA Board

#### info@oakridgena.org

#### Officers

Officers						
President, BillyRay Thomas Vice President, Vickie Litton						
Secretary, Sharon Parrish Treasurer, Veronica Brown-Corbin						
·	214-042-4613					
District Directors						
District 1, Joanna Albright	973-879-5965					
District 2 Co-Directors						
Jack Lang	214-395-8596					
Sallie Lang						
District 3, VACANT						
District 4 Co-Directors						
Oliver Harter	214-663-8862					
Jackie Jones						
District 5, Melanie Busby	972-989-2253					
District 6, Ruba Qewar	972-207-1911					
District 7, Joetta Harris	469-955-1513					
Committees						
Communications, Cheryl Jones	214-437-9132					
Crime & Safety, Joan Nichols						
Environmental, David Parrish						
Events, Jackie Reynolds						
Membership, Cecile LaBossiere						
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Oakridge News Page 6