

OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

April 2023, Vol. 31, No. 04



Happy
Easter!

Board of Directors Update: BillyRay Thomas, President

At Last! Spring has sprung. The leaves are turning green on the trees and crews are busy all over the neighborhood mowing lawns and bagging fallen leaves. The garden shop at the nearby Home Depot looks as though they have a sale going on. Business is booming. You may want to stop by and pick up your lawn supplies like fertilizer while it is on sale and supplies are plentiful.

I had an opportunity to visit with the Hurts, owners of Duck Creek Golf Club the other day. They are a breath of fresh air and have such positive attitudes despite their loss and challenges. Their friendliness has not waned and was on full display. They expressed their awareness, and appreciation of the neighborhood's concern for their well-being and the progress of the club and assured me their intention to keep moving forward with their plans to rebuild from the ashes. We are truly fortunate to have business owners in our neighborhood who care about the neighborhood and understand the direct/indirect impact of their actions on the entire Oakridge community. Thank you, Brent, and Elisha, you are welcome here!

LOOKING FOR
GARLAND EVENTS?
scan me!



The Garland Texan

Our nominating committee approved at the February General Meeting is hard at work talking to neighbors and recruiting individuals to serve in the various areas in the 2023-2024 service year. I am hopeful for a full slate of nominees to fill all vacant positions. If you are new to Oakridge, Tenants or Owners, you are welcome and eligible to serve. If you have already said yes, thank you! If you are considering, please reach out to a nominating committee member or email info@oakridgena.org. There is always room.

If you are not on Nextdoor or an ONA member, we invite you to both. A Membership Form is attached. The key word in our name is "Neighbor"-- neighbor serving neighbor in our hood".

Until next time.



Oakridge Family Spring Party
Sunday, April 30th, 2-4pm
Duck Creek Parking Lot.



All Oakridge invited. Free food, fun, four legged friends, Garland's finest and you!

Breaking News!!!!

Cheryl Jones, Communications Director

Oakridge Neighborhood Association and Oakridge now has an exclusive and branded presence on Nextdoor. The communications team and the entire Board is committed to providing members with more immediate access to information using the Nextdoor platform.

This means Board Members can post up-to-date information, create events and using the "ask your neighbor", can solicit your input real time, giving you the opportunity to be apart of conversation and decision making. Posts are exclusively visible to Oakridge residents only. Stay tuned.

Membership

Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

We are getting ready to SPRING INTO the 2023-2024 ONA Membership year. As a reminder, membership calendar starts on June 1st and ends on May 31st. We will be placing the "Membership Drive" signs at the entrances in mid-April. Feel free to join early online or by check all on the website. Save the date for the Spring Picnic on April 30th. Please stop by for food and fun, meet your neighbors and of course Join or Renew your Membership!

Click the link for more [Information about Oakridge, the ONA and Neighborhood Events.](#)

Remember:

- ONA Membership is Voluntary. (Not an HOA)
- ONA relies on Membership dues and donations to maintain the lighting, sprinkler systems, landscape and maintenance and utility costs for entries and perimeters.
- ONA encourages and welcomes member feedback, and suggestions, and participation.
- We cannot do what we do without you!

Please consider joining today:

- We do not share your information.
- Your dues allow us to continue serving the neighborhood.

Help us keep our community maintained, and inviting, to our current residents, visitors, and prospective residents.



Coming 2023-2024
Membership Year!
More convenient ways to pay.



Donna's Pet & House Sitting
Home: 972-495-8599 Cell: 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

Crime and Safety

Joan Nichols, Crime and Safety 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) Crime Prevention and Safety Committee serves its 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. Siren alerts notifying residents of incidents in our neighborhood are available to subscribers on our website or have contacted us at safety@oakridgena.org.

Reminders for Spring

Spring and warmer weather means more people working in the yards or venturing out for vacations. Criminals' activity also increases. The best way to stay safe is neighbors looking out for each other, and the following tips from the Garland Police:

- Lock your cars and Remove valuables including keys, purses, shopping bags, guns, electronics, money, medicine, and jewelry. Thieves love easy targets.
- Keep garage doors closed, especially when you are working in the yard or just stepping inside. Open garages are easy targets.
- Meet your neighbors – Knowing your neighbors, the cars they drive, habits, and visitors can help to identify suspicious activity and look out for each other.
- Sign up for Vacation Watch list: Free for Garland residents). Download and complete the Request Form (PDF).

Discourage Porch Piracy:

- Track deliveries online and quickly retrieve packages.

Crime & Safety continued:

- Have packages delivered to your office or remote pickup site. Amazon hub lockers around the city. FedEx and UPS also offer similar options. Walgreens and others offer free delivery to the store.
- Ask a neighbor to collect packages.
- Get a video doorbell (such as Nest or Ring).
- Add your Video Doorbell to the Garland Video Crime Watch. Complete the survey at <https://www.garlandpolice.com/331/Police>.

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

As always, the monthly crime reports are posted on the Website or email us if you have questions at safety@oakridgena.org.

District 7 Update

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

At our March 20 Work Session, Ninigret Partners presented the results of their Economic Development Strategic Plan. Ninigret Partners (NP) is an economic development and planning consulting firm who has previously worked on our Medical District strategic redevelopment plan. They were hired again to provide a city-wide plan that analyzed the existing conditions and trends of economic development within our city and provided focus areas and recommendations for future growth. The five key findings are as follows:

- Garland is more than a manufacturing city
- Despite being “built out” Garland still has physical development capacity
- Revenue Generation For Garland Needs To Consider Changes In State Law And Development Potential
- A continued focus is needed on neighborhoods & housing
- Garland needs a focused development effort

Over the past several years, Garland has seen significant growth in its property tax revenue and new construction. To continue to grow and compete with cities around the metroplex for residential, commercial and tourism dollars, Ninigret Partners provided several recommendations.

First they recommend that we create a “destination” to capture more non-local sales tax. This can take the form of an entertainment district, sports arena, major meeting space, indoor water park or even an E-sports arena. Suggested areas where these types of destinations can be built include Harbor Point, Firewheel, S. Garland/Shiloh and the IH-30 corridor or Downtown. To support this destination, we need to expand our lodging options by encouraging more high-quality hotels along highway corridors and boutique hotels to be built downtown. NP recommends updating the zoning codes to include flexible or hybrid business models which may span multiple uses in the current zoning code.

NP suggests that we explore options to provide spaces such as makerspaces or test kitchens to allow for entrepreneurs to develop and launch new small businesses. NP states we should make improvements to our industrial districts by adding spaces for truck staging and parking, addressing stormwater/flood management concerns, and adding amenities to beautify those older districts which have not seen much investment in many years.

As we implement the strategic plan, NP recommends engaging in additional public relations efforts to highlight the redevelopment potential of Garland to attract new and high-quality property developers to new opportunities within the City. We need to continue to improve the physical appearance of our city by focusing on high traffic corridors, shopping center façade improvements, and increasing visibility and access to our natural assets such as creeks, trails, and Ray Hubbard Lake.

Finally, NP wants us to identify specific sites near amenities that may be redeveloped as new housing types. We should also develop a strategy to acquire low quality multi-family housing complexes that may be redeveloped into a higher quality and diverse housing stock.

The entire report goes into much further depth and is worth reading through if you are interested in the future shape of our city. It is available on the City's website at garlandtx.gov.

Please contact me at 469-560-6099 or council7@garlandtx.gov if you have any questions or comments or if there is anything I can do to assist you.



C H E R Y L J O N E S
REALTY

214-437-9132

cjones@cheryljones4homes.com
www.cheryljones.realestate

Oakridge Resident since 1996
34 Years of Real Estate experience
Offering Oakridge Discounts and Rebates

C H E R Y L J O N E S
BROKER-OWNER
Independently owned and operated.

NOTARY
MLS

Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

For our March gathering, Mariam Forster graciously welcomed us into her lovely home where special goodies prepared by June Southard, Sue Ratcliffe and Lila LaGrassa awaited us. Thank you, ladies. We always look forward to seeing what is waiting for us!

Our guest speaker was long time firefighter Jerry Click with the Garland Fire Department. He spoke about precautions to take to avoid unnecessary fires and the importance of being aware of certain hazards. He also reminded us to replace fire alarms, including hard-wired models, as parts deteriorate after that length of time and may no longer be effective. The same holds true for carbon monoxide alarms. After many other such hints, he mentioned what I thought was something on a brighter note. The city of Garland has more fire stations per capita than any other city in Texas! Most residents are only 2-3 minutes away from receiving help. It makes you feel good, doesn't it?

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.



RE/MAX Associates of Dallas

#1

Jeff Stone
Managing Broker
214-957-4386

Oakridge resident over 30 years
offering special commission rate for my neighbors!

Oakridge Men

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

The Oakridge Gentleman's Group is getting very comfortable in their new meeting place: The 1418 Coffee Shop at the Spring Creek Church building.

The March meeting table discussion centered around several topics:

- The ONA's need for help with the Environment Committee functions and Directorships.
- Neighborhood noise, with fast cars and loud mufflers.
- The bricks from the burned-out Golf Club House and how they can be used to repair small portions or replace entire sections of the wall.

The latter point will be discussed at the April Meeting (Wednesday, April 19th at 10:30 AM). It has been determined that the bricks from the Clubhouse are the same colors as the outer walls of Oakridge. That color-combination of bricks is no longer being manufactured; bricks of ALL colors have been used instead, and in the words of one homeowner "that is an unfortunate circumstance". If an authorized plan, under supervision, can be worked out, this would improve the "look" around Oakridge. Also under discussion: the City of Garland is debating "speed bumps".

The Oakridge Gentleman's Group meets the third Wednesday of each month in the 1418 Coffee Shop, Spring Creek Church, 2660 Belt Line Road, just west of Shiloh Road. 10:30 AM.



Juanita Reyes
Cleaning Service
Servicio de Limpieza

(830) 216-3784
Houses, Apartments, Offices

Are you a business owner?

Consider advertising here and reach over 1,000 residents each month.

Only **\$300** per membership year (June 1 - May 31).
Business-card-sized ads only.
Ad placement rotated monthly.
Email: communications@oakridgena.org.

2023-2024 Elections

BillyRay Thomas, ONA President

Next month you can elect new officers. There is much work to be done – the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. I know there are some great minds in Oakridge, we only need a piece of it and a willing heart. Seriously, we need help and "If" you are not pleased with the job your Board is doing, complain yes, but then get involved and be the change the ONA needs.

Qualifications are simple, be a resident of Oakridge, an ONA Member and carve out just a few hours a month. Contact the Nominating Committee or email info@oakridgena.org. The following seats are vacant:

Officers/Directors:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer (Familiar with QuickBooks, Excel)
- District Directors for Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7
- Environmental Director

Find more information on positions and duties at <https://www.oakridgena.org/ona-board/>.



2023-2024 Nominating Committee

Vickie Litton, Chair

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is for the selection of nominees for officers, district directors and committee chairs for the next operating year.

Our role is to seek out, engage and provide neighbor volunteers information on the positions of their interest. Prior to May Annual Meeting, we will present nominees to the Board for review, and then present to the membership through publication in the ONA Newsletter Website and on Nextdoor.

Nominees will be confirmed at the Annual Meeting and will start service June 1st.

Note: Additional candidates may be nominated by any member at the Annual Meeting.

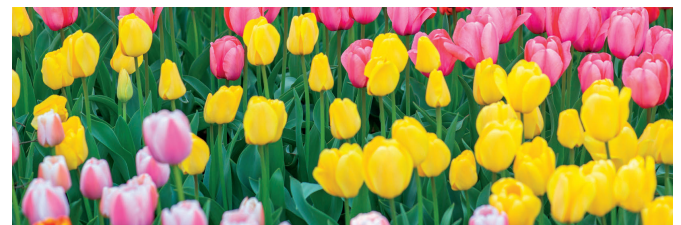
Get involved in 2023-2024! Please let us know where you would like to serve. We will do the rest. Our contact info is below:

Vickie Litton, Chair, District 1

vickie.litton@outlook.com

Diana Edwards, District 3, islandgal79@gmail.com

Dan Nichols, District 4, dsnichols1@tx.rr.com



ONA Members!

Have you received your flag?

If not, please email us at

oakridgemembership@gmail.com



協泰
Hiep Thai

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
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Oakridge Residents 411s:

Cheryl Jones, Communications Director

New Residents:

If you are new to Oakridge, WELCOME! New residents should expect to receive a "Welcome Bag" filled with goodies from the City of Garland, helpful tips, and ONA information. Email us at info@oakridgena.org to let us know you are here or if you have any questions. We hope you will consider ONA Membership. Join anytime via the website or scan the "Join QR Code".

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 on the web site <https://www.oakridgena.org/resident-resources/>.

Oakridge Districts/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 <https://www.oakridgena.org/seven-districts-of-oakridge/ona-board/>.

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 <https://www.oakridgena.org/perimeter-brick-wall/>. Note: ONA Membership contributions provide for the maintenance, landscaping, and mowing "around" the perimeter walls.

Sidewalk Repairs-City Cost Share Program:

Per Garland's 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: <https://www.garlandtx.gov/384/Sidewalk-Participation-Program>.



If you're looking for something to do in April, this looks like loads of fun...

GP&L 100th Anniversary Thank You Garland Celebration

LIVE MUSIC & FAMILY FUN!

- Music through the decades
The Vinyl Stripes
A Hard Night's Day
Tin Man Band
- Food trucks
- GP&L power line work demonstrations
- Games, bounce houses and more!

FREE Admission

Saturday, April 15 | 2 to 7 p.m.

Winters Park Amphitheater • 1419 Spring Creek Drive

Enjoy the afternoon with your family and friends.
Bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit and enjoy the music.



Calling Oakridge Creatives!!

Here's your chance to design the first official **Oakridge T-Shirt**, to show our Oakridge pride at city events.



Submit designs by May 1st to communications@oakridgena.org.

Best design will be announced at the May 25th Annual Meeting.

ONA 2022-2023 Board of Directors

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 Qewar972-207-1911
District 7, Joetta Harris..... 469-955-1513

Committees

Communications, Cheryl Jones.....214-437-9132
Crime & Safety, Joan Nichols.....214-543-2546
Environmental, David Parrish469-733-6089
Events, Jackie Reynolds.....469-649-5799
Membership, Cecile LaBossiere.....972-896-9413



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!

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$60 | Good Neighbor Level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 | Crepe Myrtle Level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$250 | Maple Level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$500+ | Oak Level |

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



Oakridge News

Oakridge Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 450145

Garland, TX 75045-0145



PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

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