



OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

July 2023, Vol. 31, No. 07



Happy Birthday America!

Board of Directors Update: BillyRay Thomas, President

Hello Oakridge, Happy 4th of July! Summer is here and the familiar smell of charcoal, hickory and pecan wood is in the air all over the neighborhood. The swimming pools are finally getting a good workout. If you are an early riser, you might see your neighbor on a morning stroll. If you listen carefully, you might hear the laughter of children playing. And don't forget the evening after things cool off, you may run across another neighbor enjoying fireworks. The key word here, as in our name is "Neighbor", and that's you and me. We have much to be thankful for and the 4th of July, is a great time to celebrate our Great Country and neighborhood. It is also a reminder that the "Freedom" we enjoy was not free, and worthy of celebration.

The 2023-2024 Board of Directors are in place and the work has begun. Each new fiscal year brings new opportunities to share the love of Oakridge with neighbors. We the ONA Board, continue to review our responsibilities, activities, and methods to identify areas for improvements. Our goal is continuous improvement. Your participation contributes greatly to these efforts. We thank all of you and appreciate your continued support.

Our official Membership Drive has closed, but the door to "Join" is always open. THE OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU! Remember, ONA membership is not required, its desired!



Garland's
"Star Spangled Spectacular"
July 2nd
[Click Here for Details!](#)



Membership

Cecile LaBossiere, Director



As we begin to wind down our Membership Drive, I wanted to extend a special "thank you" to everyone who has joined thus far. The Membership Drive signs will come down this week, but we still need your support and you can join anytime. The ONA is here to serve our residents and every dollar received will be spent wisely.

Year after Year we have a dedicated group of residents that make the contribution of \$60 and I will be forever grateful to each of you for the unwavering commitment.

Just as a reminder, as our neighborhood built in 1985 ages, so has its infrastructure. You may see individuals or groups at the entries checking the systems or making repairs. This could not be done without our dedicated member volunteers. Please consider volunteering.

Just ask yourself one question – Would I feel good about living in Oakridge and bringing family and friends to my house if the entries and perimeter were overgrown, not lighted, not mowed? Please take a moment to decide it is worth the \$60 annual membership dues. Great neighborhoods and communities start with residents like you who help to make Oakridge a great place to live. Join today!

Just a few reminders about the ONA:

- Membership is **Voluntary**. (No HOA)
- Relies on dues and donations to maintain the lighting, sprinkler systems, landscape and maintenance, utility costs for entries and perimeters, as well as community activities, so residents can meet and fellowship.
- Encourages and welcomes member feedback, recommendations, and, of course, participation.
- Will not share your information.
- Can not do what we do without you!

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

2023-2024 Member Type	Member Count
Renewals	183
First Time Supporters	5
Came Back after Hiatus	18
Total	206

District	Supporter - Member	Haven't Renewed	Not Supporting	Households	% Supporting
1	36	23	126	185	19%
2	44	18	92	154	29%
3	11	9	121	141	8%
4	42	14	95	151	28%
5	23	16	153	190	11%
6	21	14	144	181	13%
7	29	17	118	164	18%
Total	206	111	849	1166	18%

ONA Flags

Member Flags will be delivered by your District Director or Membership Volunteers. If you have not received your Flag, please email **Membership** at oakridgemembership@gmail.com.



Oakridge Culture:

Cheryl Jones, Communications Director

Oakridge' greatest asset is the diversity of its residents! Though our varied heritage and traditions though celebrated and commemorated in different ways, we all have a shared love of country, individual heritage, faith, family, and community.

The ONA salutes all Americans! As we celebrate this great country's independence, we can remember the heritages of those who fought for us to enjoy American Culture. America is still a work in progress and so are all of us.

The ONA desires its Board of Directors to reflect the diversity of Oakridge and invites all its residents to not only join the Association but showcase your piece of ONA Culture.



Interested in a neighborhood Garage Sale?

Contact Vickie Reynolds, ONA Events Coordinator.

Fourth of July Safety Tips

Joan & Dan Nichols, Crime & Safety Director

The Garland Police Department is working to keep our city free from celebratory gunshots and illegal fireworks. During the Independence Day holiday, there will be additional officers working to keep us safe.

We have signs (in English and Spanish) posted at each of the entrances highlighting the penalties of illegally shooting a gun and using fireworks.

We are looking forward to a safe Independence Day holiday! Please celebrate responsibly and be a good neighbor. If you hear fireworks or gunshots, please call the non-emergency number at 972-485-4840.

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.

Visit <https://www.oakridgena.org/crime-prevention-safety/> for all Crime Prevention and Safety Information and Tips.



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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Financial Report

Sarah Freeman, Treasurer



All 2023-2024 Financial reports will be available online at www.oakridgena.org/financials-main. Click the above link or find it on the "Resident Resources" page under "Financials".

Attention Business Professionals and Service Providers!

Your business card here could reach over 1,100 households each month.

\$300 Per Year!

Membership Year runs June 1-May 2024.

**Ad Placement rotates monthly.
Price is prorated per fiscal year.**

Contact Cheryl Jones, at
communications@oakridgena.org
to place your ad today!

FIREWORKS PROHIBITED

CELEBRATE RESPONSIBLY

UP TO \$2,000 FINE



GARLAND GarlandPolice.com



BE COOL AND JOIN THE ONA

[Click here](#)

Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO)

Joan and Dan Nichols, Crime & Safety Directors

After serving as our Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) for over 10 years, Officer Barnes will be passing on the torch to Officer Jordan Murphy, our newly appointed NPO.

The success of the Crime & Safety Committee is attributed to the great relationship built with our NPO and Garland's first responders. We trust this will continue with Officer Murphy. His message to Oakridge, "While there is no replacing Officer Barnes, I am very excited to begin working with the Oakridge community. I have been a Garland Police Officer for 8 years. During this time, I was a Field Training Officer and a coordinator over the Field Training program. I am married, and my wife is an assistant principal at an elementary school in Garland. We have two beautiful little girls ages 3 years old and 5 months. If you have any issues or ever need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. The fastest way to contact me is through email at murphyj@garlandtx.gov. I am looking forward to working this district and keeping it safe." We look forward to working with him.



"Changing of the Guard" Ceremony

We will be hosting a "Changing of the Guard" ceremony for neighbors to thank Officer Barnes and a "meet and greet" with Officer Murphy. Look for details to be posted on the Oakridge Website in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, we have set-up an e-card for neighbors to send well wishes and messages of appreciation to Officer Barnes. Click the link below to share your thoughts:

<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/jv0ELWeA#view>

RE/MAX Associates of Dallas

#1

RE/MAX

Jeff Stone
Managing Broker
214-957-4386

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

DUCKCREEK
— GOLF CLUB —

214-440-2229 duckcreekgc.com

Garland City Council, District 7

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

As construction on our Downtown Square gets closer to completion on October 14 later this year, our Cultural Arts Department has been preparing for the opening as well. On June 15, Cultural Arts filed an application with the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) to designate downtown and the surrounding area as a Cultural District Designation.

If accepted, this prestigious state designation would recognize Garland's Bankhead Cultural Arts District for 10 years as one of 52 Cultural Districts in Texas and open State-funding opportunities for programs and improvements within the district. These districts can become focal points for generating businesses, attracting tourists, stimulating cultural development and fostering civic pride.

The rigorous application requires substantial information about the district's visual and musical arts programming and requires an audio visual component. You can view our application video, a map of the district, and more information about our application [here](https://garlandarts.com/4078/Cultural-District): <https://garlandarts.com/4078/Cultural-District>.

Our application will be reviewed by the TCA in July and August, and we will receive notice about our district status in September, hopefully just in time for the Square's grand opening.

On June 10, I participated in the second annual Duck Creek Litter Cleanup in South Garland near Duck Creek Park. Over 100 volunteers helped get the "yuck out of Duck Creek" armed with waders, gloves, grabbers and trash bags. The event sponsored by Keep Garland Beautiful and our Parks and Recreation Department removed several hundred pounds of bottles, cans, plastic bags and even four shopping carts in and along the creek. In the future, I would like to sponsor a similar event in north Garland to help clean Spring Creek or the northern reaches of Duck Creek. Keep an eye out for more information.

As always, I am thankful to represent the wonderful people of Garland's District 7. Please reach out to me at council7@garlandtx.gov or 469-560-6099 if there is anything I can do for you.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

*OWC celebrates Tracy Murphy,
Happy Birthday and Get Well Soon!*

Greenview Drive Street Party

JC Elliott, Resident/ONA Secretary

Residents on Greenview Drive met in the home of new resident JC Elliott for a 'get to know your neighbor' event. Jan Shrah welcomed JC to the neighborhood last September, and the two have been fast friends ever since. Jan helped JC host the Greenview Drive Street party where old friends caught up with each other and many new friendships were formed.



Many '**Rock the Block**' events have been held in Oakridge in the past and were outdoor events on a blocked off street, lawn, or parking lot, but with the temperatures in the triple digits, JC and Jan opted for an in-home, casual, come-and-go event on a Saturday afternoon. Frequently in our busy lives, we don't have the opportunity or time to meet and get to know our neighbors as we did in the past. JC has always forged new friendships with her neighbors and believes that knowing your neighbors is as important as the house in which you live! To that end, JC and Jan hosted the event with several goals in mind:

Crime:

- With increasing crime rates, it's more important than ever for neighbors to know each other, so they can be on the lookout for unusual or suspicious activity. Should that occur, neighbors can check in to make sure all is well, and, if not, help mitigate the situation by calling the appropriate authorities.

continued:

- Paying attention and recognizing your neighbors goes a long way to helping keep our neighborhoods safer.

Property:

- With hectic schedules, work demands, and family commitments, people are often on-the-go without a minute to spare, leaving their homes unoccupied for extended lengths of time. Knowing your neighbors is wonderful in case you need a package picked up from the front door, or newspapers and mail collected when needed.
- Friendly neighbors can keep an eye on your house when you're traveling, or let you know if you've got a water leak or broken sprinkler head that you may not be aware of. Or that your gate was left open, and your pup is down the street!
- And property demands so much maintenance! Nice to know that neighbor who's got tools and know-how to help with a project now and then or can quickly help you with a two-person task.

Safety/ Wellness:

With many retired people in Oakridge, it's a comfort that we can rely on neighbors to check on each other from time to time and notice if someone hasn't been seen in a bit. Being aware of our neighbors and paying attention goes a long way to creating a neighborhood where people want to live.



Fun!

Great to meet neighbors with common interests who you can get together with for a game of cards, chess, or golf. Maybe share gardening tips or share whatever fun hobby you enjoy. Grab a neighbor for a walk or a workout. JC loves to cook and discovered her across the street neighbors are also foodies! (We see more parties in the future for Greenview Drive!)



As Oakridge residents, we encourage folks to get to know their neighbors. You can start small by just introducing yourself to neighbors you haven't met yet and go from there. If you'd like to host a block party, the City of Garland even has a Block Party Trailer that you can reserve for your event. Find more information at <https://garlandneighborhoods.org/2117/Block-Parties>

Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

The Daytimers take a hiatus during the summer but always eagerly look forward to reconvening in September. Watch your Newsletter for details concerning the September coffee. 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.

A professional real estate advertisement for Cheryl Jones. It features a headshot of Cheryl Jones, a woman with dark curly hair wearing a red top. To the right of the photo is the text 'CHERYL JONES REALTY' with a stylized 'J' logo. Below this is the phone number '214-437-9132', email 'cjones@cheryljones4homes.com', and website 'www.cheryljones.realestate'. At the bottom, it states 'CHERYL JONES BROKER-OWNER', 'Independently owned and operated.', and 'Oakridge Resident since 1996, 34 Years of Real Estate experience, Offering Oakridge Discounts and Rebates'. There are also icons for 'NOTARY', 'MLS', and a house icon.

Oakridge Women's Club (OWC) Libby Morse, Resident

The Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women of Oakridge. We all share a common bond in the love of our children, families, and community and even become friends.

OWC meets the first Thursday of the month at 7pm at various locations. Join us for pot luck or dining out, hot tub side chats, water aerobics, holiday progressive dinners. Last month we met for dinner at Hanna Sushi on Beltline in Garland. Food was wonderful, we were entertained and enjoyed the fellowship.



If you need a break once a month to relax and unwind, email Libby Morse at tomlib@tx.rr.com for information. OWC is on Facebook and Nextdoor.

Scan me for all Garland Events



www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events

Oakridge Residents 411s:

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".

Click **Subscribe** for Email Alerts!

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. Click ***Find Your District*** to locate your District and ONA District Director.

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://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>.

ONA 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Officers

President, BillyRay Thomas 214-734-1017
Vice President, Vickie Litton 972-762-2805
Secretary, JC Elliott 469-774-7114
Treasurer, Sarah Freeman 214-927-1148

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, VACANT
District 6, VACANT
District 7, Joetta Harris 469-955-1513

Committees

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