



OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

June 2023, Vol. 31, No. 06

happy Father's Day

Board of Directors Update: BillyRay Thomas, President

Hello Oakridge, welcome to June! Excitement is in the air. The end of the school year marks the beginning of summer break, graduations, weddings, vacations, and tons of fun. Congratulations 2023 graduates and may you all have a great summer.

Happy Father's Day Oakridge Dad's! Milk your day for all you can--it'll be back to "honey do's" before you know it. Seriously enjoy, you deserve it!

June 1st begins our 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. I am excited to serve a 2nd term and am looking forward to making it one of our best years.

The General Membership meeting was held via Zoom May 25th. The General Membership unanimously voted in a superb slate of nominees eagerly ready to serve their posts. Hats off to the Nominating Committee for a job well done, as they are essential in the board selection process. I hope you will consider serving in the next election cycle.

If you were not able to attend the meeting, you missed a treat. A special thanks to our honorable Mayor, Scott Lemay for spending time with us, and our very own neighbor and District 7 Councilman, Dylan Hedrick who keeps us well informed.

Officer Tommy Barnes, our NPO was unable to attend but sent his well wishes to Oakridge. Let's keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Our next ONA Board Meeting will be June 13th at 7:00pm. Residents are welcome to observe with 72 hours notice. Email us at info@oakridgena.org if interested.

Thank you all for your continued support of the ONA and Oakridge. We all love this neighborhood -- and the key word is Neighbor!

Remember, membership in the ONA is not required, it's desired.

Until next time.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

JOIN NOW

www.oakridgena.org

Support Your Neighborhood



2023-2024 Board of Directors

Thank You

Returning Officers and Committee Chairs:
Billy Ray Thomas, President
Vickie Litton, Vice President

WELCOME

JC Elliott, Secretary
Sarah Freeman, Treasurer



Veronica Brown-Corbin
David Parrish
Sharon Parrish

We are immensely grateful for the time donated to serve the neighborhood on the ONA Board! The success of the ONA depends upon volunteers.

2023-2024 Budget

Sarah Freeman, Treasurer



The 2023-2024 Budget approved by the General Membership May 25th, 2023 is available on the website 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!

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Fax: 817-459-1317

Juanita Reyes
Cleaning Service
Servicio de Limpieza



(830) 216-3784

Houses, Apartments, Offices

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.

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

Donna's Pet & House Sitting

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

Donna Feher

Partnered With Suo Hageland

Oakridge Area Resident for 30+ Years

Insured - Certified in Pet First Aid/CPR

Overnight Stays in Your Home or Mine



Membership

Cecile LaBossiere, Director

The 2023-2024 Membership Year is here!

Thanks to everyone that has supported this year's membership drive! We continue to see many residents participating and I am hopeful that we will have enough support to fund the ONA's mission as well as meaningful events that promote neighbors meeting neighbors!

As you might have noticed, our new flag color is *Pink*. Let's see those flags flying throughout the neighborhood this year! Remember when you join the ONA, you make a difference in your neighborhood.

A Membership Form is attached so you can join by mail or online. This link will take you to the "Join" page. <https://www.oakridgena.org/join>.

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, prospective residents and visitors.

2023-2024 Member Summary	Member Count
Renewals	120
First Time Supporters	5
Came Back after Hiatus	10
Total	135

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.





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cjones@cheryljones4homes.com
www.cheryljones.realestate

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MLS



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

Oakridge Culture:

Cheryl Jones, Communications Director

Oakridge' greatest asset is the diversity of its residents comprised of a myriad of cultures, backgrounds, and traditions, all having a shared love of country, individual heritage, faith, family, and community.

The ONA salutes Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage! Thank you for the special way your heritage contributes to Oakridge and American Culture.

The ONA desires its Board of Directors to reflect the diversity of Oakridge and invites all residents to be apart of ONA Culture.



Garland City Council, District 7

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

The date has finally been announced for the unveiling of one of the crown jewels of our 2019 Bond Program - The Downtown Square. On October 14, Garland's own LeAnn Rimes will help us celebrate the grand opening with a concert. Festivities will start at 10 a.m. with a ribbon cutting at 3:30 p.m. Garland High School's Mighty Owl Band will march through the downtown streets and the new Square's promenade. The Landmark Museum will have an exhibit titled "Downtown Through Time: Garland's Historic Square" which showcases the history of the Square. Other activities include food trucks and other vendors, a drone light show, children's activities, and a variety of live music throughout the day culminating with a concert from LeAnne Rimes.

City voters approved the Bond Package which included \$25 million towards revitalizing the Downtown Square and 14 surrounding blocks with pedestrian friendly streetscapes and walkability improvements. The Square will now feature a large recreational and event lawn, an observatory treehouse, an imaginative play area, a pavilion for smaller, impromptu performances, an urban water fountain, and a distinctive gateway feature. We hope that these improvements will make the square a community gathering place for generations to come.

If you ever have a question about city services, you are always welcome to reach out to me, but another effective tool is using our eAssist app. The app can be downloaded to your phone (on iPhone and Android formats) and provides a calendar of local events, links to the City's social media accounts, and allows you to make a service request for parking issues, pothole repairs, missed garbage collections, water leaks, animal services, or a variety of other issues.

Usage of the app is up 30% from last year, with 5,802 eAssist "tickets" or requests made through March of this year. Roughly a third of all requests are parking related, with sanitation requests being 28% and Streets and Code Code Compliance being 8% each. All other related requests make up the remainder. In the app, you can see a map of requests made throughout the city, track the status of your requests, and communicate directly with city staff handling the request.

With the increased usage, we are improving our processes internally to improve workflows to make the app more effective for our citizens.

On May 16, the City Council welcomed two new members as District 6 Councilwoman Carissa Dutton and District 8 Councilman Christopher Ott were sworn in. Both won their elections as unopposed candidates after District 6 Councilman Robert Vera and District 8 Councilman Robert John Smith were term-limited and could not run again. Also, Mayor Scott LeMay as Mayor and myself in District 7 were re-elected for our third and final terms, and Councilman Ed Moore was re-elected to his second term in District 3. We all look forward to serving the community and continuing to move the city forward through the implementation of our bond program, street improvement program, and economic development projects.

Finally, with the new council term comes new appointments to boards and commissions. Serving on a board or commission is a great opportunity to become involved with local government and many of our boards and commissions help to serve as advisors to the City Council to help us form policy. If you are interested in serving your city, I encourage you to visit <https://www.garlandtx.gov/282/Boards-Commissions> and looking over the various board and commissions on the left hand side of the page, filling out a PDF application and sending it to the City Secretary. Right now I have vacancies on the Environmental & Community Advisory Board and two Tax Increment Financing Boards.

I am looking forward to seeing you out on the new square soon! Please reach out to me at 469-560-6099 or council7@garlandtx.gov if I may be of any assistance.

Celebration Station

The ONA wishes you Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries and Congratulations 2023 Graduates!

Oakridge Men

Mark Edwards, Resident

There are so many interesting people with many wonderful careers who live in Oakridge. Diane Sherer is one of them and the Oakridge Men's Group had the honor of meeting her at the May meeting.

Diane lives with her husband, Rusty. She is a World Class Marathon Runner and has run the World-Renowned Boston Marathon, and more than once with medals to show. Born in Lubbock; schooled at Texas Tech, she loves the Red Raiders and loves to run. Her Dad was "into sports", and that interest was passed along. The White Rock Lake Marathon was Diane's first big running event. She also ran the Airforce Marathon, the Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, and Ft Worth Marathons. These were all testing runs for the Bean-town event. And to qualify for that, you had run the 26 plus Marathon miles in less than 4 hours. Is it "tough"? You bet! Several runners have died during the event.

Diane was also a witness to the Boston Marathon bombing April 15th , 2013 two Brothers planted two homemade pressure cooker bombs, which detonated near the finish line of the race 14 seconds and 210 yards (190 m) apart. Three people were killed and hundreds injured, including 17 who lost limbs. She had to come back the next year to pick up her medals.

She had to come back the next year to pick up her medals. She didn't mention future events, but I'm sure they are in the wings. The next time you're coasting thru the neighborhood, you may see a lady runner...or a fast walker. It could be Diane. Tap the horn and say "hello".

Next meeting time is June 21st (10:30 AM) at the very comfortable Spring Creek Church 14-18 Coffee Shop, 2600 Beltline Road. See you there and just maybe you'll meet a person of note who lives in Oakridge.

ONA Celebrates Caribbean Heritage



June has been designated as National Caribbean American Heritage Month by Presidential Proclamation since 2006. Caribbean Americans have contributed to the development of the United States in extraordinary ways. Source: www.usembassy.gov.

Supporting Officer Barnes

Joan Nichols, Crime & Safety

Officer Barnes has been our Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) for over 10 years. For the past couple years, he has been battling metastatic breast cancer. He recently received news that the chemotherapy is not working and will be stopped. He is hoping to be part of a clinical trial in August. He remains positive and is motivated by his faith, family, and support from the Oakridge community.



We have set-up a link on our Website to enable the community to support Officer Barnes on The Caring Bridge at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/tommybarnes>. Oakridge residents can add notes of encouragement and get occasional updates. (Note: You will be prompted to login or create account) We have also provided a link to the [Garland Police: Never Walk Alone](#) Foundation established to help officers like Officer Barnes who are battling illness and struggling to keep up with the medical and travel expenses associated with the treatments. Click the link to learn more and donate. We continue to support Officer Barnes and look forward to the day he can return to patrolling our neighborhood in good health.

Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

What a great way to wind up our Daytimer year: great food and service from the Desperado's staff, a room brimming full of our smiling neighborhood friends and lively music from the Trinity River Ramblers with a mix of rock, country and gospel, thanks to Ann Williams, their booking agent for the day. Most especially we were thrilled to have a special visit from our dear founder Roberta Jones. It was great to see you again, Roberta!

All year, Sue Ratcliffe, with the occasional help of other members, has been lining up speakers and visitors for our meetings and has kept us thoroughly entertained, not an easy task. Thanks so much, Sue.

Then we have the food hostesses and house hostesses who make these gatherings possible. Thank you all, ladies. Finally, we have our President Ann Conrath. Here is a gal who will do whatever it takes to keep things going. Not only did she agree to be our President this past year, she has agreed to do it for yet another year. And when it became necessary for me to miss our April Coffee, who stepped in to write the article for the ONA Newsletter? You guessed it! You can always count on Ann! Thank you, Ann!

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.

Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

Libby Morse, Resident

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

We meet the first Thursday of the month at 7pm at various locations. Join for pot luck or dine out dinners, hot tub side chats, water aerobics, holiday parties, progressive dinners and even arts and crafts. Last month we met at Quiggley's Clayhouse, 1344 E. Beltline Road, Richardson.



We unleashed our creativity and finished with dinner at Phở Bắc next door. Great way to refresh, wine or unwind with neighbors. Food was great by the way.

All are welcome. 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



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, Melanie Busby..... 972-989-2253
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

Oakridge News

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



PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
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EDDM Retail

Prefer to Join/Pay by Mail? Print Form Envelope and Postage Required

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	Events & Social Activities
Seasonal Plantings	General Member Meetings
Monthly Newsletter	Holiday Decorations
ONA Website	Donations to Fire/Police Stations
Crime Prevention & Safety	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
yard to indicate your support.