



OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

August 2023, Vol. 31, No. 08



Board of Directors Update:

BillyRay Thomas, President

Hello Oakridge, it's HOT!

The temperatures we have been experiencing can quickly drain energy, cause dehydration, and according to news reports, have caused heat related deaths. Please, be mindful to hydrate if outside and wear your sunscreen.

Just like the Texas power grid, extreme heat for prolonged periods can take its toll on our aging cooling and water delivery systems. Considering the continuous 100-degree temperatures, the environmental team is proactively monitoring our systems to quickly identify areas in need of repair. If you see water running or shooting, please let your district director know or email us at info@oakridgena.org.

As we have previously mentioned, our biggest expenditure is our entrances, approximately 85% of the ONA budget. Our primary goal is continuous improvement of all nine entrances, and bringing down costs where we can. We still need help though, via membership dues, beautification funds, and boots on the ground. If you can help in any way, please email us at info@oakridgena.org.

As your summer winds down and students head back to the classroom, please know the ONA Board volunteer efforts and your continued support are greatly appreciated.

THE OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION needs YOU! The key word in our name is Neighbor, that's you. Membership in the ONA is not required, it's desired. Until Next time, Stay Cool!

Member Statistics

Cecile LaBossiere, Membership

Thank you Oakridge for your continued support. If you have not joined or renewed, please let us know what we can do to change your mind.

2023-2024 Membership Stats of 7/23	Member Count
Renewals	209
First Time Supporters	5
Came Back after Hiatus	22
Total	236

District	Supporters/ Members	Haven't Renewed	# Not Supporting	Total # Households	% Supporting
1	42	17	126	185	23%
2	49	14	91	154	32%
3	12	8	121	141	9%
4	47	10	94	151	31%
5	25	12	153	190	13%
6	28	9	144	181	15%
7	33	13	118	164	20%
Total	236	83	847	1166	20%

About ONA Membership:

- Membership is **Voluntary**. (Not an 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 and resident activities.
- 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.

Membership 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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IT'S COOL TO JOIN THE ONA



Join Today!



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

Financial Report

Sarah Freeman, Treasurer



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

Oakridge Culture:

Cheryl Jones, Communications

Oakridge has a rich diversity of cultures, and the Board would welcome current and potential members to share that diversity by joining the Board in an open seat.

These roles take very little time each month and provide a wonderful opportunity to get to know their fellow residents, as well as convey needs and wants a district may have.

We welcome you to join the Board in any of the open roles listed on page 8 of this newsletter or on our website at <https://www.oakridgena.org/ona-board/>.

Oakridge Men

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

The Oakridge gents take a hiatus during the summer. We look forward to reconvening in September.

"Beat the Heat" Meet & Greet

Joan & Dan Nichols, Crime & Safety
Join us for a "Meet & Greet". Saturday, August 19, from 8-9am, 2718 Winding Oak Trail to welcome our new Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO), Officer Murphy.



We will also thank Officer Barnes for his 10 years of service to Oakridge. Coffee and donuts for the early birds! Stop by to say "hello".



Kudoboard for Tommy Barnes

Kudoboard is an online replacement for the greeting card that you pass around and sign!

kudoboard.com

Click [Here](#) to access and sign the E-Card, express thanks and share memories. You can also click the link below:

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

Please contact us at safety@oakridgena.org or go to the ONA Website for more info.

Oakridge Safety

Joan & Dan Nichols, Crime & Safety

Oakridge prides itself on a long history of active involvement of its members in watching out for one another. The 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. Subscribe to "Siren Alerts" to be notified of incidents in our neighborhood on our website or email us at safety@oakridgena.org.

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

SAVE THE DATE

This year Garland will be hosting the
2023 Neighborhood Summit

Saturday, November 11, 8:30am-noon.
Garland Fire Admin Building, 1500 Highway 66.

Event is Free

Register early to receive a Free T-Shirt
<http://www.garlandtx.gov/4081/Neighborhood-Summit>

Attention Business Professionals and Service Providers!

Your business card here could reach over
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Contact Cheryl Jones, at communications@oakridgena.org
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Environmental Update

Cecile LaBossiere, Environmental Committee

I hope everyone is managing to keep themselves cool during the Sizzling Texas Summer!

Our Oakridge environmental team has been busy at work managing the landscaping at the entrances and ensuring the watering schedules are set to keep the shrubs and seasonal flowers alive.

You may have seen the volunteer crew working at several of the entrances during the months of June-July. We recently transitioned from our long time Environmental Director, David Parrish (Thank you David for over 20 years of service to the ONA) to a new volunteer team, Oliver Harter, Jackie Jones, Dan Nichols, and Cecile LaBossiere. David had quite a job to do and fortunately for the new team, we had a great instruction book to follow, so we could ensure that the transition went smoothly.

Our new team has been busy at the entrances:

- Big Oaks and Richland Drive: Sprinkler valve and several sprinkler heads have been replaced. The city has turned the water back on and we are now watering both entrances.
- Laurel Oaks Drive: Four broken pipes repaired and three sprinkler heads replaced, and we are now watering both flower beds and the median.
- Ridge Oaks Drive: One broken pipe has been repaired and two sprinkler heads were replaced, and we are watering both flower beds and the median.
- Overview Drive: We cleaned 6 sprinkler heads and are now watering both flower beds.
- Diamond Oaks Drive: Sprinkler Valve has been replaced and several sprinkler heads have been replaced and cleaned. We are watering both flower beds.

Environmental continued.

Our watering schedule is set for Tuesday and Saturday mornings, so if you see any unusual amounts of water on the street, please let us know so we can correct any sprinkler leaks quickly.

Our environmental team has been enjoying seeing our neighbors. There has been a lot of waves and greetings while completing repairs and maintenance.


Thanks to everyone that has waved to us and stopped to say “ Thank You”. It means a lot to us to know that the community cares and supportive of our efforts.

We would like to thank our ONA members for their contributions that allow us to continue maintaining the landscaping, lighting, and sprinkler system at the entrances and perimeter. Your ONA contributions also pay for the utility bills associated with watering and lighting the entrances, and we couldn’t make this happen without you.

Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

The Daytimers take a hiatus during the summer and will reconvene in September. Daytimers is open to all female residents of Oakridge and meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Annual membership dues of \$20.00. Any questions about joining us and the location of our next coffee may be directed to Ann Conrath at 469-367-0802.

Interested in a neighborhood-wide Garage Sale?

Contact Jackie Reynolds
ONA Events Coordinator

Garland City Council, District 7

Councilman Dylan Hedrick

As the hot summer continues, I invite you to cool off at the newest and most fun bond project to open to the public yet. On July 13th, Garland's first splash pad opened at Embree Park. This is the first of three splash pads planned in the city as part of the 2019 Bond Program. The other two are planned for Lon Wynne Park and Watson Park.

On its first day, hundreds of kids were out enjoying the fountains, tipping buckets and waterfalls. You can see a video of the first day smiles here: <https://youtu.be/EhWQgZEhOca>. The splash pad is open from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM until September 30. You may see me with my kids out there next weekend!

Our third Build Garland Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 22. This is a day where the City Council travels to various locations around the city to celebrate groundbreaking or ribbon cuttings of newly opened or upcoming bond projects. This time we will travel to Holford Recreation & Neighborhood Aquatic Center and the West Garland Branch Library for groundbreakings, and the new Tinsley Park playground for a ribbon-cutting. Tinsley Park is one of 25 parks to receive new playgrounds each with a different theme. Tinsley will feature a nature theme with a large climbing rock designed to look like a giant wolf head, log beams and log steppers, climbing boulders, tree swing, and an extra-large turtle structure.

At our July 11th City Council meeting, a Special Use Provision for a new car wash in District 7 near the northwest corner of Belt Line Road and Shiloh Road was denied. In March of this year, Ninigret Partners completed an Economic Development Strategic Plan, which provided a framework for the smart development of Garland into the future.

City Councilman Continued

The report on page 69 states that we must be selective about development requests Garland approves, especially those that do not support the Strategic Plan. I voted to reject the request because I did not buy the developer's argument during the hearing that the car wash will serve as a catalyst to bring new restaurants and retail sites to the area, nor did I think that the new car wash provides the highest and best use of land considering the limited open space remaining available to develop and the preponderance of existing car washes surrounding the site. You can find the Economic Development Strategic Plan by searching for our April 4 Council Meeting Agenda here under agenda Item 8: <https://www.garlandtx.gov/801/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes>

Each year, the Garland City Council makes its appointments to boards and commissions, which serve as various advisory boards to the city council. I encourage all citizens to have a larger voice in their communities by serving on a board. I have several openings that I would like to fill for this upcoming year. Please visit <https://www.garlandtx.gov/282/Boards-Commissions> and fill out the Board and Commission Application, so that I may consider you as an appointee.

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.

協泰

Hiep Thai

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*Happy Birthday * Happy Anniversary*

Preservation Society

David Parrish, Oakridge Resident

Preservation Society
for



"Friends of the Forest"

Fall nature programs at Spring Creek Forest.

The Preservation Society for Spring Creek Forest (Preserve, Educate, Collaborate) is gearing up for its 2023-2024 programs, when it cools off in the Fall.

Monthly Public Speaker Series: The Society has lined up an interesting array of speakers for the 1st Tuesday of each month from September to May, 7:00 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. Topics include:

- Sex in the Garden (9/5)
- All about Galls (10/3)
- Orthoptera are Hopping Across North America- grasshoppers, katydids (11/7)
- Amy Martin book preview, Wild DFW (1/2).
- 4th Sunday Nature Walks-: Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Locations vary.
- Insects on the Prairie (9/24)
- Galls in the Forest (10/29),
- Family Time in the Forest (11/26)
- First Day Hikes on January 1, 2024



The Society also hosts monthly volunteer work sessions from September to May (locations vary), guided bird walks, and special events, such as Christmas for the Birds in December and the 32nd Annual Trout Lily Walk in February, plus Members-only events for our financial and volunteer supporters.

Preservation Society continued.

For information such as locations/directions, details and newsletter subscriptions:

- Preservation Society website:
<https://www.springcreekforest.org>,
- Email:
springcreekforestpreservation@gmail.com
- Facebook Group Link:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/113504751995744>

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

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

OWC meets the first Thursday of the month at 7pm at various locations.

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.

*Looking for things to do this summer?
Check out the
Visit Garland Event Page
Scan QR Code or click link below.*



www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events

In Memorium

Oakridge Women's Club



We are saddened to report that the Oakridge Women’s Club has lost a beloved member, neighbor, and wonderful friend. Tracy McCasland Murphy passed away after a year-long battle with acute myeloid leukemia on July 20, 2023.

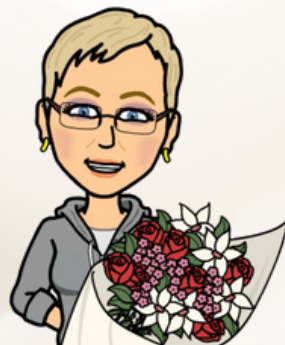
Tracy raised her family in Oakridge where she was a life-long member of the Oakridge Women’s Club and an active member of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association until life events redirected her priorities.

She was a selfless person who had a life-long devotion to public service working for 29 years in the Dallas Fire Department. She first worked as a firefighter, then as a paramedic at Station 22 where she was later a 911 dispatcher until her illness necessitated her early retirement.



Tracy chose to focus on others dealing with leukemia by organizing blood drives, as well as fundraising for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Light The Night fundraiser, which raised money for leukemia research. She was truly a remarkable person.

Tracy loved raising and spending time with her children Austin and Megan, her first priority in life. She enjoyed socializing with friends and neighbors, often opening her home for OWC meetings and gatherings. She enjoyed scuba diving, sailing, traveling, jigsaw puzzles, and her “four-legged kids” Ollie, Milo, and Hershey.



The Oakridge Women's Club extends our love and deepest sympathy to Austin, Megan (Ronnie), Paige and the entire Murphy family. Tracy truly will be missed but will live on in our memories.

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".



Join Today!

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 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:

ONA Membership dues provide for the maintenance, landscaping, and mowing "around" the 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>.

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

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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