



# OAKRIDGE NEWS

www.oakridgena.org

June 2024, Vol. 32, No. 6



## Board of Directors Update

Vickie Litton, 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 2024 graduates and may you all have a great summer.

Happy Father's Day Oakridge Dad's! Enjoy your day as you so deserve it.

June 1st begins our 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. I am excited to serve as your President and look forward to making this year one of our best years. The General Membership meeting via Zoom May 23rd. The General Membership unanimously voted for a superb slate of Board nominees eagerly ready to serve their posts as well as our incumbents. A big thank you to our very own neighbor and District 7 Councilman, Dylan Hedrick, for participating in the meeting and relaying the exciting City of Garland updates. It was also good to have our Neighborhood Police Officer (NOP), Officer Murphy, join us with the crime report reflecting that crime in Oakridge remains incredibly low and reminding us of several safety tips to follow.

A great big thank you to the Nominating Committee for a job well done, as they are essential in the board selection process. The most critical position of Communications Director remains open. I hope that you will consider serving the ONA in this position. If any residents would like to consider this position, please contact me.

Our next ONA Board Meeting will be June 3 at 7:00 pm. Residents are welcome to observe with a 72-hour notice. Email us at [info@oakridgena.org](mailto:info@oakridgena.org) if interested.

Thank you all for your continued support of the ONA and Oakridge by becoming a member or renewing your membership as well as volunteering to help us keep our neighborhood one of the best neighborhoods in Garland.



# If you're new to Oakridge,

# Welcome

## Not an ONA Member yet, Join us!

A "Welcome Bag" is coming your way! See "Oakridge 411s".



### Membership Update

Cecile LaBossiere, Membership Director

We have some exciting news for our Membership Campaign this year.

#### 1. FREE ONA POP UP EVENTS

- Our Pop-Up Events give you the opportunity to:
- Meet Your Neighbors – Grab a Goodie Bag – Come and Go Anytime
- Starting May 11th thru June 30th
- Details on the Event Locations, Day and Time will be posted on the [www.oakridgena.org](http://www.oakridgena.org) website and sent via Mailchimp

#### 2. WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE

- Renew or Join the ONA and your name will be entered into our Weekly Drawing for a \$25 gift card.
  - May 12th Winner – Sharon and Bob Eppler
  - May 19th Winner – Mike and Jan Rose
  - May 26th Winner – Kim and James Street

You can be the next raffle winner if you join now!

#### 3. WHY SHOULD I BECOME A MEMBER AND MAKE A DONATION?

- Oakridge does not have a mandatory homeowners association (HOA) but has common areas that are NOT maintained by the city.
- Maintenance costs include the lighting, sprinkler systems, landscaping and beautification of 9 entrances and approximately one square mile around the neighborhood perimeter.
- Voluntary membership dues and donations allow the ONA to pay for the services and utility bills associated with maintaining these common areas.

4. JOIN US TODAY. Online or by Mail. See below.

It will only take a few minutes to contribute to your neighborhood and won't you feel better knowing that you're doing your part to keep our Oakridge Neighborhood looking good?

Thanks to Everyone that has already joined and renewed. We really appreciate the support, and we couldn't do it without you!

### Join ONA Here!!!

Click this link or scan  
QR Code to Join the ONA

Website: [www.oakridgena.org/join-us](http://www.oakridgena.org/join-us)  
Pay using PayPal or Credit Card



Join Today!

**Print Invoice enclosed and Mail check/money**  
**order payable to ONA: PO Box 450145**  
**Garland, TX 75045**



### Membership Flags

**To show our appreciation, a Membership Flag will be delivered by your District Director or Membership volunteer. Find your District Director at <https://oakridgena.org/seven-districts-of-oakridge/>. Contact Membership at [oakridgemembership@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgemembership@gmail.com) if your flag is not delivered.**



**214-440-2229 | [www.duckcreekgc.com](http://www.duckcreekgc.com)**

## Financial Report

Sarah Freeman, Treasurer



The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year ends May 31st. We will post a final report on the website early in the month. The 2024-2025 Budget is available now online at [www.oakridgena.org/financials-main](http://www.oakridgena.org/financials-main). Click the above link or find it on the "Resident Resources" page under "Financials". If you have any questions, email us at [treasury@oakridgena.org](mailto:treasury@oakridgena.org).

## Please welcome your ONA 2024-2025 Board of Directors

- Vickie Litton, President
- Yvette Bonavita, Vice President
- Sarah Freeman, Treasurer
- Charles Leonard, District 2
- Oliver Harter, District 4
- Juliard Ishizuka, District 5
- Ruba Qewar, District 6
- Joetta Harris, District 7
- Lee Litton, Crime & Safety Director
- Josha Lamb, Environmental Director

## 2024-2025 Open Positions:

- **Secretary**
  - Document minutes for Board/General Membership Meetings
- **District 1 and 3 Director**
  - Represents district, delivers member flags and welcome bags
- **Communications Director**
  - Appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board.

The ONA is continually looking for ways to streamline our processes and improve efficiency.

For more information and ways you can help, email us at [communications@oakridgena.org](mailto:communications@oakridgena.org).

## Environmental

Joshua Lamb, Director

We are working to submit an Neighborhood Vitality Grant to change entrance lights to color changing lights to reflect seasonal holidays.

We solicit neighbor volunteers to help make our entrances and perimeter stellar. Contact me [environment@oakridgena.org](mailto:environment@oakridgena.org)

Thanks again for your donations to the Beautification Fund!

## Oakridge Plant Swap

Jackie Reynolds, Events Coordinator



If you missed our plant swap on the May 25th, you missed a real treat. It was a sunny day, and we set up tables under the trees for shade in the cozy cul-de-sac off Rocky Trail. Around 20 people or so visited us from around the neighborhood, a few bearing plants and most just coming over to see what we had. I brought about 25 cuttings of my succulents and cacti. Vickie Litton brought some Mexican grass, tomato plants, and tradescantia zebrina cuttings. Our visitors brought some things like okra, cone flowers, and mint. Charles, one of our new directors, came by on his bike and carried off one of our cuttings. If you're a gardening enthusiast or want to get some tips, check the "Events Page" on the website for our next plant swap. Happy Gardening!

## Neighborhood Garage Sales



Contact Jackie Reynolds  
ONA Events Coordinator at  
[events@oakridgena.org](mailto:events@oakridgena.org)

City of  
Garland

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

Click the link or scan QR Code  
[www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events](http://www.visitgarlandtx.org/p/events)





# 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 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.

## REMINDERS FOR SPRING

Spring and warmer weather are on the way which means more people may be working in the yards or venturing out for vacations. Criminals are also out and about. The best way to stay safe is with neighbors looking out for each other. Here are some tips from the Garland Police for keeping yourself and your neighbors safe.

Especially in the spring -

- Keep garage doors closed, especially when you are working in the yard or just stepping inside. Open garages are an easy target for thieves.
- 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. Coming to the ONA events (district pop-ups, Spring Membership Drive) is a great way to meet your neighbors and have fun!
- Vacation Watch Request (free for Garland residents). If you plan to be out of town, consider having Volunteers in Policing check your home while you are gone. You can go to the Garland Police website to complete the Vacation Watch Request form

And all the time -

- Lock your cars to help deter thieves who are looking for an easy target.
- Remove valuables from your car including keys, purses, shopping bags, guns, electronics, money, medicine, and jewelry.
- Discourage Porch Pirates with the following:
  - Track deliveries online and quickly retrieve packages from your porch as soon as they are delivered.

## Crime & Safety Continued

- Have packages delivered to your office building or remote pickup site. Amazon has several hub lockers around the city. FedEx and UPS also offer similar options. Walgreens and others offer free delivery to the store.
- Ask your neighbor to collect packages from your porch when you are away from home.
- Get a video doorbell (Nest or Ring). They may not always stop a Porch Pirate in their tracks, but they can help the police identify them later.
- Video doorbells like Ring can be good deterrent and aid police in catching criminals (even if it is blurry). Add yours to the Garland Video Crime Watch by going to <http://www.garlandpolice.com/331/Police> to complete a short survey.
- 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 (or 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 Murphy at [MurphyJ@garlandtx.gov](mailto:MurphyJ@garlandtx.gov).

As always, please feel free to see our monthly crime reports on the Oakridge Website or contact us with your Crime and Safety questions at [safety@oakridgena.org](mailto:safety@oakridgena.org).



The ONA proudly supports the Garland Police Department's Foundation and its dedicated support for "First Responders" dealing with Cancer. Click link below for more information or for donations.

<https://garlandpolicefoundation.org>

## Oakridge Safety

Joan & Dan Nichols, Crime & Safety

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved Officer Tommy Barnes on the morning of May 18th, 2024 after a long battle with metastatic breast cancer. Our deepest condolences go out to his wife Angie and his family during this difficult time. Officer Barnes served as our Oakridge Neighborhood Police Officer for over 10 years. His infectious smile and light-hearted demeanor captivated the hearts of many. He was an exceptional officer and a remarkable man. He lived a life of service, love, and dedication. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations may be made in Tommy's Honor to National Breast Cancer Foundation <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/male-breast-cancer/>.



*Detective Tommy I. Barnes*  
*1971 - 2024*

— — — — —

|                              |   |                                 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>Visitation</i>            | <i>The Potter's House of Dallas</i>   | <i>Burial</i>                   |
| <i>June 4th, 2024</i>        | <i>6777 W Kiest Blvd.</i>   | <i>June 5th, 2024</i>           |
| <i>6pm - 9pm</i>             | <i>Dallas, TX 75236</i>   | <i>2pm - 3pm</i>                |
| <i>Williams Funeral Home</i> |  | <i>DFW National Cemetery</i>    |
| <i>1600 S Garland Ave.</i>   |   | <i>2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy</i> |
| <i>Garland, TX 75040</i>     |   | <i>Dallas, TX 75211</i>         |

*The Repast will be held immediately following the Burial at  
The Potter's House of Dallas.*

## Garland City Council, District 7

### Councilman Dylan Hedrick

On May 11, we celebrated our fourth annual Build Garland Day where the City Council traveled to the groundbreaking of several new facilities that were funded as part of the 2019 Bond Program. Our first stop was Hollabaugh Recreation Center where we cut the ribbon on the renovated recreation center. The centerpiece was the new basketball court and multi-purpose meeting space including a renovated kitchen.

Our next stop took us to Watson Park where we partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife to share the costs of the improvements. We cut the ribbon on the newest splash pad in Garland, which was the fourth of five planned for the City. The final one planned for Rick Oden Park is still in the design phase.

The basketball court at Watson Park was resurfaced and Garland's first futsal court was installed. Futsal is a version of soccer that is played with a weighted ball on a smaller court with lots of passing and ball skills required. I'm sure my daughter will be out playing on the futsal court this summer while I'm with my son at the splash pad.

Our last stop was the Police Simulations Training Facility. The former police evidence storage building was renovated into a state-of-the-art training facility used to simulate real world conditions our officers may encounter. The building includes multiple rooms with movable walls that can be configured to provide various training scenarios. One room looks like a hotel room, another a grocery store, and another a street scene. The lights can be adjusted to simulate day or night and the sound system can simulate conditions such as chants from a riot to put more pressure on the trainees.

Council members were given the opportunity to run through a few scenarios including a suicidal person with a knife, an armed person threatening his partner in a store, and a protesters at a riot becoming violent. Even in that controlled environment, it was stressful, and it helped me realize what our brave officers have to deal with each day.

Our goal as a City is to provide the best training for our officers so that they know how to respond to a dangerous situation and achieve the best outcome.

Over the past decade in response to national events, there has been a greater focus on providing the highest quality training to our officers and the City Council is dedicated to just that. I encourage you to watch the video from that day at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ELtbqg6iic>.

This June will begin our annual budgeting season as the Council will meet in an all day work session June 29. This year, my goal in my final year of my term is fourfold:

Implement a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for our city retirees.

Analyze and allocate street repair funding based on the data received from our complete streets analysis that is finishing this month.

Finish the current Bond Program and prepare for a new bond election based on the results of the Bond Study Committee's recommendations.

Continue the Economic Development program through smart, strategic purchases of property and the quick disbursement of those properties to developers through partnerships for reconstruction.

There is a lot of work to be done, and I am so honored to serve as your District 7 representative. I encourage you to subscribe to my Substack at [dylanhedrick.substack.com](http://dylanhedrick.substack.com) for more information and analysis regarding city activities. Please reach out to me at 469-560-6099 or [council7@garlandtx.gov](mailto:council7@garlandtx.gov) if there is anything I can do to help you. Dylan Hedrick 713.677.4999



Join in the celebration of freedom and unity at the City of Garland's annual Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 15, from 5 to 9 p.m. at our new Downtown Square location! Click below for info: <https://www.visitgarlandtx.com/events/2023/garland-juneteenth>

Learn about the meaning of Juneteenth. Click the link: <https://www.pbs.org/articles/learn-about-and-celebrate-juneteenth>



## Oakridge Women's Club (OWC)

Libby Morse, Oakridge Resident

OWC is open to all women Oakridge. If you need a break once a month to relax, come and unwind with the Women of Oakridge. Special thanks to Rita for hosting May. The pasta with chicken and wine sauce was delicious. Pool Party at Libby's, June 6th, 7pm. Contact Libby to RSVP at [tomlib@tx.rr.com](mailto:tomlib@tx.rr.com). OWC has a private Facebook Group Page. Find us and join.

## Daytimers Coffee

Sally Weiss, Oakridge Resident

Tuesday, May 14th brought us back to Desperados for our end-of-year luncheon. The staff there has always been so accommodating and the food so good that, once again, we had a big turnout. Our President Ann Conrath thanked all her board members with a little souvenir and introduced the new board members who will be led by ingoing President Sharon Eppler. Congratulations, Ladies!

This past Daytimers year has been 9 months of fun, friendship, frolic and felicity as each of the board members diligently did their jobs. Then there were the house and the food hostesses who were so gracious and willing to share. And this all started at the top with our President Ann Conrath. Ann has led our group these past 2 years and has been such a special friend and leader. She is a class act and we thank her for sharing her time and spirit with all of us! God bless you, Ann.

As the Daytimers prepare for the summer respite, plan to come visit us when we reconvene in September. Watch the ONA Newsletter for details. 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 Sharon Eppler at 214-690-3340.

## Commercial Solicitation

§ 26.51 Permit required for commercial home solicitations.

The city of Garland requires a Permit for Commercial solicitations of homes. For more information contact Code Compliance at 972-485-6400.

Solicitation permits may be obtained at the Garland Police Department's Records Unit, located at:  
1891 Forest Lane, Garland, TX 75042

Download the application here: [Solicitation Permit Application \(PDF\)](#).

## Pickleball

Scott Youzva, Resident



If you're interested in Pickleball, you can catch a game at Duck Creek Golf Club. For more information, contact the golf club or give me a call. If interested, you can search for the "Pickleball at Duck Creek" Facebook Group for additional information. All levels of players are participating and we can get everyone on a court with players of equal experience.

I look forward to meeting anyone that wants to play or learn to play. I hope to "See you at the courts!"

**Scott Youzva**  
[s.youzva@gmail.com](mailto:s.youzva@gmail.com)  
972-816-5116



## Oakridge Gentlemen

Mark Edwards, Oakridge Resident

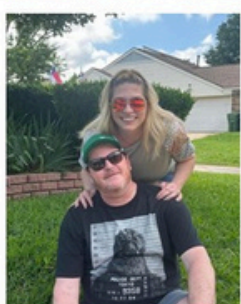
The Oakridge Gentlemen meet on Wednesdays at the 14/18 Coffee House (10:30am) in the Spring Creek Church building, near Shiloh at Beltline. All Oakridge Men are welcome.

# Neighborhood Events

## May Spring Party



## District 4 Pop Up





# OAKRIDGE ADVERTISERS

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Fax: 817-459-1317

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# Oakridge News

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



PSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S.POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM Retail

## Oakridge Residents 411s:

### New Residents: 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](mailto:info@oakridgena.org) to let us know you are here or if you have any questions. We hope you will consider supporting the neighborhood by joining the ONA. Join anytime online at [www.oakridgena.org/join](http://www.oakridgena.org/join).

## About Oakridge Neighborhood

### Association (ONA):

The ONA is a 501(C)(4) Non-Profit chartered in 1992. Its powers and authority is limited to the maintenance of 9 Entries and subdivision perimeter landscaping. The ONA has no authority over and takes no position over private property matters. The Fiscal Year begins June 1 and ends May 31st of the following year. Membership is voluntary. Dues are \$60 annually per household. Click the link for information at <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>.



**GPD Non-Emergency - 972-485-4840**



## 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/4086/Sidewalk-Participation-Program>

### 2023-2024 Board of Directors

#### Officers

President, Vickie Litton ..... 972-762-2805  
Vice President, Yvette Bonavita ..... 214-734-2186  
Secretary, OPEN  
Treasurer, Sarah Freeman ..... 214-927-1148

#### District Directors

District 1, OPEN  
District 2, Charles Leonard ..... 972-619-9310  
District 3, OPEN  
District 4, Oliver Harter ..... 214-663-8862  
District 5, Juliard Ishizuka ..... 817-739-1139  
District 6, Ruba Qewar ..... 972-207-1911  
District 7, Joetta Harris ..... 469-955-1513

#### Committees

Communications, OPEN  
Crime & Safety, Lee Litton ..... 972-762-0938  
Environmental, Joshua Lamb..... 682-558-5528  
Events, Jackie Reynolds ..... 469-649-5799  
Membership, Cecile LaBossiere ..... 972-896-9413



# 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](mailto: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](http://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.