

The Oak Leaflet

The Newsletter of the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association

Oakhurst Established in **1924**. National Register of Historic Places, **2010**.

Voted Neighborhood of the Year three times: **2006, 2010** and **2022**!

Named Best Neighborhood Association, **2024** by Fort Worth Magazine.



Hot Days, Good Neighbors

~By ONA Beautification Committee



John Landry,
Kathryn, Keith,
Ashton & Cassidy
Omarkhail, Fran &
Frank Burns
pictured at Audine's
Circle Commons
Area, ONA's
Beautification
Initiative

Summer is here, and Oakhurst is looking bright! Neighbors have been pitching in through the Oakhurst Beautification Initiative, with recent work along W. Lotus, Audine's Circle, and the Daisy Lane Triangle.

Thank you to everyone who has helped bring a little extra care and color to these shared spaces. There is still more to come, and anyone who would like to join in can reach out to Fran Burns to learn about up-coming opportunities. **Better yet, see a small area that could use attention? Grab a neighbor and make it a mini cleanup!**

As the pace of summer slows and the days heat up, it is a great season for porch waves, quick check-ins, shady walks, and small moments that keep Oakhurst feeling connected.

From Doorsteps to Digital: Staying Connected in Oakhurst

~By Kathryn Omarkhail

For 55 years, the Oakhurst newsletter has been one of the most consistent ways neighbors have stayed connected.

If you ever miss a newsletter delivery, please let me know so we can help make sure you receive a copy.

Long before websites and social media, the newsletter — along with the telephone — helped share neighborhood news, events, updates, and reminders. It remains an important part of how ONA communicates today. (continued on page 5)

OAKHURST

★ ★ ★ FOURTH OF JULY ★ ★ ★

PARADE & FAMILY PICNIC

★ Saturday, July 4, 2026 ★

PARADE BEGINS 10:30 a.m.	FAMILY PICNIC 11:30 a.m.
➤ DECORATE & JOIN THE PARADE! ➤ Bring your patriotic spirit and decorate your: ★ BIKES ★ SCOOTERS ★ WAGONS ★ STROLLERS ★ YOURSELVES!	➤ FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES! ➤ WATERMELON EATING CONTEST EGG TOSS CORN HOLE RACES & GAMES ...and more!
★ ONA PROVIDES: ★ HOT DOGS DRINKS	
★ SPECIAL RECOGNITION ★ OAKHURST CENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE PLAQUE Celebrating Our Past • Looking Toward Our Future	
COMMUNITY ★ FAMILY ★ TRADITION 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE — OAKHURST STYLE —	

July YOM belongs to Page Simpson,
1721 Bluebonnet Drive, page 4.





City Reminds Neighbors of Basic Codes

By Fran Burns



High grass and weeds are not just an eyesore—they're a serious safety and health concern. Tall vegetation can block drivers' visibility, pose fire hazards, attract rodents and snakes, and create the perfect environment for mosquitoes, chiggers, and other pests.

To keep our neighborhoods clean and safe, the City of Fort Worth requires all property owners to maintain grass and weeds at a height of 12 inches or less on both developed and vacant lots.

Response to violations: If your property exceeds this height, you'll receive one certified notice per year and will have 10 days to mow. If the issue isn't resolved, the City will step in and have a contractor do the work, at the property owner's expense. The average mowing fee is \$250, due within 30 days. Unpaid charges may result in a lien being placed against the property.

Abandoned/Junked Vehicles on Private Property in Fort Worth are more than just an ugly sight—they pose safety risks and are considered a public nuisance.

A vehicle is considered junked when:

- It doesn't have a lawfully attached, unexpired registration sticker and license plate.
- It's wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled. It's on private property and has not worked for over 20 consecutive days.
- It's visible from a property different from the one where it's located.

Response to violations: These vehicles may be towed and destroyed following a formal hearing process. Owners could also face fines of up to \$200.

Accumulation of trash and debris is more than a blight on a property and neighborhood—it can create serious health hazards. Items like old furniture, appliances, tires, car parts and other junk left outside can pose risks and are not permitted. Health Hazards: Old furniture and appliances can harbor mold, bacteria and pests like rodents or insects, which can spread diseases. Tires, especially when left in damp areas, can collect water and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, including those that carry diseases like West Nile virus or Zika.

Response to violations: If a violation is noticed, the property owner will receive a warning notice with clear instructions on how to resolve the issue within a specified timeframe. Failure to take action can result in a fine of up to \$2,000.

For persistent violations, the case may be escalated to the Building Standards Commission, City Council or District Court for further action. Additionally, if the City is required to clean up the property, the associated costs may be placed as a lien against the property.

City of Fort Worth Plans Sewer Replacement Project

Residents and businesses in Council District 11 are being notified that the city will begin construction on multiple water and sewer main replacement initiatives, with a focus on aging cast iron infrastructure.

Riverside, Oakhurst and East Fort Worth Water & Sewer residents can expect construction to begin as soon as design/right of way plans are approved. Construction should be completed in 2028. This is Part 1 of a capital improvement project. Aging cast iron water mains and sewer mains will be replaced. Cast iron water mains will be removed and replaced in Goddard, Gilmore, Grace (water only), Sylvania (water only), Carnation, Blandin and Aster (water only).

Water and sewer will be replaced in Gilmore, Goddard, Blandin, Carnation and Haltom. Sewer only will be replaced in Pittsburg Place and Haltom Road. Goddard Street will have new pavement, only.

Residents and businesses affected can stay up to date by visiting [fortworthtexas.gov/projects/cfw-riverside-area-sewer-improvements](https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/projects/cfw-riverside-area-sewer-improvements). In addition, public meetings are planned to inform residents of the upcoming construction and what to expect.



William R. Lane's original Bonnie Brae Elementary/RALC (1957)

~By Libby Willis



If you have been paying attention to news from the Fort Worth Independent School District over the last eight months, you know many changes have taken place, including the district's takeover by the Texas Education Agency. However, before that event, the FWISD elected trustees decided in 2025 to begin a multi-year process of closing and consolidating 18 schools in the district. That list involved Riverside.

At the end of this school year, the original Bonnie Brae Elementary/Riverside Applied Learning Center (RALC) closed permanently as a school. All of the students from RALC will move from their campus at 3600 Fossil Drive to the "new" Bonnie Brae Elementary School at 3504 Kimbo Road where they will continue the applied learning curriculum. It's a good time as RALC is retired to remember the interesting history of the school;



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1954

Built as the original Bonnie Brae Elementary School, the "1-story, red brick, International-influenced" school, as historian Susan Kline describes the architecture of the Fossil Drive building just off Chesser Boyer Road, was designed by architect William R. Lane and built in 1956-57. Lane, a Vernon native, earned his architecture degree at the University of Texas. He served as a Navy officer during World War II and directed the 1952-53 six-room addition to Hubbard Heights Elementary School. His major project in Fort Worth was the 1954 A Frame St. Paul Lutheran Church on the West Freeway.

Bonnie Brae Elementary was developed at the same time the City of Fort Worth made 3.7 acres of land immediately adjacent to the school Bonnie Brae Park in 1957. After World War II, landscape architect and City of Fort Worth Park consultant Sid Hare recommended the idea to locate new parks by new schools. It was a spectacular idea which benefited the school children and their families. The kids could end their school day by playing a softball or baseball game in the park, and their families could bring picnics to watch. Other FWISD schools besides Riverside Applied Learning Center with parks adjacent include Diamond Hill High School and Morningside Middle School.

This school/park concept used at the original Bonnie Brae Elementary School is only one of many Hare and Hare design assets in Riverside. From Oakhurst Scenic Drive to the layout of West Oakhurst to the landscaping of other Riverside public schools to the Bonnie Brae Esplanade to the south of Amon Carter-Riverside High School, Riverside has benefitted mightily from the touch of Hare and Hare Landscape Architects.

Since 1996, RLAC has had a popular applied learning curriculum based on the work of John Dewey which stressed that relevant teaching and learning must apply to life and career situations. William Lane's 70-year-old original Bonnie Brae Elementary School/Riverside Applied Learning Center building is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The FWISD has said in the past year it would initially use the building after closing as a place for district swing space.

ONA SOCIAL

Thursday, July 16 | 6 - 8:00 PM | My Stomping Grounds, 5130 Northern Cross Blvd

Oakhurst Neighborhood Association meets monthly on the third Thursday.



YARD OF THE MONTH

By Fran Burns

The July Yard of the Month belongs to Page Simpson at 1721 Bluebonnet Drive. She has lived in Oakhurst since 2011 and said she was attracted to Oakhurst because of the unique houses, all the trees and its location close to downtown and work.

Regarding the community, she said she loves that the neighborhood is active and constantly works to keep residents informed of issues that may affect them. "I also enjoy baking for the annual Police and Firefighters Appreciation event", she said.

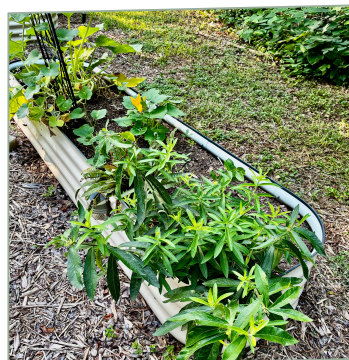
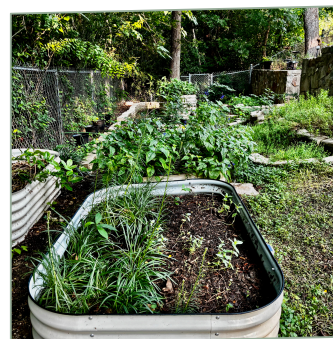
Page admits that she has experienced so many challenges in this yard. She said "I knew that a big problem was the quality of the soil due to the runoff into the culvert in my yard. I knew I needed a solution. It took a lot of experimentation before I was able to find the

*Dirt Lockers. I'm hoping the soil will continue to improve now that I am mostly done with installation," she added and continued "I am hoping to minimize tree loss due to improving the soil as well."

A native garden next to the driveway demonstrates that she's "been focusing on planting more native plants to attract bees and butterflies."

On a personal note, Page said that she was a prosecutor for 24 years and retired at the beginning of 2025. She said she is still working but working much less and that she loves spending time in the yard, baking and reading.

*Dirt Lockers – an erosion-control system that allows gardeners to plant along slopes while slowing water runoff. For information, visit dirtlocker.com.



Red, White and Oakhurst: Public Safety Reminder, Illegal Gunfire

As summer celebrations and gatherings increase, the City of Fort Worth is reminding residents that firing a gun into the air is illegal and dangerous. Stray bullets can travel long distances and cause serious injury or death when they return to the ground.

Fort Worth police report a significant increase in arrests related to illegal gunfire in recent years and continue to enforce these laws aggressively. Residents are also encouraged to practice responsible firearm ownership by securely storing firearms and never leaving them unattended in vehicles.

If you hear illegal gunfire, call 911. Together, we can help keep our neighborhoods safe for everyone. As a reminder, fireworks are not permitted within Fort Worth city limits. Please help keep the holiday safe and neighborly by keeping pets indoors during evening fireworks in surrounding areas.

Thank you for helping make the holiday festive, fun and neighborly.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - -Blaine Brewer

Dear Neighbors,

As we celebrate Independence Day, our nation is also approaching a remarkable milestone—the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. For nearly two and a half centuries, America has been defined not only by its ideals of freedom and opportunity, but also by the character of its people and the strength of its communities.

Sure, things aren't perfect here, and if you spend too much time on social media, you might believe our problems are irreparable. Recently, however, I've enjoyed seeing something very different online: the stories and experiences of World Cup visitors experiencing our country—especially Texas—for the first time.

One recurring theme stands out. Our barbecue is unmatched, both in size and flavor, and more importantly, Texans are remarkably friendly. Whether it's offering directions, helping a stranger, striking up a conversation or simply extending a warm welcome, our state's reputation for hospitality is on full display for the world to see.

I see that same spirit in our neighborhood.

As we gather for our Fourth of July celebration at Oakhurst Park, I encourage each of you to invite a neighbor, welcome a newcomer, or introduce yourself to someone you haven't met before. Oakhurst Park is one of the jewels of our neighborhood—a place where neighbors gather, traditions are celebrated and community comes to life. Let's continue building a community so welcoming, connected and vibrant that visitors leave wishing they lived here too.

Happy Fourth of July, everyone. Sincerely, *Blaine Brewer*



From Doorsteps to Digital: Staying Connected in Oakhurst

(continued from page 1)

~By Kathryn Omarkhail



Technology has given Oakhurst many additional ways to connect, including oakhurstfw.org, Facebook, Nextdoor and Instagram. These platforms can be wonderful lifelines for sharing information, asking questions, celebrating good news and staying connected. At the same time, because there are several neighborhood-related groups and pages on social media, it can sometimes be hard to know which accounts are official ONA communication channels. In short, anyone can start a group and include "Oakhurst" in the name or handle.

As the ONA Communications Chair, I am working with a small group to help keep neighborhood information clear, consistent, and easy to find.

We currently have three neighbors helping with communications, and there is room for others who may want to contribute in a way that fits their interests and availability.

The official ONA profiles are linked through the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association website, so if there is ever a question, the website is the best place to confirm you are following an official ONA page or profile.

In addition to our official ONA Facebook and Nextdoor profiles, we are continuing to build ONA's presence on Instagram as another way to share neighborhood photos, reminders, events and updates. Use the QR code included here to follow ONA on Instagram and stay connected.

If you enjoy creating, organizing, writing, designing, proofreading, posting, printing, or helping share good information, communications may be a great place to plug in. Please reach out to Kathryn Omarkhail, ONA Communications Chair, at KathrynOmarONA@gmail.com, if you would like to learn more.



The Oak Leaflet, in continuous publication since 1981, is the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association (ONA) newsletter.

All submissions should be received by the 19th of the month.

Submissions must include name, address and phone number.

Send articles for publication to ONA Communications Chair, Kathryn Omarkhail, at KOmarkhail@gmail.com

OAK LEAFLET ADS

Want to place an ad?

Have questions about ad sizes or rates?

Call **Cindy Wheeler**, Oak Leaflet Ad Manager
817-999-7980 or cindyleecrowder@yahoo.com.

ADVERTISING RATES

Card: 1/8 page: B&W: \$30. / *Color: \$40/ mo.
Quarter sheet: 1/4 page: B&W: \$60/ Color: \$75/ mo.
Half sheet: 1/2 page: B&W: \$95. / Color: \$120/ mo.
Full Page: B&W: \$130/ Color: \$160/ mo.
Inside Cover: B&W: \$160/ Color: \$190/mo.

**all ads also available in the online newsletter*

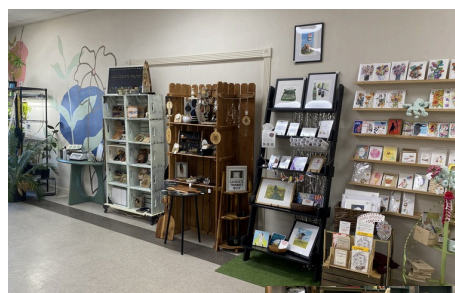
Send advertising payments and all other correspondence to:

**ONA, PO Box 7430 Fort Worth, TX 76111
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PHANTOM FOODIE

Join ONA at My Stomping Grounds

While driving east one afternoon, I happened to notice this rather large white building on the south side of Loop 820 across from the Haltom Water Tower and wondered out loud “what in the world is that?”. Within a day or two I had my answer thanks to the City of Haltom City Facebook page.

Dignitaries and staff were pictured at My Stomping Grounds where the venue hosted a recent ribbon cutting.

Hidden behind a storage place, near Haltom City Fire Station #3, this new restaurant/bar/live music venue at 5130 Northern Cross Blvd., appears to be large enough to accommodate the entire population of Haltom City. There is seating outside as well as inside and play areas for the kids. It made sense that we tried this place after one of our Friday nights volunteering at the homeless shelter.

I thought folks might have trouble finding My Stomping Grounds, but I couldn't have been more wrong. Cars filled the existing parking lot as well as the overflow lot to capacity. Yet, once inside the gate, we saw plenty of seating.

The band that was playing on the outdoor stage was really good; however, we opted to stay in the air conditioning. We were seated right away, although it took longer than tolerable to get our drinks. (They have a full bar.) I ordered chicken spaghetti, which was quite spicy, and my partner ordered a chicken sandwich with fries. Both were in line with other restaurants as far as price, tasted good and were delivered in a timely fashion.

Oakhurst neighbors have a good excuse for checking this one out. It's the location of our next ONA social set for 6 p.m., Thursday, July 16.

For more information

(And to visit if you can't wait till July 16),
visit their website: mystompinggrounds.com.

Hope to see you there!



RECIPE CORNER

By Fran Burns

This summer corn salad truly captures the flavors of summer. It's full of fresh veggies and basil, and topped with rich, tangy feta cheese. It's a summer treat that reminds us what's special about fresh corn season. The light, crisp taste and texture of corn, cherry tomatoes, cucumber and red onion combine to create a side salad that's bursting with flavor. It's healthy, it's easy to make, and it can be paired with other salads or with meats and veggies to round out a meal. With the addition of basil and feta, this summery side dish is a must for your next Oakhurst Neighborhood gathering. Olive oil: Medium extra virgin olive oil is your best bet for this salad. You'll need 4 teaspoons.

- Lime juice: A squeeze of fresh lime may be tart on its own, but with sweet corn it's divine.
- Hot pepper sauce: If you're not keen on spicy ingredients, you can feel free to skip this one.
- Corn: While you can use (thawed) frozen corn here, fresh corn straight off the cob is especially tasty.
- Cherry tomatoes: Basic red tomatoes are delicious here, but for an extra boost of flavor, consider adding a variety of cherry tomatoes.
- Cucumber: The light, crisp texture of cucumber adds a bright summery taste to this summer corn salad recipe.
- Red onion: Red onion offers a nice crunch.
- Basil: While dried basil is fine, we highly recommend fresh basil, as both the taste and aroma of fresh basil with a corn salad is out of this world.
- Feta cheese: While the feta definitely adds both flavor and texture, if you're vegan or needing to skip cheese for any reason, you don't need to add this.

In a small bowl, whisk together 3 teaspoons of oil, the lime juice, salt and pepper sauce, then set this aside.

In a large skillet, cook and stir the corn in the remaining oil over medium-high heat, for less than three minutes; you want the corn tender, but not mushy. Once the corn is cooked, transfer it to a salad bowl and allow it to cool slightly. Add the tomatoes, cucumber, onion and basil to the bowl.

Drizzle the dressing over the veggies and toss lightly to coat. Let the salad stand for 10 minutes before serving. For a truly chilled corn salad, cover the salad and refrigerate it until it's cooled through. Sprinkle the feta on top just before serving.

The Oakhurst Neighborhood Association Executive Board

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Veronica Micek Anuszkiewicz, Secretary | Daniel Shank, Treasurer

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Beautification:

Fran Burns, 817-715-7066

Communications Chair:

Kathryn Omarkhail, 817-913-4416

Welcoming: Katie Bauer, 817-726-7671

Zoning: John Landry, 337-335-8802

Special Events:

Glenda H. Shelton, 817-975-4653

Street Rep:

Cindy Wheeler, 817-999-7980

Budget/Finance:

Alex Fitzgerald, 214-236-5594

Other Notable Resources

D11 Councilwoman:

Jeanette Martinez, 817-392-8811

Code Compliance:

Ofc. Orr, 817-932-0479

Neighborhood Patrol Officer (NPO):

Ofc. Cassidey Bower,
817-999-6095

Citizens on Patrol:

David Collyer, 254-580-5110



Be Part of the

JULY 4TH

CELEBRATION!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for a few volunteers to help with:



TRAFFIC CONTROL



EVENT SETUP

★ If you're interested in lending a hand, PLEASE CALL

817-975-4653

We look forward to celebrating AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY and our wonderful community with you!



Thank you ♥

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