

# THE OAKRIDGE JOURNAL

## ORIA EMPHASIS

The Oakridge Neighborhood Night Out, sponsored by ORIA, was held on October 12, 2019 at the Oakridge Community Center with quite a good number of neighbors who turned out to share in the fun.



Thanks to all who helped out to make this a fun night for our neighborhood.



**ORIA Board Meetings are the 2nd Sunday each month, 2 PM (except December) at the Community Center. Landowners are welcomed and encouraged to attend!**



North Gate Clean-up  
November 2019



Again many thanks goes out to our neighbors who continually work so hard to keep up our roads. If you are interested in volunteering on road duty, please contact Sam Kelly. It takes all of us to make this work! Remember: It's your annual POA Dues that funds road repairs.

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## OAKRIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### San Bernard Electric Co-op Fire Dept. Training

Texas Co-op Power magazine had a wonderful article in their October 2019 issue *“First On The Scene”* discussing the importance of electric cooperatives and VFDs in Texas working together to better the quality of life for all Texans in rural areas. This article written by Eric W. Pohl of Pedernales EC stated *“Small towns and unincorporated areas depend on volunteer fire departments. In rural areas, VFDs provide the only available fire and emergency medical responders. According to the State Firefighters & Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas, 77% of the fire departments in Texas are composed of all-volunteer crews”.*

The article went on to provide some other vital news, *“Most VFDs are nonprofits and receive little funding from local taxes, relying instead on individual donors and community fundraising”.* Many people in rural areas have a notion that their property taxes cover the expenses for their local VFD and that is not the case at all. The amount received by each VFD each year from Colorado County varies by the County’s budgeted amount for any given year. In 2019, Oakridge VFD received \$6,500 from Colorado County which only accounted for approximately 12% of OVFD’s 2019 operating costs. Remember, OVFD is a 100% volunteer crew consisting of men and women who grew up with the virtues of putting others first, being involved in the community and serving their neighbors.

A training session hosted by SBEC on November 13, 2019 was attended by OVFD. SBEC provided training in the areas of the effects and damage of downed power lines, how to avoid downed power lines, the handling of burning transformers, the equipment used for safety measures, and included a live demonstration of the force and potential dangers of coming in contact with downed power lines and how to react properly to these events. Training also included proper responses involving a vehicular accident in conjunction with downed power lines. A VFD’s on-going training and knowledge is critical to the safety of electric crews, as well as the safety of local families and businesses throughout our county. OVFD has always had the strong commitment to continued training for all its personnel.

### Know our equipment!

OVFD Command Unit (“1063” to us at OVFD) - pictured to the right. 1063 is a multi-functional vehicle: 1) Command Unit for officer in charge at scene of fire; 2) Rehabilitation unit at scene of fire for firefighters to rest, have their vitals taken and receive nutrition and 3) acts as an EMS vehicle dispatched to medical calls. This apparatus has a generator to light up a scene, contains a canopy and chairs for rehab, stretchers to transport patients, medical supply bag and an AED (automated external defibrillator) for cardiac patients.



### SAVE THE DATE!

May 2, 2020

Annual Chicken Fried Steak Dinner & Raffle



### 2020-2021 OVFD BOARD & OFFICERS

- Vernon Wallace, President
- R. C. Lumpkin, Vice-President
- Gary LaVergne, Secretary/Treasurer
- Wayne Wolfford, Fire Chief
- Dane Stewart, Asst. Fire Chief
- Jay Johannes, Captain
- Mark Prasatik, Lieutenant
- Douglas Mason, Chaplain

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# OAKRIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



The OVFD Auxiliary held its 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off on November 9, 2019 and what a Success it was! The weather was perfect and lots of people attended! So-o-o much good chili to eat!

We had 10 teams signed up for this event and they sure gave the Judges a challenge in choosing the best tasting chili. Jesse Koch (OVFD 2019 Chaplain), Fred Olson and Colorado County Judge Bill Old. A big thanks goes out to those who served as judges! There was a tie for First Place: Doug Jeske and Shawnda Langston, Doug's daughter. Third place went to Vernon Wallace.

Each team set up their own cook tent under the Post Oaks. Votes were taken from among the OVFD Auxiliary for the best Team Set-up/Tent Display. Vernon Wallace won! (team pictures included this page)

Donation Jars were placed at each Team's table. The Team who collected the most dollars is able to display the OVFD Fire Hydrant at their place for one year. The winner for 2019 was Doug Jeske.

The night also consisted of a live auction, a silent auction and the raffle of a Zero-Turn Bad Boy Mower! Again, more dollars were raised. Money raised has been set aside to be used towards the new Community Center/Fire Department building. Fun was had by all and we hope to see more teams in 2020. Thank you to each and every one of you for making this event a Great Success!

Additional help with OVFD Auxiliary is always needed! Those interested should contact Angie Konvica at [ruacajun2@yahoo.com](mailto:ruacajun2@yahoo.com) or Deanna Jeske at [deannajeske@yahoo.com](mailto:deannajeske@yahoo.com).





## TPWD/ORWMA TEXAS YOUTH HUNT

The Oakridge Ranch Wildlife Management Association (ORWMA) hosted a Texas Youth Hunt this past November 15–17. The Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) was formed with the Texas Wildlife Association and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1996 to provide opportunities for youth to participate in hunting activities safely, legally, and ethically, while learning about the role landowners and hunters play in wildlife conservation.

The entire Oakridge community came together to support the event. So many people donated their time, talent, & treasure to make this event happen. Oakridge Ranch people donated food, money, deer blinds, their time to set up, tear down, clean up, sight-in guns, help skin deer, make hog sausage, and cooks who made hot dogs and hamburgers Friday night, bacon, eggs, & sausage Saturday morning, barbequed brisket and sausage Saturday night (and don't forget all those desserts) and pancakes on Sunday morning.

Seventeen youth hunters, ages 9 to 17 along with their guardians and 4 hunt masters showed up Friday afternoon. They set up their tents and then went to sight in their rifles. A couple of Moms hunted with their sons and some Dads hunted with their daughters. There were parents as well as youths that had never hunted before. A total of 16 deer, 1 hog, and 1 fox were taken. Everyone had a great time! As the hunters left Sunday morning, one young hunter (maybe 9 or 10 years old) who harvested a deer came up to shake the landowner's hand and tell him thanks for the opportunity to hunt and take a deer. The landowner got a lump in his throat and it was all he could do to smile and nod his head.



<b>Hog Count</b>	
<b>2018</b>	<b>YTD 2019</b>
580	819 !!
10 traps	30 traps

**Way to go! Thank you!!!**

We're looking for more "Hog Busters" - Come join in! Contact Douglas Mason or JD Ray.

## 2020 ORWMA OFFICERS

President: Earl Fly  
 Vice-President: Steve Jaap  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Angie Konvicka  
 Events: Lisa Kelly  
 Turkey/Birding: Keith Peters  
 Predator Control: Douglas Mason  
 Habitat: Vernon Wallace  
 Whitetail Deer: Jerry Rogers  
 Communications: Angie Howes

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Winter Birding Census: January 11-12, 2020; send your completed bird lists with totals to Angie Howes via email: [ahowes2013@gmail.com](mailto:ahowes2013@gmail.com)**

**Grass Burr Seminar: January 18, 2010, 9 AM at Oakridge Community Seminar, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Laramie Naumann**

**CCWMA Spring Banquet is set for March 21st at The KC Hall in Columbus. See an ORWMA Officer for raffle tickets.**

[www.orwma.org](http://www.orwma.org) Also join us on Facebook!  
[oakridgewildlifemanagement@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgewildlifemanagement@gmail.com)  
 Mailing Address: 1904-B Oakridge Road, Weimar, TX 78962



*In Remembrance of  
James F. Trickett  
1939–2019*



**Jim Trickett was the first President of the Oak Ridge Improvement Association (ORIA) when the development was turned over to the property owners in the year 2000. Jim provided the leadership and guidance we needed to get our association up and running. He instituted vital organizational policies and procedures that we still follow today.**

**Jim sent out an email to landowners in 2008 drawing the community together in buying a 2 acre plot in the center of Oakridge Ranch. He led the way in purchasing that property to build a community center for the betterment of our community.**

**Jim volunteered in his “retirement” with TPWD and worked with TOWMA as Vice-Chairman setting up wildlife management areas. He was also instrumental in the formation of ORWMA, Oakridge’s own wildlife management association. Jim led our WMA in working to receive the Lone Star Land Steward award from TPWD. Additionally, he and Carolyn have organized and hosted the deer census for ORWMA every August for 20 years, providing vital documentation to TPWD regarding our deer herd in Oakridge Ranch.**

**Jim worked with many of our neighbors and ORWMA to host the Oakridge Ranch Annual Wounded Warrior Hunt Weekend for several years. Working closely with Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, wounded soldiers would come to Oakridge and stay with landowners, hunt deer & hogs, fish and generally be loved on and fed well by our community for an entire weekend.**

**He was dedicated to his community and enjoyed living at Oakridge Ranch. Jim endeavored to help Oakridge become a safe peaceful place to live, a vibrant place....a place we could all call “home”. Jim served his neighbors and extended community with honor and we are thankful he was our neighbor. Well done, Jim! All of Oakridge will miss you!**



**John Kohleffel, TPWD Game Warden, shares a tribute:**

*“When I first transferred to Colorado County in 2002, one of the first people I met was Jim Trickett. He was a leader in developing the Oakridge Wildlife Management Association. He was one of the Oakridge leaders that invited my family and I out to participate in their outdoor activities and welcome us to the community. We were very thankful for this. Professionally, I was very proud to know Jim and privileged to work with him in the development of the wildlife management associations and antler restrictions that have spread across the state and changed hunting in a very positive manner. Jim was always a leader and visionary and will be greatly missed.”*