

# THE OAKRIDGE JOURNAL

## ORIA Newsletter Emphasis

What will be the goal of producing this quarterly newsletter?

**Q: Who are our readers?**

A: Existing property owners and potential landowners.

**Q: What will our readers want to know about ORIA and Oakridge Ranch?**

A: Timely, helpful, problem-solving information; things they didn't find out when they bought their property.

## Welcome to The Oakridge Journal

This e-mail newsletter is a communication effort to advise Oakridge Ranch property owners of the activities of the three major organizations that serve Oakridge. It will be published quarterly and will be a short summary of each group's activities for each quarter. For more in-depth information property owners can refer to each organization's web-site, Facebook page or information officer.

The first quarter of 2017 ORIA will continue evaluate the status of culverts, side roads, as well Oakridge Road from the drill site to the south gate. We will continue to monitor the repairs on Oakridge Road from the drill site on Oakridge Road near the low water crossing to the north gate that are the responsibility of Square Mile Energy. ORIA will also be addressing violations of our deed restrictions whether they fall into the category of violations of public health laws or violations of our neighborhood covenants.

Beginning in March we will start to establish our slate of officers for the ORIA Board of Directors election for the first Saturday in June. If you or someone you know, would like to serve on the Board of Directors, please contact Jean Herring at [mackieherring@yahoo.com](mailto:mackieherring@yahoo.com).

*"We moved to Oakridge from the Houston area for the privacy & the peace of the outdoors. We enjoy watching the day begin while drinking coffee on the porch & watching the wildlife. Our Oakridge Ranch neighbors have been an added blessing of kindness & helpfulness."*

*-Nelda & Preston  
Callender*

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## OAKRIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Oakridge Volunteer Fire Department has a Facebook page that often includes important suggestions regarding fire prevention. You will also see a calendar of planned events in addition to photos of the department activities. This department currently has 15 men and women members and the average length of service is 6+ years.

ing a member should send a message to the fire department at [oakridgefiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgefiredepartment@gmail.com). One of our Officers will contact you quickly.

Come join us! No prior fire fighting experience required; training will be provided.

Anyone interested in becom-

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*Join our Facebook page for fire safety information and current news!*

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### SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars for the OVFD Annual Fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus K C Hall. Anyone interested in making a cash donation or donating items for the raffle or silent auction can please send a note to [oakridgefiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgefiredepartment@gmail.com) or contact any of our fire department members or any of the auxiliary members.

### OVFD AUXILLARY

Of recent note, the OVFD Auxiliary-sponsored Christmas food drive was a big success. Oakridge residents and visitors donated \$900+ dollars and many, many bags of groceries, all being given to support the Columbus Food Bank. Anyone having questions about the OVFD Auxiliary or perhaps wanting to join, should contact either Terry Prasatik or Terri Dingley.

FYI - The Columbus Food Bank is sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance of churches in Columbus, Texas. The local Food Pantry serves approximately 250 households or 800 individuals within the Columbus and surrounding area. One-third of the clients are age 62 and over. Another one-third of the clients are under the age of 18. The eligibility of Food Pantry clients are determined by the financial guidelines set by the State of Texas.

*"I joined OVFD to contribute to the safety and well being of the community. It's a great opportunity to build relationships and learn new skills."*

*Mark Prasatik*



## RIO GRAND TURKEY at OAKRIDGE RANCH

The Oakridge Ranch Wildlife Management Association recently added a special interest group for Rio Grande Turkeys. We are currently creating our first turkey census and so far have recorded sightings of 125 birds on Oakridge ranch property. Our long-term goal is to have a comprehensive record of birds including the number of drakes (beards), hens and poults. Additionally, we wish to keep records of the annual harvest (one bearded tom per license holder) that is allowed by state law during April of each year. Certainly, the primary objective is to grow and maintain a healthy population of these majestic birds. Please report any sightings of birds and submit any photos to RC Lumpkin, Wild Turkey Chair at [r.c.lump@gmail.com](mailto:r.c.lump@gmail.com). Watch for news about an introductory talk presented by the Director of the Central Texas Region of the National Wild Turkey Federation. And please, let us know if you have specific questions about turkeys. We have access to renowned experts in this field.

## HONEYBEES at OAKRIDGE

Pollinators are a critical part of our environment. Not just for our food supply (1 out of 3 food items depend on pollinators), but for the very survival of many plant species and thus various animals. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bats. I'm sure many of you have heard of the challenges they face. There is a dramatic decline in Monarch Butterflies, and seven species of bees have recently been placed on the endangered species lists. Honeybees are very sensitive to their environment. Beekeepers have suffered an annual loss of approximately 40-60% of their hives annually for the past few years. There are several factors that contribute to these losses and not enough time or space to discuss them here; but I do want to talk about a couple of things you can do to help as you make your plans for spring.

**Herbicide use:** The major source of food for honeybees are our native wildflowers, aka "weeds". When you are making your landscape plans, consider leaving some native greenspaces that are not mowed until after the bloom is over. Leave Yaupon & Beautyberry thickets where you can. You might also consider planting wildflowers. A great source for seeds and Texas wildflower information is Native American Seeds at [www.seedsources.com](http://www.seedsources.com). [There are several additional sites for wildflowers and native plants listed on ORWMA's website.]



**Pesticide use:** This should be obvious. A major contributor to the decline of honeybees and other pollinators is the use of pesticides that contain neonicotinoids. These are long-lasting pesticides that honeybees can carry back to the hive and contaminate them resulting in a hive loss. Please check plants that you may purchase at box stores or nurseries to see if they have been treated with these pesticides.

These are just a couple of things you can do to help the honeybees as they struggle to help you. I am one of a few beekeepers here at Oakridge and would be happy to discuss bees and beekeeping with you if you are interested in learning more.

Jack Jetton

[jackwjetton@gmail.com](mailto:jackwjetton@gmail.com)

(Bee pictures provided by Jack Jetton. Thank you, Jack!)

## DEER HARVEST for 2016-2017 SEASON

As of January 2, 2017, we have checked in 33 total deer. Total bucks taken were 15 and we had 8 does harvested. Our harvest has been pretty much in line with the rest of the area according to Mark Lange, our wildlife biologist. The hot weather, the abundant acorn crop and plentiful natural food are some of the factors for the low numbers.

*Thanks to David Konarik for providing the picture below from Dec 2016.*



ORWMA Fish Fry, April 15th / CCWMA Banquet, March 18th

[www.orwma.org](http://www.orwma.org)

Also join us on Facebook!