



# Oak Ridge North Community News

## The Holiday Season brings events and projects!

### From the Mayor

Hello Neighbors,

What a beautiful day outside. The transition from October 31st to November 1st is just another beautiful day, temperature 43 degrees outside. The weather is clear and sunny in the forecast. Seems like forever since we've enjoyed this type of weather. I Hope each of you are you able to enjoy the weather and appreciate the temperature at this time of year. Hopefully no more triple digit weather in the forecast for the near future.

The fall festival in October was a great success again this year. As always, a big "Thank You" to our sponsors. Staff always does a great job setting up the event. The city appreciates the dedication of the Community Affairs Committee and staff for coordinating and working the event.



Thank you to our CAC members for devoting time and hard work to make the festival a success each year.

Moving into the new fiscal year brings many changes around the city. Construction work has begun on the new location for Public Works and relocation of the Police department. Utilities are being moved along Robinson Road. The Robinson Road construction project went out for bid and was awarded. If all goes well, the city expects to break ground for the project early in 2024. Once road construction is underway, city officials anticipate increased interest in the upcoming Plaza District. Staff and council continue to investigate and review opportunities in the best interest of the city. New businesses continue to move into our city and sales tax revenue continues to grow. Sales tax revenue is critical to the city's future. Continued growth in this area provides revenue for city maintenance and sustainability for the future.

Please check the city's new website for upcoming holiday events during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Don't forget about "Christmas in the Park" at Maryland Edgar park, the "Christmas Tree Lighting", and "Light up the Night" judging for the holiday season. I wish you all a very wonderful and peaceful holiday season this year.

Have a blessed Holiday Season!! And a Happy New Year!!!

As always, it is an honor to serve the City of Oak Ridge North.

God Bless,  
Paul Bond



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# Upgrades to the City's Utility Billing System

The city has been working to modernize and enhance our systems and software, with the Utility Billing system being the first in line for an upgrade. This update brings you the convenience of receiving your utility bills via email and the option to sign up for various notifications, including reminders for past due bills. To get started, simply log into your account, add your email address, and select the email billing option.

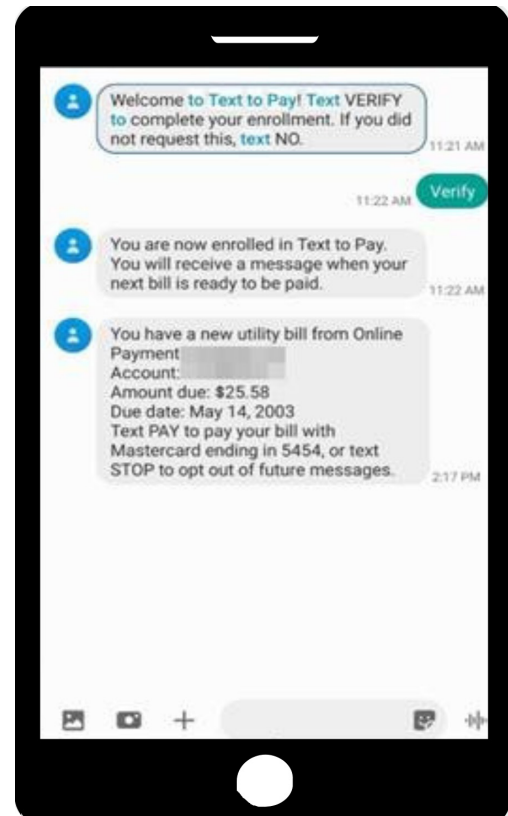
Our updated system offers additional features to make managing your utility bills more straightforward. You now have the flexibility to make payments through our Text to Pay service or by phone using the IVR system. These payment methods accept credit and debit cards, providing you with real-time access to your balances and due dates.

To initiate payments via phone, please call our toll-free **IVR Number at 877-883-3753**. You can find comprehensive instructions in the **News** section on our website.

**ALL** online transaction will incur a \$2.00 third-party processing fee which is not collected by the city. Additionally, for **both in-person and online credit and debit card** transactions, there will be a 3% processing fee. Please be aware that this fee is also a third-party charge.

\*Note: If you prefer traditional methods, you can still make payments by mailing a check, using our drop box, or making an in-person payment with either cash or a check. Please contact City Hall with any questions.

*We aim to provide you with a range of options for your convenience.*

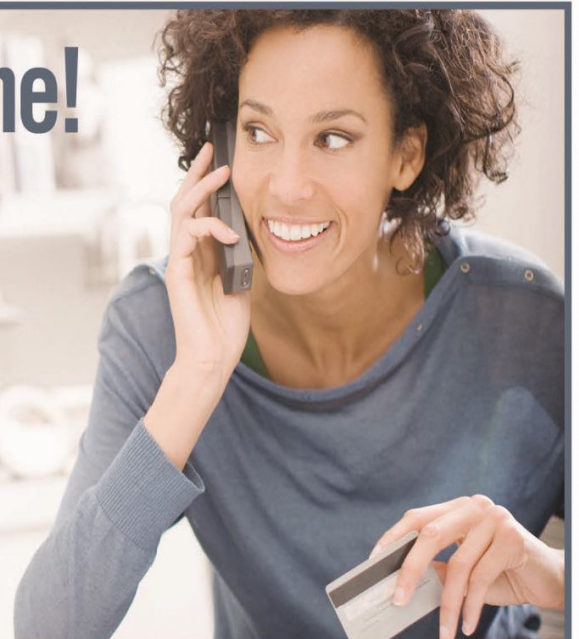


## Save time — pay by phone!

City of Oak Ridge North, TX gives you access to your account 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's a convenient way to pay your bills on your own time — with no waiting!

- Save postage by paying your bill by phone.
- Access your updated account instantly.
- Hear real-time balances, payment amounts, and due dates.
- Enter your information securely through an automated system.

Call 877-883-3753 today to make your payment over the phone!





# Patrol Division

## From the Police Department



The Oak Ridge North Police Department's patrol division operates 24/7, diligently responding to the needs of our community and its citizens. These dedicated officers, easily recognizable in their distinctive police uniforms and marked patrol cars, are the face of our department and are the first to respond when you need assistance.

The role of the Oak Ridge North Patrol Division is pivotal in maintaining law and order within our city and the surrounding areas. They proactively identify and address potential issues before they escalate into major problems, serving as a visible deterrent to criminal activity and ensuring public safety. Whenever you call for help, our patrol officers are often the quickest to respond.

Beyond their presence, these officers



provide valuable support in criminal investigations. They secure crime scenes, gather evidence, conduct initial investigations, interview witnesses and suspects, and collaborate with the district attorney's office to determine if criminal charges are warranted. When necessary, they also make arrests and forward cases to the investigative division for further follow-up.

One of the most visible functions of the patrol division is traffic enforcement. Oak Ridge North Patrol Officers actively patrol the streets, identifying traffic infractions and stopping violators as needed. The mere sight of a police car on the road can often deter traffic violations, contributing to safer streets, fewer motor vehicle accidents, and overall improved public safety.

Our officers extend their public service beyond law enforcement by offering assistance in non-criminal matters. Whether it's responding to medical emergencies, assisting with vehicle breakdowns, conducting vacation watches, or simply providing friendly advice, they are always ready to help. You'll find them participating in community events, parades, school programs, birthday parties, and various community-oriented activities. This close interaction with our community



fosters trust and cooperation between the residents and our police department.

We encourage you to reach out to us whenever you need assistance or have questions. The Oak Ridge North Police Department is here to serve you.



You can contact an officer during business hours at 281-292-4762, or after hours directly at 281-292-4642. Additionally, officers are available 24/7 through the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center at 936-760-5800. In case of an emergency, please call 911 without hesitation.

Your safety and well-being are our top priorities, and we look forward to continuing to serve your law enforcement needs.

# Time to Winterize Your Pipes

## From the Building Department

Do you recall that one time when the temperature dropped significantly, and for a brief moment, Texas felt the chill? It's a rare occurrence in this part of the country, but it happened. Remember how, just a few hours later, you discovered your pipes had given in to the cold, leaving you with quite a headache? That certainly must have put a damper on your day!

If you head over to your local hardware store now, you can pick up some "Armaflex" pipe insulation and, of course, a trusty roll of duct tape (because, let's be honest, duct tape can fix

just about anything!). While the fall weather is still pleasant, it's an excellent time to take preventive measures by wrapping your pipes and outdoor faucets. You can even find specialized faucet insulation covers to make access easier, avoiding the hassle of unwrapping layers of duct tape, if necessary. Taking a little time now to insulate your pipes can save you a world of trouble and money down the road. By doing so, you'll likely prevent the need to replace broken pipes or call in a plumber for major repairs. Plus, you won't be surprised by an unusually high water bill due to an undetected leak.

For those with irrigation systems, don't forget to insulate the backflow preventer. Last year, some unfortunate folks discovered the hard way that backflow preventers can trap water, leading to freezing and a costly device breakage. You might find



yourself with an unintended fountain in your yard if you're not careful!

So, why not take care of this task now? When the temperatures inevitably drop below freezing, you can sit back comfortably with a cup of hot chocolate (or perhaps something stronger) and watch your neighbors struggle in the cold, wet weather as they desperately attempt to wrap their insulation with duct tape, all the while wishing they had heeded this advice.



*The website has a new look! Resident Information can be found under the Home tab!*



Check off some of the requirements for your Babysitter Badge and earn a Safe Sitter® Patch. Sign up for Safe Sitter®!





# The Importance of a Backflow Preventor

## From the Public Works Department

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Code Rule 344.50 clearly stipulates that any irrigation system connected to a public or private potable water supply must be linked through a backflow prevention method approved by the commission. Additionally, the rule outlines specific types of backflow preventers that are permissible under particular conditions.

All backflow preventers used in irrigation systems share a common purpose: to maintain the flow of water in one direction and prevent the contamination of the irrigation system's water from backflowing into both your family's potable (safe for drinking) water supply and the city's water supply.

It's crucial to recognize that irrigation water is not merely a pollutant in terms of odor or color; it poses a health hazard. Toxic chemicals like fertilizers, pesticides, and animal waste have the potential to flow back into your drinking water if not effectively prevented. Ordinary valves responsible for turning your irrigation system on and off are insufficient in preventing backflow, as they may be open during a backflow event (when your sprinkler system is in operation) or can become damaged or leak. This is why a backflow preventer is essential for your protection. Even some automatic valves, such as electric solenoid valves, may not entirely halt backflow when fully closed and "off" since their design allows for slight opening during a backflow event.

How do backflows occur? Ordinarily, the water pressure in your home's water supply keeps irrigation water from reversing its flow. However, abrupt drops in pressure can create a negative pressure in the home's main supply, resulting in a siphoning effect that causes water to flow in reverse. While such events are infrequent, water from sprinkler lines can be drawn into the primary water supply and, from there, into household plumbing fixtures such as bathtubs, sinks, showers, toilets, and faucets. This can happen when your water company shuts off the water for maintenance or installs new pipes. Even firefighters pumping water from fire hydrants can cause nearby areas' water pressure to drop, leading to backflow occurrences in those areas.

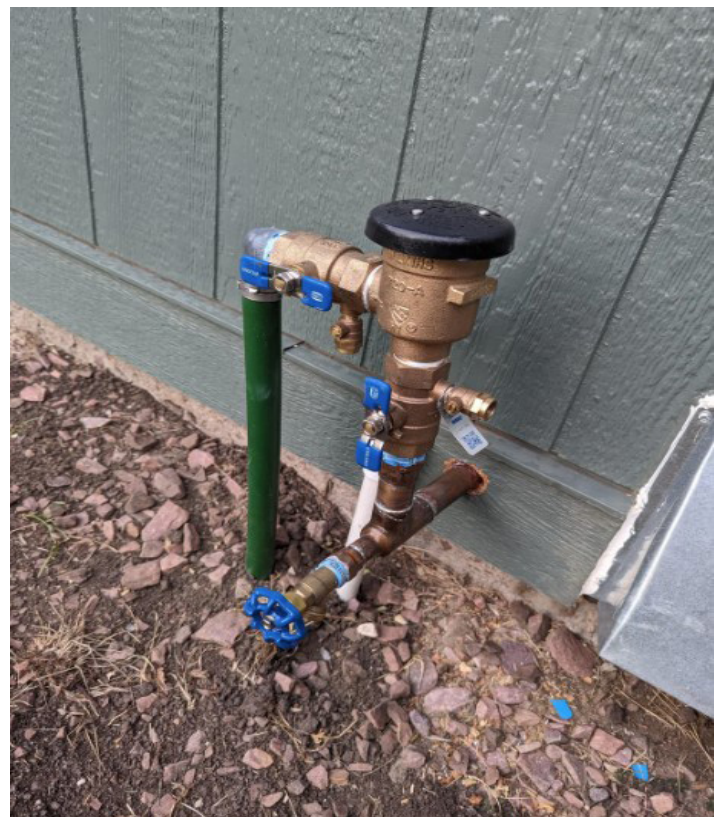
Winterizing a PVB (Pressure Vacuum Backflow) Device:

1. Begin by shutting off the isolation valve.
2. If you have a controller, set it to the "off" or "rain" mode position.
3. Locate the two test cocks designed for testing or draining the main cavity of the backflow device. Use a small flat-

head screwdriver to turn the screw in the center of each test cock one-quarter turn (45-degree angle) to open them. Expect water to discharge with some pressure, followed by dripping for a short period.

4. Adjust the #1 and #2 shutoff handles to a 45-degree angle or halfway off position, and keep them in this position until you're ready to reactivate your system.
5. Insulate the device using foam pipe wrap and secure it with heavy rubber tape to protect the insulation. Cover the device with an insulation bag.
6. To restart your system, remove the insulation bag and open the isolation valve (water will shoot out of the test cocks). Close the test cocks by turning the screw in the center to the closed position (screw slot vertical) to stop water from spraying out of the backflow device. Turn the #1 and #2 shutoff handles to the fully open position (handles aligned with the pipe's flow). You can keep the insulation on throughout the winter, except when running the system. Set your controller accordingly.

For an effective winterization process, it's advisable to use your controller to assist in draining the system. To do this, activate the lowest elevation zone on the controller and let it run. Then, turn off the isolation valve and drain the unit. Once these steps are completed, switch the controller to the "off" position.



# CITY OF OAK RIDGE NORTH HOLIDAY EVENTS 2023



## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

**Nov 26**  
6:00 PM

Robinison/  
Woodlands Parkway

## LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Dec 11-13

Winners announced Dec 14th



## HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

Hayrides | Santa | S'mores and more  
Admission is 2 non-perishable food items

**Dec 15**  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

For more information visit [www.oakridgenorth.com](http://www.oakridgenorth.com)  
or contact Christy, [cmiller@oakridgenorth.com](mailto:cmiller@oakridgenorth.com)



# Now Hiring

## City Contact Information



**WE ARE  
HIRING**

**Police Officer**

For more information call (281) 292-4762  
Send Resumes to Lt. Marcus Teske at  
mteske@oakridgenorthptdx.us

**Deputy Court Clerk**

Full job descriptions are available at  
[www.oakridgenorth.com](http://www.oakridgenorth.com).

Contact City Secretary, Elizabeth Harrell at  
eharrell@oakridgenorth.com or  
(281) 292-4648



To contact City Staff after business hours please use the following phone numbers:

Police (non-emergency): 281-292-4643  
Police (after hours): 281-292-4642  
Police (after hours): 832-585-7031  
Public Works: 281-939-3341

City of Oak Ridge North  
Monthly Meeting Schedule

City Council  
2nd & 4th Mondays 7:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning  
1st Monday 7:00 p.m.

Economic Development Corporation  
3rd Monday 7:00 p.m.

Community Affairs Committee  
4th Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

For complete schedules and agendas visit:  
[oakridgenorth.com](http://oakridgenorth.com)

The public is ALWAYS welcome!

**Mayor: Paul Bond**  
**Mayor Pro Tem: Alex Jones**  
**Council Members:**  
**Place 1: Rick Moffatt**  
**Place 2: Clint McClaren**  
**Place 4: Heather Smoot**  
**Place 5: Frances Planchard**  
**Heather Neeley, City Manager**  
**Elizabeth Harrell, City Secretary**  
**Tom Libby, Chief of Police**  
**Jordan Buras, Director of Economic  
Development**  
**Eva McCoin, Director of Finance**  
**James Corn, Director of Public Works**





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After Hours: 281-292-4642  
Fax: 281-367-7729  
oakridgenorth.com



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