



OAKRIDGE NEWS

Volume 1, No.1

October 1992

Officers Corner by Scott Youzva

The bottom line (or dateline) on the masthead of this newsletter — Volume 1, No. 1, October, 1992 — is significant in a number of ways. It marks the beginning of what many believe will be the continuous presence of an active, viable association dedicated to making this the best neighborhood anywhere!

Certainly, there would be no dateline or newsletter were it not for the efforts of many. Volunteers like the original steering committee and each of you who helped draft the Association's bylaws, voted for officers, and volunteered for committee assignments have given the ONA a formidable start.

The future of this organization always will depend on the participation of our members. Nothing will be accomplished without your support and participation.

Many of you will choose a more active role in the affairs of the Association: volunteering for special assignments, serving on committees or as an officer or director. Some of you will not participate actively, choosing instead to pay dues and keep informed of the activities of the Association. We need both types of members!

Membership in your Association is somewhat like participating in a golf or tennis or fishing tournament: each participant pays an entry fee for the opportunity to win a grand prize worth several times the cost of the entry fee. Likewise, the Oakridge Neighborhood Association can do more to promote the beauty, safety, and integrity of the area if we have greater participation — even if it is just paying your dues — from every resident of Oakridge. The greater the participation, the greater the rewards.

There also is the intangible benefit of full participation from the entire community. We speak as a unified voice to our city government. We pose a greater deterrent to criminals and vandals. And we all benefit from having our property values enhanced by those who volunteer to work on numerous beautification projects that already have been planned. So, even if your contribution is your dues and your awareness, it is vital! It is the true bottom line to a successful neighborhood association.

IT'S OFFICIAL !!

More than 100 Oakridge residents chartered the Oakridge Neighborhood Association, Aug. 26, by ratifying the association's bylaws and electing a slate of officers. Six permanent committees were formed with a combined initial membership of more than 50 volunteers. Summaries of committee activities are presented on Pages 2-3.

Scott Youzva, 2706 Big Oaks, was elected president of the association. Scott owns a distribution and marketing company, and has lived in Oakridge 10 years. He and wife Denise have four girls.

Jack Rash, 2113 Windy Ridge, was elected vice-president. He is a writer and video producer. He and wife Carolyn have lived in Oakridge 6 years.

Jerry Horn, 3710 Big Oaks, recently retired from Mobil Oil Corp., was elected secretary. Jerry and wife Joan have lived in Oakridge 7 years.

JoAnn Schmerheim, who lists one of her many occupations as "full-time golfer," was elected Treasurer. JoAnn and husband Wally have been Oakridge residents for 6 years.

The first chartered meeting of the Association was held September 30, at the Oakridge Country Club. All six standing committees presented reports on proposed projects and objectives, and nominations were received for the five District Director positions specified in the bylaws.

The next general meeting of the Association is set for October 28, at the Oakridge Country Club. A cash-bar social will start at 7:00pm; the meeting will convene at 7:30 pm. No general meetings are scheduled in November and December.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT! PLEASE WRITE SOON!

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter. We need you to submit your ideas, write an article, or share words of wisdom with us at OAKRIDGE Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box. 451873, Garland Texas, 75045-1873 For example, Diana Berry submits the words she says get her through each day.

SUCCESS IS NOT A DESTINATION, BUT A JOURNEY

.... Author unknown

Your Neighborhood Club
530-8008



OAKRIDGE
COUNTRY CLUB

2800 Diamond Oaks Drive
Garland, Texas 75044

Your Committees Hard at Work

Volume 1, No 1.

October 1992

Youth, Seniors Groups Organize

The Civic and Political Interest Committee has begun efforts to organize both youth and seniors organizations within the Oakridge neighborhood. According to Chairperson **Donna Dayhoff**, the Committee feels that sufficient support and benefit exists to justify creation of the two groups.

The Committee also is working toward creating an Emergency Network program that would respond to family emergencies in the neighborhood.

Other Committee activities include the establishment of a program to provide at least one ONA representative to all meetings of the Garland City Council, and the collection of zoning information for areas surrounding Oakridge. The Committee plans to publish this information in a coming issue of the *Oakridge News*.

If you would like information on the youth or seniors groups, or civic committees activities, please call **Donna** at 495-3515.



**RON PATTERSON
INSURANCE**

- HOMEOWNERS
- COMMERCIAL
- LIFE
- GROUP
- AUTO

GU 

Allstate  **SAFECO**

TRAVELERS CO'S

669-2431
1100 CENTENNIAL BLVD.

Communications Committee Publishes First Newsletter

The *OAKRIDGE News* (which you are reading) was published by the ONA Communications Committee. The newsletter published activities of the six ONA standing committees, features on Oakridge residents, calendars, meeting notices, etc. (Your job is to read the whole thing and find out everything!)

Immediate plans are for the newsletter to **continue** on a monthly publication schedule at least through December, 1992. During that time, the letter will be distributed door-to-door to every household in Oakridge. After that time, the Committee is considering a recommendation to produce a bi-monthly edition only to ONA Members.

"The effort involved the Committee, the officers, advertisers, volunteers, and drafted recruits," said **Diana Berry**, chairperson of the Committee. "**Jack Rash** (ONA vice-president) and I did most of the writing and paste-up, but a lot of people supported this effort in a number of ways."

The newsletter has been a major focus of the Committee for the past month. It hasn't been the only focus, however.

In the second meeting in as many months, the Committee drafted proposed editorial policies and advertising rates, and decided to develop an ongoing sign program to announce important events in the community.

The Communications Committee has only a handful of members to accomplish some very big objectives. If you

have time, the Committee can use writers, artists, printers, graphic designers, desktop publishers, advertising salespersons, or just anyone interested in getting information out to our community. Here's your chance to be the next Hemingway. Call **Diana** at 686-1698 or 414-7377 and volunteer!

Financial Guidelines Set

Members of the ONA Finance Committee have created a preliminary set of guidelines for handling the Association's finances. According to Committee Chairperson **Pat Downing**, 530-4192, the guidelines hinge on a comprehensive budget, submitted by each Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors.

As envisioned, each committee will prepare a monthly budget for submittal to the Finance Committee. The Committee will review each budget and then forward it to the Board of Directors with recommendations. Disbursements are made when a previously approved invoice is received and approved for payment by the Finance Committee Chairperson and the Association's vice-president. The approved invoice is then sent to the treasurer for payment.

The Committee recommended that all checks drawn on the Association's account be signed by two officers of the Association. It excluded the vice-president as an endorser because he or she will be approving invoices for payment.

The Committee is working on other guidelines and on assisting with the budgeting process.

The Ink Group - The Write Place
for all your printing needs
Printing • Specialty Items • Forms
Office Products • Desktop Publishing
Call **Diana Berry** at 686-1698

Your Committees Hard at Work

Volume 1, No.1

October 1992

Crime Committee Asks for Help

Following a survey by the Garland Traffic Dept., the Crime Prevention and Safety Committee is developing a sign program to encourage drivers to slow down throughout Oakridge. The signs, donated by Peggy Richey of Ebby Halliday Realtors, will carry various types of messages and will be moved around from time to time so their message will remain fresh.

The traffic department surveyed the number and speed of vehicles on Diamond Oaks for a THREE DAY period. In that period, 5,598 vehicles drove on Diamond Oaks. The average speed of all vehicles was 39.6 MPH, with 12% of all cars and trucks driving in excess of 55 MPH!

Lt. Steve Jansen of the Garland Traffic Dept. said he was "very surprised" by the volume of people that use Diamond Oaks and "very concerned" about the high rates of speed. Jansen said his department will look into some solutions.

In the meantime, the Committee urges ALL Oakridge residents to drive the speed limit (30 mph on the streets and 10 mph in the alleys). "If YOU drive the speed limit," said Chairperson Luanne Payne, the guy behind you can't speed."

In other actions, the Committee proposed preparing a monthly crime-prevention tip for publication in the *ONA News*. Dennis Cheatam volunteered to initiate this program.

The Committee is asking for "Block Watch" volunteers to represent the Committee's programs to 10-12 homes on their block. "Block Watchers" will keep an eye out around the neighborhood and volunteer to do such things as pick up newspapers for out-of-town neighbors. The Committee feels there should be at least two Block Watchers for every 10 homes. If you want to volunteer or if you want additional information, call Luanne at 530-9323.

The Garland Police Department is seeking information about a suspect in a reported molestation of an elementary-school student, Oct. 3 near the creek by Davis Elementary. The suspect is a white male, about 35 years old, 6-ft, 200-210 lbs., with short black or brown hair. He reportedly had with him a medium-sized brown dog named "Brownie." If you have an information about this case, please call the Garland Police Dept.

200 By January Set as Goal

The Membership Committee has set a membership goal of 200 households by January 1, 1993, and 300 households by June 1. According to Committee Chairperson Sue Sweetnam, "the goal may seem high right now, but we think it is attainable."

Currently, there are 112 household memberships in the ONA.

Several membership development programs have been initiated by the Committee, including sponsorship of a hayride and consideration of hosting a new member breakfast.

The Membership Committee produced the new-member packets and name badges for the last general meeting of the Association. The packets that were not picked up will be available at the Oct. 28 general meeting. All packets not picked up will be distributed after the October meeting.

Work already has begun on preparing the Membership Directory, which will be published early in 1993.

The Membership Committee needs volunteers, both to serve on the permanent committee and to help with special projects. Please call Sue at 495-3948 if you have a spare hour or two a month to help promote membership in the ONA.

Entries Cleaned by Volunteers

The Environmental Committee has undertaken several projects, including the first-ever, organized clean-up of Oakridge's entryways. The clean-up was done Oct. 3 by approximately 20 volunteers.

On-going maintenance of the entryways has been a priority item at both meetings of the Committee. Representatives of the Committee have met with various city officials concerning a cooperative approach to maintaining both the entryways and the areas between the street and the brick wall that surrounds Oakridge.

As a part of that effort, and to help Oakridge residents with their own landscaping, the Committee is seeking to establish a garden club for all Oakridge residents. If you are interested in joining the garden club, please contact the Environmental Committee Chairpersons Ron and Pam Harbach at 530-5024.

Recycling is another interest of the Committee. Joan Nichols, who says she recycles practically everything, has agreed to share her recycling expertise through the pages of future editions of this newsletter. If you would like to help Joan or find out more about recycling, call her at 414-9274.

Another area of interest for the Committee is deed restrictions. The Committee plans to compile a complete set of deed restrictions for all areas of Oakridge. As soon as this project has been completed, the Committee will publish a number you can call for information regarding restrictions in your area of the neighborhood.

**A BIG THANK YOU
TO ALL OF THOSE
WHO SPENT
THEIR SATURDAY
CLEANING OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD!!**

SEPTEMBER CRIME STATISTICS

As reported at the Oct. 8, Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting at the Garland Police Dept., following are the statistics for Oakridge for the month of September:

Laurel Oaks-Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon

Windy Ridge-Burglary, habitat

Ridge Oak-Burglary, vehicle

Greenview- Theft, \$20 - \$200

Meadow Ridge- Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle

Big Oaks-Burglary, vehicle (3)

Crime Watch

In the absence of a neighborhood association, many individuals and at least two groups have provided valuable services to the residents of Oakridge. Individuals have maintained and even hauled water to the entryways; the Family Co-op has provided numerous resources; and the Crime Watch organization has kept us informed and motivated to make our community safer. Both groups and all the individuals deserve our thanks.

A special thanks goes to the volunteers of Crime Watch for helping with the distribution of ONA materials to every household in Oakridge. They have done this task several times already, and have agreed to do a few more before the year is out.

Crime Watch is in a state of change, brought on by resignations and transfers out of Oakridge. Members of the ONA Crime Prevention Committee have begun a canvass of Crime Watch volunteers to determine whether there is support for continuing Crime Watch as it now exists, or whether Crime Watch activities should be incorporated in

to ONA programs.

Most of the reactions to date have been in favor of ONA assuming the responsibilities of the Crime Watch Program as outlined by the Garland Police Dept. The ONA Crime Prevention & Safety Committee plans to publish the results of the survey in the Nov. issues of the *ONA News*.

In the meantime, if you have an opinion or suggestion, please call Luanne Payne at 530-9323.

**UPDATE ON
CITY OF GARLAND
by Councilmember**

Michael Holden

First of all, I would like to congratulate everyone involved who worked to form your neighborhood association. It is a great accomplishment, especially during these economic times when everyone's number 1 goal is to make ends meet in providing for the family. As Garland continues to grow (currently 186,000 population), it is imperative that the lines of communication stay open with your local government.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. As your council representative, I was first elected in May, 1990 and then re-elected in May, 1992. I was recently married (September 26, 1992) to Rhanda Brown and we reside just North of Oakridge at 2928 Southern Cross. I am 29 years old and am a supervising engineer for Industrial Risk Insurers which is a property insurance association. I am also serving on the Board of Directors of Texas Heritage Savings in Rowlett which has a branch office in Garland. Since I have been on the

Council, I have worked very closely with the other neighborhood groups within my district both in attendance of their meetings as well as working on zoning issues and neighborhood concerns and I want you all to know that I intend to do the same for Oakridge.

I asked if I could write articles for your newsletter to keep you informed with what is happening in your neighborhood as well as the entire city, and was given the go ahead. In the future I will provide information that I believe will be helpful in staying informed about your city government.

I truly appreciate feedback in any form concerning suggestions, comments, or concerns. If you would like to talk to me, please give me a call at 530-2906 or write me at 2928 Southern Cross, 75044.

Sincerely,

Micheal Holden

Mayor Pro Tem

Councilmember District 7



**AN IDEAL LIFESTYLE
for CHILDREN**

Vee Henderson
DIRECTOR

3317 BUCKINGHAM RD.
GARLAND, TEXAS 75042
(214) 530-8438

Oakridge Neighborhood Association

Letter Ballot - 1993 ONA Directors

At the September 30, 1992 general meeting of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association, the following ONA Members were nominated for ONA Director. An election of directors will be held at the next ONA general meeting, Oct. 28, 1992 at the Oakridge Country Club (social, 7:00 pm; meeting called to order at 7:30 pm).

If you cannot attend the Oct. 30 meeting, you may vote using this letter ballot, IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION. Check the box adjacent the candidate's name for whom you are voting. YOU MUST SIGN THIS LETTER BALLOT for your vote to be counted. Mail the completed and signed ballot by the end of the business day November 4, 1992 to JoAnn Schmerheim, Oakridge Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 451873, Garland, TX 75045-1873.

PLEASE PRINT ADDRESS _____

PLEASE PRINT MEMBER NAMES	Memb . One	Memb . Two
District 1: Cindie Johnson, 3222 Ridge Oak, 530-6663	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District 2: Stephanie Hall, 2839 Laurel Oaks, 495-2149	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District 3: Scott Spurgeon 2601 Big Oaks, 530-7385	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District 4: John Gay, 3001 Oak Point Dr., 495-0709	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District 5: Tom Corbin, 2822 Winding Oak, 530-0061	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roberto Peraza, 2821 Grand Oak, 530-465	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Memb. One _____ Memb. Two _____
Signature Required **Signature Required**

Come Join the FUN.....

safe, beautiful, politically accurate, environmentally friendly...

Oakridge Neighborhood Association

From seniors to sensitive environmental types, we've got more going on than you can shake a lawn rake at. We've already organized groups to look after your interests in City Council matters, to clean-up and beautify the common areas and entryways of Oakridge, and to accomplish a host of other programs and projects, all of which benefit YOU!

Your dues, which are only \$25 and good through June 1, goes a long way to improving your neighborhood.

JOIN THE ONA TODAY!

Complete the form on the reverse and mail it with payment to

JoAnn Schmerheim, Oakridge Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 451873, Garland, TX 75045-1873.

As I See it.. by Diana Berry

It was a day I'll never forget. I couldn't figure out where 30 or so neighbors came from, how they got there or even why they were there. My 47 year old father was playing racquet ball, my 56 year old mother was recovering from breast cancer surgery and I, an only child almost 18, was primping to spend an evening with my school friends.

The phone call came, I was needed at the hospital, my dad had taken ill. I went to the emergency room, and was told that he had died instantly of a heart attack. I was in shock. Upon my return home, cars and people were everywhere. I don't think I could have ever made it through that day if it hadn't been for the care and concern from those people, yes, all neighbors. It was the extended family I needed.

This closeness didn't happen overnight, the people in my neighborhood, knew each other, helped each other, bought and sold to one another, long before the concept of networking ever was used or abused. They unified against city invasion, fought against crime, and had more fun as a team then I can even imagine. There was the polyanna group, rowdy group, the social circle, the introverts and extroverts, every walk of life in a variety of packages, from the reverend to the rumored mafia man. By taking the risk of developing relationships people had agreements and disagreements, made life-long friends, bickered, negotiated and resolved alot of issues.

As friends and neighbors we laughed, cried, fought and defended each other. As an adult I envy "my old neighborhood" where people had enough courage to dance close enough to sometimes step on each others toes.

Today, how refreshing to see in our neighborhood of Oakridge people coming together organizing an association with the purpose of making our homes a part of a sharing community so that we can live safer, beautify our surroundings, and be a voice together. I pray my misfortunes will not happen to any family within our community, but as a neighbor if I can provide support, count me in... I hope you will join us, too!.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For the new Herbal Diet or Cellular Nutrition Call your Herbalife Distributor Heide Herzog, 530-0542

1994 Delorean for sale or will trade for small house - Gotcha 2345

Writers needed for ONA News, short hours, no pay, great job, working with great people. Call Diana at 686-1698

Members needed no experience required. Call Sue Sweetnam at 495-3948

URGENT NOTICE

ONA GENERAL MTG.
WED., OCTOBER 28, 1992
7:00PM,
OAKRIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

AGENDA

7:00 - Cash Bar - Get Acquainted
7:30 Call to Order - Scott Youzva
Minutes - Sept. Meeting - Jerry Hom
Treas.'s Report - JoAnn Schmerheim
Committee Activities—Jack Rash
Election of Directors—Scott Youzva
New Business
Adjournment

Nominations Set for Board of Directors

Six residents were nominated to fill five director's positions (specified in the ONA bylaws) at the last general meeting of the Association, Sept. 30. Nominated directors are listed on the letter ballot on Page 5.

Please note that while most of the nominations for the districts are running unopposed, this is not unusual for a newly formed organization. This is the year for breaking ground, many questions of responsibilities are still unclear and time commitments unknown. In the future, we invite you to consider coming forward to participate in this and all other aspects of our association.

Elections for all five directors will be held at the Oct. meeting of the ONA. All nominees will have an opportunity to address the membership.

WANTED: CLASSIFIED ADS

Sell your Stuff!
\$5.00 for Members
\$10.00 for Non Member Residents
Copy deadline 15th of each month
20 word Maximum plus Phone No.
Call Diana 686-1698 or 414-7377

Those Among Us

This column recognizes the people of Oakridge who perform a community service, a noteworthy accomplishment, or an act of kindness. If you know someone who deserves our thanks or recognition, please contact Diana Berry at 414-7377

In August, many of us were outraged when the *Dallas Morning News* reported that an 11-year-old Oak Cliff boy had his first-ever, new bicycle stolen, literally, from under him. Apparently, two men, twice his size and age, knocked him off the bike, threw it in the trunk of their car, and sped away with the child chasing behind, crying and begging them to return his prized possession. The bike was a special gift from his mother, who had saved for three months out of her meager welfare check to buy her son his first new bike. All of us who saw this article, no doubt, shook our heads in disgust.

A resident of Oakridge, David Vinson of Willow Ridge, did not stop at shaking his head. He reacted quickly, and called the newspaper with an offer to help. When he learned that no information could be released, he contacted the Dallas Police Dept., but was unable to reach the detective assigned to the case. With tenacity, David caught the attention and cooperation of an On-duty detective who responded to David's intentions of replacing the young man's bike.

Trying to remain anonymous, David, his wife Debbie, and their three daughters, shopped most of the day, trying to find an identical replacement. After several stores, they couldn't locate an exact duplicate. The Vinsons decided to contact the victim's family through the police department to find out the child's second choice for make, model, and color.

Time to Get Acquainted!!!

The Membership Committee is sponsoring a Sunday Afternoon "Get Acquainted Mixer," Nov. 8, starting at 3:00 pm, on the grassy area, west of the Oakridge Country Club. Cash-bar refreshments will be available.

For the kids, arrangements are being made for a hay ride through the neighborhood.

This is an opportune time to meet your neighbors, your ONA officers, and directors. In the case of inclement weather, an alternate date is set for the following Sunday, November 15, 1992 same place and time.

One only can imagine the gleam in the child's eyes when, later that day, David delivered another new bike!

More important than the bike, the message is clear: there still are alot of good people in the world, despite news full of violence, prejudice, and hate.

You didn't remain anonymous, David, but you do remain the hero in one child's eyes, and a good role model for the rest of us.


SUPPORT OUR SUPPORTERS

The advertising that you see dispersed throughout this newsletter allows us to bring the news to you! Many of our advertisers in addition to paying for display ads, have agreed to provide extra-special benefits to ONA Members!

Scott Spurgeon-owner of Leach Security can save you on monitoring costs. Just call for a free estimate! 235-5854

Oakridge Country Club loves ONA Members and will reduce the initiation by more than 60% for social memberships. Call Deanna Mays at 530-8008

12021 Plano Road Suite 130
Dallas, Texas 75243



(214) 235-5854

LEACH SECURITY, INC.

TOTAL SECURITY AND LOSS PREVENTION SERVICES
T. SCOTT SPURGEON
President