



OAKRIDGE NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Volume 1, No.2

November, 1992

Officer's Corner

Rash Statements

by Jack Rash
ONA Vice-President

Not long ago, if you mentioned that you lived in Garland, you'd get a curled lip or a pair of rolled eyes as a response. "Where'd ja park yer peek-up, Bubba?" is an expression that sometimes followed.

When Carolyn and I moved to Oakridge from Lakewood seven years ago, I told everyone we were, "moving to the suburbs -- up around the Richardson-Garland area," always sort of mumbling the "Garland" so that it sounded more like "Richardson Gardens."

Not long ago, there was a real stigma attached to living in the Land o' Gar.

I don't feel that way any more. In fact, I kind of like living in the second largest city in Dallas County. I like living in a place where my City Councilman, whose name I didn't even know in Lakewood, calls me up and asks if there is anything he can do to improve my neighborhood.

I like living in a city where the MAYOR shows up for a neighborhood meeting in a Boy Scout uniform, because he's just come from his son's scout meeting.

I like living in a place that is working to change things, not because the city council thinks things ought to be changed, but because the people want it and are willing to work to make it happen.

Garland HAS outgrown much of its country-bumpkin image, without losing all of its down-home charm --- you know, the kind of "charm" that means people care about one another and about the community in which they live.

Now, when someone asks where I live, I say distinctly, "Garland..." and "I park my truck wherever I please."

ONA Directors elected, hold meeting

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association elected five District Directors at its general meeting, Oct. 28. The election fulfilled the terms of the Association's Bylaws, which call for representation by districts within Oakridge on the ONA governing body.

Elected to serve until June 1, 1994 were **Cindie Johnson**, 3222 Ridge Oak, 530-6663; **Scott Spurgeon**, 2601 Big Oaks, 530-7385; and **Tom Corbin**, 2822 Winding Oak, 530-0061. Elected to serve until June 1, 1995 were **Stephanie Hall**, 2839 Laurel Oaks, 495-2149; and **John Gay**, 3001 Oak Point, 495-0709.

According to the ONA Bylaws, the Board of Directors comprises the officers and five directors, and is charged with the over-all management of the Association.

At a meeting of the Board, Nov. 15, those responsibilities were reviewed by ONA President **Scott Youzva**.

The Board agreed to meet again Nov. 23 for the purpose of hearing reports from the six standing ONA Committees and to consider any immediate expenditure items that the committees wished to propose.

"I don't think any of us on the Board has a personal agenda for the Association, other than to fulfill the wishes of the members," said Youzva. "We are most interested in seeing that members within each district communicate with their respective director to express their concerns and ambitions for the Association," he added.

Volunteers needed

Vandals steal Christmas

Vandals have stolen Christmas for a group of Oakridge and neighborhood kids.

According to Garland Police, vandals set fire to a storage shed belonging to our neighbor The Children's Treehouse Day Care Center at 3317 Buckingham, sometime Nov. 14.

The fire destroyed all the Center's Christmas decorations, including costumes that were to be used in an upcoming Christmas program.

Vee Henderson, Center Director, said that while some of the decorations could be replaced at the Center's expense, donations of "left-over" decorations that were not being used by Oakridge residents would be appreciated and put to good use.

Henderson also asked for volunteers from Oakridge to help make the children's costumes for the Christmas program.

If you have Christmas decorations that you can donate, or if you would like to help make the Christmas costumes, call Vee Henderson at 530-8438 or 279-2777.

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Your Committees Hard At Work

Civic & Political Action

Chairman: Donna Dayhoff
495-3515

Christmas decorations were one of the topics discussed at the Committee meeting, Nov. 12. The Committee will recommend to the Board an expenditure to purchase red bows to put on street lights on the major thoroughfares in Oakridge and to put wreaths on the entryways.

Discussions continued on the formation of a seniors and a youth organization, both of which will be formed after the first of the year.

It was decided that the seniors group would not duplicate other community seniors programs, but would facilitate information about and participation in these and other Oakridge-specific volunteer and social programs.

The youth group will develop volunteer opportunities as well as job-placement services for Oakridge teens and pre-teens.

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 9 at 7:30 pm at 3229 Ridge Oak.

Communications

Chairman: Diana Berry
414-7377

The *Oakridge News* continues as the top priority for the Committee. The second edition was published, and at the Committee's meeting Nov. 11, a full schedule of advertising rates was drafted for consideration by the Board of Directors.

The Committee currently is working with the Membership Committee to organize and publicize the Christmas Caroling event. (See Membership, Page 3.)

Articles and ideas still are needed for the December issue of the *Oakridge News*. Please submit your entries to Diana Berry no later than Dec. 14.

Crime Prevention & Safety

Chairman: Luanne Payne
530-9323

Recruiting Block Captains for the Neighborhood Crime Watch program is the top priority for the Committee.


To have a strong and successful Neighborhood Crime Watch program, we need interested and trustworthy volunteers to serve as Block Captains for portions of each street. Ideally, the Committee would like to recruit a Captain for every 10 houses in Oakridge.

Responsibilities of a Block Captain are:

1. Serve as a liaison between residents and the Committee;
2. Recruit new watch members to obtain 100% coverage of every street;
3. Assist distribution of Crime Watch Information;
4. Check on empty homes and remove door hangers or other ads; and
5. Check on your neighbors' homes when they are out of town.

The stronger our program, the safer our neighborhood! We need volunteers and we need everyone's cooperation. Please call Luanne to volunteer your support.

The Committee's next meeting will be Dec. 3, at 7:30 pm. at 2125 Diamond Oak.



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Oakridge Crime Watch Statistics

The following October Oakridge crime statistics were obtained at the monthly Crime Watch meeting, held at the Garland Police Dept., Nov. 12:

- Richland -- Burglary, habitat
- Diamond Oaks -- Burglary, building
- Peakwood -- Burglary, vehicle
- Rolling Oak -- Burglary, vehicle
- Greenview -- Burglary, vehicle
- Diamond Oaks -- Theft, \$200-\$750 (2)
- Laurel Oaks -- Theft, under \$20

The holiday season is approaching. Remember to keep your car doors locked and your purchases secured in your trunk.

Report ANY suspicious activities or persons to 911.



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Your Committees Hard At Work

Membership

Sue Sweetnam

495-3948

Let's Go Caroling!

The Membership and Communications Committees are combining efforts to organize Christmas Caroling throughout Oakridge the evening of Dec. 20.

Diane Owens, 495-7383, is chairing the program.

A planning meeting for the event will be held Dec. 1 at 7:00 pm at 2810 Willow Ridge. Committee members and all others interested in helping organize the event are invited to attend.

Preliminary plans are to have a group of carolers for each Oakridge District and refreshments following the hour or so of singing.

We hope to provide songbooks and candles. Don't be surprised if your December *Oakridge News* is delivered personally that evening along with our (singing) best wishes for a Happy Holiday season.

If you want to join in the singing or in planning the event, please call Diane Owens TODAY.

Finance

Patricia Downing

530-4192

The Committee continues to work on guidelines for handling the Association's money and on working with the other standing committees to budget both income and expenses for the coming year.

Another priority is to get legal advice on incorporating ONA as a non-profit organization.

The Committee's next meeting is set for Dec. 5 at 10:30 am at 2545 Pebblestone.

Environmental

Pam and Ron Harbach

530-5024

The Committee met Nov. 18, and finalized a preliminary budget for the 1993-94 operating year. Bids were reviewed for a maintenance contract for the entryways, and recommendations were voted on concerning the sprinkler system and watering of the entryways.

The Committee has grown to more than 20 members with two sub-groups: The Recycling Group, headed by Joan Nichols, 414-9274; and a Garden Club, which has yet to meet formally.

Next to crime prevention, neighborhood beautification is the top priority among ONA Members. In coming months, the Committee plans to sponsor more clean-up and beautification projects, and to provide programs at ONA general meetings on recycling, landscaping, and lawn and garden advice.

The Committee's next meeting is set for Jan. 18, 1993 at 7:30 pm at 3102 Big Oaks.



akridge Recycles

Yes, recycling has come to Oakridge, and we hope this information will encourage everyone to participate.

One activity should be easier now, because we have newspaper pickup every Thursday. Here's what to do:

- Remove all slick paper (ads, etc.) from your pile of newspapers.
- Place the pile on the ground at the curb in front of your house on Thursday morning -- unless it's raining.
- Weight the papers with a brick or other heavy object --- no string.

Here are some other recycling sites:

- Richardson Environmental Action League, Glenville & Columbia. They take newspapers, glass (brown, green, clear), and aluminum cans.
- Kroger, Belt Line & Yale. Aluminum cans, plastic bottles, paper, and plastic sacks
- Food Lion, Campbell & Jupiter. Paper and plastic sacks.
- Albertson's, Buckingham & Jupiter. Plastic sacks.
- Garland Recyclers, 201 S. Shiloh. Scrap metal.
- Almost any car-lube facility. They will be happy to accept your used oil. (They can resell it.)

Remember, you can reduce waste by taking durable bags to your grocery store when you shop.

Please tell us about any other recycling locations or suggestions. Contact Joan Nichols at 414-9274.

Update on City of Garland Matters by Councilmember Michael Holden

While attending your October Association meeting, I found that there were many questions as well as a lot of interest in what services the city currently provides or is working to provide the residents of Oakridge. Although I don't have unlimited space in your newsletter to talk about all of them, I decided to list three areas of interest expressed during the meeting.

1. RECYCLING

Currently, the city provides a bin recycling program in areas of the city where there is a considerable amount of interest in a neighborhood area. If anyone is interested, please contact your Neighborhood Association (Recycling Program Coordinator **Joan Nicholas** at 414-9274) or call **Jan Dolph**, City of Garland Recycling Coordinator at 205-3430.

2. NORTH GARLAND LIBRARY

The city currently is renovating 16,200 sq ft of a shopping center at the intersection of Apollo and North Garland Rd for use as a new branch library. We currently have two branches as well as the main Nicholson Memorial Library downtown. One of the nicer things about this branch is its size. The other two branches are approximately 8,000 sq ft, so the new North Garland Library is twice as big as the others. The proposed opening is for the middle of February, 1993.

3. ZONING REVISION

The City Council is working on revising the current zoning ordinance. Zoning affects how and what uses of land will be allowed in the city. The Council is expected to vote on this before the end of 1992. If you have any questions, please call **Neil Montgomery**, City Planning Dept. at 205-2448.

The above are just a few of the issues brought up during the last ONA meeting. I was elected to serve you on the City Council. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 530-2906, or write me at 2928 Southern Cross, 75044.

As I See it...

by Diana Berry

Sometimes it seems that I go to bed one night and wake up in a different year. It sure seems like we just had Christmas. My mother used to say that time flies by faster the older you get, in which case I feel very old. I remember writing Christmas cards last year to friends far away, saying "hope we see you in '92." For the most part, it hasn't happened and I will write it again in 1993. My wishes were sincere and my intentions deliberate. Somehow, days turn into months, then a year of not seeing people I really care about.

The experts say we have to "make time" to nurture the relationships we have in life. I vote "yes" on making time -- a few 36-hour days a week would work for me. Not only does time fly, but my expectation of how things should happen is -- NOW. When the idea of our Oakridge Neighborhood Association came to fruition, I envisioned by Christmas, a new closeness of neighbors, a variety of well attended social functions, and the completion of several projects.

In retrospect, maybe I expected a little too much. We have completed many projects, have opened the chain of communications among neighbors, and have had at least one function (the Hayride) that was fun, even if dampened by cold and windy weather. So what I am learning is that things will take time -- that we need not be discouraged at the rate of change, but perhaps the direction.

We still need help, and particularly in these immediate, upcoming months. Just the presence of a growing organization will keep the hard working participants from getting discouraged and will gain momentum for the good of all of us. We will continue to sponsor functions, activities, and projects. They may be small, but they will be noteworthy. If you can find just SEE "As I see it..." Page 7

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President

Good Neighbors

by Billie Merritt

OCC General Manager

What is a good neighbor? Being a good neighbor requires a number of factors, but most important is the respect of your neighbor's property.

Oakridge Club members are expected to respect the homeowners' property that border the golf course, and in return, the homeowners and their families to reciprocate this respect.

Occasionally, a golf ball will stray off center, and end up in one of our neighbor's yards --- a few hitting the house in the process. (Of course, you knew this might happen when you bought a house where the backyard meets a fairway.)

It is regrettable, but unavoidable. What IS avoidable, though, is one of our neighbors being hit by a golf ball while on the golf course.

Our golf course, with a park-like setting, is inviting for joggers, walkers, and bike riders. Unfortunately, most are unconcerned with safety hazards.

Being hit by a golf ball is painful. The ball is extremely hard and travels at high speed (in excess of 100 mph). You will not see the ball coming. Where the ball hits you determines the injury; to the head could be fatal!

The Club provides a number of safety measures for our neighbors. For one, trespassing signs are posted in various hazardous areas. We also employ golf marshalls to patrol the course, including off-duty police officers.

In conclusion, the most important thing all of us can do is look out of each other's safety --- on and off the golf course.

Billie reminds all Club members that due to the holiday crowds, please call for dinner reservations.

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 of someone who deserves our thanks or recognition, please contact Diana Berry at 414-7377.

Suppose you answered the phone one night, and the person on the other end said they had a loaded gun pointed at their head and were seriously thinking about pulling the trigger. What would you say?

One Oakridge resident has had this happen many times, and yes, he does know what to say. He is a trained volunteer for **Contact 214**, a telephone crisis counseling services that has been in operation in Dallas, 24 hours a day, since 1967.

Because **Contact 214** offers free confidential counseling by phone, we cannot use the volunteer's name. He is one of nearly 250 such volunteers who answer around 4,500 calls per month.

In addition to suicide prevention and providing "active listening" -- allowing people to vent their emotions, sort through options, and reach their own conclusions --- **Contact 214** provides information and assistance with emergency housing, on-going counseling, and pro-active programs for teens.

Volunteers receive 14 weeks of training (at a nominal cost), which teaches skills that can be applied in business and everyday life. According to our Oakridge volunteer, the six years he has "been on the phones" have taught him how to "listen and hear."

"It's not easy listening to someone tell you about abusing their child," he says, "but, when you hear the pain in the caller's voice, you come to realize not only that there is a very complicated history behind this behavior, but there also is a need for compassion and an opportunity to help."

Contact 214 is a nonprofit organization that relies on volunteers and on financial contributions from people like you.

If you would like to make a contribution, call the **Contact 214** office at 233-0866. If you would like more information on becoming a volunteer, call **Helen Lazor** at the same number. The next training class starts Feb. 2, 1993.

If you need to talk to someone about your problems or concerns, call the **Contact 214** counseling line at 233-2233.

WANTED: Classified Ads

Sell your Stuff!

\$5.00 for Members
\$10.00 for Nonmember
Residents

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ONA Crime Prevention Good Neighbor Map

Here's a helpful map, done up for you by the ONA Crime Prevention and Safety Committee. Ask your neighbor for the information (while providing him or her with your name and phone number) and keep the map handy.

House #: _____
Name: _____
Phone: _____

House #: _____
Name: _____
Phone: _____

House #: _____
Name: _____
Phone: _____

Your Street

House #: _____
Name: _____
Phone: _____

Your House

House #: _____
Name: _____
Phone: _____

Alley

House #: _____
Name: _____
Phone: _____

House #: _____
Name: _____
Phone: _____

House #: _____
Name: _____
Phone: _____

(Write in street name)

As I See it...

(continued from Page 4)

one hour a month to help, we promise not to ask for two. I am so impressed with the leadership of this organization that I fear that without our participation they could "burn out." And that would be a real crime.

We all have our own interest in ONA, our own agenda of results we would like to see. My point is, if you can only support our organization by the contribution of dues, we understand. But after talking with many of our members by phone, they have said an hour a month would not be an unreasonable time commitment to give.

My rewards in this organization already have surfaced. I have made some wonderful friends and have gotten a better understanding of what our neighbors do and think. We have a terrific neighborhood with really bright, courageous, and diverse families. A wealth of knowledge lives in the square mile we call home. Come join the excitement, meet your neighbors, and spread the word. We deserve the best Neighborhood Association this city has ever seen.

CLASSIFIED ADS

DIET MAGIC. 30 Pounds 30 Days 30 Dollars. Heide Herzog, 530--0542

Let a CONNECTION TOTAL ELECTRIC light up your holidays and your other days. Master Electrician and your neighbor, Al Owens, 495-7383.

REDECORATING SALE -- Dana, 530-7041. Like new - 7 fabric verticals, 8 custom window toppers, couches, rockingchair, coffee/end tables, hanging fixtures.

Minutes of the Meeting Oakridge Neighborhood Association October 28, 1992

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Scott Youzva, who introduced special guests Garland City Councilman Michael Holden and Officer Joe Ambrosio of the Garland Police Dept.

Officer Ambrosio presented a brief talk on crime prevention in the neighborhood.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, and the Treasurer's report indicated that there was a balance of \$5,027.33 in the Association's checking account.

Vice-President Jack Rash presented a report summarizing activities of all six standing committees.

The floor was opened for new business, and there being no motions, President Youzva introduced the candidates for the five ONA Directors. He noted that Debbie Stucker had withdrawn her name from consideration.

Those present were asked to vote on ballots provided. It was announced that results of the election would be published in the November issue of *The Oakridge News*. (See Page 1)

The next general meeting was announced for January 24, 1993. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by
Jerry Horn
ONA Secretary

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OAKRIDGE Neighborhood Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Street Address **Home Phone** **Date**

According to the Bylaws of the Association each household is entitled to 2 (two) voting members. Please complete the following information for each voting member. Indicate any information you do not want published in the ONA Membership Directory.

Member #1

Last Name **First Name** **M.I.** **Birth Month/Day** **Preferred or Nickname**

Employer **Occupation** **Business Phone**

Member #2

Last Name **First Name** **M.I.** **Birth Month/Day** **Preferred or Nickname**

Employer **Occupation** **Business Phone**

MEMBER #1

MEMBER #2

I AM INTERESTED IN: PLEASE CHECK ALL APPROPRIATE BOXES

Actively participating on a committee. Please contact me.
 Learning more about the Association. Please contact me.
 Participating on a committee on an "as needed" basis.
 Offering some type of business sponsorship. (Advertising, Resources, etc.)
 Supporting the Association by paying annual dues and being informed.

Actively participating on a committee. Please contact me.
 Learning more about the Association. Please contact me.
 Participating on committee on an "as needed" basis.
 Offering some type of business sponsorship. (Advertising, Resources, etc.)
 Supporting the Association by paying annual dues and being informed.

PRIORITIZE YOUR INTERESTS IN THE ASSOCIATION: 1-4 1-MOST IMPORATANT 4-LEAST IMPORTANT

Social Activites
 Beautification Projects
 Civic, City & Zoning Concerns
 Crime Prevention
 Senior Citizen Organization
 Youth Organization
 Other _____

Social Activites
 Beautification Projects
 Civic, City & Zoning Concerns
 Crime Prevention
 Senior Citizen Organization
 Youth Organization
 Other _____

CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD

Name **Birthday** **Name** **Birthday**

Name **Birthday** **Name** **Birthday**