



OAKRIDGE NEWS

Volume 1, No.5/6

February/March, 1993

Officers Corner

by JoAnn Schmerheim
ONA Treasurer

Why join the ONA?

The best way to answer this question is to look at two accomplishments made by the Oakridge Neighborhood Association in its short existence.

It was no secret that many of the entryways into Oakridge had become eyesores to the community. A few individual neighbors had saved a couple of the entryways by providing much needed water and maintenance. These folks are to be commended, but certainly not expected to bear the load of what was actually a community problem.

The ONA addressed this problem last Fall. They met on a Saturday morning and formed groups to work on each of the entryways. The Environmental committee then met and requested bids for professional service work next year. A contract for that work has been approved by the ONA Board of Directors.

Another accomplishment was in addressing the problem of a pawn shop opening in our area. The ONA, as a group, went to the City Council meeting to oppose the move. There was little doubt that the ONA's presence was a contributing factor in the owner's decision to withdraw the request.

These two accomplishments are classic examples of what can be achieved by group representation.

Why join the ONA? Why wouldn't you?

Complete the Membership Application on Page 8 and mail it today to Oakridge Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 451873, Garland, TX 75045-1873.

Preliminary '94 Budget, Officer Nominations on March 31 Agenda

Your first opportunity to review and comment on the proposed programs of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association for 1993-94 will come at the general membership meeting March 31, at the Oakridge Country Club, beginning at 7:00 p.m. A Social Half-Hour will precede the meeting.

The six permanent committees of the Association will present their proposed programs and budget. A summary of those programs appears on Pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. If you cannot attend the meeting, you may provide your comments to the appropriate committee chairperson listed with each summary.

Youth Group, Garden Club Organize

Two "spin-off" groups of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association will hold organizational meetings in March.

The ONA Youth Group(s) will hold an organizational meeting March 13, at 10:00 a.m., in the Community Room of Richardson Square Mall (located between Sears and Dillards).

The ONA Garden Club will hold its organizational meeting at 7:00 p.m., March 1, at the home of Bonnie Fisk, 2518 Creighton.

Bob and Mary Musseman are helping organize the Youth Group, which probably will be split into pre-teen and teen organizations. Purpose of the groups is to provide community-related activities for school-age youth that are not duplicated by other school or social organizations.

Parents and school-age children are invited to attend the organizational meeting.

The ONA Garden Club is intended to provide a source for exchanging information on all landscaping and gardening issues. More specific objectives will be determined at the March 1 meeting. Please call Bonnie at 414-3396 if you plan to attend.

Also on the agenda for the meeting is the nomination of ONA Officers. Nominations for president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer will be received from the floor. If you cannot attend, an Officer Nomination Form (Page 6) can be mailed to the ONA Secretary c/o P.O. Box 451873, Garland, TX 75045-1873. The deadline for receiving nominations by mail is March 31.

The election of officers will be held at the May 16 general membership meeting, and by letter ballot in the April issue of the *ONA News*.

The final vote of the general membership on the 1993-94 budget also will be made at the May 16 meeting.

The current ONA fiscal year ends May 31.

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Committees Outline Programs, Budgets For 1993-94

Civic & Political Interest

Donna Dayhoff, Chairperson
495-3515

Total budget request: \$700.00

The majority of requested funds for the Civic and Political Interest Committee is to provide seed money to start the ONA Youth and Seniors organizations (\$200 for each group). While no specific uses for the funds were identified, the Committee wanted to create contingency funds should they be needed. Once the two groups have organized and demonstrate a need for the funds, the Committee would then request up to the specified amount from the Board of Directors.

The Committee also is requesting \$300 for the purchase of new and replacement Christmas decorations for entryways and street-lights in Oakridge. The Committee spent \$280 for Christmas decoration in 1992, most of which are still useable for the 1993 season. The additional funds would be used to replace damaged decorations and to add to the current inventory.

Communications

Diana Berry, Chairperson
414-7377

Total budget request: \$7,094.00

Communications is the most important element in sustaining a viable, active association, according to members of the Committee. To maintain consistent, quality communications, the following recommendations are made for the on-going operations of the *ONA News* (based on 12 issues):

Composition, typesetting, and layout --- \$2,880;

Printing --- \$1,800;

Mailing --- \$2,034;

Advertising promotion --- \$200.

In addition to the monthly newsletter, the Committee recommends the rental of a voice mail box at a cost of \$180 for one year. The voice mail box would allow the Association to disseminate timely information such as meeting announcements and crime watch information, and receive member and resident comments on a daily basis.

Callers to the voice mail box would first hear the recorded announcement, which would be changed regularly, and then would be able to leave a message concerning any aspect of the Association's operations or programs.

Crime Prevention & Safety

Luanne Payne, Chairperson
530-9323

Total budget request: \$400.00

The Crime Prevention and Safety Committee is requesting \$200 to create a number of yard signs that promote safe driving through Oakridge. The signs would be placed in volunteer members' yards and moved periodically.

Another \$200 is requested for bumper stickers that would carry a replica of a 30-mile-per-hour speed limit sign and the words "I drive the speed limit in Oakridge." The bumper stickers would be given away to individuals, or would be given to the ONA Youth Group, who would sell the stickers for \$0.50 each as a fundraising project.

Finance

Pat Downing, Chairperson
530-4192

Total budget request: \$1,580

The Committees requests are \$1,080 for a \$15/month petty cash fund for each of the six committees to be used for miscellaneous postage and photocopying. The Committee requests \$300 for printing of invoices and purchase orders, and \$200 for auditing fees. An ONA member has volunteered to file the Association's tax return in 1994 at no charge.

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Committee Budgets...

A Note About the Budget Process

Each of the six permanent committees was charged by the ONA Board of Directors to develop program ideas and attendant costs without regard to the current level of Association funds.

The figures reported here are the "Best-Case" scenario. All budgets will be discussed at the March 31 general membership meeting. The Committees will then consider these discussions and submit a final budget for approval by the general membership at the May 16 general membership meeting.

Income potential through such sources as dues, advertising, contributions, and fundraisers also will be presented at both meetings.

Environmental

Ron & Pam Harbach
530-5024

Total budget request: \$7,810.00

The majority of the Committee's request is for maintenance of the nine entryways in Oakridge. A total of \$6,420 is estimated for water, electricity, mowing, fertilizing, weeding, tree trimming, and general maintenance.

Other expenses are: \$100 to promote recycling efforts in Oakridge; \$1,125 for entryway flowers (changed out three times per year); and \$165 for three permanent signs that would read, "A Beautification Project of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association." The signs would be placed in entryways and moved periodically.

Membership

Sue Sweetnam, Chairperson
495-3048

Total budget request: \$1,384

The Membership Committee is requesting \$400 for printing of the 1993-94 ONA Membership Directory, \$50 for printing of 1993-94 ONA Dues Statements, and a total of \$234 for postage to mail both items.

In addition, the Committee is requesting \$500 for expenses for a Spring Social for membership development, and \$200 for expenses to host Christmas carolling activities in the neighborhood.

The Spring Social and Christmas activities are intended as membership development and retention programs.

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Oakridge Crime Watch Statistics

The following crime statistics are for the month of January:

Meadowridge --- Burglary habitation

Diamond Oaks --- Burglary habitation

Laurel Oaks --- Burglary habitation

Greenview --- Burglary habitation

Big Oaks -- Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Crime was down in Oakridge from 12 reported in December to the 5 reported in January

There has been an increase in the number of robberies in Garland recently, particularly in parking lots and at ATM machines.

When shopping, always have someone carry your groceries to the car. When using ATM machines, make sure no one is standing around near you.

Always watch what is going on around you, and always lock your car door when driving.

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March, 1993 Oakridge Neighborhood Association

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 GC: 7:00p	2	3	4	5	6 FIN: 10:30a
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 YG: 10:00a
14	15	16 CPI: 7:00p	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 BOD: 7:00p	25 CPS: 7:00p	26	27
28	29	30	31 ONA: 7:00p			

ONA Meetings

- 1 - Garden Club; 2518 Creighton
- 6 - Finance Committee; 2850 Laurel Oaks
- 13 - Youth Group organizational meeting; Community Room, Richardson Square Mall
- 16 - Civic & Political Interest Committee; 2429 Fulton
- 24 - ONA Board of Directors; 2850 Laurel Oaks
- 25 - Crime Prevention & Safety Committee; 2813 Willow Ridge
- 31 - ONA General Membership Meeting; Oakridge Country Club; Social, 6:30 p.

This is YOUR custom-made ONA Refrigerator Calendar! Cut it out and magnetize it to your fridge... next to the crayon artwork!

Use it to mark all your important dates.

As I See It...
by Diana Berry

All opposed needed! It has been rewarding and educational serving as Communications chairperson for the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Initially, I felt compelled to get everyone in the neighborhood to join. I was taken by surprise when some people seemed authentically against such an organization. It was beyond my comprehension. We protect property values, beautify our entryways, prevent crime, and get better acquainted as neighbors. Our annual dues are low, just \$25.00 currently. Who could oppose those things? I began to ask why. The answers varied with the people. Some had had experiences with prior organizations; some said they just didn't do these things and would not give further explanation.

A big thanks to those that openly shared their opinions. Being a novice in the association business, I was unaware of the multitude of pitfalls that can indeed occur in these kinds of organizations. I really hope that those who had previous sour experiences will consider joining. We need your help.

I have spoken to many that have intentions to join, but haven't taken the time to fill out a form or write a check yet. I offer those people a little incentive, if you will take the time to fill it out and send it today: the \$25.00 will cover your dues until May 31, 1994. Fifteen months! And, if the Association votes to increase dues for 1993-94, you're protected. If all you can contribute is dues, we will respect that --- but please send in your form and dues. The money will go to programs designed to protect your property value, insure safety, and keep you informed. Many people work countless hours to provide these services, please take a few minutes to complete the form, write the check, and support the efforts.

You can make a difference

The following information is provided by the Garland Police Department concerning its new policies and procedures. This information is printed verbatim at the Department's request.

The Garland Police Department is keenly aware of its mission to provide police service to the citizens of Garland. We are also aware that quality service is, in part, dependent upon the cooperation of you, the citizens of Garland. We are changing our method of response to certain minor incidents in order that we may effectively address problems of a more serious nature and provide more efficient service. We need your cooperation and assistance in this effort.

It is the policy of the Garland Police Department to afford the citizens of Garland the opportunity to speak with a police officer in person about a general disturbance (no immediate danger to persons or property) in their neighborhood. When a call is received concerning a loud noise, music, vehicles being repaired, loud parties, distant gunshots or fireworks, barking dogs, etc., an officer will be dispatched to the location as priority allows. Of course, a delay in response time is possible depending upon the demand for service at the time. If the complaining citizen refuses to file a complaint, an officer will not be dispatched. District officers will be notified of these calls via their in-car computer and will respond if the situation warrants.

Some situations do not require the dispatching of an officer. Minor motor vehicle accidents are generally not handled by an officer. An officer may be dispatched to evaluate the scene and check for injuries or criminal offenses. In most cases, the drivers can remove their vehicles from the roadway and exchange insurance information. State accident forms may be picked up at the front desk of the Police Department.

A police officer will not normally be dispatched to routine fire calls, medical calls such as unconscious person, heart attack, choking person, routine sick, injured person, obstetrics, stroke, or seizure, or automatic fire alarms, waterflow alarms, or medical alarms. The Police Department will respond to those calls when requested by the Fire Department. All medical calls, fire calls, fire alarms, and medical alarms are broadcast to the patrol units via in-car computers and any officer close to the location of these calls will respond if he can be of immediate assistance.

Many calls for service that require a report can be handled by telephone reporting units. With police resources at a premium, the use of telephone reporting for non-emergency service calls allows the Police Department to direct its resources toward more important assignments without depleting manpower.

You, the citizens of Garland, can make a difference. With your cooperation and assistance, the Garland Police Department can more efficiently utilize its resources to make Garland safe for all its citizens.

For more information, call:

- Crime Prevention.....205-2122
- Front Desk, General Information..... 205-2018 or 205-2099
- Non-Emergency Police Service205-2150

Garland Police Department
217 North Fifth Street
Garland, Texas 75040

Officer Nomination Form

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association will elect officers for the 1993-94 fiscal year (June 1-May 31) at the May 16, 1993 meeting of the Association. Nominations will be received from the floor at the March 31 general membership meeting and via this Officer Nomination Form. Simply fill out the form and mail it to: Oakridge Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 451873, Garland, TX 75045-1873. You must sign the form.

Nominations must be received by March 31, 1993.

Please type or print.

For President: _____ For Vice-President: _____

For Secretary: _____ For Treasurer: _____

Signature of Member: _____

Duplicate Form if Necessary.

(Each ONA Member Household can nominate two slates of officers.)

Classified Ads

FINANCIAL CONSULTATIONS AT NO COST! Retirement/college planning, debt problems, insurance needs. Fund 1992 IRAs now! Individuals, small businesses. Keith, 495-5734

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ATTENTION REPS: I will sell your samples at my sample sale. Also, need a new market for your crafts? For info, call Diane, 495-7383

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Club Corner by Peggy Richey

I want to take this opportunity to let you know that as a member of the Oakridge Country Club Board of Governors, I have been asked to be the liaison between the ONA and the Club. This is a wonderful opportunity for both organizations to work closely with the best interests of the neighborhood in mind. It is also unusual that a privately owned club would take this extensive an interest. As a member of both organizations, I care very much that we work together for everyone's benefit.

One such program undertaken by the Club and some of its members that will benefit the whole community is the planting of 250 trees on various greens and fairways of the golf course. Each tree costs \$120 plus tax. Each individual agreeing to purchase a tree, which is tax deductible, will pay only half the cost. The Club will pay the remainder.

The tree-purchase program is open to all Oakridge residents, not just Club members. Several non-members already have purchased their tree (half). If you would like further information, please call the Club at 530-8008.



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Co-Ops Benefit Oakridge Neighbors

Two co-op groups have been operating in Oakridge for a number of years, providing cost-saving services and social gatherings for a number of Oakridge residents.

The Family Co-Op, previously known as the Babysitting Co-Op, is made up of 20 mothers of young children who meet monthly to exchange ideas and organize parties and activities for the children. They exchange babysitting among their members, and have even been known to plan activities just for the moms!

Presently, the Co-Op is trying to compile a list of teenage babysitters in the neighborhood. Responsible teens who are interested in being on the list should call **Mary Anne McFall** at 530-6624.

The Co-Op is always looking for more members, and is currently holding a membership drive. The April 5 meeting at the home of **Joi Stowe**, 2317 Lone Oak, has been designated "New Member Meeting." Anyone interested in joining the Co-Op or in just finding out more about the group is encouraged to attend. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., and will feature a representative from Casual Corner, who will present a program on wardrobe coordination.

The other co-op is a group of 12 families that buys vegetables in quantity at the Farmers Market downtown every other week. This group has been operating for about 10 years, and according to **Debbie Stucker**, it saves money and provides fresh fruits and vegetables to its members. The shopping is done by representatives from two different families, so no one goes more than once every three months. Each family pays \$10 every other week for their fruits and vegetables.

If you would like to be on a substitute list with this Co-Op, or if there are 12 more families that are interested in starting another team, call **Debbie** at 530-3172 or **Cathy Murphy** at 530-9452.

Goings On Around Oakridge

Ryan's Family Steakhouse, under construction on Buckingham, has informed the ONA Communications Committee that it plans to plant a living fence around the perimeter of its property. According to a Ryan's spokesperson, the

shrubs and hedges should be much more attractive than a solid brick or wood fence.

Clean up of the vacant lot across from the Diamond Oaks entrance to Oakridge will be done by the City when (and if) the ground ever dries sufficiently for trucks to get on to the property.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will hold a "Boating Skills and Seamanship" course at Holford Recreation Center, beginning-March 29. Cost of the 13-lesson course is \$18, and covers boating safety, handling, marine engines, and a number of other topics. For information, call 205-2772. Preregistration is required.

Return the completed form with \$25.00 dues to
Oakridge Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 451873, Garland, TX 75045-1873

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 _____