



Oakridge News

Vol. 2, No. 5

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

January, 1994

"A Point of View" by Luanne Payne

Now I would like to take my Crime Watch hat off and speak to you as an Oakridge homeowner. As I once said, I have lived in Oakridge 11 years and have been involved each of the previous times we have tried to form the homeowner's association. This time we are successful but we need much more support from each of you.

Each officer and committee devotes a considerable amount of time to make this association successful. There are 1126 homes in Oakridge and 38 streets. Our membership does not even come close to half. It only costs \$25.00 a year to help support the association. The main purpose for the association is to help secure our neighborhood against zoning changes, crime and overall continuity of Oakridge.

It isn't cheap to maintain nine entryways even when you have volunteers who give up a Saturday morning to clean up trash on the outside walls. This is the Environmental Committee who does this thankless job and is trying to add some beauty to Oakridge. On the other hand, the recycling program seems to be successful. Every Monday I see more red recycling bins out and every Thursday I see stacks of newspapers. It seems like if you care enough about protecting the environment for the future you could support the association with your membership.

The Civic & Political Committee looks out for any changes with the City of Garland that would affect our neighborhood.

The Membership Committee has put together countless "New Member" packages to distribute to new prospects by going door to door to meet neighbors.

The Finance Committee has the job of trying to maintain a budget for the whole association that requires a considerable amount of time.

The Communications Committee has the very tedious job of compiling all the reports and advertisements that make up the Oakridge News.

Last but not least the Crime Watch Committee has the job of sorting out the copies of the News to be distributed to each 1126 homes in Oakridge.

All of this work is done by willing volunteers because they care about this neighborhood. Many man hours are put into this association as well as a lot of miles. I guess what I am trying to say is, join the Oakridge Neighborhood Association for the very small annual fee of \$25.00. Your support and money will make Oakridge the place we all want to be proud to say "We live in Oakridge."



OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

President	Scott Youzva
V.President	Jo Ann Schmerheim
Secretary	Donna Dayhoff
Treasure	Jerry Johnson

DIRECTORS

District No.1	Cindie Johnson
District No.2	Stephanie Hall
District No.3	Pat Downing
District No.4	John Gay
District No.5	Tom Corbin

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Civic and Political	Jack Rash
Communications	
Crime Prevention	Luanne Payne
Environmental	Pam Harbach
	Ron Harbach
Finance	Jay Miles
Membership	Pat Downing

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CRIME STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER:

- 1 - Burglary of Vehicle: Hearthside
- 1 - Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle: Greenview
- 4 - Criminal Mischief: Diamond Oaks
Laurel Oaks
Pepperidge
Oak Springs

Crime was down considerably in November to only 6 offenses, from 14 in October. This was a significant decrease, considering November had a long holiday week for Thanksgiving.

CRIME STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER:

- 7 - Burglary of Vehicle: Crestedge
Stoneridge
Richland
Oak Springs
Peakwood (2)
Winding Oak
- 3 - Theft \$20-\$200: Pebblestone
Meadowridge
Rolling Oak
- 2 - Theft Under \$20: Hearthside
Pepperidge
- 5 - Criminal Mischief: Suncrest
Diamond Oaks (2)
Bending Oaks
Ridge Oak
- 1 - Assault Class C Misdemeanor : Crestedge

As you can see, December had a total of 18 offenses, up 12 from November. There were many reports of Christmas lights being cut or stolen. I am very disappointed in the young people today that think it is fun to do such things to our property and parked cars. I wonder how they would feel if the tables were turned on them and their possessions. My advice is to report any criminal mischief, vandalism or suspicious behavior to the police. The non - emergency number is 205-2150.



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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Ron & Pam Harbach Chairpersons

Environmental Committee is currently taking bids for the landscaping contract for 1994. All interested parties should contact Ron or Pam Harbach at 530-5024. Submit all bids before February 1, 1994. Interested parties must carry liability insurance.

We have been in contact with the City of Garland and our councilman, Michael Holden, regarding the responsibility for maintenance of the waterway located directly behind the houses on Big Oaks Drive (between Laurel Oaks and Diamond Oaks) and the Apartment complex on Beltline Road. Mr. Holden assisted us in determining that the responsibility for the maintenance of the waterway is that of the Apartment Complex Owners. The homeowners within Oakridge have no responsibility. The city has just recently notified us that they have informed the owners of the apartment complex of their responsibility to mow and maintain this area and we should see some significant results very soon. In the future, if you feel the area is becoming unsightly and is not being maintained, please call the City of Garland and ask them to call the complex owners and have the area mowed, etc. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of help. AGAIN, please thank your councilman, MICHAEL HOLDEN, for his support. The CITY OF GARLAND also should be commended for its continued support of our neighborhood.

SPRING IS COMING AND WE WILL BE HAVING A "CLEAN UP DAY" SO KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPENED FOR THE DATE. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!

Anyone interested in participating on the Environmental Committee please call us. We encourage your ideas and enthusiasm.

Ron and Pam Harbach 530-5024



HOMESTEADING YOUR PROPERTY

Real estate is taxed each year by a variety of jurisdictions in your area. Typically, property is taxed by county, city and school district. Additional taxes may be levied by hospital, community college or other special taxing districts. Under the present property tax system, the determination of property values is the responsibility of an appraisal district. Oakridge resides in the Dallas Central Appraisal District.

It does NOT COST you anything to homestead. The appraisal district will send you the proper form by February 15 of this year and if by chance you do not receive it call the following number: (214) 631-0910. There is a scam around town offering to homestead your property for you at a cost of \$25.00. Once again I repeat, it does not cost you a dime to homestead. This is mail fraud and needs immediate attention.

If you do not know if your property is homestead, call the above number and they can assist you. You can not have more than one homestead property.

Your property is assigned a single appraised value, which is sent to all applicable taxing jurisdictions. The jurisdiction then applies the tax rate — set by its governing body — to the appraised value. The appraised value for tax purposes is not the same value as market value when selling your home. Market value is defined as what a buyer is willing to pay for a property. Please note that the appraised value for sale is based on the current closing i.e. recent solds in the same area.

Peggy Richey



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UPDATE ON CITY OF GARLAND MATTERS

by Councilmember Michael Holden

The much talked about Project Oasis is a planned public/private partnership that will provide for restaurant, office and retail space amidst landscaped walkways and water features. A bond election has been scheduled for February 12, 1994 to determine whether this \$14.5 million project should be built in the downtown area. One of the major motivations behind Project Oasis is to create a point of destination to downtown Garland. The Oasis could join the already existing and successful major destination points in the City of Garland including Firewheel Golf Park, the Hollywood Theater, Surf and Swim, the Performing Arts Center, and the Spring Creek Festival. Oasis would create a tremendous opportunity for economic growth and physical improvements. The results would be the creation of a new and unique environment that benefits all of Garland. The Oasis Project, as envisioned, can be the catalyst that brings all of these individual forces together to create a new destination point that would benefit all of Garland as well as draw a large number of residents and tourists annually.

This project grew out of a desire to enhance the already approved

Environmental Technology Center. This center will focus on environmental issues and their relationship to science and technology. Project Oasis, with its water features and tributaries, offers unique exhibit space to wildlife, plant life, and aquatic life. In addition, theater and conference space will be available for lectures, conferences and other educational opportunities. The Environmental Technology Center is expected to draw an average of 200,000 visitors annually.

The City of Garland is teaming with Richland College and the Corps of Engineers to form a partnership to further develop an environmental technologies program. This program will consist of re-training the current work force for the future jobs in environmental technologies, training teachers to be able to provide this curriculum in the classroom, and offering training to local industries on these changing technologies. As a result of this and other activities, we already have commitment for 60,000 Sq ft. of leased office and retail space.

Project Oasis is 19.1 acres of re-developed land. The major components of the project would include the construction of the already approved Environmental Technology Center, acquisition and preparation of the land, demolition of the existing property, development of the water features and landscaping, and the building of parking lots as private development is completed. This is part of a continuing commitment the City has made for revitalization in Gar-

land. The City has demonstrated its commitment by living up to the promises made in other areas such as crime, by hiring 60 new officers in the last 2 years, and "zero-tolerance" programs in the enhanced Code Enforcement.

Project Oasis meets three objectives set fourth by the Garland City Council:

- (1) Improve Image
- (2) Economic Development
- (3) Revitalization of Garland

It will be taken to the voters on Saturday, February 12 for what could be one of the most momentous elections in Garland's history. Please feel free to call Martin Glenn, Assistant City Manager, at 205-2816 for more information. For information on polling places and early voting call the City Secretary's office at 205-2403 or 205-2406.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to call me at 530-2906 or write me at 2928 Southern Cross, 75044.

Sincerely,
Michael Holden
Councilmember
District 7



RECYCLE INFORMATION

Effective March 1, 1994, Garland will begin once a week garbage and recycle pick-up. Oakridge collection will be each Tuesday with all garbage, newspaper, and red bin pick-up. If you do not have a red bin yet, you may call Waste Management at 205-3500 and inform them you live in Oakridge. This is important as Oakridge has been a pilot program for this and not everyone was issued the red bin.

Some beneficial information to help you in recycling:

Newspapers - Do not put out wet or sunburned papers. It is requested you only put a rock or brick on top of the stack. The paper sacks have to be sent to a different place. All slicks and magazines are accepted now.

Red Bins - All plastics marked 1 & 2 can be accepted at this time. Please rinse and leave caps off. No 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 will not be taken at this time. Glass, aluminum and tin cans are accepted. Rinse items also.

If you have garbage pick-up in the alley, your newspapers and red bin will also be collected in the alley. You are to place the newspapers and red bin approximately 4 feet from the green garbage cans. You will find once you start recycling the need for a twice a week garbage pick-up will not be needed. If you do, it can be arranged at a minimal cost. Look for more information in your utilities bill.

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References

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Patricia Downing, Chairperson

For the second year in a row a small, but great-sounding group of neighbors set out caroling. We will now take the liberty of calling this tradition. We covered a much smaller area this year, but are hoping to coordinate a much larger effort next year.

The committee is working on the 1994 Roster which will be distributed to O.N.A. members in February.

Also, it's time to get started planning our Spring social activity. We will welcome all forms of volunteer participation, ideas and comments. Just leave us a message on the O.N.A. INFORMATION HOTLINE 220-2286

We welcome and thank our new members for their support and decision to make a difference in our neighborhood.

Oakridge Crime Watch Block Captains

RIDGE OAK DR.	3405 - Kim Gingerich 3306 - Charmaine Hutson 3229 - Donna Dayhoff	WILLOW RIDGE	2813 - Luanne Payne
RIDGE OAK PL.	2601 - Cheryl Wood 2618 - June Edwards	WINDING OAK	2813 - Vance & Elena Smith
RIDGE OAK CT.	2501 - Cathy Murphy	OVERVIEW	2018 - Betty Glover
RIDGE VIEW LN.	NONE	PEAKWOOD	2119 - Jack Treadway
GREENVIEW DR.	3310 - Kim Eubanks	HEARTHSIDE LN.	NONE
BENDING OAKS	3314 - Sue Cole 3222 - Sara Traylor 3202 - Hazel & Dick Toberny	LAUREL OAKS	2850 - Jo Ann Schmerheim 2730 - Bert Littlejohn 2839 - Stephanie Hall
BEAVER RUN	NONE	LAUREL OAKS CT.	NONE
GOLDEN OAKS	2502 - Dana Burk *2405 - Bonnie Hill	BIG OAKS	2502 - Mary Macejewski 2706 - Scott Youzva 2821 - Sharon McDonald 2833 - Bill Smart 2843 - Bettie Bishop 3014 - Joan Nichols 3109 - Sue Sweetnam
DIAMOND OAKS	2125 - Harry & Lila LaGrassa 2101 - Doris Autrey 2321 - Dennis Cheatham	HICKORY BEND	2622 - Pat Woods 2811 - Diane Cooper
OAK POINT	2906 - Art Dietz	STONERIDGE	2810 - Weldon Martindale *2870 - Edward Carpenter
OAK SPRINGS	3001 - Mary Musseman	MEADOWRIDGE	2625 - Katherine Rackley
LONE OAK	2317 - Joi Stowe 2401 - Pam Hubbard	RICHLAND	NONE
ROCKY TRAIL	NONE	SUNCREST	2502 - Lisa Wilson
MOSS TRAIL	2221 - Vicki Fitzgerald	CREIGHTON	2517 Elaine Centorbi
ROLLING OAK	2271 - Jim Cook 2005 - Sue Hageland	CRESTEDGE	NONE
SHADY OAKS CT.	2201 - Charles & Valerie Derryberry	FULTON	NONE
WINDY RIDGE LN.	2113 - Jack Rash 2114 - Ken Davey	PEPPERIDGE	2502 - Sandy Dean
GRAND OAK	2906 - Virbol & Ruth Bartlett 2822 - Mary Anne McFall	PEBBLESTONE	2537 - Deborah Meals 2545 - Patricia Downing
		RICHOAK	NONE
* NEW BLOCK CAPTAINS			

You do not have to be a member of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association to serve as a Block Captain. You need just to be a loyal and trustworthy neighbor who is willing to keep an eye on your neighbor's house while they are away, pick up newspapers and mail, and report any suspicious activities.

Our goal is to have a Block Captain for every 6 to 10 houses. With approximately 1,200 homes in Oakridge, we have a long way to go.

Volunteer to be a Block Captain by calling the O.N.A. Crime Watch and Information Hotline at 220-2286. Leave your name and number and we'll call you back.

Crime Prevention and Safety

Luanne Payne, Chairperson

If you notice a street light out, please call the Street Light Repair telephone number 205-3449 and give them the location and it will be repaired in a timely manner.

The next Crime Watch committee meeting is scheduled Thursday, February 17 at 7:00 PM at Luanne Payne's.

The Garland Police will begin to broadcast Crime Alert information on Channel 16 on TCI Cablevision. The information will be on periodically during the day to report any unusual crime in Garland. This program is scheduled to begin February 1, 1994.



Thank You !!!

My sincere thanks to each of you who contributed food and money toward the Christmas dinners taken to the Garland Police Dept. and Fire Station #3. This was the 2nd year the O.N.A. has been able to provide Christmas dinner for these very hard working city employees. They truly appreciate it. Without your help, the Crime Watch Committee would not be able to put this together at such a busy time for all of us. Thank you!

The Autreys	The Paynes
The Downings	The Rodriquez'
The Gingerichs	The Schmerheims
The Hubbards	The Stimpsons
The LaGrassas	The Stowes
The Miles	The Sullivans
The Mussemans	The Youzvas

Special thanks to the Mosley family (Albertson Manager) and the Oakridge Country Club for all of their generous donations.

We received a thank you letter from Lt. David Roehrig of the Garland Police Department.

Luanne Payne, Chairperson
Crime Watch Committee



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We are looking for a teenager to write an article for the newsletter. The column will be the Teens of Oakridge. Anyone interested please call Jo Ann at 495-2726

OAKRIDGE ENTRY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE !!! This is your chance to help keep your neighborhood beautiful. Attractive entryways and well-kept common grounds help to keep our property values at higher levels. They also indicate to all those entering our development that we care about our neighborhood.

The environmental Committee would like to improve upon the appearance of the entryways. It would be more cost effective to use permanent plants with a spot of color provided by annuals. Because annuals must be replaced at least twice each year, limiting their use would reduce repeat expenses. We plan to work with the shrubs and trees that are already there and add to them to complete the design.

The committee consulted with an independent landscape designer (at no cost) to see what could be done. The designer's recommendations were as follows:

Laurel Oaks	Small ornamental tree, ground cover entire border to stop soil erosion, reshape existing shrubs.
Overview	Two small ornamental trees surrounded by shrubs. Reshape existing shrubs.
Ridge Oak	Shrubs on each entryway need to be replaced (those that have died). Reshape existing shrubs.

All entryways need several inches of mulch for water retention, weed control and soil improvement.

Total cost will probably run about \$800-\$1,000 depending upon the size of trees and shrubs. We cannot do this without the financial help of Oakridge residents. There are no monies currently appropriated in the budget for these expenditures. Please help us keep Oakridge a beautiful neighborhood by contributing to this beautification project. If you wish, you can designate which entry your money is used for. You do not have to be a member of Oakridge Neighborhood Association to participate, however we always encourage the support of new members.

All contributions (name only) will be published in the Oakridge Newsletter as supporters of this project. We will also identify total amounts contributed and entry designation where indicated.

Please make your checks payable to OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, complete the attached form and MAIL TO:

Ron Harbach
3102 Big Oaks Drive
Garland, Texas 75044

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NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT: _____ PHONE: _____

ENTRYWAY PREFERENCE: _____