



Oakridge News

Vol. 3, No. 1

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

June, 1994

★
FOURTH OF JULY PARADE
 ★
FOR OAKRIDGE FAMILIES
 ★
JULY 4TH
 ★
9:30 A.M.

Everyone is invited to participate!

The Oakridge Family Co-op is again sponsoring its annual

4TH OF JULY PARADE!!

- ★ Decorate yourself, a bike, trike, scooter, stroller, big wheel, wagon, or roller blades!
- ★ Meet in Oakridge Country Club parking lot at 9:00 a.m.
We will line up and begin the parade at 9:30 a.m.
- ★ We will march (walk, toddle, roll) southeast on Stoneridge, then turn right on Big Oaks and proceed back to the club (approximately one mile).
- ★ If you had a tough week and don't want to walk with us set up a lawn chair along the parade route and cheer us as we go by!
- ★ Refreshments and prizes afterward!
- ★ If you have any questions about the parade or the Oakridge Family Co-op please call Sharon Smith at 530-3873 or Laurie Gaines at 414-2986.

Officers Corner

Jo Ann Schmerheim

*Coming together is a beginning;
 Keeping together is progress;
 Working together is success.*
Henry Ford

We started this association as a neighborhood association so everyone could belong whether they leased a home or were a homeowner.

We have talked about helping with the schools, having an active senior group, security patrols, mailing our newsletter and starting a decorating theme at Christmas like other neighborhoods.

We would like to see the Oakridge Neighborhood Association grow so that the Oakridge development can become a very desirable place to live in Garland.

Our primary goal this year is to increase the membership so we can continue to maintain the entryways and distribute the newsletter.

We have had many unexpected expenses to our sprinkler system. Hopefully, it is under control and we can start looking to the future improvement of the outside walls.

**OAKRIDGE
 NEIGHBORHOOD
 ASSOCIATION**

President Jo Ann Schmerheim
 V.President Jack Rash
 Secretary Donna Dayhoff
 Treasure Cindie Johnson

DIRECTORS

District No.1 Ron Horan
 District No.2 Stephanie Hall
 District No.3 Bonnie Fisk
 District No.4 Lila LaGrassa
 District No.5 Babara Muller

Crime Prevention Luanne Payne
 Environmental Pam Harbach
 Ron Harbach
 Finance Jay Miles

In this issue

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BEDROOM CREATURE COMFORTS

From Susan Sanchez, Decorating Den

When Thoreau wrote "I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude" in his famous book, *Walden*, he chose to seclude himself from the everyday world. While most of us live too far from a meditative spot in the woods, all of us require a place for tranquil reflection. Your bedroom is, or should be, that haven.

If your bedroom doesn't offer you a respite from the hustle and bustle of the day, then now's the time to transform it! The time and money you invest now, will pay off big dividends in the future. Especially, as it might mean you'll be able to keep your sanity!

Begin by visualizing the types of activities you'll want to conduct in your "get-away"—letter-writing, reading, pursuing a hobby, or morning meditation—all the types of activities that require peace and quiet to complete. Then ask yourself, can your bedroom, with the given amount of space, accommodate all these intimate needs? The answer is usually yes, although it may entail clever planning.

Pamper yourself with a decor that provides comfort and a sense of luxury. There is nothing quite like the look of a patterned bedspread that has been outline-quilted. The spread tends to take on a three dimensional quality that is gratifying to the senses. Add a fabric window treatment like balloon shades or throw swags and you'll have a room that is truly inviting.

In arranging your bedroom, place the bed first. It is the largest piece of furniture, and chances are that available wall space will somewhat limit your options. Try not to place the bed so you'll be facing a window where morning light will wake you up. However; if you must face a window; all is not lost. Room darkening pleated shades, blinds, or draperies can screen out most of the light.

In your search for solitude, you might consider using nature's colors in your bedroom's decor. It's as close as you can get to the woods, while remaining indoors!

★★★

ALL-AROUND-THE-HOUSE-SALE!

Make every room in your home a favorite!

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25-50%
on a beautiful
collection of quality...

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"GAS METERS"

There was a very dangerous and hazardous situation involving a gas meter that was hit by a car in the early morning hours during the month of May. If it weren't for dogs barking to alert the homeowner this could have very well been an explosive situation. Lone Star Gas was called immediately as well as the Fire department. Within minutes they arrived and capped the meter. They said any kind of gasoline fumes from passing cars or cigarettes thrown out could have caused a massive explosion. The fumes from the gas meter itself produced several dead birds within hours of this leakage.

It is extremely important if you smell gas or you accidentally hit a gas meter to call Lone Star Gas immediately.

★★★

Crime Prevention and Safety

Luanne Payne, Chairperson

CRIME STATISTICS FOR MAY:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 6 - Burglary of Habitation | Diamond Oaks
Hickory Bend
Ridge Oak Place (4) |
| 2 - Criminal Mischief | Diamond Oaks (2) |

The number of offenses decreased by one from the previous month of April. The number of burglary of habitation offenses is very alarming since four of these took place at one residence.

Now that school is out, summer is here and vacations are upon us, the Garland Police Department (GPD) has a few tips on how to prevent crime during this season.

"Look at your residence through the eyes of a criminal," said Officer Steve Matlick of the Crime Prevention Unit. "Look for things that can be easily taken or things that could be stolen quickly.

All officers recommend for homeowners not to leave garage doors open, even while you are at home. "Keep garage doors shut at all times, unless you are physically in there. Don't leave it open while you are in the house and don't leave it open while you are mowing the lawn.

Here are some other common sense tips:

1. Don't leave lawn equipment in plain view, unattended.
2. Don't leave bicycles unattended. Keep them chained at all times, including when they are parked on a front porch.
3. Engrave driver's license numbers on equipment, appliances and other valuables.
4. Before leaving on a trip, check all windows, doors and gates and make sure they are secure.
5. Also, ask a neighbor to watch your house, park their car in your driveway and/or mow your grass.

The Police Department also offers the Volunteer Vacation Watch program. Vacationing homeowners can sign-up for the program that allows volunteer patrols to routinely check your home.

Continued on Page 5

Home Maintenance

by Steve Brandt

Carpentry • Sheetrock Repair
Accoustical Ceilings • Electrical
Plumbing • Fence Repair
Replace Shower Pans • Marble
Ceramic Tile - Walls & Floors
Install Dead Bolts
Hang New Doors • Storm
Windows
& Doors • Ceiling Fans
Light Fixtures, etc.
Carpet & Sheet Vinyl
Pet Doors and More!

Oakridge resident for 6 years

Business since 1979

Free Estimates

214/495-2110

References



SPECIAL SALE!

Get your hot new look for summer at 10% off! Just mention this coupon when you place your next cosmetics or skin care order and save!

Jane Martel
530-4855

Stephanie Nelson
414-0580

BeautiControl Cosmetics
THE WORLD'S PREMIER SKIN CARE AND IMAGE COMPANY

INTEREST RATES ARE ON THE RISE

By Peggy Richey

It appears that we may be at a turning point with home values. I am sure that all of you received your tax statement increasing the value of the land in Oakridge. The City is taking the opportunity to increase values so that they can recover some of the loss from the past several years where they have suffered from decreasing home values.

Interest rates are on the rise and with the increase of new home construction, the buyer is looking in the pre-owned market for a move upward. New home areas are offering incentives to compete with each other. I feel that by the end of this year the pre-owned market will start to see an increase in value as we have less to choose from as consumers. The economics of supply and demand will benefit the seller.

I disagree with Mr. Greenspan and I feel the rates were increased to keep the stock market, already over inflated, from reaching 4000. One quarter of heavy activity hardly constitutes a "boom" market to justify a major recovery of our economy.

If you were looking to move, now is the time. The interest rates will probably stay around 8.5 - 9.0 for the remainder of the year and housing prices will remain stable. Next year will be a new and different experience depending upon where the economy is headed. Stay tuned for more details.....

★★★

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Dues! Dues Dues!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES??

If you were a member of the association last year your dues are due June 1st. If you have a question on your dues call Jo Ann 495-2726



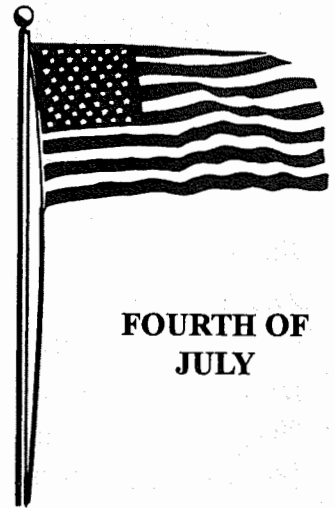
Crime Prevention and Safety

Other vacation tips include locking doors with deadbolts, disconnecting automatic garage door openers and securing doors with secondary locks and stopping mail and newspaper deliveries.

Another summertime habit that could lead to trouble is sleeping with windows open in the house. "If you sleep with your windows open, get a secondary locking device which allows them to be open only an inch or two," says Officer Matlick.

Police say crimes like burglary, criminal mischief and vandalism become more frequent when school is out and numerous steps can be taken to prevent many of these crimes. Officer Matlick suggested that if citizens see groups of kids gathering together after dark, with the potential of causing trouble, call the police at 911 or 205-2150, non-emergency.

For more information on the Volunteer Vacation Watch program, call 205-2826.



**FOURTH OF
JULY**

ACDC AIR CONDITIONING **349-2665**
ONE DAY SERVICE
 REPAIRS-REPLACEMENTS-INSTALLATIONS
 ON ALL MAKES AND MODELS
 YORK TRANE JANITROL OTHERS
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
FREE: 1. ESTIMATES ON NEW INSTALLATIONS
 2. ESTIMATES ON UNIT REPLACEMENTS
 SENIOR CITIZENS DISCOUNT BONDED AND LICENSED NO. TACLB008396E

**Oakridge
 Crime Prevention
 &
 Information
 HOTLINE
 220-2286**

"CLEAN UP YOUR ALLEY"

Sometimes we forget about mowing our property in the alley and then it gets out of control. So if you are like me, mow the alley first so when you get through and put the mower away, it will already be done. Mowing is one of those chores we want to do quickly and be done with it until next week. Let's all try to keep those weeds or grasses maintained in the alleys. The drive down the alleys will be much more pleasant to the eyes.

★★★

Splash Day

Oakridge Country Club mailed our May newsletter. They planned a great day at the swimming pool for Oakridge residents. There were races for the children and other games to entertain them all afternoon with a DJ who made the day. Everyone had a fun day at Splash Day.

DID YOU KNOW !!!

When you put out bulk items (tree, shrub trimmings, etc.) for pickup you need to call the city. There is no charge and they will pick them up within 4 working days. All other trash needs to be in the green dumpster or your red recycling bin. If you have any problem with your dumpster call for repairs. call 205-3500

! IMPORTANT !

Exercise your **RIGHT TO VOTE** in the upcoming November general election

The ballot will include candidates for GOVERNOR, U.S. SENATOR, U.S. CONGRESSMAN and other state and local candidates.

If you are not registered please call MARC MEURER (2304 Precinct Judge) at 530-6850. A pre-stamped Registration card will be mailed to you.

Join the Oakridge Neighborhood Association and help us keep it neat and clean. Only \$25.00 a year.

LOST AND FOUND

Call the Hot Line if you lose a pet or if you find one (220-2286)

Found At 2125 Diamond Oaks a gray cat with white paws (declawed in the front). Wearing a red collar and a flea collar call 530-8618

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police:	
Emergencies	911
Non-Emergencies	205-2150
Voice Mail	220-2286
City Councilman	
Richard Fricks	495-7932
Sanitation	205-3420
Environmental Code	205-3374
Animal Control	205-3570
Poison Center	590-5000

The Advertising Rates for the Oakridge News:

Business Card Size (2x 3-1/2)

1X-\$40.00 3X-\$30.00
6X-\$25.00 9X-\$20.00

Bonus Size (4-1/4x2-1/2)

1X-\$50.00 3X-\$35.00
6X-\$30.00 9X-\$25.00

Classified Ads

20 word increments, not including contact phone number.

O.N.A. member \$5.00

Non Members \$10.00

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Bonnie Fisk

This meeting was held at the Oakridge Country Club starting at 7:00 P.M.. The following people attended.

Jo Ann Schmerheim	Stephanie Hall
Jack Rash	Luanne Payne
Ron Horan	Ron Harbach
Donna Dayhoff	Barbara Muller
Cindie Johnson	Pat Downing
Bonnie Fisk	Peggy Richey
Lila Lagrassa	Jay Miles

Jo Ann Schmerheim, president brought the meeting to order and followed a printed agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT-No financial report available, but we have 39 new members and 54 renewals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CRIME PREVENTION-Luanne Payne, chairperson, reported that Lila LaGrassa had attended the Garland Police Crime Watch meeting on behalf of the ONA. Information from this meeting will be published in the Oakridge News. We are still being thanked by policemen for the Christmas dinner which was coordinated and delivered by this committee. Delivery of the Oakridge news has been done by block captains from the crime prevention committee. Sometimes these captains are not available, and lack of volunteers has caused some difficulty in getting the newsletter to our residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Ron Harbach, co-chairperson. Homeowners have had questions regarding the brick walls surrounding our neighborhood. Often there is a misunderstanding that the City of Garland is responsible. This is not the case in Oakridge. The homeowner is responsible for repair of these walls. A brick mail box project is being investigated for those who might wish to have one built. The committee is researching costs and feasibility for improving the appear-

ance of the exterior walls with some kind of greenery. In a separate issue, costs for mowing, weeding and picking up trash around the exterior will be determined and reported to the board. Our present maintenance contractor is doing an excellent job on the entryways.

There has been vandalism of our water valve boxes for our sprinkling system which has required repair in some instances. Padlocks for these boxes were purchased and donated by the Harbachs, to prevent further damage. Deed restrictions continue to be of concern to our homeowners. Any homeowner can pursue violations through the legal system. Legal counsel will be sought to see what the association's role might be in these cases.

FINANCE -Jay Miles, chairperson, will be putting together a 5 year financial plan for the association. This will require coordination with Cindie Johnson, treasurer, for financial data. A discussion was held on the ways and means to establish a reserve fund.

COMMUNICATION -Jo Ann Schmerheim indicated there is no communications committee at this time. She has been doing what ever it takes to get the newsletter published. A search for this committee will be ongoing. In addition, this committee is responsible for our voice mail (or hot line). Jack Rash has been handling this on an interim basis. We need a volunteer that could call and retrieve the messages on a daily basis. A summary form will be developed by Bonnie Fisk for use by our chair people to capture the activities of their committees. The information on these completed forms will be used to publish their reports in the newsletter. In addition, Bonnie will write a summary of the board meetings for the newsletter. Homeowners can use the hot line for lost and found pets. An article will appear in the newsletter on this topic.

MEMBERSHIP- Pat Downing, interim chairperson, has completed one term As head of this committee and would like someone else to volunteer. There has been difficulty getting volunteers to help with membership responsibilities. Approval was given to buy stamps for mailing renewal membership invoices. The Oakridge Neighborhood Association Directory is completed. Copies will be distributed to members by volunteers.

FUND RAISERS

Last year's pumpkin sale and poinsettia sale were both successful and should be held again this year. Other suggested fund raising projects will be considered.

COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

An Oakridge senior citizen who could write an article on senior issues for the newsletter would be most welcome.

A bylaws committee will be appointed to review our present bylaws and make recommendations for the next year.

Peggy Richey will write an article relating to the Oakridge Country Club. In order to promote the ONA at Splash Day several board members volunteered.

The Oakridge Country Club mailed the newsletter last month. All members would have received a copy, as membership labels were supplied to the Club. Other residents could have been missed as it is often difficult to get up to date mailing lists.

The next general membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 15th at 7:30 P.M.. The board meeting will be held on August 24th at 7:00 P.M. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M..

Return the completed form with \$25.00 dues to
Oakridge Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 450145, Garland, TX 75045-0145

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.

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

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

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CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD

Name _____ Birthday _____ Name _____ Birthday _____

Name _____ Birthday _____ Name _____ Birthday _____