

Oakridge News

Vol. 4, No.1

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

July, 1995



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

The Oakridge Neighborhood Crime Watch will be hosting our 2nd National Night Out party Tuesday, August 1st. We will be gathering from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the grassy area by the tennis courts and parking lot at the Country Club. Bring your lawn chairs, umbrellas (for shade), and soft drinks (no alcoholic drinks). The committee will furnish some munchies.

The National Night Out Against Crime is a nation wide event in which Neighborhood Crime Watch groups are encouraged to participate. The purpose of this is to: (1) Heighten local crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know that the neighborhoods in Garland are organized and fighting back.

The Garland Police will stop by briefly to visit and show their support for our efforts in participating in the annual event. Everyone in Oakridge is invited to attend; ONA members, Block Captains, new families and yes, even those who haven't joined the ONA yet. This will be your opportunity to meet your neighbors all over Oakridge and learn more about the ONA. If you haven't joined the ONA or renewed your dues for the 95-96 year, you will be able to do so this evening.

Along with all the social chattering, there will be some super door prize drawings. So be sure to register when you arrive for your lucky chance (only one per family please). There will also be a bucket for donations to contribute to the Citizens On Patrol (C.O.P.) program which we are in the process of organizing. Plans are being made to have an officer speak on this program at the next ONA membership meeting in September.

We are really looking forward to the National Night Out, so we hope to see new faces as well as the regular supporters. Get involved and help make a difference in the fight against crime. If you can't attend, you can still participate by turning your front porch light on from 6:00 p.m. until dark.

OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 450145 Garland, TX
75045-0145
Phone: 220-2286

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ONA MEETINGS

General
Membership Sept 28 7:30
ONA BOARD Sept 6 7:00

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Decorate to Unify

The ABC's of a good interior decorator's education include five basic principles of design: harmony & rhythm, proportion & scale, balance, and emphasis. Before tackling any decorating projects it helps to have an understanding of these five elements. A well-designed room uses each of these principles, but for this article, we will focus on harmony and rhythm which together create unity in a design.

Harmony is the eye-appealing arrangement of parts to form a consistent, satisfying whole. For instances a rustic, ladder-back chair may look completely out of sync placed next to the classic elegance of a Georgian console. As a rule of thumb, formal design works best with other pieces of formal design, just as country pieces mix well with other provincial pieces. However, today's style invites a more eclectic mix of furniture, so be careful not to confuse harmony with monotony!

Arranging furnishings and accessories like the way a composer arranges a musical score gives a room a sense of rhythm. For example, picture window treatments in a deep forest green edged with taupe brushed fringe. In order for the room to have a sense of rhythm those colors should be repeated in other areas of the room. Darker colors and large pieces of furniture carry more weight than lighter colors and small pieces of furniture, so they are loud "notes." Just as a musical piece is a mixture of loud, soft, long and short notes, so is the orchestration of a room.

Another way to introduce rhythm into a room's arrangement is through progression. Imagine a plant on the floor, a table with a lamp, and a sofa with a collage of art above it, arranged so that one component progresses in size to the next. Progression is often used in the grouping of accessories. Various sizes of candlesticks and pictures on a tablescape might be grouped according to size. This does not mean that the progression has to be a straight line -- the grouping could progress in a turning line.

Take a look around your own home. Is the unity in your design scheme apparent? Or does there need to be some work done to accomplish a sense of harmony and rhythm? You'll get a sense of satisfaction whenever you walk into a room that utilizes these important design principles.

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Crime Prevention and Safety

Luanne Payne, Chairperson

CRIME STATISTICS FOR JUNE 1995:

2 - Burglary of Habitation	Richland Stoneridge
1 - Burglary of Vehicle	Big Oaks
2 - Theft \$20 - \$200	Beaver Run Crestedge

The statistics for June remained unchanged from a total of 5 offenses reported. Burglary of habitation was up by 1 report, but June being the first month of summer vacations, I was very surprised at the small amount of offenses.

At the monthly crime watch meeting for the North Sector of Garland, I was informed that 40% of habitation burglaries are due to open garages. The police can't stress it enough to please try to keep your garage doors closed at all times. Sometimes it only takes a minute or maybe five to walk in and out with several items in your garage.

Here are some helpful hints from the police that can help you and also help the police in locating any stolen property.

1. Record all serial numbers on any property you have. Such as bicycles, garage door openers, TV's, VCR's, radio, computers, even kitchen appliances.
2. Engrave your driver's license on any expensive items. The police have engraving pens you may borrow at no cost.

Wallcoverings By Elaine

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Other helpful hints for your safety are:

1. Teach your children or teenagers not to talk about any valuables you may have in your home.
2. Don't make announcements about vacations or work hours around strangers or in public places where your conversation could be overheard.
3. The police say if someone knocks on your door or rings the doorbell, answer the door without opening it. This lets the stranger know there is someone home and will go away. You can simply state that you can not come to the door at this time. If it is a potential burglar and there is no answer, they may go ahead and break in.
4. Make sure you keep an eye open for strangers following you home from a shopping mall or the grocery store. If you do think someone is following you home, don't go home, but drive around and find a safe place to call 911.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

I just received new information about the 1996 Passbook. The pre-sale campaign will begin August 1st thru September 30th. The books this year will be only \$30.00. The previous years they have been sold for \$35.00. The best benefit you get by purchasing your '96 Passbook during the pre-sale is, you are able to begin using the book as soon as you receive it. The books will be delivered by October 1st. So as you can see, you will be able to enjoy the book for **14 full months**. One thing that was changed in the new book will be the expiration dates on the coupons will be December 1, 1996. For those of you who enjoy the benefits of the Passbook, I am sure you will want to take advantage of this great savings. Keep in mind, these books make great presents for birthdays or even Christmas presents. It is a gift that can be used all year long. One other benefit available, is you can purchase books for the Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Galveston, Corpus Christi and Ft. Worth areas at the same low cost of \$30.00. So if you have friends or family in any of those cities and would like to purchase one as a gift, just place your order with me. I will be taking orders August 1st at the National Night Out Crime Watch event or if you would rather call me direct then call me, Luanne Payne at 530-9323.

Thank you for supporting the ONA Crime Watch.

More Summer Fun With The Oakridge Women's Club

The Oakridge Women's Club wishes to thank all of you who made our Annual Fourth of July Parade a huge success! It was All-American fun for the whole family.

Our summer of fun continues on Tuesday, August 8 at 7 p. m. with our monthly meeting. Lacy Brock's home at 2509 Creighton Drive will be the setting for our officer elections and general meeting. For directions or more information, please call Lacy at 414- 9778.

Family fun will be just around the corner when we get together for our Family Pot-Luck Pool Party on Sunday, August 13 at 2 p. m.. Sharron Smith's home at 2226 Diamond Oaks will be the hot spot for us to chill out and splash around! For more information, please call Sharron at 530- 3873.

We hope ALL women in Oakridge will take advantage of the fun and friendship we have to offer this summer.



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Sue Hageland
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We are having several complaints from neighbors in Oakridge of dogs and cats using their yards for their "pooping grounds". If you walk your pets, please take a plastic bag to "scoop the poop" up. If your pets have free run of the street and you see them use a neighbors yard, please go "scoop the poop". Most of the complaints are from neighbors who do not have pets and don't enjoy looking at this in their yards or getting rid of it. Some neighbors are elderly and are unable to clean it out of their yards. Put yourself in their place, wouldn't you be complaining too? So let's all try to be better pet owners and neighbors and "scoop the poop". Don't forget, the ONA has a pet register. If your loved ones get loose, we can help find the owners. So be sure to get your pets registered by calling the ONA Hotline at 220-2286.

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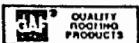
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Civic & Political Interest Committee

Rash Statements

by Jack Rash

“Who, (or is it whom?)” you might ask, “is this guy writing a column in my neighborhood association newsletter?” (If you’re polite, you **won’t** add something like, “It was just fine until he came along.”)

Actually, I’m granted a somewhat conditional license to write this by virtue of serving as your current **ONA Civic and Political Interest Committee** chairperson, whose job it is to inform you of all the civic and political goings-on in our fair community. (If you read the first of these columns — about the Internet — you know I subscribe to a rather broad definition of “civic and political.”)

I chose this format because most of what happens in this arena is opinion and dialogue, which belongs in a column rather than a straight news story. Had this been a real news story, the civic/political report for this month might have read:

“Council Rejects PC Recommendation; Approves Cell Tower Near Oakridge

“The Garland City Council, at its July 18 meeting, rejected the recommendation of the Planning Commission and granted a zoning change request to MetroCell Cellular for the construction of a 125-foot cellular telephone antenna near the intersection of Buckingham and Shiloh Roads...”

Switch to opinion mode:

Our District Councilperson, Oakridge resident **Richard Frick**, was the only Councilperson to vote against the measure. What gives here? Why didn’t the City Council sustain the vote of the Planning Commission and the person representing the affected area?

I had an opportunity to ask one of the other councilpersons these questions on the day after the vote; he gave me a twofold response:

1) No one (other than Councilperson Frick) showed up at the council meeting to formally object; and 2) the City needs the money that will be generated from taxes on MetroCell.

In the long run, Oakridge may not be hurt by a 125-ft tower within a couple of hundred yards of our perimeter. Technology’s advance being what it is, this tower could be obsolete in about half an hour. Let’s just hope the original agreement calls for removal of the tower when MetroCell is through with it.

The larger issue, however, is Council’s eagerness to go for the quick dollar, when the Planning Commission and at least several Oakridge residents who called Councilperson Frick think otherwise. The short-sighted grab for tax revenue may indeed hamper development of single-family housing in the area. But then no one has ever come forward with enough money to buy the Wyrick Farm (site of the tower to-be) and subdivide it.

Now we have another zoning change request pending before City Council: the parcel of land that fronts Buckingham and runs from Jupiter to the first set of apartments. The request is to change it from residential to commercial. My feeling is that we’ve got enough commercial establishments along Buckingham, but, the City does need the revenue. What’s your opinion. Call the ONA Hotline — **220-2286** — or e-mail me at itchman@iadfw.net. No middle-of-the-night phone calls, please.

If this becomes a big enough issue for the fair citizens of Oakridge, we’ll make sure they are heard at City Council meeting.



Membership Award
 Goes to Doris Autrey and Lila LaGrassa for talking to their neighbors on Hearthside, Peakwood and Overview about joining the ONA.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Date _____

According to the by-laws 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

Member # 2

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Place an X in the desired boxes

- Actively participating on a committee.
Please contact me.
- Learning more about the association.
Please contact me.
- Participating on a committee "as needed"
- Offering some type of business sponsorship
(Advertising, Resources, etc.)
- Supporting the Association by paying
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Prioritize your interests in the Association:
(1-Most Important 4-Least Important)

- Social Activities
- Beautification Projects
- Civic and Political
- Crime Prevention
- Senior Citizen
- Youth Organization
- Other _____

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Name _____ Birthday _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

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Name _____ Birthday _____

ONA PET REGISTER

Pet Name _____

Type (Dog/Cat) _____

Breed _____

Age _____

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