



Oakridge News

Vol. 4, No.8

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

March, 1996

ONA SPRING BAKE SALE & CRAFT FAIR

Calling all **BAKERS** and **CRAFTERS**! You are needed to help participate in this Spring function for the **ONA**. If you bake, we need cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, breads, etc. and if you are a crafter or know someone who sells crafts and would like to set a space up, we want you too! It is only \$10 to set up a space to sell. We already have several people signed up to send over some baked items but we need more. We also have several crafters outside of Oakridge who will be selling their items. So come on and get involved. We need volunteers to help work 30 minutes or more if you can.

The **Oakridge Women's Club** is organizing some fun activities for the children. They also need some volunteers to help with these activities. There will be someone to do face painting and we will have several games to play.

Also, the "**Big Red Fire Engine**" from Station 3 will be arriving in the parking lot about 10:30 for all of the kids and adults, too, to get a look at how it is operated. If you have never seen it being set up, it is something to see. So don't miss it!

We, the **ONA**, hope this Spring event will be so inviting that you will want to come out and meet some of your neighbors and meet those of us who work so hard to help make the **ONA** what it is. Since annual dues are just around the corner, June 1st, there will be a table set up to take your renewals and especially sign up some new members. Here is your opportunity to show your support by stopping and meeting the people in your neighborhood.

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH
(Rain date Sat., April 27th)

WHERE: OAKRIDGE COUNTRY CLUB
PARKING LOT

TIME: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

CONTACT: LUANNE PAYNE - 530-932
ONA HOTLINE - 220-2286

If you haven't already called to send over any baked items or crafts, please call today. We really need anything and everything!

OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

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Rash Statements

by Jack Rash

Civic & Political Interest Committee

I hope all of you attended the public meeting last week, and provided your ideas and opinions on the DART Light Rail System in Garland. You've already expressed your opinion (two or three times, now) that you want light rail in Garland. The meeting last week was to find out how you want it to *look* once it's here.

In case you missed that meeting, you'll have other opportunities to express your opinions. In fact, you can "officially" express them to me, since I am now a diligent member of the Garland/ Northeast Corridor Light Rail Advisory Committee.

At the first committee meeting, two DART staffers gave us the complete history, current status, and future plans of the entire system. They told us that, when completed, we'll be able to zip down to Mockingbird and Central in 16.2 minutes, although I don't know why we actually would want to do that.

Many things must be decided before that happens, though, and this is where YOU come in.

Garland will have two depots, three if you count the one at Plano Rd. and Forest Lane that will be built *if* ridership warrants it. The two Garland "kiss-and-rides" (a technical term I learned at the first committee meeting) will be at Forest Lane and Jupiter, and at the Garland Transit Center, which is the existing DART kiss-and-ride across from the Garland Performing Arts Center.

We citizens of Garland can and should have a say-so in how those two or three terminals look – beyond, of course, what is dictated by DART and its master plan. The terminals will all look the same in the basic design, as you can see now on the operating Oak Cliff line.

Unfortunately, we have to decide fairly quickly such things as what amenities should be considered for the terminals, what environmental impact we think the line will have on our neighborhoods, what effect the line will have on traffic flow, and a whole notebook full of other things.

At least one of the major issues to be decided is whether the line will need to be elevated OVER Forest Lane near Jupiter. Traffic on Jupiter, particularly at rush hour, is right at the volume DART sets as its limit for an "at-grade" (meaning the track cross **through** the road) crossing.

There also is talk of creating a pedestrian mall between the terminal at the Garland Transit Center and the downtown square. There are some implications to that, and to all the decisions that have not yet been made.

I encourage you to send your comments by mail to the ONA's post office box, by phone at 220-2286 (the ONA Hotline) or to me via e-mail at itchman@iadfw.net.

Whatever else we do, I think we should start referring to the terminal at the Garland Transit Center as "Grand Central - Garland" or some other "creative" name. Garland Transit Center sounds too sterile and lacking in any real character.

Your opinions and suggestions will be what puts the character in the Light Rail system as it zips through our fair city at 41.3 mph.

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Crime Prevention and Safety

Luanne Payne

CRIME STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 1996:

1 - Burglary of Habitation	Diamond Oaks
1 - Vehicle Burglary	Big Oaks
1 - Theft \$20 - \$200	Moss Trail
1 - Theft Under \$20	Hickory Bend
1 - Criminal Mischief	Big Oaks

The statistics for February of 5 offenses were half that of January, which reported 10 offenses and one-third that of a year ago at this time (15). This is a dramatic decrease when comparing last year statistics to this years. It looks like we are doing something right.

The C.O.P. (Citizens On Patrol) program should be in effect by the first of April. Hopefully, when this patrol program gets off the ground we can continue to see a decline in all reported offenses. But remember, you have to do your part by keeping your garage doors closed to cut down on the burglary of habitations and also by keeping your cars parked in the garage or in the driveway to prevent vehicle burglaries. With the warm weather we are all out working in our yards and if you leave your garage doors up while you are in the front yard this is a prime opportunity for someone to walk into your garage and gather up tools, bikes, or whatever else can be picked up easily and put into a waiting vehicle.

Here is an interesting statistic I would like to share with you about the success of the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance.

- For 18 months prior to the enactment of the ordinance there were 3,871 offenses reported listing juveniles as suspects during ordinance hours.
- For 18 months following the enactment of the ordinance there were 2,788 offenses listing juveniles as suspects during ordinance hours.
- In the months following the ordinance, 70% of the violations occurred during the week and the remaining 30% occurred on week-ends.
- This reflects a decrease in criminal offenses involving juvenile suspects of 28%. The ordinance does appear to be very successful.

Home Maintenance by Steve Brandt

- Carpentry
- Sheetrock Repair
- Acoustical 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 !

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References

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Res (214) 496-1376



Neighbor News Line:

My husband and I live on Hickory Bend Drive. We are new to Oakridge, and we, like a lot of you, have intended to join the Oakridge Neighborhood Association, go to a meeting, and above all, get involved with our neighborhood association. Like a lot of you, we both work full-time, have small children, and are VERY BUSY. Having had no experience with the ONA, we were under the impression that they had plenty of volunteers to help, and everything ran smoothly... WRONG. After a long conversation with Luanne Payne, we now realize that there is a desperate need for people to volunteer a small amount of time to help keep the ONA a strong organization. Currently, there are too few people doing too many jobs, and they are in need of our help.

We are willing to donate some of our time to this vested interest we all have, which is to keep Oakridge a pleasant, safe and beautiful place to live. If the majority of the people who reside in Oakridge would donate as little as one (1) hour of time a month, the ONA would not have a need for help. There will be a membership drive on Saturday, April 20th in the Country Club parking lot. Please make plans to become a member of the ONA on this day. The cost to join is \$36.00/year, prorated based on the month that you join. There will be a drawing for a Macaroni Grill gift certificate for all who place membership on April 20th. If you are currently an ONA member, please come by and sign-up to volunteer one hour a month.

It is going to take all of our efforts to keep the ONA going strong.

Jeff & Lisa Jones

To All My Oakridge Neighbors

My boys and I want to express our sincerest thanks for the contributions, support and prayers during this tragic time.

Your kindness has touched our lives and hearts and will always be remembered.

The Ballou's
Nancy, Tyson, Brandon and Noah

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Mon.-Sat. 7:30 AM-6:00 PM . Sun. 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
3221 BELTUNE RD AT JUPITER

495-8555

Delivery Available





Saturday, April 6
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Hella Temple, 2121 Rowlett Road
Benefiting Garland Crime Stoppers, Inc.
Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door
276-5713 or 205-2126

"TASTE OF GARLAND"

This is the 7th Annual Taste of Garland which is put on each year to benefit the Garland Crimestoppers. Every dollar raised goes directly into the Garland Crimestoppers reward fund. These funds are used to help solve local crimes and lead to the arrest of suspects. The date for this big event is Saturday, April 6th, from 7:00PM - 10:00PM at the Hella Temple, 2121 Rowlett Road. Be sure to get your tickets in advance for \$15. If purchased at the door the tickets will be \$18. There are no children or senior citizen rates. You can also reserve a table for a party of 10 by calling 276-5713 or 205-2126. You may also call this number to order your advance tickets. So come on out hungry and enjoy tasting samples from over 20 Garland restaurants and stay for the great door prizes given away during the evening. There is also a live auction with some great items to bid on.



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OAKRIDGE WELCOME WAGON

The "Welcome Wagon", which is part of the ONA Membership Committee, along with the Women's Club has been trying to welcome new families who have moved into Oakridge. We want them to know what a great neighborhood Oakridge is. But we need your help to let us know when a new family has moved. We have no way of knowing unless you call us. You may contact Mary Musseman at 414-1098 or call the ONA Hotline at 220-2286. This committee also needs some volunteers to help with the work load and bring in new members to help make the ONA a stronger organization.

HOMEOWNER INSURANCE ALERT

What Condition is your ROOF?

There are major changes in the coverage for homeowners where roofs are concerned. I have spoken with several different insurance agents from several different companies. Let me share with you the many comments made to me. Effective January 1, 1996 there have been additional changes. Here goes:

1. Some companies will not insure wood shingle roofs with composition overlays.
2. Some companies want a minimum of 15 years life left on the roof for a normal 500.00 deductible. It is common to see a 1% deductible for any roof damage due to hail or wind. If the roof is between 5-10 years they still want a 1% deductible. The industry is trying to lobby for a 1% deductible for hail and wind regardless of the life of the roof.
3. Some companies will not allow a second roof overlay, but in order to insure the property are requesting a tear-off and only one layer of composition shingle.
4. Some companies are not writing new business in Dallas County in the area because of their heavy losses. This is not new except that the number of firms not writing the business is growing.

If you are looking to sell your home and your roof is the original or it is wood shingle, you need to discuss these items above with your insurance company. They are causing many problems with the sale of properties in the area. All insurance companies have different requirements, but it would be wise to know if you will be forced to replace a roof in order to sell your home. Without insur-

ance, the lender will not give the new buyer a loan. I think that we will be seeing some major changes in the insurance industry regarding this problem as many of them have had major financial blows because of our weather and storms.

Peggy Richey
Keller Williams Realty

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Jupiter at Beltline Next to Target Phone 414-0445

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is that time of the year again for the ONA to elect **NEW** volunteer officers to help run this association. The ONA will be 5 years old June 1st and we feel we have been successful in several ways to help make Oakridge a better place to live in. For the past 5 years, there has been a small handful of faithful volunteers who have been dedicated enough to hang in there to make the association work. We are proud of the work we have done and hope you are too. Here are just a few examples of what the association has done over the past 4 years with only a limited number of households to help support us:

1. All 4 outside walls are now being maintained on a regular basis by a landscape company who also repairs and maintains the sprinkler systems at the entryways. Each year a new bid is solicited to make sure we are getting the best rate.

2. The Crime Watch is stronger than ever. Every year the crime rate has decreased in Oakridge because of the interest you show in helping to prevent crime.

3. The Membership has grown each year, but we would definitely like to see a great deal more support. As of today we have 460 members out of a total of 1140 homes in Oakridge. The dues are only \$36 per year.

4. We have a great Newsletter that is distributed by many volunteers to every house in Oakridge. We know some of you enjoy it and look forward to receiving it each month. This is all put together by the same volunteers every month with only the cost of a printing charge.

These are just a few of the things the ONA does. The reason for explaining some of the activities of the ONA we are hoping to get some new volunteers to help us out. If we had some new blood to help revive the die-hard volunteers, it would make our jobs easier. Every organization needs volunteers and the more you have, the easier the work is. So please consider volunteering for one of the positions in the ONA. The Nominating Committee will be working next month to recruit new officers so if you know of anyone or you are interested, please call the ONA Hotline at 220-2286. The committee consists of the following people:

Jo Ann Schmerheim
Marcus Meurer
Luanne Payne

Lila LaGrassa
Clara Mae Meurer

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BLOCK PARTIES

There are some streets that have had very successful Block Parties. It is a fun way to meet your neighbors. Following is the city's procedure for planning a Block Party. If you need more information call the ONA Hot Line 220-2286

DEPARTMENT PROCEDURES FOR BLOCK PARTIES

1. Request approved only for Residential classified streets.
2. Request to be approved by the following City Departments:
POLICE, FIRE and TRANSPORTATION
3. The applicant must submit a petition with the signature of all residents directly affected by the block party to the Transportation Department. The petition must be received and "time stamped" a minimum of 1 day in advance of the date of the block party.
4. The applicant shall provide the following information:
 - A. Applicant Name.
 - B. Applicant Address.
 - C. Applicant Telephone Number.
 - D. Proposed Date, Time and Street to be used for block party.
 - E. Alternate person to contact in emergency, if applicant is not available.
5. Permitted time for block party shall be between 9:00 AM and 10:00 PM. No party shall begin before 9:00 AM nor extend beyond 10:00 PM.
6. Applicant shall be responsible for removal of all trash, refuse, etc., from the street within 8 hours after the party.
7. No alcohol beverages permitted within street right-of-way.
8. Transportation Department will provide to the applicant residence, barricades, cones and/or signs. The street shall be barricaded at the nearest adjacent intersections.
9. The applicant shall remove the barricades, cones and/or signs immediately after the party and store the material at his/her residence for pick up.
10. Transportation Department will pick up the material the following regular work day after the party.
11. The street closure shall be in a manner to permit emergency vehicle entrance without undue delay.
12. Fire hydrants shall be kept free and clear of obstructions.

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