
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 8, No. 3

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

August 1999

President's Corner: Mike Rose, President

Our community consists of approximately 1,180 homes located in an area bounded by Beltline on the North; Buckingham on the South; Shiloh on the East; and Jupiter on the West. Do you know that our membership numbers about 455 families? Your new board would like to thank each and every family for their continued support.

The fall general membership meeting is scheduled for September 30, 1999. It will be held at Oakridge Country Club. Look for further details in the next newsletter.

The board will have its regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Unless there is a conflict, the meetings will be at the Club. If you have concerns please indicate them to your District Director so that the entire board may be made aware of your concerns.

ONA is a 100% voluntary organization so without your involvement there would be no Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

What is a neighborhood? Does the following describe our neighborhood?

a district or an area with distinctive characteristics;
the people who live near one another or in a particular district or area;
the surrounding area, vicinity;
friendliness appropriate to a neighbor: *a feeling of neighborhood;*

**OAKRIDGE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**
P.O. Box 450145
Garland, TX 75045-0145
ONA Hotline: 214-967-5136

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Vice President	Jim Griffin
Secretary	Fern Cook
Treasurer	JoAnn Schmerheim

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District 4	Bill Johnson
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District 6	Nelson Prater
District 7	Donna Visneau

COMMITTEES

Membership	Mary Musseman Fern Cook
Newsletter	Jackie Griffin Luanne Payne
Environmental	Cy Farver
Architectural	Gary Richey
Crime Prevention	Luanne Payne
Citizens on Patrol	Lila LaGrassa
Homeowners Coal.	Mike Rose
Welcome Wagon	Luanne Payne

Do you know your neighbor, whether this is the family next-door or several doors down the street? Knowing your neighborhood helps in keeping the crime down. Do your neighbors help in the support of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association by being a member? We all should be encouraging our neighbors to be actively involved in their community. The Board will try and become more aware of what is going on in City politics, thus keeping everyone informed of new developments that will affect our quality of life.

The Board will be making a concerted effort the coming year to cause our membership to grow. If we are able to increase the membership more could be done to help keep our property values up. There are many "community developments" in the City that have fallen into disrepair. We should not want this to be the case in the Oakridge community. All of the families living in Oakridge must be made aware of this concern.

OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

Libby Morse

At the Last Meeting:

We met at Nedley's and elected new officers

President.....Kay Steelman

Vice President.....Libby Morse

Treasurer.....Kay Steelman

Adult Activities.....Sharron Smith

Membership.....Mary Macejewski

Sunshine.....Sheila Wange

Children's activities....Suzanne Fletcher

Halloween Party.....Sheila Wange and Pam Trutna

Christmas Party.....Mary Macejewski

Sharon Spurgeon

4th of July parade.....Vicki Scott

Historian.....MaryAnne Cullum

Newsletter.....Libby Morse



Next Month:

Our next meeting is on Tuesday September 7th at 7:30 p.m. We will meet at Texas Land and Cattle Company on Central Expressway and Spring Valley. Please call Kay Steelman at 972-495-4879 for more information. We will plan activities for the upcoming year.

Don't be shy... Join the OWC!

Come and join the Oakridge Women's Club! We meet the first Tuesday of each month! It is a great way to get to know your neighbors, their families and have fun! Outings are scheduled with a variety of interests in mind. We have holiday parties for the kids, nights out for the girls, and couple only activities! Please join us! Our dues are only \$15 per year! Just call Mary Macejewski at 972-495-5734 if you would like to join us! We are a fun group and would love to have new members!



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LET SUE DO IT

You need a week away, but Kitty and Rover
don't want to go to the Kennel

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(and the prices are reasonable)

- Pet/House Sitting
- Errands
- Taking kids to soccer, ortho, Etc.
- Shopping
- Grocery Shopping (Especially for Home Bound Seniors)
- Etc., Etc.

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- BATHROOM TILE & CAULKING

Citizens On Patrol:
Bill Johnson

As many readers know, one function performed by volunteers within the Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) is a neighborhood crime prevention program called Citizens On Patrol (C.O.P.). Members of this group volunteer personal time to patrol Oakridge streets and alleys, serving notice to anyone considering illegal or improper activity that our residents care about the neighborhood and are looking out for each other.

The Garland police support this activity and train each person patrolling. Before each tour of patrol, the person patrolling notifies the Garland Police Desk of their activity. Any suspicious circumstances are reported to this desk via a cell phone donated by Southwestern Bell, a supporter of citizen involvement in crime prevention. Additionally, those patrolling often notify homeowners of dangerous situations such as open garage doors, an invitation to thieves. Volunteers have patrolled a total of nearly 1000 hours since this activity began.

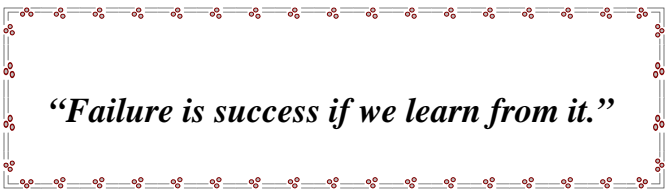
As the newly appointed Coordinator of the Citizens On Patrol activity, I encourage everyone to cooperate with these volunteer patrollers, and to join the patrol team if possible. We need more volunteers, male, female, or even pairs. Patrol times can be performed day or night, weekdays or weekends. Patrol periods usually last an hour or two, at a time chosen by the patroller. To become a member of the patrol team, one must take a course conducted by the Garland Police. Those interested may contact Luanne Payne (Crime Prevention Committee) at 972-530-9323, or Bill Johnson (Coordinator, Citizens On Patrol) at 972-414-1665.

I wish to thank all current and prior COP volunteers for their service and support. Especially, I wish to thank Lila LaGrassa and her husband, Harry, for serving as Coordinator before me, and getting me started. We all wish

Lila well as she undertakes medical treatment.

Your friends and neighbors currently active in the COP activity include Jim Cook, Arthur Dietz, Bill Edwards, Bob Elmes, Riley Evans, Cyrus Farver, Jerry Giles, Ron Horan, Bill Johnson, Sam Ladymon, Bob Musseman, Luanne and Vance Payne, Jo Ann Schmerheim, and Fran Walker. I hope I haven't overlooked anyone!

In summary, when you see a car with Citizens On Patrol signs cruising your street or alley, give them a friendly wave



“Failure is success if we learn from it.”

SLOW DOWN

By Scott Youzva, Past ONA President

Did you know that it is almost impossible to go thirty, that is 3-0, M.P.H. in today's cars?

Well, contrary to this thought, all cars can operate at 30 MPH just fine. I can't think of a single good reason to speed through our neighborhood, since the longest route from any of the major streets surrounding Oakridge to your home can't exceed two miles. That means that you will only save a maximum of one minute if you drive 60 MPH instead of 30 MPH down the street.

Most people don't have to go two miles to get to their house and most don't quite get to 60 MPH, so you are not going to save even a full minute. The fraction of a minute that you may save is not worth the injury to a child riding his or her bike. That fraction of a minute is certainly not worth the \$50 ticket you could get. So I beg of you, slow down and don't worry about that impatient driver behind you; you may be saving a life!

ONA POET'S CORNER

Would you like to share with your friends and neighbors a favorite bit of verse you have written? This Newsletter feature lets you do just that. Deliver your composition to Bill Johnson.
email: bill_margejohnson@prodigy.net
address: 2126 Rolling Oak Lane, phone: 972-414-1665

The following describes an actual event in Bill's childhood.

The Duel

He halted his flight, elected to fight, wanting
to win
Who could deny the glare in his eye, primed
to begin
I pushed him too far, no choice now but spar,
crossed over the line
The die was cast, we'd battle at last, the
cause was all mine

Then he spun around, feet raking the ground,
perfecting his aim
His mouth opened wide, fear in him died,
triumphant he came
I pushed for this duel, no matter how cruel:
still, laughing with glee
I fled with a yell -- then stumbled and fell,
ripped open my knee

A sharp piece of tin tore open my shin, the
scar I still wear
I bellowed with pain, my cries were in vain,
for no one was there
Ah, that rooster did crow, he vanquished his
foe, and called my bluff
Back and forth he went, past my figure still
bent, strutting his stuff

Not one to hold a grudge I am told, I
declared him the winner
And to show my regard, out there in the yard,
I asked him to dinner
Of course he agreed, fed up with birdseed,
and wishing a hero to stay
His fame didn't last, a delicious repast he
made on Sunday

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police & Fire Emergencies	911
Police Non-Emergencies	972-205-2150
Lone Star Gas	1-800-817-8090
Sanitation	972-205-3500
Environmental Code	972-205-3800
Animal Control	972-205-3570
Poison Center	1-800-764-7661
Street Light Repair	972-205-3483
Electricity Emergency	972-205-3000
Water & Sewer	972-205-3210
Councilman, Lowell Hyatt	972-495-9394
Off. Stephanie Webb, NPO	972-205-2740
ONA Hotline	214 -967-5136

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Musseman

The ONA currently has 388 members. Thanks to everyone who have taken the time to send in their renewals. We have sent members their second renewal notice. There are currently 53 members from last year who we have not heard from. If you have not renewed your membership PLEASE take a moment and renew your membership today. I would like to thank Luanne Payne for taking care of the membership duties while I was away this summer.

Special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. John Finco for the extra donation for the beautification fund.

Longaberger
Independent Sales Consultant
Vicki Eakin
972-495-6759

**Book a basket party before November
and receive a free gift!**

ATTENTION: WOMEN OF OAKRIDGE

A cordial invitation is extended to each one of you to attend the "September Kick-Off Coffee" which will begin the second year of the Oakridge Daytimers. Please come on Tuesday, September 14th at 10 A.M. to the home of Roberta Jones, 2601 Oak Point Drive to hear more about the exciting plans for our club for the 1999-2000 season.

Just a little bit of background info on Oakridge Daytimers for those of you who haven't yet attended: we are a social club for all women residing in our Oakridge community with many activities each month including luncheons and coffees as well as the Activity/Interest groups listed below.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH – Wednesday, September 22nd at 11:30 A.M. at the Carriage Shop Wonderful World of Cooking located on the NW corner of Coit & Campbell. Please call Margaret Fowler at 972-530-8585 to make reservations for the September luncheon.

CRAFTS GROUP – September 21st at 10 A.M. at Jackie Tucker's home at 2826 Stoneridge. Phone her at 972-530-0665 for more information.

BOOK CLUB – September 17th at 10 A.M. at Roberta Jones' home at 2601 Oak Point Drive. You are invited even if you haven't read the summer selections as we will be choosing our readings for the fall season. Contact our coordinator, Jo Anne Williams at 972-530-2938 with any questions.

BRIDGE – If you have any interest in playing bridge, there is bound to be a group you will feel comfortable playing in, from the beginner to the advanced level. Jane Buchanan, our very own teacher and coordinator can be reached at 972-530-4762.

WALKERS – Barbara Brunette at 972-530-4288 can fill you in on the established route

for the "walkers" who meet M-W-F at 7:15 A.M.

HOSPITALITY – Let's be sure we let Dianne Winter know when someone in our club needs a little sunshine. Call her at 972-530-6210 and she can send a note!

Looking forward to seeing you at the coffee at my home in September and some of these other activities. Set aside some time to get to know your special neighbors...you'll be glad you did.

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CART

Ron Jones - Assistant City Manager

CART – The Community Action Response Team is designed to use staffing resources from selected City departments in a proactive and reactive manner in addressing community and neighborhood matters relating to blight, decay, and unsightly areas.

CART has recently completed its first proactive project in the Sumner Addition. When CART began in this area (west of Garland Road between State and Wilson) the area was overrun with weeds, junk vehicles, improper storage, and substandard housing. CART began by surveying the residents, offering assistance, and educating them on improving their neighborhoods. After determining the demographics in the area, notices of violation were issued to residents and businesses that were found with code violations. CART placed dumpsters in the area for two weeks for cleanups and community service workers were used to assist residents in mowing and trimming any overgrown vegetation. As of July 15, 1999 the area is much cleaner and efforts are ongoing with Neighborhood Initiatives to provide home improvement to the seniors in the area who are financially unable to improve their homes. As well, code and police continue to monitor the area for reoccurring crime and code violations. The Sumner Addition project was a success.

Maintaining property values in neighborhoods is and should be a concern for all Garland residents. This can be achieved with ongoing education of City ordinances and policies, providing assistance to those in the neighborhoods who are financially unable to properly maintain their property (elderly, low income), and citizen participation in neighborhood associations. In addition, it is important to educate landlords and renters so that they will be knowledgeable of their responsibility relating to City nuisance and code violations. Business owners are also a vital part of every neighborhood and are to comply with City ordinances as well. This includes matters relating to high weeds, trash, illegal dumping, dilapidated signs, peeling paint, etc.

WILDLIFE!

There have been reported sightings of a fox (or foxes) around the various holes and tee boxes on the Oakridge Country Club golf course. Animal control said they are next to impossible to catch (ever heard the term sly as a fox?! They reportedly feed off rats but you should be cautious if you see one, as it could be rabid. There have also been reports of opossum and a skunk! Remember – these animals are wild and could bite!

CLASSIFIED ADS

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CRIME STATISTICS FOR JULY 1999:

Luanne Payne

Habitation Burglary – Winding Oak:

Thief stole three sets of golf clubs from OPEN GARAGE DOOR. Offense occurred between midnight and 4:00 p.m. on Thurs. 7/8.

Habitation Burglary – Golden Oaks:

Thief stole self-propelled lawn mower from OPEN GARAGE DOOR. Offense occurred between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sun. 7/25.

Habitation Burglary – Stoneridge:

Thief stole self-propelled lawn mower from OPEN GARAGE DOOR. Offense occurred between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Sun. 7/25.

Theft \$50-\$500 – Oak Point:

Thief stole lawn mower that was left unattended in front yard. Offense occurred between 7:30 p.m. on Mon. 7/26 and 9:30 a.m. on Tues. 7/27.

Theft Under \$50 – Winding Oak:

Thief stole license plates from vehicle parked on driveway. Offense occurred between 6:00 p.m. on Thurs. 7/22 and 6:00 p.m. on Fri. 7/22.

The month of July only had 5 offenses reported. As you can see from above 3 of these offenses would have been prevented if the garage door had been closed. Another one could have been prevented if the lawn mower had not been left outside all night. It is sad but true, that we have to lock every thing up or we become victims. I think back when I grew up and we slept with the windows open and never thought about locking our doors. Times have changed and we just have to do the best we can. The C.O.P. has been patrolling regularly and tries to notify you if your garage door is open.

Remember, school has started and please slow down in the school zones. Fines can be pretty hefty if you get caught speeding. Also, when you see a school bus with its red lights flashing, it means that it is stopped so students can get on or off safely. By law, traffic approaching from either direction must STOP until the flashing red lights are turned off. Failure to stop is subject to a minimum fine of \$200-\$1000. Second offenses can result in loss of the driver's license. It is also a state law that school buses stop at all railroad crossings as a safety precaution.

BORED?

It is Saturday night, after 9 p.m., you are at home with nothing to do. You are tired of watching reruns. The kids want to go out and do something – anything. Well, here is the solution! Pile in the car and drive to downtown Garland! The Garland downtown square is alive with music on Saturday nights throughout the summer. There are people playing guitars, violins, harmonicas and banjos all around the square. If you have any musical talents – including singing – feel free to join in! Just don't miss the fun and entertainment! The best part about it – it's free!



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ATTITUDE

By Charles Swindoll

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company, a church, or a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past and we cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes.”

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