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# ◊ Oakridge News ◊

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Vol. 8, No. 10

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

April 2000

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## President's Corner - Mike Rose

Our March general meeting was a success. This meeting was well attended, however it was disappointing that there was not an overflow crowd. Each of the three mayoral candidates presented their views of our City and then the floor was opened for questions. There were many good questions fielded by all three candidates. Thank you for taking your time to come to your meeting and to find out about those who wish to run our City for the next few years.

Do you know what happens **May 6<sup>th</sup>** ? Mark that date in your things to do list. **Go vote!** There are several charter amendments that will appear on the ballot. We, the voters, will be asked to make a decision on these items. Please make yourself aware of the need to make these changes.

Five of our members volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. They are; Nelson Prater, Peggy Richey, Jim Cook, Dianne Winter and Mary Reed. The entire Oakridge Neighborhood Association would like to thank these folks for taking their time to serve our organization. The slate of officers that this committee develops will be printed in our May newsletter. We will have nominations from the floor and vote at the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Your Board is exploring the possibility of creating a web site for the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. Wouldn't it be convenient to be able to find out about the O.N.A. activities on the internet. Welcome to the electronic age. Stay tuned for updated information regarding the web site address.

If you walk our neighborhood in the early evening, I'm sure you have noticed that more homes have porch lights on during the evening hours or homeowners who have installed the motion sensor floodlights. If you or your neighbors have not done this, you should consider the installation of sufficient lights to illuminate your outside. Doing this might help prevent theft or burglary of your home. If one were to check with the City Police department one might find that statistics show that intruders will not attempt to break in a home that is well lighted. How about using timers to turn on and off selected lamps inside your home?

Finally, as Spring turns into Summer, a great big "at-a-boy " should go to Cy Farver for his continued efforts in the keeping of the common areas good looking. It is amazing how much better they would look if our membership increased. Do you know if your friends or neighbors are members? At the recent general membership meeting maps were presented which illustrated which homes are members. These maps will be brought to each general meeting in the future. See you at the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

### OFFICERS

President	Mike Rose
Vice President	Jim Griffin
Secretary	Fern Cook
Treasurer	JoAnn Schmerheim

### DIRECTORS

District 1	Joan McDole
District 2	Karen Hearn
District 3	Diana Edwards
District 4	Bill Johnson
District 5	Kathy Cypert
District 6	Nelson Prater
District 7	

### COMMITTEES

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

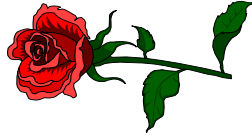
**The ONA does not  
endorse any particular  
candidate!**



**PRESERVE YOUR RIGHT TO COMPLAIN!  
DON'T FORGET TO  
VOTE  
MAY 6TH**

## OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

*Libby Morse*



### At the Last Meeting:

We had a nice wine and cheese party at Maryann's house. We toured her home to see all of her beautiful redecorating! We reviewed some ideas for upcoming adult activities.

Look for Kay's daughter Kimberly in upcoming Middlekauff Ford commercials. Maryann's son Tommy played a lovely song on the piano.

We had a lot of fun at the Easter Egg Hunt! The kids loved the Eggs and games!

### Next Month:

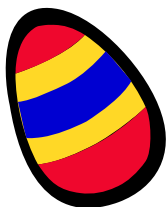
Our Next meeting is on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. We will meet at Tia's TexMex @ Spring Valley and I75. Please call Kay Steelman at 972-495-4879 for more information. We will plan some of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade activities.

### Member News:

We had a visitor Pamela Stephens. Welcome to Oakridge! We hope you join the OWC!

### About the OWC:

Come and join the OWC. 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 couples activities. Our dues are only \$15 dollars per year. Just call Kay Steelman at 972-495-4879 for more information.



### **LET SUE DO IT**

The refrigerator repairman is coming today but you have an important meeting

### **LET SUE DO IT**

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

### **LET SUE DO IT**

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(and the prices are reasonable)

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- Taking kids to soccer, ortho, Etc.
- Shopping
- Grocery Shopping (Especially for Home Bound Seniors)
- Etc., Etc.

### **LET SUE DO IT**

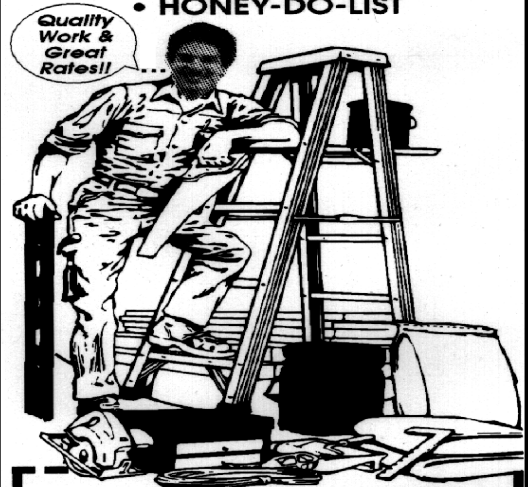
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**Neighborhood Incident**  
by Bill Johnson

An Oakridge resident reported to me an incident occurring on April 5th, in the early evening. This resident, a woman, was driving in the vicinity of Ridge Oak when she passed another car occupied by 2 or 3 youths. Someone in this other car, a light blue Mitsubishi (she thinks) threw something at her car. While it bounced off her hood and windshield, it apparently did no physical damage. However, it did frighten her. She pursued the youths down several streets. They seemed to know the neighborhood fairly well, and finally went down an alley. She reported this incident to the police, along with the license number of the car (YVT 02W).

I cite this instance to inform and alert Oakridge residents. If anyone has had problems with drivers of this vehicle – or if you do in the future – or if you know who owns this vehicle, do not hesitate to contact the police. Such attacks on solitary drivers in our neighborhood, especially women, can not be condoned. Certainly, these young men should be reprimanded for their behavior.



**MEMBERSHIP**

*Mary Musseman*

As of April 11, 2000 our membership is at 418 members. During the month of May, we deliver newsletters to the entire neighborhood. It's always nice to receive early renewals in May, then you'll be all paid up and I won't have to bother you for a whole year. If not, an invoice will be mailed to you June 1st. Your membership is vital to the continuance of this organization and we appreciate your support. **HAPPY EASTER!!!**

**GIN' TAILS HAPPY TAILS  
& WAGS**



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**Crime Stats**  
*Luanne Payne*  
Still no crime stats.

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## NOTABLE NEIGHBORS

*Dianne Winter*

GOOD THINGS are happening in Oakridge! One of the best things that has happened is this demonstration of being a good Samaritan. Barbara Brunette was talking on the phone to Betty Sloane about attending the next Daytimers' Luncheon when Betty mentioned that she was having difficulty breathing. (Bear in mind that these 2 ladies had never met.) As the conversation continued, Barbara recognized that Betty was indeed having health difficulties. Barbara went to Betty's home and after evaluating the situation, she decided that Betty needed more help that she could administer. She called 911. This isn't the end of the story. Barbara found the information to call Betty's son to inform him that his mother was being taken to the hospital. Then Barbara went to the hospital and stayed until Betty received a diagnosis of emphysema and was released. Barbara returned Betty to her home and alerted her next-door neighbors, the Parks, to her condition. The Parks are new residents in Oakridge. We send get-well greetings to Betty, welcome to the Parks, and congratulations to Barbara for a neighborly job well done!

This story also alerts us to the fact that it would be good for all of us to put the name of a contact person in a visible place for emergencies.

Almost 30 families participated in the Oakridge Garage Sale, and from all reports, the profits were good. Many items were recycled and as neighbors made the rounds, more neighbor contacts were made.

If you have schoolteachers as neighbors, wish them well during the next month. May is difficult for teachers and students. Try to keep your students interested in the school activities as "spring fever" sets in. We

are proud of all our students from Oakridge and if you have specific award and graduation information, tell me about it so we can share their activities and graduations in the May newsletter. Call me at 972-530-6210 or email [ddwinter@home.com](mailto:ddwinter@home.com)

Travel always increases in springtime. Trudy Schmidt is excited about her upcoming trip to visit grandchildren and if you can keep up with Harry and Ruby Nell Ormon's itinerary, you are a winner! Some of their destinations are the U.S. East coast and Europe. The Notable Fisherman award goes to Jo Dietz, who caught the largest bass on a family fishing trip to Lake Fork-not bad for her FIRST TRY.

The Notable Neighbor Award for Bravery goes to Bob and Mary Musseman who accompanied almost 90 Garland High School Band students to the Big Apple. Among the students was Miranda, their daughter. Ask Mary about some of the fun incidents and how to keep wandering

students in their rooms. They all returned safely after seeing many sights and participating in competition. Bob and Mary have contributed their time and effort to the community for many years, but this effort far exceeds the call to duty. We are glad to have them back from New York City.

We have information that several bridge players have added movie reviews to their agenda.

No names, but we hear that if you attend beginners bridge, you will have a good time.

There are several neighbors with illnesses in our community. Be a NOTABLE NEIGHBOR and encourage them. Daily routines are difficult enough without the added burden of illness. From the smallest allergy sniffles to the gravest diagnosis, good neighbors are the best medicine.



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Environmental  
*Cy Farver*

Spring has sprung and they are already talking about water rationing! I guess it is never too early to get prepared for dry weather when you live in this part of the world.

One of the ways we can save water and help our yard and plants in the process, is to water in the early hours of the day. If you have an irrigation system set your timer to run at 4 a.m. or cut your time in half and run it twice. You can run the first cycle at 4:a.m. and the second at 6a.m. This allows the water to soak in and reduces run off when the top layer is saturated. The second cycle has a better chance of getting to the deeper roots. If you don't have a system then keep your hose watering to the early hours as much as possible. If you water in the afternoon, you will lose a lot to evaporation, especially on these windy spring days. As the summer comes on and the heat rises, you can actually scald your plants with afternoon watering.

We have replaced all the pansies at the various entrances with begonias. This is earlier than in the past, but with the kind of summer being predicted, we wanted to give the plants an early start and good root systems before that heat hits them in June.

We have mulched all the plants and will put down another layer in a month. This will give the young plants a chance to come up a little bit more and not get smothered with the mulch. The coverage should average about three inches to reduce water evaporation and prevent weed growth.

The ONA Members have made very generous donations for flowers in past years. And we are asking for your support again this spring. The flower's cost is a small part of the overall expense when you factor in the water and electricity used to maintain the flower beds. We hope you will continue to support our programs with another donation this year. Please send it to:

Oakridge Neighborhood Association  
P.O.Box 450145  
Garland, TX. 75045-0145

*Oakridge Neighborhood Association  
Beautification Donation*

I wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the O.N.A. for use in purchasing flowers and shrubs to be planted at an entrance to Oakridge.

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Phone



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## OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

*Dianne Winter*



APRIL showers not only bring MAY flowers, but also RECORD ATTENDANCE at the April Daytimers' meeting held at the home of **Sarah Traylor**. Sumptuous Snacks were provided by hostesses **Audrey Golden, Ruth Kimberlin and Mary Jensen** and smiles were provided by over 30 attendees

Following the gracious tea setting at **Monica Evans'** home in March with new members **Nell Burt** and **Janice Schadeegg**, we were honored to exceed our attendance in April and welcome four new members: **Brenda Dixon, Becky Parks, Chris Beyers and Betty Roberson**.

Each new member brought a talent and interests that we welcomed. Chris is adjusting her schedule to attend; Brenda loves cooking and is organizing our recipes; Becky is an aerobics instructor, and Betty is a newlywed of one year. (Ask **Mary Jo Herring** the difference between long-married and newly married couples.)

Sunshine chairman, **Gail Durbin**, presented Happy April Birthday wishes to **Norene Murphy** and **Betty Glover**. **Roberta Jones** is celebrating the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her marriage to Dan. Welcome back to **Barbara Brunette** and **Betty Glover** whose recent retirements enable them attend again. Reports were given on absent members and community concerns.

Hospitality chairman **Jo Dietz** conducted the door prize drawing that was awarded to **Pam Hubbard**. **Brenda Britton** organized a second Secret Pal drawing for newcomers.

**Jackie Tucker** reported on the progress of the Christmas tree skirt construction.

Sign-up sheets were flying through the air like spring pollen. New interest areas that are developing are travel groups (day long and longer), pinochle groups, day and night canasta groups and water aerobics. Add these activities to the existing groups and we have the following list: (if not previously mentioned)

**Canasta night:** Margaret Fowler 972-530-8585

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm**


**Out to Lunch Bunch:** Diane Owens 972-530-6513

**Blue Mesa Grille, April 27<sup>th</sup> 11:15**

**Book Club:** JoAnn Williams 972-530-2938

**Robin Yaklin's April 21 10:00**

For additional information contact **Roberta Jones**, president, 972-414-7277.

The greatest buzz  was concerning the **SPRING HATFEST LUNCHEON**

**MAY 9<sup>th</sup> 11:00**

**2121 Windy Ridge**

**Diane Owens' home**

**972-530-6513**



Wear your favorite **hat**, bring a **salad**, and join the festivities. The hats will be judged in these categories: **Beautiful Bonnets, Hats with a History, Crazy Creations and Tale-Telling Tams**.

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## Neighborhood Survey

By: **Rebecca Beck**  
Project Leader, City of Garland

The City of Garland is wrapping up the first test phase of its Neighborhood Benchmarking Program, and will soon begin a pilot program that involves the Oakridge neighborhood. One portion of the benchmarking program is a resident opinion survey that focuses on issues and conditions specific to your neighborhood. We recently tested this survey in the Camelot neighborhood, and we are very pleased with the response. We had an initial response rate of 46%, which is exceptional for a mail survey.

The results of the survey are currently being studied to identify any changes that need to be made to the questionnaire before it is mailed to neighborhoods in the pilot program. Findings from the Camelot survey have been forwarded to the City's Community Services Manager for follow-up with the neighborhood association and appropriate City departments.

At a recent board meeting, the Oakridge Neighborhood Association voted to partner with the City to enhance the survey in the Oakridge neighborhood. Normally, the City would conduct a statistical sampling of residents for the survey. The ONA, however, has pledged

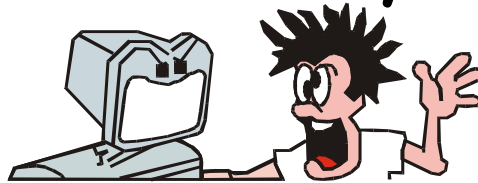
to pick up the additional postage costs required to mail the survey to every household in the Oakridge neighborhood.

We are excited about the ONA's interest in the Neighborhood Benchmarking Program and look forward to working with you in the future. Look for the resident opinion survey to appear in your mailbox during the early summer months.

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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