
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 9, No. 3

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

August 2000

Observations by – Mike Rose

Please read this newsletter carefully as there are articles within that will tell you how you might save some money and how it might cost you some money. The article by the Fire Chief suggests that we might be able to receive an additional 8% discount from our homeowners insurance policy. This is due to the citizens continued support for the fire department when they ask for capital improvement money to be included in the bond programs. The article by the Assistant City Attorney tells us of fines that will be imposed if we run the red-light. The City should have this program up and running later this year. Because the intersection of Buckingham and Jupiter is within the City of Richardson, there will be no installation of cameras here. The City of Richardson could institute a program similar to this, however at this time they choose not to. Wonder if they will change their mind when they see the improvement in our City's red-light runner problem?

As you are aware schools are back in session. Please be careful as you drive around within our Oakridge Community and the City in general.

The City has committed to be part of an internet site called www.neighborhoodlink.com. This site will link all cities throughout the United States, if they choose to participate. Our City Council did so at its July 18th meeting. Presently the ONA, Camelot and Spring Park associations are linked to this site. More information will be continually be added. Check it out.

As has been written in previous newsletters, The ONA

will be the next association to be tested by the City in the fledgling " benchmarking program ". Your ONA Board will be reviewing this program shortly with a questionnaire to be mailed to all of the approximately 1,180 homes within the Oakridge community. The Board hopes the city receives a tremendous return from the Oakridge area. Information contained in this questionnaire will assist the City and the ONA Board (and future Boards) in making decisions that will affect our neighborhood. If you have any questions about this process or the questionnaire contact your ONA District Director.

At its August Board meeting several folks from the Cities Transportation Department will be making a presentation regarding the complexities of installing " speed humps " on the major arteries within the Oakridge community. Look for information about this subject to be in future newsletters and on the ONA web site. Again, if you have immediate questions contact your District Director.

Although the temperature still says we are in the middle of summer, please consider contributing to the ONA flower fund for the planting of Fall / Winter color. Talk to your neighbors, if they are not members of the ONA, to see if they will contribute too. Our general budget does not allow for a great deal of color. The extra funds that have been contributed over the years have allowed the Board to dress up our neighborhood.

Remember to check the web site to note the schedule of the quarterly general meetings. It is important for all of us to participate in the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. *Are your friends members?*



DRIVE-UP APPEAL – DOES YOUR HOME HAVE IT?

First impressions count. When we're selling our home, most of us take every precaution to see that the inside is in showroom condition.

But did you know that a good percentage of all home sales are made because of the way the outside of the home looks? Never underestimate the importance of drive-up appeal. Many potential buyers form a sales opinion within the first few seconds of seeing the exterior of a home for the first time.

There are a few things you can do to make sure that your home has good curb appeal. A freshly mowed lawn, neatly trimmed shrubs and a clean sidewalk and driveway all help to make a positive first impression. Red flowers help draw the eye and make your home stand out.

Damaged screens, glass panes, and outdoor fixtures should be repaired or replaced. Guttering should be secure. Fresh paint on wood trim and shutters can give your home an immediate face lift.

Door hardware should be polished and the front porch should be free of cobwebs and debris. Hanging or potted plants help warm up a porch and give your home a welcome feel. Windows and screens should be clean and sparkling.

All of these tips help make your buyer's first impression a positive one and increase the likelihood of a quick sale.

Peggy Richey
Keller Williams

Membership Update

Peggy Richey—Membership Director

We currently have 374 members that have renewed their membership with the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. It is wonderful to see that 26 of those members are brand new to the neighborhood and we are pleased to have them participate.

In addition, unfortunately, there are 79 members that have not as yet renewed. We hope that, with their busy work and summer schedules, they have just forgotten to send in their checks.

If you know someone who is not renewing his or her membership, we would like to know why. Perhaps they have questions we can answer. With approximately 1150 homes in the neighborhood, it would seem that we would have 50 – 60 % participation. That would be a membership of 575-700 members.

Many of our members have expressed wonderful ideas to help the neighborhood. Believe me when I say that “**WE ARE LISTENING**”, but most of them will cost money that we do not have and is not in our budget.

Please help us by encouraging your friends and neighbors to participate so that we can maintain the integrity and beauty of our neighborhood. I know that all of you care and we appreciate your thoughts and comments.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

The possibilities are endless
(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.

LET SUE DO IT

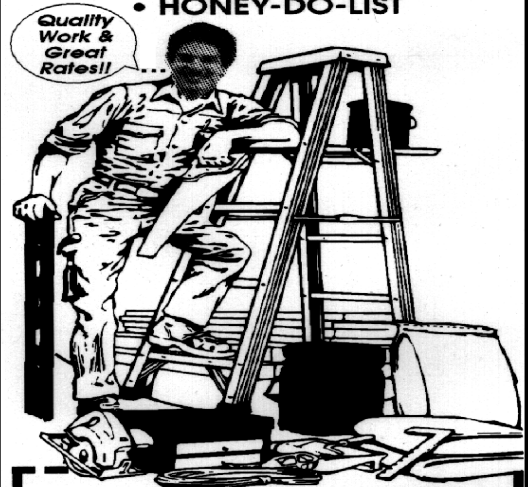
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Neighborhood Crime Activity

Bill Johnson

Our ONA newsletter includes summaries of neighborhood crime activity, a popular and important feature. These summaries have not been available in recent months while the Police Department made computer changes. We are now getting them again.

Crime activity data of interest to us is generated for District 12, Beats 7 and 8. Jupiter, Shiloh, Buckingham, and Apollo roads bound Beat 7. Oakridge is a large part of Beat 7. Shiloh, Apollo, North Garland, and Homestead bound Beat 8, to our east. Data for the prior month is given out at the Crime Watch meeting, held on the second Thursday of each month at the Police station. Also discussed at this meeting is general information about Garland Crime activity and efforts to contain it.

At the July Crime Watch meeting, Police reported the following:

Garland now **REQUIRES** house numbers to be displayed on the rear of houses that have alleys, as well as on the front.

Curfew for youths under age 17 is 11 PM on Sun-Thurs, and 12 PM on Fri-Sat.

Garland gang activity has subsided significantly over the past year, with active gangs down from around 25 to only 2 or 3.

Crime activity for District 12 (covering June 1-20) lists 16 items. Seven of these were in Beat 7, and only one was in Oakridge (criminal mischief on 6/16, in the 2500 block of Big Oaks). The other six items all occurred north of Belt Line and included habitation burglary (2), vehicle burglary (1), criminal mischief (2), and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (1)

The nine items in Beat 8 (east of Shiloh) included vehicle burglary (3), criminal mischief (4), habitation burglary (1), and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (1).

Crime activity data for the May time frame was not available. In April, District 12 showed 13 items. Four of these were in Beat 7, and only one was in Oakridge (criminal mischief, in the 2700 block of Diamond Oaks). The other three in Beat 7 included habitation burglary, building burglary, and criminal mischief. Nine items in Beat 8 included habitation burglary (4), vehicle burglary (2), and criminal mischief (3).

Oakridge crime activity as reflected in this data appears to be low. Hopefully, our Crime Watch and patrol activities have contributed to this. Should anyone need to contact our Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO), Officer Stephanie Funk can be reached at (972) 205-2740, or at skfunk480@hotmail.com.



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ANOTHER BLIND DATE STORY



After last month's story of the blind date that lasted 32 years was reported by Chris Byers, we have had an additional report of a blind date that lasted for 57 years. Congratulations to Jane and “Buck” Buchanan who celebrated their 57th anniversary on July 6, 2000! Are there any more blind date stories out there?

OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

Libby Morse: tomlib@home.com



At the Last Meeting:

We met at The Oakridge Country Club. We have several activities coming up you won't want to miss! **Tony's Wine Warehouse** is set for September 2nd. At this point it may be possible to add your name. Call Sharron Smith and see if there are any openings! We are planning a **Girls Movie Night**. This will be Friday August 25th at 7pm at MaryAnne Cullum's. Bring a DVD or video and a snack. September 30th we are planning to go to **Nonsense** at the Richardson Theater. If you need more information on any of these activities, call Sharron Smith for more information at 972-530-3873 or you can e-mail her at smithpat@prodigy.net.

Our Next meeting is on Tuesday September 5th at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at Karryn's house at 2202 Shady Oaks. This is for the Officer Elections for the upcoming year! Please call Kay Steelman to volunteer. There are 2 open areas- One is for the Vice president and the other is for membership. Please come and vote for all of the positions! We should have a great year!

**A big thanks to Kay Steelman for her
past year as President!
She did a great job!**

Welcome to our returning member Malissa Cheatham! We look forward to getting to know you and your family!

**We are having a membership drive in
September!**

Now is the time to join!

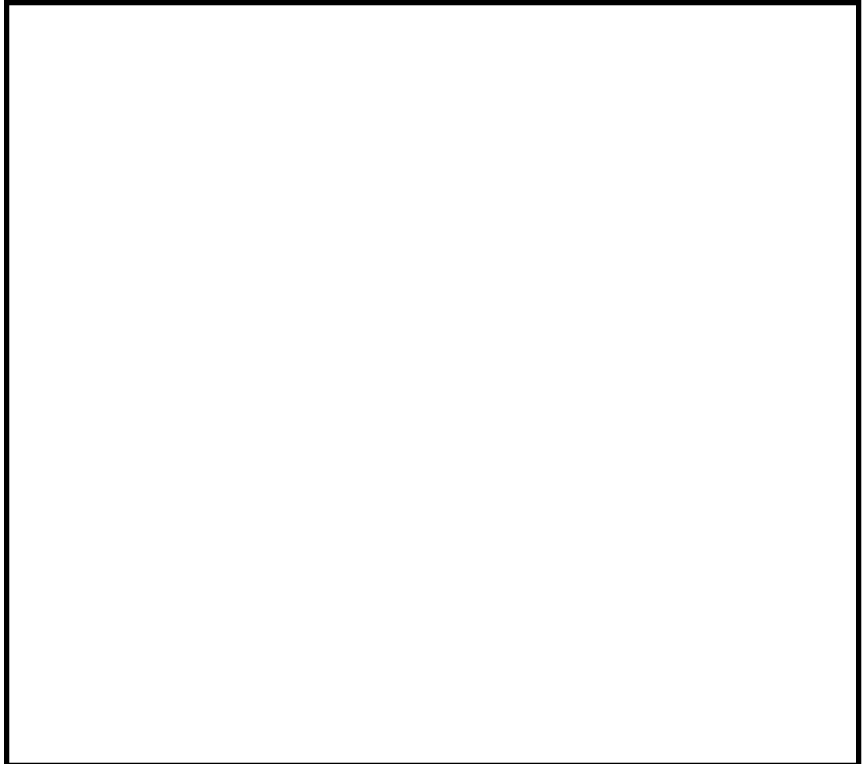
We meet the first Tuesday of each month! It is a great way to get to know your neighbors, their families and have fun! Outings are scheduled with a variety of interests in mind. We have holiday parties for the kids, nights out for the girls, and couple only activities! Please join us! Our dues are only \$15 per year! Call Libby Morse at 972-495-9034 if you would like to join us! Visit our webpage.

<http://members.home.net/tomlib/owa/index.html>



Missing Pets

Are you missing a pet? Ask yourself a few questions. Did I care enough to put a valid tag on it? Was it properly leashed? Did I leave the gate open? Recently we have had a lot of signs at the entrances about lost pets. It doesn't take much effort to buy a tag with the pet's name and your phone number on it. If we care enough to own these pets why not take the time to keep it safe? Yes, these little guys get out on their own every now and then but with proper tags some one will pick it up and call you to give it back! These tags can be purchased at pet stores or your vet. Show your pet you care!



**Automated Traffic Signal
Violation Enforcement/City Ordinance Adoption**

Brad Neighbor, First Assistant City Attorney

Traffic engineers will tell you that the most dangerous part of a street is an intersection. They will also tell you that the most dangerous part of a signalized intersection is driver disregard of those signals.

According to a study done by State Farm Insurance the north Dallas County area contains three of the most dangerous intersections in the entire United States: Beltline Road at Midway Road in Addison (rated No.1 most dangerous); Park Road at Preston Road in Plano (rated No.2 most dangerous); and Beltline Road at Preston Road in Far North Dallas (rated No.5 most dangerous). In Garland, three persons were killed in intersection collisions in 1999, alone.

Despite the obvious dangers of running red lights, north Dallas County residents continue to do so at alarming rates. During a pilot study performed by the City of Richardson, an average of one violation occurred every two minutes in peak drive time periods. In the study, red light violators reached speeds of up to 56 miles per hour while running the light and entered the intersection as late as nine seconds after the light had changed to red. In just one red light cycle, six drivers ran the light. Moreover, the accidents that result from a red light violation are especially dangerous because airbags and passenger restraint systems do little to mitigate the effects of "t-bone" impacts that occur when a vehicle runs a red light.

You may recall that one of the legislative initiatives approved by the City Council for the last legislative session was a bill that would authorize the automatic enforcement of traffic signal violations. Representative Joe Driver agreed to sponsor the legislation and attempted to shepherd it through the process, but the bill was ultimately defeated apparently due to political opposition unconnected to the actual legislation or the goals it attempted to achieve.

We have continued to study the feasibility of automated red light enforcement programs notwithstanding the defeat of our bill. As a home-rule municipality, we do not need legislative authority to carry out such a program. The legislation that we attempted to have passed on a state-wide basis could just as easily be adopted as a local ordinance and an automated red light enforcement program could be implemented immediately rather than waiting for the next session of the Legislature.

Several major cities in the United States have implemented automated red light enforcement programs with great success. Red light violations have decreased by nearly 60% in cities like Baltimore, Maryland, that have committed to make red light enforcement a priority. The success of such programs is due to two factors. First, the public is constantly reminded about the dangers of red light running. Second, the automated enforcement programs adds teeth to the public education part of the program by aiming at - and fining - those drivers who actually run red lights and who are presumably fully aware that the light is red when the driver enters the intersection. The automated red light enforcement devices currently on the market are able to target only those vehicles that run a red light after the light has displayed a steady red signal long enough for the driver to recognize and react to the

signal. The devices do not detect drivers that enter the intersection on a yellow light only to have the light turn red once the vehicle crosses the intersection. Moreover, the devices are programmed to detect substantial violations, that is, drivers that enter an intersection on a steady red and that, in addition, are exceeding a pre-set speed, usually 15 to 20 miles per hour. Thus, automated red light enforcement cameras are uniquely able to pick out those persons whose intentional disregard of the signal makes our intersections that much more dangerous.

Companies such as Lockheed-Martin, a leader in the field, offer automated enforcement systems for purchase or for use on a turn-key basis without cost to the sponsoring city. Under the turn-key basis, the company will install the system, maintain the equipment, and process the violations for the sponsoring city to enforce without cost to the city. The company is re-paid only from the proceeds of the collections from violators. Thus, the automated enforcement program can be run on "user fee's" without impacting law-abiding taxpayers.

At its regular meeting on August 1, 2000, the Garland City Council authorized the implementation of an automated red light enforcement program in Garland.

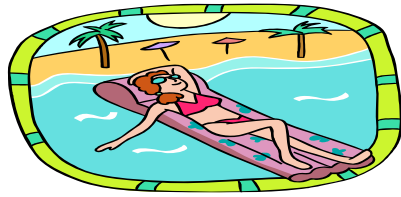
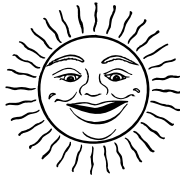


SKUNK ALERT

John Prickett of 2013 Diamond Oaks wants to warn neighbors that there is a family of skunks looking for a home. John managed to have 3 of the siblings caught from under the deck of his home but one sibling and mother escaped to look for another residence. These skunks have caused the Pricketts considerable harm and work, so be on the look-out for these critters and contact animal control. They can be dangerous.

There has also been a coyote sighted on Lone Oak Trail.

**TAKE TIME
TO TRAVEL**



Water Aerobics with Jackie

THE OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

are surviving the summer sun in creative ways.

Besides numerous vacations from Canada to the Cayman Islands these Daytimers have remained active in the various activities listed below.

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH Don't miss this one on Wednesday, **August 23rd, 11:30**, at **AVANTI EURO BISTRO**, 5001 Addison Circle, Addison. It is just west of Dallas North Tollway and north of Arapaho. Call Margaret Fowler (972-530-8585).

The **WALKERS** have found that it is hot even at 7 am but they have persisted. Call Barbara Brunette (972-530-4288).

The **CRAFT GROUP** has completed the tree skirt, thanks to the leadership and handiwork of Jackie Tucker and Norene Murphy. To find out how to win this art piece come to the September Coffee and to participate in the craft group on the third Tuesday, call Norene Murphy (972-530-6999).

Both **CANASTA GROUPS** have been dealing hot weather hands. For the daytime schedule, call Barbara Brunette (972-530-4288), and for evening call Margaret Fowler (972-530-8585).

The **BRIDGE GROUPS** sizzle with trumps and tricks. Call Jane Buchanan (972-530-4762) if you are interested in intermediate or beginners bridge.

The **WATER AEROBICS CLASS** is coming along swimmingly. Call Becky Parks, instructor, (972-495-8776) or host, Jackie Griffin (972-530-4777) for scheduling and questions.

The **BOOK CLUB** will meet September 15th, 10:00, at the home of JoAnn Williams, 2725 Hickory Bend, (972-530-2938). They will discuss the summer reading and plan for the coming months.

Don't forget the **CANTON FIRST MONDAY TRIP!** Set your alarms to arrive at the Country Club Pool entrance (close to the intersection of Big Oaks and Hickory Bend) at 7am on **Friday, November 3**, to travel to Canton to spend the day, shop, and eat lunch. Don't be in a hurry to get home (make plans for the kids, hobbies, or pets) for this is an all-day event. The brave contact for this adventure is Becky Parks (972-495-8776).

DAYTIMERS SEPTEMBER COFFEE

at the home of Roberta Jones, president, 2601 Oak Point, (972-414-7277). **Tuesday, September 12th 10:00 am** This is a great gathering time to bring new neighbors and renew acquaintances that have been slowed by summer. See you there.

by Dianne Winter



Tired of looking at the same old things?
Does your home need an update?
Want to rearrange your living area?

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Notes from Fire Chief Danny Grammer

- Both average response times for emergency medical runs last year, as well as average structure fire response in 1999 was 4:44.
- ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating has improved to a rating of 2. This rating sets fire insurance premiums for a specific City. A #1 rating is the best and a #10 is the worst. There is only one #1 rated City in Texas, so a #2 is an excellent rating. The City of Garland has gone from a #4, to a #3, to a #2 in about 4 years. The financial difference between a #3 rated City and a #2 rated City is 8.2% on the State's standard recommended rate. Therefore, a City of Garland homeowner's fire premium can go down around 8.2 percent because of these improvements. Home-owners should check with their insurance agent on reduction of premiums.
- The thermal vision cameras purchased last year are proving to be very beneficial to firefighters and citizens of Garland. These state of the art cameras allow firefighters to see in an otherwise totally black environment. The cameras will allow firefighters to find a victim in a fire in a matter of seconds, as opposed to many minutes or maybe even not finding the victim at all. The City of Garland was the first major City in the United States to place a camera on every fire truck in the City.
- The Fire Department is looking for a site to build Fire Station 11 on. The new station will probably be on Belt Line Road between North Garland and Shiloh and will cover portions of both Council Districts 6 and 8. Station 11 will reduce response times in the immediate area and City wide. The Station is about two years from being constructed. The present plans are to have a paramedic staffed fire engine at the station.
- Fire Station 9 opened at 4320 O'Banion in the fall of 1999. This significantly reduces response times in that area.
- Fire Station 4, presently at 3422 Broadway, will move to Broadway and Oates. The new station should be open in about a year.
- Fire Station 10 will be built next year in far north Garland near the new golf course.
- Across the City, the Fire Department is closing two fire stations and adding six new ones. This will give the City of Garland eleven fire station total. This will equate to better fire and EMS coverage and reduced response times across the City.
- A Heavy Rescue Truck has been placed in service at Station 8 on 1426 E. Miller. This rescue truck has the capabilities of responding to virtually any type rescue incident including high angle, below grade, trench, collapse, or swift water.

- The Fire Department's "Downtown Safety Clowns" have a new presentation and is presently putting on shows in Garland schools.
- The Fire Department has received a new pumper truck which is housed at Station 5 near Lake Ray Hubbard. The new fire engine can discharge 1250 gallons of water in one minute, this is five tons of water!

The Poets Corner

This poem appeared in the August 7, 2000 DMN.
Enjoy!Bill Johnson

Game Day

It was just about the best day of my life.
The kind of day a man was created for...
And the passing of time steals nothing from me.
For it's the kind of thing that abides deep within a
man's soul.

It was Game Day. And I awaited its coming.
I used to dream about it...
But the time has passed so quickly
And the tiny feet wrapped up in the blue blanket
Are now in cleats.

Suddenly they called your name...
And it was as though they spoke our names to-
gether.
And I did the only thing I knew how to do. I paced.
Back and forth, hoping God could settle me down!

And there are rare moments in a man's life
When he must pace.
And I tell you it is a day when emotions run high
As you hear "It's a boy!"
Or your son takes the field for the first time.

by Anne T. Buck

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