
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 9, No. 7

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

January 2001

President's Corner – Mike Rose

Here we are -- the year 2001 and finally the 43rd President of our great country will be installed. The political bickering will continue for a long time. Let's pray that we all may live through it. In our city another election is just around the bend. This Spring four new councilpersons will be elected. Our District is not among the contested seats. We as citizens of Garland should still be aware of the other races and who will be running. The City Council will be making decisions that will affect our personal budgets, therefore we need to be concerned as to who will be making those calls.

Did you check the ONA web site to see who were the December 2000 winners of the second annual ONA decorating contest? The results were also given on the ONA information line, which was formerly called the hot line. As the year evolves current information will be posted on the web site and information line. The ONA Board will be discussing procedures as to how to coordinate the posting of other Oakridge groups information on these sites. Stay tuned.

Some of you may be wondering what happened to the brick wall on Buckingham Road? A 16 year old hit it and did not report the accident to his father's insurance carrier. The insurance company is fully aware of the situation including pictures being provided. They have committed to rebuilding the wall. Many thanks to all who helped to resolve this situation. The ONA Board became involved only after it determined that the owners on the duplex could not handle the coordination of the situation.

If you were among the attendees at the November General Membership meeting you heard a excellent presentation by City Staff regarding the ongoing "benchmarking" process. We discovered that 51% of the entire Oakridge community responded to the questionnaire. One fact that is a concern is that only 55% know of the deed restrictions in Oakridge. Wonder why the residential real estate folks do not inform buyers of these restrictions? Some do, of course, but it appears that most do not. Additionally, there were many good things said about the newsletter. 56% considered traffic speed to be of a moderate to serious problem. As an aside we have discussed the installation of speed bumps at past meetings. There are other cities in the Metroplex that presently have the speed bumps installed, but for fire and other reasons these cities are very seriously contemplating the removal

(Continued on page 7)

KUDOS!!



LARRY R. WILSON
CHIEF OF POLICE

Mike,
Just wanted to say thanks for publishing Jim Griffin's article on our Citizen Police Academy in the Oakridge News. I would encourage all Oakridge residents to attend. The better we know each other, the more we can accomplish together. Please encourage your members to call my office 972-205-2011 for applications.
Thanks,
Larry R. Wilson

News from the Membership Director

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful and safe holiday. The District Directors will be meeting soon and you will be hearing from us to start our annual membership drive. Our annual membership goes from June to June.

Why are we starting so early? Neighbors were joining as late as November and December. Notice that we did not publish a membership directory this year. By the time most of the renewals came in it was too late.

We would like to have our renewals in by the end of June, our directory done by the end of July so that you may pick up the new directories at our August membership meeting which is our first meeting of the new year. We can always have supplemental additions at each membership meeting for new people who move to our neighborhood after that date.

Our goal is to put together a membership book that (hopefully a binder if the cost is not outrageous that you can keep and change only the pages annually) where updates can be done through individual pages. The membership book will be broken into three segments:

1. Alphabetical
2. District and
3. Street

This would allow the directors to know who is in their area and for you to know who your director is and by street will allow you to get to know your neighbors. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions.

Peggy Richey
Membership Director
peggy@peggyricheyrealty.com

TAKE TIME
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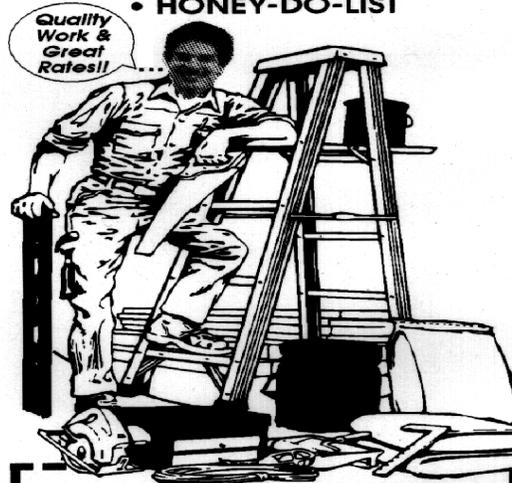
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Oakridge Women's Club

Libby Morse

Happy New Year 2001!

Last Month: We had a great holiday season! The Children's Christmas party was wonderful! Santa brought gifts to all the good little girls and boys of the OWC.

The Adults night out at Benihana was fun!

In January we met at Desperados. We discussed the upcoming progressive dinner and the babysitter recruitment night in February.

ATTENTION ALL BABYSITTERS!

The Oakridge Women's club annual "Meet the babysitter night" is just around the corner!! All interested baby-sitters and their moms are invited to attend. You'll fill out a questionnaire (including names and phone numbers of references), meet our members, and help yourself to refreshments! We have great door prizes! If you are interested in expanding your baby-sitting business, Mark your calendar:

Tuesday February 6th 2001, at the home of Sharron Smith (2226 Diamond Oak Dr.) at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, Please call Sharron at 972-530-3873

(If you can not make this meeting but would like to be added to our baby-sitting packet call Sharron to give your information.)

Next Month: February is also the month of our Progressive Dinner! This is a great way to meet the spouses and see some houses! It is Saturday February 10th. We will begin with refreshments and appetizers at Maryann's house at 6pm. The cost is \$5.00 each. (Please bring the money to the Feb. 6th meeting). RSVP with Sharron by Feb. 6th (972-530-3873)

She also has the sign-up list for the food and beverages. Thank you Maryanne, Libby and Becky for the use of your houses! We look forward to it!

If you are interested in joining the
Oakridge Womens Club
please call Libby Morse @ 972-495-9034
Or e-mail to Tomlib@home.com



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THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Luanne Payne

Once again, I would like to thank all the families that baked items or donated money for the 2 dinners that were delivered to Fire Stations No. 3 and No. 6 on Christmas morning. The firemen at both stations truly appreciate everything we bring and especially all the thought that was sent with it. I would like to say thank you to these individual families:

Albertson's

(Richard Moseley)

Oakridge Country Club

(Joe Don Davis)

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Dayhoff

Mr. & Mrs. Williams Edwards

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Gingerich

Ms. Sue Hageland & family

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hearn

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Klembara

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Musseman, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. William Olive

Mr. & Mrs. Vance Payne

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Poole

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rummel

Mr. & Mrs. David Thomas

Mr. & Mrs. David Winter

The New Year, 2001

Out with the old and in with the new. 2001 is here NOW and we need to adjust to the change. The GHC will make 2001, the year of "Neighborhood Vitality for Garland". The city needs to make a commitment to its neighborhoods, many of which are aging, and invest in the cities future. This can be done through a dedicated Neighborhood Vitality program, similar to the ongoing program in Richardson. This is a citizens approved "Bond program" aimed solely revitalizing neighborhoods.

The GHC has approached the City of Garland with a recommendation to move forward with such a program and let our citizens vote on a similar bond program as soon as possible. Unfortunately, our city is not in support of a bond program such as this, at this time! It might be considered several years

down the road when Garland considers it next bond package. Why the delay? Are our neighborhoods not important? Why can't the citizens of Garland vote on a Neighborhood Vitality bond program during our May 2001 election! The time is NOW. Neighborhood Vitality NOW. Let the city and your council members know that the time is NOW and put a Neighborhood Vitality bond program on the May 2001 ballot. Let the citizens VOTE!

Lee Smith is President of the Garland Homeowners Coalition



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No one celebrates being together, enjoying one another's company and sharing recent and upcoming events more than **The Oakridge Daytimers.** On January 9th they met together at the home of gracious hostess, Chris Beyers. JoAnn Williams, Trudy Schmidt and Sue Pauley were refreshment hostesses for this January meeting.

By Dianne Winter

The members had exchanged cookies and gifts at the December meeting at the gaily decorated home of Diane Owens and were now ready to utilize the gift of 2001 with great enthusiasm.

At the December meeting the president, Roberta Jones, had thanked everyone for their support with beautifully written prose as she passed the presidency on after serving for 2 1/2 years. Her thoughts reminded all the members of the sincerity of her act of organizing the neighborhood organization. At the January meeting Jo Dietz presented her with a personalized 2001 calendar with pictures of significant events during her presidency. Reminiscing while looking at the pictures in the calendar was one of the highlights of the January meeting. Roberta also won the door prize.

After a social time, the new president, Dianne Winter, welcomed guest, Audrey Castleman, and reminded members that a new year was beginning and the dues of \$12.00 were payable at that time. Call Mary Pattie (972-496-6486) for membership information. Daytimers encourage members to join Oakridge Neighborhood Association also for support and awareness of community activities.

Gail Durbin listed members' birthdays for the month and reported on members' situations that prevented their attendance. Two such members are Jane Buchanan and Jackie Tucker. Best wishes were sent to these members as other provisions such as food and visits were organized.

Jo Dietz announced plans for the February Tea and asked for her committee to meet. The \$5.00 voted on earlier should be paid to the treasurer before the tea.

Arts and Crafts is scheduled to meet at 1pm on Feb 19th at the home of Roberta Jones. (972-414-7277)

Book Club will meet on January 19th ,10am, at home of Mary Musseman. Call Jo Ann Williams (972-530-2938)

Stitch and Chat will meet at the home of Noreen Murphy Tuesday, January 16 at 10am. (972-530-6669)

Any **Canasta** ??? Call Barbara Brunette (972-5304288)

Bridge ??? Call Jane Buchanan (972-530-4762)
The **Out to Lunch Bunch** will meet at 11:30am, January 24th at the FOXGLOVE (s/w corner of Legacy and Independence). RSVP Jo Dietz (972-530-8308)

After much lively discussion the **Fun on the Run** Group decided on a date of February 9th to attend the Kimbell Museum Art Exhibition in Fort Worth. Meet at 10am by the pool in the Oakridge Country Club parking lot. Call Martha Boyette (972-414-9875)

Mary Musseman designs a great 2 month calendar of events for every meeting. To include your group events and any changes please give her the information and adequate time prior to the meeting for preparation. Use your calendar as our greatest method of communication. Call (972-414-1098)

*You are invited to February Tea
at the home of Mary Jensen , 3021
Oak Point, on Tuesday, February
15th at 2 pm for a program by Judith
Dyer from the Cultured Cup on the
presentation of a proper tea.*



The club will listen to her information and enjoy the tea and accompaniments prepared by the tea committee under the direction of Ms Dyer and Jo Dietz. The cost is \$5.00 to be paid to Mary Pattie (972-496-6486) prior to the meeting.

Put your  into this one.

Don't forget your Secret Pal!

For information concerning Daytimers contact Dianne Winter (972-530-6210) or e-mail: ddwinter@home.com

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 Funk, NPO	972-205-2740
ONA information Line	214 -967-5136

Neighborhood Crime Activity, by Bill Johnson

There were three crime incidents reported for Oakridge in November:

11/24/00 11:57pm 3300-block Bending Oaks Trail
Criminal Mischief (\$50-500)
11/24/00 11:57pm 3300-block Bending Oaks Trail
Criminal Mischief (\$50-500)
11/25/00 1:13am 2800-block Big Oaks Drive
Criminal Mischief (\$1500-20,000)

There was one crime incident reported for Oakridge for December 1 - 14:

12/08/00 08:10am 2800-block Big Oaks Drive
Habitation Burglary attempt

Crime incidents for December 15 – 31 should be included in next month's report.

At least two incidents of vehicles driving across the lawns of residents at night were reported. A guess is that these are the result of joy-riding youths. Residents are asked to be alert to and to report such destructive behavior. Also, some holiday wreaths were stolen from area homes.

One incident in November involved an automobile from the apartments across Buckingham Road putting a hole in the brick wall behind homes along Hearthside. Perhaps this is a good time to remind residents whose homes back up to these walls that they are responsible for maintenance/repair of the walls, just as all property owners are responsible for maintenance of sidewalks in front of their homes. The ONA has taken a leadership role in facilitating repair of the current damage. But the ONA does not 'own' the walls and is not responsible for their repair.

The next Citizens On Patrol Volunteer training class will be held on Saturday, February 24, from 8am to 5pm. Deadline for application forms is January 31. Anyone interested in joining those who patrol the Oakridge area should contact Bill Johnson (972-414-1665 or by email at bill_margejohnson@prodigy.net. A portion of this meeting will be dedicated to code enforcement training. Currently active patrollers are invited to attend, though anyone planning to do so should notify me to ensure there will be enough space.

The Garland Police force is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2001 with special police badges. Begun in 1951, the Police hope to reach the level of 298 officers by years end.

**Tired of looking at the same old things?
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The February Crime Watch meeting, held on the second Thursday of each month, will discuss the structure of the Police Department, along with a tour. Those interested are invited to attend. March's meeting will discuss drug awareness, and April's topic is juvenile law.

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.

Banish Apathy With A Reality Check

Ask any volunteer working in a neighborhood organization what constitutes his or her greatest frustration. More often than not, the answer will be "apathy." In fact, I have found that apathy ranks about equally alongside residential crime and deed restriction enforcement as major complaints civic association leaders express consistently about their neighborhoods. It seems, at least from their harried perspective, that only a handful of dedicated do-gooders bother to muster up the energy to get involved in neighborhood life. And, it's this same handful that keeps the neighborhood group going from meeting to meeting, year to year, until the group either slides into terminal ennui or rekindles its energy through the miracle of a neighborhood crisis.

Since crisis-courting isn't a particularly good organization-building technique, civic associations that want to smooth out the peaks and valleys of participation would do well to plan ongoing programs to accomplish two important things: (1) take into account who their neighborhood constituents are and what they need and want, and (2) produce successful results.

Key to any planning process is acquiring a grasp of reality. Many civic associations believe that household participation rates of less than 100%, or close to it, are unacceptable. Nonsense! Think about the nightmare of logistics if every resident turned out for every meeting. It isn't possible or even desirable to have everyone participate actively, and civic clubs shouldn't set 100% membership participation as a goal.

What is a reasonable goal? That depends on the neighborhood and the characteristics of its population. This is where knowing your neighborhood constituency comes into play. If it contains primarily young working families with many demands on their time, for example, expectations of participation have to be tempered accordingly. Perhaps a 10% rate makes better sense in this case.

Many other factors can affect participation: educational achievement, economic status, neighborhood stability, and ethnic or cultural homogeneity. Generally speaking, a greater level in each of these areas will yield a greater level of participation.

While it is important to know about the characteristics of the people who make up the neighborhood and to be able to work within the limits they imply, civic associations often can enhance participation despite them. They do this by invoking two very powerful influences: perceived benefits and actual results. It doesn't matter if a neighborhood is rich or poor, highly educated or poorly educated, culturally diverse or not, people will join and support a group if they believe they will receive some benefit that is related to their personal needs. Needs vary. Some are based on emotion, such as a wish to belong or a desire to dispel loneliness. Others are more practical. In neighborhood terms, some practical motivators are expressed in the desire to preserve property values, fight crime, or pressure local government for more services.

It's also a fact of voluntary life that people will join or support a group if they see that it's accomplishing worthwhile things. A civic association that slows its efforts or gets mired in the

same old routine eventually runs out of the membership steam.

Susan Hill, is President of Texas Neighborhoods Together

(Continued from page 1)

of the bumps. Apparently the reduction of the speed on the cities residential streets is not as important as response times for emergency situations. We heard from our city Fire Chief how these response times may affect our individual insurance costs. Your ONA Board will be pouring over the entire survey results in the coming months. This will be a good tool for future ONA Board's use in the attempt to cause strong growth in the Oakridge community. And finally another interesting item was that many positive comments were given as to the ONA in general and in specific as to the maintenance of the common areas. Do you know more could be accomplished if the ONA membership increased substantially? In fact, as membership grew it is entirely possible that the annual dues could be reduced based upon substantial growth. Do you know of folks living in the Oakridge community who do not belong to the Oakridge Neighborhood Association? Why not talk to them. The ONA needs all members to affect growth.

The next two General Membership meetings are very important. *March 1st* we will elect a nominating committee. These folks will post their results in the April '01 newsletter. The *May 24th* meeting we will elect a new ONA Board. It is critical that the membership become involved.

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