

Neighborhood Crime Activity

Report by Bill Johnson

Ten crime incidents were reported for Oakridge for January:

1/02/01	10:25pm	2700-block	Greenview Cir Criminal Mischief (\$50-500)
1/10/01	4:30pm	3200-block	Bending Oaks Tr Criminal Mischief (\$50-500)
1/10/01	12:00pm	2800-block	Hickory bend Dr Criminal Mischief (\$50-500)
1/13/01	1:00am	2100-block	Hearthside Ln Vehicle Burglary
1/22/01	8:00am	2400-block	Fulton Dr Criminal Mischief (\$500-5000)
1/24/01	7:30am	2100-block	Rolling Oak Ln Habitation Burglary
1/26/01	2:30pm	2700-block	Greenview Cir Habitation Burglary
1/29/01	4:55pm	3300-block	Ridge Oak Dr Habitation Burglary
1/30/01	8:00am	2800-block	Hickory Bend Dr Habitation Burglary
1/31/01	10:00am	2800-block	Diamond Oaks Dr Unauthorized use of vehicle

The Police Blotter section of the Garland News supplement to the Dallas Morning News shows that February crime activity in Oakridge has increased. Residents should be alert to suspicious activity, and keep their garage doors closed when not being monitored.

An incident last November involved an automobile from the apartments across Buckingham Road crashing into the brick wall behind homes along Hearthside. We expect this damage to be repaired soon, weather permitting. Since this month's issue of the Newsletter goes to all Oakridge residents, 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 wall damage. But the ONA does not 'own' the walls and is not responsible for their repair.

An incident occurred recently (Feb 18) on Diamond Oaks where an auto skidded into the front yard of a home, destroying a large tree. The resident of that home has written a letter to city officials (printed as a separate column in this newsletter) asking for help in making this area and it's residents less vulnerable to reckless driving. This topic was discussed at the March 1 General Meeting and will be taken up by the ONA Board of directors. Several suggestions are under consideration, such as additional stop signs, speed bumps, increased patrols, ways to keep our streets from being used as 'shortcuts', etc. Support of the residents in making our streets safer is sought, as well as ideas and suggestions for making this possible.

Residents with Internet access are encouraged to visit the City of Garland Police Department web page. Contained here are links to several interesting topics, including crime analysis statistics, current crime incidents by district (Oakridge data is contained in District 12, Beat 7), and lists (and photos) of sex offenders in our area. The web page address is www.ci.garland.tx.us/police/gpd1000.htm

Residents wishing to report suspicious behavior or unusual activity should call (972) 205-2251 to speak to the dispatcher. Our Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO), Officer Stephanie Funk, can be reached at (972) 205-2740, or at skfunk480@hotmail.com.

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(Continued from page 1)

completion. Have any of you or your family been to the present municipal court facility? If you have you will understand why the City desperately requires these new buildings.

- The Director of the Performing Arts Center, Patty Granville shared with us the plans for the expansion and renovation of the PAC and the Plaza Theater. Did you know that the PAC will contain a banquet hall large enough to accommodate a seating of approximately 500 people? Have you and/or your family attended a function at the PAC?
- Jean Redfern with the City Transportation Department walked us through the process of getting speed humps installed on selected neighborhood streets. We also heard of a horror story from one of our members. This family came close to having a major tragedy take place in the Oakridge community (see page 1). Would speed humps have helped in this situation ? Perhaps.
- The entire Oakridge Community has participated in a recent " Benchmarking" program. Slightly over 51% of the whole community responded. The members heard from Rebecca Beck, ODT Project Manager for the City of Garland. Becky shared the results of the survey and how future ONA Boards may utilize this information. We were the second Association in the City to participate in this program.

Our organization was among the first in the City to have a detailed article which outlined how the City is progressing with the installation of cameras at major intersections. The City of Garland is a leader in this field. We must applaud our City leaders in their attempt to control the violators of "red light runners ". We must assist in making our streets safer.

The Vice President of the GEDP told us of how aggressively the City has been in securing new business. Much of their activity centers around the 190 Highway. This will be of benefit to the entire City but it will directly affect us.

Did you know that one of our members, Luanne Payne, takes on the Herculean task of organizing the ONA annual Christmas Dinner for Fire Stations No. 3 and 6? She has done this for several years. The firemen of both stations deeply appreciate this. Have you been a part of this service effort? Have you been on the receiving end of the fire departments services?

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association has a very active COP program. The folks who volunteer their time regularly walk our neighborhood and alert homeowners of potential problems. We have a continual problem of people leaving their garage doors open. Why is that? The ONA newsletter has addressed this and if you were a member you would be made aware of the situation.

The ONA Board two years ago created a Christmas home decorating contest. Participation is restricted to those who are members of the ONA Association. There is a monetary award for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The Board believes that this contest might have resulted in an increase in the number of home being decorated. Do you participate?

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association has a very active environmental committee. Its main purpose is to maintain and improve the quality of our "common areas". You will find a form in this ONA newsletter on page 5, which you could complete and help to better our community. By belonging to the ONA you will be more aware the efforts of this committee and

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**Kellyn Hubbard
(972) 495-9583**

the ONA Board. We are trying to control the weeds in the common areas. Are you doing your part with your own yard? Why is it that as one drives around our neighborhood one can see so many weedy yards? It couldn't be that people do not care about one of their biggest investments – could it? If one is concerned about their personal home investment why then shouldn't one be equally concerned about their immediate neighborhood? So very much more could be done if our membership increased to 50, 60 or even 75% of the homes in our neighborhood.

The membership committee and the District Directors will be making a concerted effort these next three months to cause our numbers to grow. Why don't you participate?

Oakridge Women's Club

Libby Morse

Last Month: In March we met at Tricia's house. We made a few plans for upcoming events.

EGGSTRAVAGANZA...It is time for our annual Easter Hunt and Picnic! The picnic is Sunday April 1st from 2-4pm. The children will hunt for Easter eggs and take a swing at a piñata ! There will be a special prize in one egg! If you are interested in joining us, bring a picnic lunch for your family, one dozen plastic (filled) eggs for each child that will be attending, a blanket or lawn chairs and meet us at Foxboro Park in Richardson. You can also bring along some balls or games! The park is located on the southeast corner of Plano road and Braeburn lane (Mapsco 8K) just north of Owens farm. If you have any questions about this event please call Libby Morse at 972-495-9034

Next Month: Please join us at our April meeting. It is Tuesday April 3rd at 7:00pm. We are meeting at A Taste Of Italy.

Sharron Smith is planning the next couple's activity. We will be going to a comedy show on Saturday April 21st. Times to follow. If you are interested let Sharron know.

If you are interested in joining the Oakridge Women's Club please call Libby Morse at 972-495-9034 or e-mail TOMLIB@HOME.COM

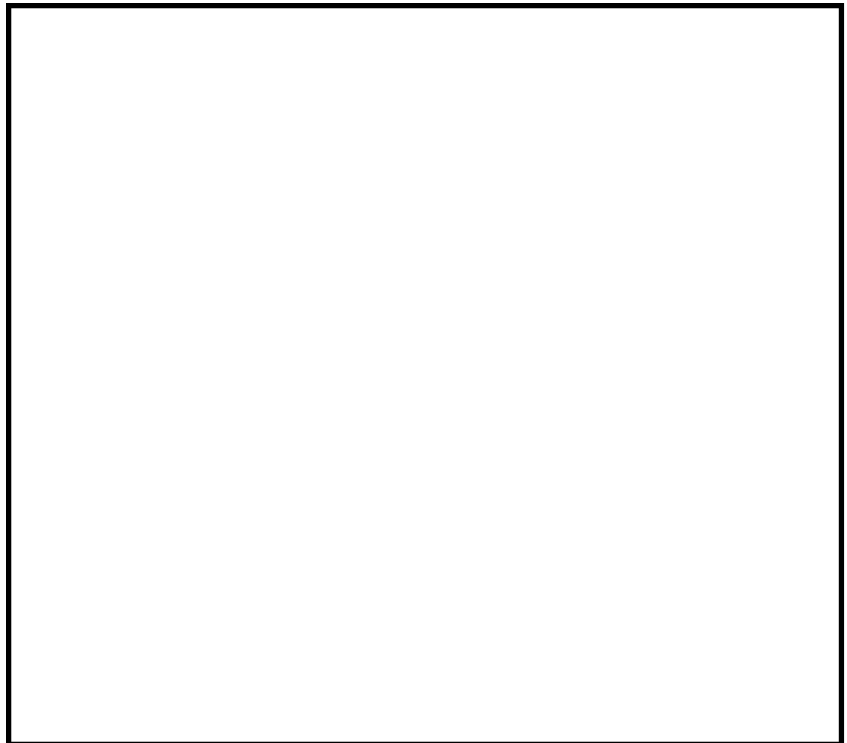


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THE OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS
M ♣ R C H MEETING

was held between rainy days on Tuesday, March 13th, at the home of Mary Jo Herring at 3213 Ridge Oak.

Refreshment hostesses who provided the tasty treats were **Betty Roberson, Brenda Britton, Janice Shadegg** and **Sarah Traylor**. Several of the members were missed that were vacationing, but Daytimers were thrilled to announce that they now have 51 members.

As a great and grand finale to the meeting our gracious hostess, **Mary Jo Herring**, (whom we dubbed the "Queen of Cream") presented each of the 34 in attendance with a sample of her Miracle Pink Lotion. To utilize her beautiful grand piano, **Suzanne Snow** played a selection, followed by a "sing-a-long" of selections played by the talented **Pat Cathcart**.

After visiting and welcoming visitors, group leaders made announcements that included:

WALKERS are hoping to increase the number and distance now that the weather is more favorable. Call **Mary Pattie** at 972- 496-6486. **Mary**, as treasurer, also announced the membership number and distributed lists to members that were present.

The **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH** will meet at **The Palm Court** in Antiqueland at Custer and 15th in Plano at 11:30 on **Wednesday, March 28th**. Call **Jo Ann Williams** at 972-530-2938.

The **FUN on the RUN BUNCH** will visit the **Women's Museum** at Fair Park on Friday, April 28th. They also announce plans for a Casino Trip on April 5th and a trip to **Dallas Blooms** for the Tea on March 29th. Some of these dates are tentative so call **Martha Boyette** at 972-414-9875 for details.

If **CANASTA** is your game call **Barbara Brunette** at 972-530-4288. If **BRIDGE** is your choice, call **Jane Buchanan** 972-530-4762.

Stitch and Chat still meets at **Norene Murphy's** on the 3rd Tuesday. Call 972-530-6669.

Call **Jo Dietz** 972-530-8308 or **Roberta Jones** 972-414-7277 for information about **ARTS and CRAFTS**.

The **BOOK CLUB** will meet at the home of **Trudy Schmidt** to review Champagne Midnight on March 16th at 10am. The next book will be

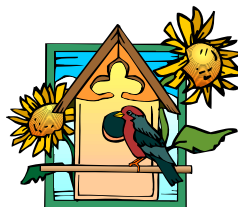
Crossing to Safety to be reviewed at the home of **Betty Thomas** on April 20th. Call **JoAnn Williams** 972-530-2938.

Cheryl Lanning suggested a new interest group to study selected topics. Please call Cheryl at 972-495-8291 to join this new **STUDY GROUP!**

JoAnn Williams is forming a nominating committee to name officers in May for our next officer year that begins in June. Please call JoAnn at 972-530-2938 to volunteer for an office or with an idea or interest group suggestion.

Barbara Brunette is planning the **OAKRIDGE GARAGE SALE** for **April 28th**. Please call her at 972-530-4288 to help or for information and to be included in the list and to be located on the map. Don't miss out on the publicity of this community wide event that has had great participation.

**NEXT
 MONTH
 APRIL -
 COFFEE-**



**Tuesday, 10am
 April 10th
 Home of
 Sarah Traylor
 3222 Bending Oaks**

The Oakridge Daytimers encourage membership in Oakridge Neighborhood Association and invite you to be a part of Daytimers. To join us or for information, call **Dianne Winter**, president, 972-530-6210, or e-mail ddwinter@home.com

*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.

 Name

 Address

 Phone

(Continued from page 1)

dent. The 14yr. old driver was so shook up that he could hardly stand up. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt. Approximately two hours later the police left my residence after having the car removed and I then realized that my wife and 3 children were less than 30 seconds from walking out the front door of our house to walk our dog when the incident began. They all four stood at our entry way windows and watched the whole thing happen. 30 seconds and God's Grace surely saved my family from total devastation!!!

Today, I realized I have three major problems:

1) My wife and children are totally afraid to leave our house out the front door, much less ride their bicycles down the side walk 100ft. to a sidewalk adjacent to a less threatening street as we have instructed for the past 3yrs.,

2) I have a 25ft. high & 12in. diameter Bradford Pear tree lying across my front yard along with approx. 40ft. of tire ruts in my yard to deal with.

3) The reckless driving and bold acts of property destruction by reckless drivers will only get worse, as it has over the past 11 years I have lived in this neighborhood, unless someone takes some action.

I am willing to take some action but I need your help.....I believe this neighborhood needs a significant increase in police enforcement and perhaps as many as three or four additional stop signs.

I believe these stop signs would significantly reduce the cut through traffic in our neighborhood, while at the same time, significantly reduce the average speed on Diamond Oaks and Ridge Oak streets. These are the streets that are used by many drivers to avoid the often congested intersection of Jupiter and Buckingham. Also, because these two streets have long gentle curves they are often used by young drivers to practice their high speed driving skills. I would also like to submit the following action plan and request your advise and direction if this plan seems unreasonable...

ACTION PLAN

1) I would like to request that temporary speed sensors be installed immediately on Diamond Oaks and Ridge Oak streets to validate the extremely high level of traffic and to substantiate the extremely high speeds and times of occurrence associated with this dangerous traffic.

2) Garland Transportation Dept., Garland Police Dept., Oakridge Neighborhood Association and Diamond Oaks / Ridge Oaks neighbors should evaluate this data to determine the best locations and the number of stop signs before someone is senselessly killed.

Respectfully,

Dennis Cheatham

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

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HELP NOW!!!!

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association is in need of someone to assume the responsibilities of the newsletter. Jackie Griffin is resigning at the end of April.

If you are interested please contact Mike Rose at 972-414-8598. Thank you.

ALL AROUND THE TOWN!!

Jeff Muzzy, City Manager

It is a pleasure to bring you news from the City of Garland. The year 2001 promises to be very exciting. The City Council recently adopted an aggressive Capital Improvement Program ("CIP") for this year. The CIP serves as the City's capital budget, and typically includes the construction of infrastructure, municipal facilities, and the acquisition of large or specialized equipment. The CIP is multi-year in nature, identifying planned expenditures and anticipated funding sources over a five-year horizon. This year's CIP is one of the largest in recent history totaling \$139.3 million. Included is \$26.6 million for streets, \$60.2 million for the closing of Castle Landfill and opening of Raney Landfill along with other utility projects, \$5.3 million for parks, and \$5.1 million for drainage.

Some of the more high profile projects include \$5.7 million for the Performing Arts Center ("PAC") and Plaza Theater. Renovations on the Plaza Theater are almost complete and it should be open for performances this summer. Renovations to the PAC will include total exterior renovation as well as expanded lobby, dressing rooms, and restrooms. In addition, a separate banquet hall will be constructed on the grassy hill in front of the existing facility. The two will be connected by a porte-cochère.

Another component of the CIP is the \$11.8 million for the Municipal Justice Center that will be located at the corner of State and Forest. Construction on phase one is anticipated to commence in September of this year with a completion date by the end of 2002. In addition \$2.6 million has been approved for the construction of a second clubhouse at Firewheel. This clubhouse will be located at the intersection of Brand and Talley Roads and will service the new 27 holes which are due to open this summer. The new clubhouse should be completed by the end of the year.

Funding for the CIP comes from several sources including (1) debt issuance, (2) transfers from the operating budget, (3) grants and other outside contributions, and (4) interest earnings. By far, the primary source of funding for CIP projects, however, is debt issuance. Funding for the 2001 program will require \$23.6 million in tax supported debt. This program could result in up to a one and one-half cent increase in the ad valorem tax rate.

I am certain that many of you are aware of the congestion that we are experiencing on the George Bush Tollway, especially during rush hour. The City has had many discussions with the North Texas Tollway Authority about this issue. I am very happy to tell you that an additional two lanes, from the Brand Road bridge to the first toll plaza, are currently under design. They hope to begin construction this summer. This will ease not only your daily commute, but will provide greater access to the mall that is expected to break ground by summer.

The Jupiter Road and Downtown DART Light Rail Stations

are under construction and on schedule. Garland is slated for service by the fall of 2002. The opening of the Downtown Station will enhance the overall plans for that area. The City is seeking funding to implement a downtown streetscape project that would add landscaping, lighting, brick pavers, benches, and other pedestrian enhancements; as well as identify entryways and create linkages between Downtown activities and focal points. Many of these improvements are outlined in the Downtown Area Plan adopted by the City Council in April 2000. The Plan sets forth goals and recommendations to guide Downtown development and revitalization.

Main Street Garland's effort to revitalize Downtown are also paying off, with the opening of several new businesses and the renovation of several others. The Main Street Program is working to have the buildings around the square designated a National Historic District in order to aid their preservation and to attract additional visitors to the downtown area.

We are well underway with plans for another fabulous Star Spangled 4th. This year the event will run from Friday evening, June 29th through Sunday, July 1st with wonderful fireworks each evening. Our motto this year is "Let the Fun Begin" as we celebrate Mardi Gras in July! There will be a variety of volunteer opportunities that I hope your Neighborhood Association will avail themselves of.

Your neighborhood association has been a long supporter and active participant in my quarterly homeowner/neighborhood association meetings. I appreciate your dedication to making not only your neighborhood, but also the entire community a better place to live, work and raise a family. I appreciate hearing from you on how we are doing and what we can do to continue to improve the quality of life in Garland. These are very exciting times for our city!

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