
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 10 No. 3

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

August - 2001

President's Message

Scott Youzva

I hope this month's Newsletter finds everyone surviving the heat. Even though the drought is over, it still seems just as hot and dry as last year. I know we will all be ready for the fall season to get here and give us all some relief.

The summer meeting for the ONA will be on August 30 at 6:30 at the Oakridge Country Club. I want to urge everyone to attend this meeting, primarily for one reason. That is to get to know someone you have not met before that lives in our neighborhood. We are going to have very little business on the agenda and will be spending almost all of the time getting to know one another. So if you have not been to a meeting in a long time, come to this one and give a few minutes of time to get to know your neighbors.

I have met our new neighbors that just moved in across the street from me. Their names are Brad and Angela (sorry I don't have a last name). He is an architect and she is an accountant. We look forward to getting to know them.

I have not received any calls concerning the environmental committee position. This is a vital position for our neighborhood and needs to be filled as soon as possible. If you would consider just helping part-time in this role, please give me a call (972-495-1833) and maybe I can team you up with one or two others to share the responsibility. Please help me on this matter.

As an update on the wall damage on the Buckingham side of our property, we have been in contact with the homeowner involved, and they are working through the issues with their insurance company. We hope to see this resolved in the near future. The damage that occurred on the Jupiter wall on Sunday, August 5th was reported to the police, but I do not have any other details at this time. I don't know what it is about our walls; they just seem to attract cars.

We look forward to seeing you at the general meeting this month. Be safe and stay cool.



**Drive
With
Care!!**

**Our Kids
are back
in
School!!**



**Oakridge Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, August 30, 2001
Social: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
TOPIC: Meet A Neighbor!**



Membership Update

*Peggy Richey
Membership Director*

Thank you for your continued support of our association. At the writing of this update I am pleased to inform you that we have 410 members. We still have 41 families that have not renewed their membership from last year. At the end of last year we had 380. That is an 8% increase in membership. If we could continue to get renewals in for a total of 451...it would be an increase from last year of almost 20%. Our goal this year is 500 members.

You can help us by letting us know when you have a new neighbor or when someone has moved away. The district director's work tirelessly to keep our records updated and to make sure we touch everyone that comes into our neighborhood. If you know someone that has been overlooked.... call us.

We are in the process of putting together the directory. Our deadline was July 15, but we had another 25 renewals at the end of July. Thank you for your many calls to let me know you were renewing. We did delay the directory for you. At this time we are putting the directory together. Once printed, we can always add directory pages to the newsletter that you can cut out and loosely insert into your directory.

Please let your neighbors know how important it is that the homeowners support the association. This association year has just begun. Our yearly membership is from June to June and we are always accepting new members. As school begins and summer ends, drive slowly. We love and care about the safety of our neighbors and children.



A Friendly Hand

Peggy Richey

When I was growing up my Mother loved oriental art. I am sure that is why I have that same appreciation today. My Father always had a wonderful garden and pond. In the middle of our garden and watching over the ever day occurrences sat Quan Yen. I never knew why that was her name. I only knew that my mother always called her Quan Yen. She was a stone statue of a female oriental woman that weighed about 90 pounds and has been in my family for over 40 years.

I always wondered if she and Gloria Oki, her best friend, found her on one of their shopping adventures. She had known Gloria for over 40 years. We had pictures of Gloria and Tom with their new baby Diana, in the concentration camps in California after Pearl Harbor.

My Mother died in 1989 and my Father in 1990. I brought Quan Yen to my house and she sat in my front yard until Wednesday July 18, 2001. We heard noise in the early morning and my husband said that it was only kids with firecrackers hanging around on the golf course, as usual. We awoke to a front yard of beer cans, but the sad thing was that Quan Yen was stolen. She may be a hunk of concrete to many, but to me she has been a part of my family and our hearts for decades. I would appreciate it if any one has seen her or knows the thief that took her that they have the courtesy to put her back where she has been for the past 11 years. Stealing is stealing no matter the value of the object.

Thank you.

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

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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.

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- FENCE REPAIR
- SHEET ROCK
- BATHROOM TILE & CAULKING

OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

by Dianne Winter

The August buzz may be the heat sizzling or the anticipation of the **September Coffee**. Several people have mentioned that they are ready to get together to mingle and hear the summer vacation stories – good and bad.

Get ready for the coffees to come and the interest group activities. Listed below are some of the activity groups that are currently meeting. **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH** will resume in September. Call the leaders for information and attend the coffee for the latest updates. Officers and leaders will have a planning meeting soon, so call with suggestions.

BOOK CLUB on the third Fridays –call **Nell Burt** at 972-496-1338. The Book Club will meet at the home of Dianne Winter ,2805 Oak Springs Dr., on **Friday, August 17th**, 10:00 am to discuss the book, *Dying for Chocolate*, by Diane Mott Davidson. Betty Thomas will lead the discussion and we anticipate snacks from the recipes in the book. *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* by Chevalier is the September book.

Call **Jane Buchanan** at 972-530-4762 for **BRIDGE** events at all experience levels. We wish Jane a speedy recovery following back surgery.

These **Canasta** groups are always sizzling, summertime or not, so for details call **Barbara Brunette** at 972-530-4288 for **DAYTIME CANASTA** and **Margaret Fowler** at 972-530-8585 for **NIGHTTIME CANASTA**.

The **CRAFT GROUP** will meet at the home of **Lucy Brock**, 2509 Creighton, 1 pm, on **September 17th**. They will not meet in August, but in September they will bring samples, illustrations and ideas for the fall and winter holidays. At the last meeting, they made cinnamon ornaments (Chris Beyers is blessed with patience) with excellent results and **Jo Dietz** and **Becky Parks** demonstrated covering lampshades. Several of the group made a tour of shops in Rockwall and Rowlett in July. Call **Roberta Jones** (972-414-7277) or **Jo Dietz** (972-530-8308) for more information.

STITCH & CHAT will continue to meet at **Norene Murphy's** (972-530-6669) on the 3rd Tuesday to visit and continue work on projects. They are quilting the Holiday Project to be donated to the club to benefit ONA, so join them to help this month on August 21st at 10am.

The **WALKERS GROUP** is occasional in the heat of the summer. Call **Mary Pattie** at 972-496-6486 for details.

There is summer fun in the pool at **WATER AEROBICS** at the home of **Jackie Griffin** on most MWF's! Call Jackie at 972-530-4777 for details and times. This a great get –together with excellent results under the leadership of **Becky Parks**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes in August to these members: **Mary Pattie**, **Becky Parks**, **Sarah Traylor**.

Several vacationers have great stories to tell. We have travelers from one corner of the world to the other. The **Arbuckles** have been to Alaska and the **Williams** have been to the Mediteranean.

Many others have been to family reunions and to the mountains of Colorado and the beaches of the Gulf. **Jackie Griffin** ventured to Ohio to visit family. Ask her about her 3 yr old grand niece.

Gail Durbin and her daughter, Laura, have been traveling in Texas. Ask Gail about her Bed and Breakfast experience. We extend sympathy to Gail in the death of her father.

Mary Pattie has traveled to Houston, but that was to welcome a new grandson, Brandon Christopher Pattie. Congratulations to the new grandmother.

Don't forget your secret pal!!!

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Pool Table For Sale

Schmidt 9 foot Pool Table professionally moved and setup in your home or office \$2,500. Call Jim or Jackie Griffin 972-530-4777

We will hear of more events when we gather for the **SEPTEMBER COFFEE**. **Put it on your calendar now.**

For questions or suggestions concerning Daytimers contact Dianne Winter, president, at ddwinter@home.com or 972-530-6210.



SEPTEMBER COFFEE

**At the home of Betty Prickett
2013 Diamond Oaks
Tuesday, September 11, 10 am**

Meetings

The following is a list of meeting dates for Executive Board and General Membership Sessions of the ONA. As members you are welcome to attend any or all of them. Contact one of the members of the board for time and place.

September 11, 2001
October 9, 2001
November 13, 2001
December 11, 2001
January 8, 2002
February 12, 2002
March 12, 2002
April 9, 2002
May 14, 2002

General Membership Session:
August 30, 2001
November 15, 2001
February 21, 2002

Wildlife Warning

The Garland Health Department encourages citizens to be wary of wild animals (such as skunks, bats, or raccoons) that are seen during daylight hours. Never touch or attempt to catch wildlife. Report such sightings to local animal control or health departments. For additional information, call 972-205-3460.




SKUNK ALERT!!

The Pricketts have issued another **SKUNK ALERT**. These critters have caused them considerable damage, work and stress in the past. At this time of year it is important to be on the look - out for these and other animals that are acting suspiciously and report them to animal control.

Move Your Can Ordinance Change

Residents may place trash containers at their collection point after 6:00 p.m. the day before collection. The containers must be removed from the collection point by 11:00 p.m. on collection day. **Residents with trash collection at their front curb or alley adjacent to a street must move the green trash container from the curb or the alley and place it next to the side of the house or any other area out of view from adjacent properties.**

The City of Garland Code Compliance Department is currently enforcing this recently amended ordinance. For more information, call 972-205-3800.



Oakridge Country Club

Club

With summer in full swing, you owe it to yourself to experience the game you love at a new and exciting level.

Oakridge Country Club is the perfect place to entertain clients or relax with family and friends while enjoying premier country club amenities. You can also receive an amazing array of products and services at 19 clubs in the area through participation in The Metroplex Alliance.

**Apply for a Full Golf Membership by September 25, 2001
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Citizens on Patrol	Bill Olive indexva@home.com
Civic Interest	

C.O.P. REPORT FOR AUGUST

By Bill Olive

As many of you know, August 7 was designated as "National Night Out". The idea is to get people outside to meet their neighbors and thereby help reduce crime in the neighborhood. This is a wonderful idea, and one that every neighborhood should try to utilize. Unfortunately, August 7 is **hot** in Texas. Few, if any people, are willing to be standing or sitting around outside during evenings like we've been experiencing. However, to do our part, your C.O.P. patrollers were out and about that evening, patrolling our neighborhood. As a part of our patrol efforts that evening we made note of eleven (11) streetlights that were out and notified the city so they could be repaired. We've been assured the lights will all be fixed within 10 days. If you notice a light out on your street, you can do your part in keeping your neighborhood safe by

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police & Fire Emergencies	911
Police Non-Emergencies	972-205-2150
Lone Star Gas	1-800-817-8090
Sanitation	972-205-3420
Code Violations	972-485-6400
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. Sam Castorani, NPO	972-205-2740

reporting the outage to STREET LIGHT REPAIR at 972-205-3483.

Some of our patrollers have noted that parked vehicles are beginning to congest a couple of our streets. Please remember that emergency vehicles require a lot of room to maneuver. If a street is narrowed to a single lane, it can adversely affect the response time of an emergency service. Lives or homes could be endangered, so we urge everyone to utilize their driveways or garages for parking.

Once again, we remind everyone, **don't issue an invitation to thieves and burglars.** An open, unattended, garage can allow someone access to items in your garage as well as provide access to your home through the door leading from the garage into your home. Let's all try to make Oakridge a neighborhood that unsavory characters avoid.

Finally, we're still seeking additional volunteers for the C.O.P. Although the response was very good from our previous request, we need a few more people before the police department will present a training class, and everyone must be trained before being allowed to patrol. Why not join this special group of people, make a difference in your neighborhood. We're only asking for a minimum of an hour total per week per person. Many people are out there walking, running or bike riding anyway, so just combine your exercise with some volunteer work. Do two things at once. Now that school is starting again, we would like to have enough volunteers so that we could have patrols out every day around the time the children in our neighborhood are coming home from school to help ensure their safety. This is a perfect opportunity for the parents of our community to get outside, meet other parents and help protect the children.

Call BILL OLIVE at 972-495-3402 to volunteer now.

OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

Libby Morse



*We are having a membership drive in September!
(See below for details)*

Important meeting night change!
We will now meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month

We have elected the new officers for the 2001-2002 year.

- President.....Lianne Mergen
 - Vice President.....Tricia Klimko
 - Treasurer.....Tracy Murphy
 - Adult activities.....Pam Trutna
 - Membership.....Amy Jahnel & Rita Morrison
 - Sunshine.....Sheila Wange
 - Children's activities & service projects.....Mary Macejewski
 - Halloween Party.....Sheila Wange
 - Children's Holiday Party...Mary Anne
 - 4th of July parade.....Tracy Murphy
 - Newsletter.....Libby Morse
 - Babysitter Packet.....Tricia Klimko
 - Spring Egg Hunt.....Karryn Torres
- Congratulations to our new officers!



Now is the time to join!

Our Next meeting is on Tuesday September 18th
We will meet at Mary's house at 7 p.m.
2502 Big Oaks

We are having a membership drive:
Stop by and play a game of Keno and get to know the group!

We welcome our new members
Amy Jahnel
Rita Morrison
Sharita Stone

We meet the third 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 \$20 per year! Call Libby Morse at 972-495-9034 or tomlib@home.com if you would like to join us!



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

REFLECTIVE HOUSE NUMBERS

The Garland Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association is selling Reflective Number Decals for your Curb (\$15, \$20 for 2), Mail Box (\$16 for both sides) or Fence (\$24)

Make it easy for the Police, Fire, Friends or even the Pizza guy to find your house. These decals are easy to spot even at night. Contact Jim Griffin 972-530-4777.

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Crime Prevention Guide To Home Security

Burglars enter a house, apartment or condominium every 15 seconds. Burglars look for what the police call "targets of opportunity" - in other words, easy pickings. Common sense will help keep the burglar away. Be aware of the common methods which burglars use to gain entry, and make sure your entire family understands what to do in certain situations. Most home burglars are amateurs looking for homes which present the least risk of detection; the greatest opportunity for easy gain; and the maximum potential for escape. They are looking for homes which appear unoccupied and unprotected; homes without adequate locks and lighting; open or unlocked doors and windows; and home sites which provide easy concealment from neighbors and passing motorists

Unfortunately, the burglar doesn't need to look around very long to discover "Welcome Burglar" signs unwitting left around many homes. It is even more unfortunate when you realize that all it takes to make your home less inviting to a burglar is a little more common sense and several easy, effective and inexpensive crime measures. Listed are measures, which can decrease the chances of becoming a burglary victim.

Survey your home: Look at your home through the eyes of a burglar's eyes. Does it look like an easy target? Are there obvious security weaknesses?

Shrubbery should not obscure doors and windows. At night leave a few lights burning outside your home. Strategically placed floodlights will make your home less inviting to a burglar. Windows and doors should be securely locked.

Doors- Inadequate locks should be replaced or supplemented. Single-cylinder deadbolt locks are recommended. The bolt should extend at least one inch beyond the door edge. This would prevent a burglar from kicking in the door. If an exterior door contains a glass panel or is near a window, a double-cylinder deadbolt should be installed. This will prevent a burglar from reaching inside to unlock the door after breaking the glass.. Before you install new locks, consult a locksmith. Many home improvement centers provide workshops tailored to home security and various information regarding locks and their installation.

Keep track of your keys. Do not leave an extra key outside your home. Keys hidden under doormats, flower pots, or on a window ledge are the first places burglars look prior to actually "breaking in". Do not attach your name or license number to your house keys. Lost or stolen house keys, which contain such information, can be easily traced to your home. In addition, do not leave your house keys with your car when you leave your car at a parking lot.

Wooden exterior doors have either solid core or hollow core construction. Solid core doors provide the greatest security. They are also best suited for installation of good locks. If your home is not equipped with a peephole, install one. Sliding glass doors are particularly vulnerable to attacks by burglars. A pin-type lock or a steel rod can be inserted in the door channel. Additionally, install two or three screws in the overhead track to reduce the chance of lifting the door out of the track. There are also a new variety of keyed locks for patio doors.

Make sure your garage door is always locked, whether you are home or not. Many garage thefts occur during the day when homeowners are home. If the garage door has glass panes, cover them to prevent your valuables from being seen.

Windows- Always ensure your windows are locked. Double-hung windows can have added security by utilizing a "pinning" technique. With the

window closed, drill hole (angle downward) through the top corners of the inner frame, partially into outer frame. Insert pin or nail. In addition, key-operated window locks are available.


Consider buying a burglar alarm system. They vary in sophistication from a simple door alarm that makes noise, scares the thief and alerts neighbors, to silent alarm systems which are linked to a law enforcement agency or security service. Check with your homeowner's insurance agent for recommendations. Some insurance companies may endorse specific manufacturers and the discount received on homeowners insurance may increase.

Establish good communications with your neighbors. Many times the best deterrent for a burglar is watchful neighbors. If a burglar notices watchful eyes he will more likely move on. Also, a watchful neighbor can report suspicious circumstances to the appropriate authorities.

from the CCUCA Clairon Newsletter April 2001, printed in the Garland Homeowners Coalition Newsletter



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