
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 10 No. 6

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

November - 2001

President's Message

By Scott Youzva

I cannot believe that the year is almost over. High School football is nearing an end and Christmas is just around the corner. We have so much to be thankful for and I hope that everyone will take the time to reflect on the good things that have occurred in our lives. It is sad that many times it takes a tragedy to make us realize that we have a great country, great state, great city, and great community. We are fortunate to have all of these. Take time to thank those around you that make your life so great.

The Board of Directors and Officers have been working to provide assistance to the community in every way feasible with the limited resources we have. I thought it would be informative to know how your annual dues are being spent. The following is an estimated budget for the 2001-2002 year. As you can see, the majority of the money goes back into the neighborhood in the way of beautification and information. We will continue to search for new ways to raise more money and increase our membership so that we can do even more.

2001 Dues Breakdown:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|
| Beautification/Landscaping | \$33.79 | 70.4% |
| Communication | \$ 7.78 | 16.2% |
| Administration | \$ 6.00 | 12.5% |
| Security | \$.43 | .9% |
| Total | \$48.00 | 100.0% |

Since this issue will be the last of the 2001-year, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Holiday Season. We are planning on using the theme of "Peace On Earth" for our decorations; so if you would like to join in the fun, decorate your homes accordingly. Have a safe and Happy New Year and I will see you next year.



**Peace
On
Earth**

SEASONS GREETINGS!!!

By Pam Hubbard

The ONA District Directors will once again be coordinating the decorating of our Oakridge entrances, stop signs, and the bridge. If you can donate some of your valuable holiday time, we will be meeting at the Country Club poolside parking lot on December 1 at 10:00 a.m. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Red Bows:

Didn't the red bows on our mailboxes look great last Christmas? It was a really simple way to unify our neighborhood's holiday decorations. We hope everyone will participate again this year by decorating their mailboxes.

Thanks to all for helping Oakridge get in the Christmas spirit.

A decorative border of colorful triangles (yellow, orange, and red) surrounds the meeting announcement text.

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 15, 2001
Social: 6:30 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Come make new friends & pick up your directory!

OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

By Libby Morse

Happy Holidays from the OWC!



At the Last Meeting:

We met at Sheila Wange's house. We got a lot of plans for the Holiday's made! Please welcome our new member Cheryl Jones! We are looking forward to getting to know you and your family! We had a nice time at the Arboretum. The flowers were so pretty.

Next Month:

We are really looking forward to the holidays this year! We will not have our usual meeting in November and December. Please join us for the following:

Adult Activity: Thursday December 6th at 6:00 p.m. @ Beni-hana's Restaurant. Bring a white elephant gift for yourself and your spouse. Call Pam Trutna for further information at 972-414-5633.

Children's Holiday Party:

Come and see Santa!!!

Sunday December 9th from 2-5 p.m. We will sing carols with Santa. There will be refreshments. The party is at Lianne Mergan's. Call Lianne if you need have any questions. 972-414-3728. This is fun for the whole family. You won't want to miss this!

Don't forget, if you are interested, have your child bring a donation of a used toy to give to a charity.

If you would like more information on the Oakridge women's club, please call Libby at 972-495-9034. TOMLIB@HOME.COM.

We would love for you to join us anytime!

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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- Pet/House Sitting
- Errands
- Taking kids to soccer, ortho, Etc.
- Shopping
- Grocery Shopping (Especially for Home Bound Seniors)
- Etc., Etc.

LET SUE DO IT

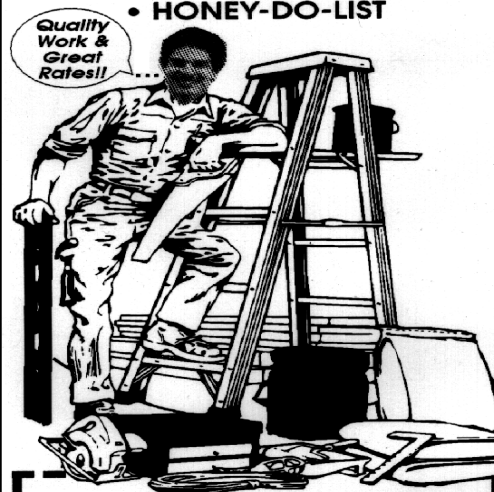
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October C.O.P Update

By Bill Olive

Crime Stats for Sept.

The following crime statistics for the Oakridge area were posted on the Garland Police Department's web site for the month of September.

- Vehicle burglary
2800 block of Stoneridge Dr. approx. 10pm - 9/16
- Vehicle burglary
2600 block of Richland Dr. approx. 7:30am - 9/17
- Vehicle burglary
2500 block of Creighton Dr. approx. 5pm - 9/15
- Vehicle burglary
2600 block of Stoneridge Dr. approx. 10pm - 9/16
- Habitation burglary
2500 block of Meadowridge Dr. approx. 7:40am-9/12
- Criminal Mischief
2500 block of Ridge Oak Ct. approx. 4am - 9/09
- Criminal Mischief
2500 block of Richland Dr. approx. 10pm - 9/18

Crime Stats for Oct. 1-6

- Vehicle burglary
2500 block of Diamond Oaks approx. 2am - 10/1
- Vehicle burglary
2400 block of Golden Oaks approx. 2am - 10/1

Oakridge residents generally assume that ours is a quiet, crime free neighborhood. Unfortunately, this type of assumption can leave us open to crimes of convenience. Look at the vehicle burglaries noted above. These involved theft of cell phones and/or garage door openers which were left in autos. Yes, we should be able to leave valuables in our car, and yes, we should be able to return to the car and find them right where we left them. But, in reality, there are thugs out there looking for opportunities to steal anything that "isn't tied down". Cell phones are a high priority. They mean quick money when they're sold, traded or used by the thief until the number is blocked. It is amazing how quickly a thief can run up a cell phone bill. A garage door opener is a key to your home, or possibly someone else's home. The potential for robbery of a home when a garage door opener is stolen is seriously increased.

The COP has been warning everyone not to leave garages open and unattended. Now we're also warning residents not to leave garage door openers in your car unless the car is in your closed garage. If you can't put your car in the garage, remove your opener and your cell phone. Lock your car, leave an outside light on, and, if you don't have a car alarm, invest in a "club" for the steering wheel and use it. I speak from experience, before moving here to Oakridge, we woke up one morning to find that our car had been stolen during the night. We'd left our cell phone in the glove compartment of the car, along with other personal items. As an added insult, weeks later, we received a cell phone bill amounting to more than a \$1000.00 even though we

had reported the theft the same morning. The following month another bill came. The never ending paperwork was a nightmare. Even more thought provoking, imagine how you would feel if you came home from work or shopping and found that someone had entered your home and taken your valuables, many of which are irreplaceable. Or, even worse, if you came in to find someone in your home waiting for you. Protect yourself and your property.

As we all know, every police department in the country is on high alert and Garland is no exception. They are stretched now, and there are those thugs out there, who don't know the meaning of patriotism, who are taking advantage of this time to engage in crime. Garland Police and your COP are patrolling, but residents need to be alert to anything that doesn't seem right and report it. We're not trying to create a police state or panic residents, but none of us want to encourage thieves to move into our neighborhood. And, for all those who have reported instances or situations that were questionable, *thank you for being a good neighbor!*

Our neighborhood police officer requested the COP to increase our patrols, particularly in a certain quadrant of our neighborhood, and we have done so. If you see us out there a little more frequently, don't be alarmed. Hopefully, more visibility will encourage certain elements to go elsewhere.

On a final note, we're expecting to have a COP class soon, and we would like to have a few more new members to join us. Remember, being a COP member gives you a chance to get to know your neighborhood as well as your neighbors, and is an opportunity for you to give something back to your community. If interested, call Bill Olive at 972-495-3402.

Meetings

The following are the next meeting dates for Executive Board and General Membership Session of the ONA. As members you are welcome to attend them. Contact one of the members of the board for time and place.

November 13, 2001
January 8, 2002
February 12, 2002

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

Membership Update

Peggy Richey
Membership Director

Hi Everyone! Our membership has remained stable since last month. I hope all of you will inspire your friends and neighbors to join.

Our new directories are being printed as you read this and will be available at our General Membership Meeting on Thursday November 15, 2001. I hope all of you will be there and look forward to giving you your directory.

Thank you to all of the advertisers who made this possible.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

FOR FIRE STATIONS 3 & 6:

By Luanne Payne

Once again I will be taking Christmas dinner to the two fire stations that respond so faithfully to our emergency calls here in Oakridge. Station No. 3 responds to the south side of Oakridge and Station No. 6 responds to the north side. These dedicated firemen enjoy and appreciate everything we bring them. If you would like to make a fruit salad, vegetable dish, breads, desserts or help with a cash donation, please call Luanne Payne at 972-530-9323.

Thinking of....

Fern Cook is in Intensive Care at Zale-Lipschy, having under gone surgery for a brain aneurysm. Fern was the secretary for the ONA from 1999-2001.

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For information call our Membership Office at (972) 530-8008.



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OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

By Dianne Winter

"Over the river and through the woods" to **Jo Dietz**' lovely home we will go for the **NOVEMBER COFFEE** on Tuesday, **November 13th** at 10am.



The food hostesses are **Martha Boyette, Janice Schadegg, Gloria Shanhouse** and **JoAnn Williams**.

We count our blessings and gather together. We are so thankful for our Daytimers group and the friendships and interests that we establish there.

There will be a drawing for the holiday decorations that the **STITCH AND CHAT GROUP** has donated. The proceeds will be donated to the ONA. Come early to buy your tickets!

2002 SECRET PALS will be designated this month. Please be present or contact **Sarah Traylor** at 972-414-5383 to be included or have a friend fill out the form at the meeting.

BOOK CLUB on the third Fridays—call **Nell Burt** at 972-496-1338. The Book Club will read Maeve Binchy's book, *Scarlet Feather*, for the November meeting. The December meeting will be at the home of Mary Jensen and the book *Velveteen Rabbit* will be reviewed.

There was great participation in the October discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird* that was led by Suzanne Snow at her home. The lovely fall decorations and scrumptious refreshments were enjoyed by about 15 members.

Call **Jane Buchanan** at 972-530-4762 for **BRIDGE** events that occur on the first through fourth Wednesdays of every month.

These **CANASTA** groups are recruiting, so for details call **Barbara Brunette** at 972-530-4288 for **DAY CANASTA** and **Margaret Fowler** at 972-530-8585 for **NIGHT CANASTA**. If you have any interest here, this is a fun group that would benefit you.

The **ARTS & CRAFT GROUP** will meet at the home of **Roberta Jones** on Monday, November 12th, 1pm to make several holiday items. At their meeting last month at the home of **Jo Dietz, Roberta Jones** gave a demonstration on making a decorative dough cornucopia. The group was very pleased with the result of their afternoon work. Call **Roberta Jones** (972-414-7277) or **Jo Dietz** (972-530-8308) for more information.

With the holidays so close, the **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH** has not scheduled any additional lunches until further announced.

STITCH & CHAT will continue to meet at **Norene Murphy's** (972-530-6669) on the 3rd Tuesday to

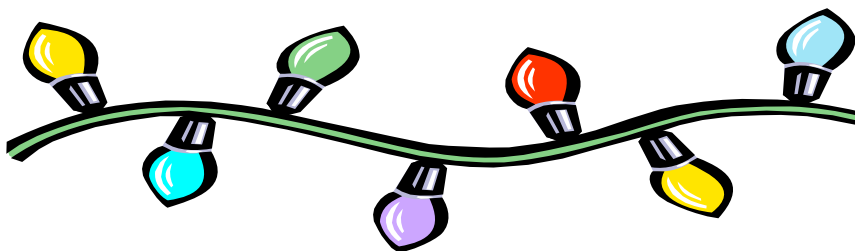
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |
| Tommy Cobb | 972-485-6418 |
| 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 |

visit and continue to work on projects. They have completed quilting the Holiday Project to be donated to the club to benefit ONA. At the October meeting, they surprised **Jackie Tucker** with birthday refreshments and celebration.

Cooler fall weather puts spring in the step of the **WALKERS GROUP**. A new addition to the group is the Exercise Walking in the Country Club parking lot at 8:00 to 8:30 am with Becky Parks leading them. They are having great fun and results. Both these groups meet "on demand" so be sure to call first if you want company. Call **Mary Pattie** at 972-496-6486 for details.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes in November to **Dot Mohrle, Mary Musseman, Lucy Brock, Suzanne Snow, Pat Bruce, Brenda Britton, Betty Thomas, JoAnn Williams, and Emily Krause**.



DECEMBER COFFEE

**AT THE HOME OF
Mary Jo Herring**

3213 Ridge Oak Drive

**Tuesday, December 10th
10 a.m.**

Special Holiday Music

Bring cookies to share and a gift for your Secret Pal or to exchange if you wish

For questions or suggestions concerning **Daytimers** contact **Dianne Winter**, president, at ddwinter@home.com or 972-530-6210. Dues are \$12 per year- prorated from January.

Vitality Could Stabilize City's Tax Base

By Lowell Hyatt, City Council Representative for District 7

In 15 years or less Garland will reach build-out—that is, only small tracts of land will be left to be developed. The tax base in place at build-out is the one on which the city will thereafter derive the revenues which pay for city services (police, fire, utilities, street maintenance, etc.)

Unless the value of that tax base can be increased, the city will be con-fronted with a situation faced by many retirees: a fixed income and continuing increases in their costs of living, or in the case of the city: continuing increases in the cost of providing services. Should that happen, the city will have no choice but to reduce its standard of living—the quantity and quality of services it provides to its citizens.

Such a reduction would impact every Garland citizen.

I appreciate the opportunity to share some of my beliefs concerning Neighborhood Vitality. As many of my long-time acquaintances will confirm, it is a subject of which I have very strong convictions and a subject on which I welcome the opportunity to share those convictions. Those convictions are based on observations I have made and knowledge gained during the 20 years I have been involved in a neighborhood association and served on the city council and various city boards, committees and commissions.

Even though the tax base cannot be expanded after build-out, its value can be increased. Such an increase can be derived only by upgrading the quality of existing structures or replacing existing structures with ones of greater value, which occurs only if the combined values of the upgrades and replacements exceed normal decreases in the values of properties associated with aging.

The value of the tax base of any city is determined by the vitality of all the institutions which make up that city. Those institutions include single and multi-family residents, churches, public schools and businesses. The vitality of any institution is impacted by the vitality of the other institutions. In my opinion, the collective vitality of the single family residents will ultimately determine the vitality of all of the other institutions and the value of the tax base of the city. (It will also determine the value of a major portion of the tax base which generates the revenues for Garland Independent School District.)

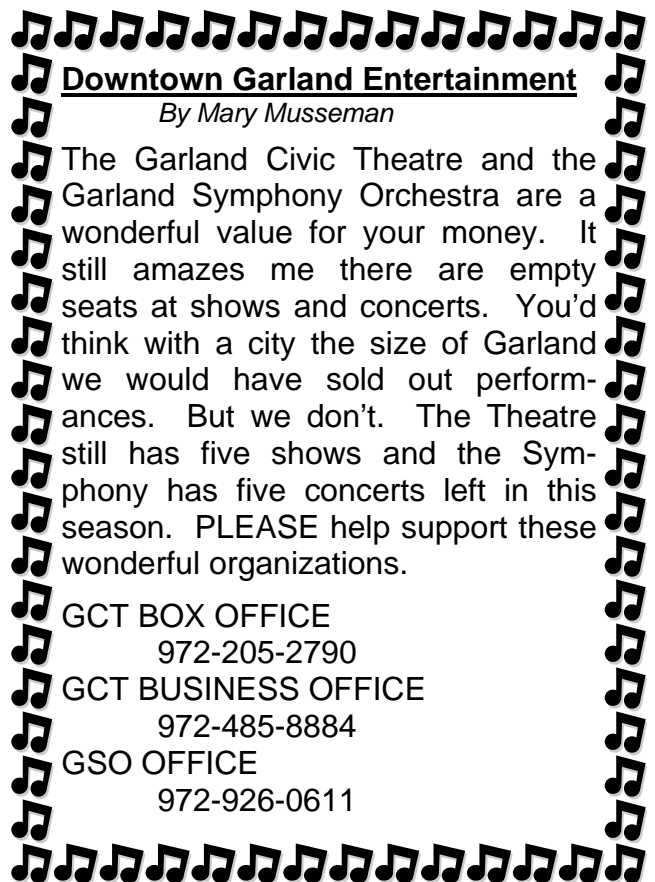
As I noted earlier, the normal trend is for properties to decrease in value with the passing of time. That trend regularly occurs with respect to single family residences and applies to even the most expensive houses in a city. Possibly that trend cannot be stopped; however, I am convinced it can be stretched out by a matter of decades. All of us have seen neighborhoods which are as vibrant today as they were when they were developed numerous decades ago.

Slowing the downward trend of neighborhoods (and possibly even stopping it) can be accomplished only through the efforts of the institutions which receive support from and give support to the individual neighborhoods. Each institution has a vital role to play. The group that ultimately determines whether or not those efforts are successful is the residents of the individual neighbor-

hoods. They are the ones who control the vitality of the neighborhood. That control includes the appearance of the homes, the level of crime and whether or not neighbors are truly neighbors.

I close by once again thanking you for the opportunity to share with you my thoughts on neighborhood vitality. It is a subject which impacts each and every one of us.

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Downtown Garland Entertainment
By Mary Musseman

The Garland Civic Theatre and the Garland Symphony Orchestra are a wonderful value for your money. It still amazes me there are empty seats at shows and concerts. You'd think with a city the size of Garland we would have sold out performances. But we don't. The Theatre still has five shows and the Symphony has five concerts left in this season. PLEASE help support these wonderful organizations.

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Homeowners Coalition Urges Bond Program to Revitalize Garland Neighborhoods

By Lee Smith, President, Garland Homeowners Coalition, and Former City Council Representative for Dist 1

In May of 1999, the Garland Homeowners Coalition set as our primary goal the pursuit of a neighborhood vitality program for Garland. The GHC is the umbrella organization of homeowner and neighborhood associations in Garland. The program could be patterned after Richardson's Neighborhood Vitality program, which was part of their December 1997 Bond election.

Richardson citizens approved \$7,445,209 for such enhancements as neighborhood screening walls, sidewalks, bridges, fences, curbs, entryways, and other improvements.

Richardson initiated the first phase of their program by inviting neighborhoods to submit projects for consideration, and then they held clinics and workshops to help the different neighborhoods develop solutions for their needs. Afterwards, the city selected the areas and neighborhoods that would participate in the first phase. Their program has been ongoing for over two years and has been very successful, receiving high marks from both neighborhood groups and city officials. All you have to do is drive down Jupiter between Collins and Arapaho and view the new perimeter wall on the Richardson side to see an example.

We all know that Garland has many aging neighborhoods and they need citywide support to help them to revitalize themselves. The program GHC is pursuing with the city would do just that.

One of the few ways this can be accomplished, in a way that funds will be specially dedicated to this effort, is through a bond program.

The Richardson program received approximately 80% support from their voters. The citizens of Garland should have an opportunity to vote on a similar program. It is the Garland Homeowner Coalition's goal to make this happen. We have written letters to the City of Garland asking for a similar bond program and after about one year we received an answer that said they "would continue to explore this program, however it would be several more years before the city would have another bond election." We also discussed this program with councilman Michael Holden. He volunteered to bring it up before the council at a work session this past spring. He did that, however, the idea was tabled until the next council retreat, which was last June. Nothing was done at the retreat!

Councilman Holden told the GHC in July that there would be a city bond election in May, 2002. However, recent press comments have indicated otherwise.


This is a special program that deserves special attention. Any day that passes that we allow our neighborhoods to decline is a day that our property values decrease, that tax revenues decrease, that Garland's growth and progress is forestalled. We need this program placed on a bond election this May so the citizens of Garland can decide its merits.

Write, e-mail, or phone the council and mayor today. We need your support. [The Honorable Jim Spence, City of Garland, P.O. Box 469002, Garland, Texas 75046-9002, or e-mail to mayor@ci.garland.tx.us]

[Ed. Note: For answers about HOA's or city functions, residents can forward their questions to the Garland Homeowners Coalition at quickresponse01@hotmail.com.]

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