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# ◊ Oakridge News ◊

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Vol. 10 No. 7

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

January - 2002

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## Can You Give Me a Light?

Keith Macejewski

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, an accident occurred at the intersection of Shiloh and Big Oaks. Though no one was seriously injured, the planter box and one section of the wall at the Oakridge entrance were damaged. The repair was completed in November. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, another accident occurred at this intersection. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured in this accident either; however, two sections of the wall at the entrance were damaged. That repair will begin soon. Some of you may recall that a man riding a motorcycle was killed in another accident at this intersection on Memorial Day, 2000. These are just a few of the many accidents that have occurred at this intersection over the years.

I have spoken with Dave Trimble (City of Garland - Traffic) several times about the possibility of getting a traffic signal installed at Shiloh and Big Oaks. It appears to be extremely difficult to make this happen. According to Mr. Trimble, there are around 200 intersections in Garland that are being considered for a traffic signal. Unfortunately, the city only budgets enough money to add signals at about 5 of these intersections each year.

Mr. Trimble understands my concerns, but informs me that (1) there are other intersections in Garland have more "reported" accidents and (2) a signal light does not necessarily reduce the number of accidents. While I agree with both remarks, I am more concerned about the severity of the accidents that occur. When you consider the following, more serious accidents are inevitable:

- Vehicles travel at excessive speeds on Shiloh. Those of us who have lived in Oakridge for several years have

seen Shiloh transition from a two-lane, not-so-busy road to a four-lane highway. Given that I live at this intersection, I have the opportunity to observe this daily. It is scary how fast some vehicles are traveling. In my opinion, the distance between the signal lights at Beltline and Buckingham is the problem. It seems significantly easier to cross Shiloh one block north or south of Big Oaks where the top speeds have not been achieved for all four lanes

- Big Oaks, like Diamond Oaks, is used by many who do not live in Oakridge to pass through the subdivision. This creates more traffic at the intersection and, consequently, more opportunities for accidents.

Holford Park naturally attracts younger, less experienced drivers. In all of the accidents mentioned above, a teenage driver was at fault. Many of the serious accidents involve a driver trying to cross all four lanes at once. This is equivalent to attempting to cross a four-lane highway. The faster the vehicles are traveling on Shiloh, the more difficult it becomes to accomplish the crossing. This is especially true for less experienced drivers.

As a homeowner and (more importantly) a parent, I am very concerned about the potential danger that exists at the intersection of Shiloh and Big Oaks. If you agree, disagree, or simply want to provide a comment, please email me at [km\\_oakridge@hotmail.com](mailto:km_oakridge@hotmail.com). I will accumulate the comments and forward them to Mr. Trimble. There may be funds outside the traffic signal budget that could be used. Since Oakridge provides substantial support for the City of Garland, comments from Oakridge residents may help to get a traffic signal installed.



*Mark your calendars for  
Valentines Day - February 14th  
And the next ONA General Membership meeting -  
February 21st!*

## Oakridge Women's Club

Libby Morse

Happy New Year 2002!

**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. (Thank you Lianne for hosting!) The Adults night out at Benihana's was fun!

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> 2002, at the home of Tricia Klimko at 7:00 p.m.** Please call Tricia at 972-414-9141 for Directions or if you have any questions.

If you cannot make this meeting but would like to be added to our baby-sitting packet call Libby 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 9<sup>th</sup>**. We will begin with refreshments and appetizers at Rita's house at 6pm. The cost is \$5.00 each. (Please bring to the Jan. meeting). RSVP with Sharron by Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> (972-530-3873). She also has the sign-up list for the food and beverages. Thank you Lianne, Rita and Sheila for the use of your houses! You won't want to miss this!!!!!!

If you are interested in joining the Oakridge Woman's Club please call Libby Morse at 972-495-9034 [TOMLIB@attbi.com](mailto:TOMLIB@attbi.com)



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### **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.

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## **OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS**

***By Dianne Winter***

Here we come a caroling.....at the lovely home of Mary Jo Herring on Ridge Oak. The Oakridge Daytimers gathered to share the music of the Holidays on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am.



The talented **Pat Cathcart** had graciously accepted the invitation to tickle the ivories of the Grand piano while **Suzanne Snow** led the group singing. As friends, the Daytimers have always met in harmony. We certainly tested that quality with this activity and had great success. We had all looked forward to this coffee and we thank **Mary Jo, Pat and Suzanne** for making it possible to exceed our expectations. The peace of the home, the love of the friends and the joy of the fellowship surrounded us.

The holiday refreshments were a collection of cookies to sample and trade. The table was laden with an array of scrumptious creations. We can sing and bake! The generosity of the group was demonstrated in the gift giving. There was surprise all around when secret pals were revealed and other gifts exchanged. Mary Jo presented each of us with a bell necklace as a memento of this lovely occasion. Suzanne Snow won the door prize.

Since we drew new names at the November meeting, **don't forget to start the New Year with your 2002 secret pal.**

The November meeting highlights included the drawing for the beautiful tree skirts provided by the Stitch and Chat group. Due to the donation of this group the total of \$155 was presented to the ONA from this effort. Three winners were named: John Sholden, Becky Parks and Jo Dietz.

Now on to the new year of 2002!

What could be more appropriate than to assemble for the January meeting at the home of **Suzanne SNOW** on the 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am? Thanks to **Suzanne**, who is a meticulous hostess, and the food hostesses **Brenda Britton, Chris Beyers, Gail Durbin and Dot Mohrle**. Daytimers always enjoy communicating our new year's resolutions and looking to the future. Many have resolved to "enjoy the moment" in the coming year.

Many activities are scheduled for the New Year and some of them are listed below. Please call group leaders for more information.

**BOOK CLUB** on the third Fridays—call **Nell Burt** at 972-496-1338. The presentation of the book, *Velveteen Rabbit*, was held at the home of **Mary Jensen** on Friday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am. Mary welcomed the members, served refreshments and shared the book beautifully along with suggestions of other Christmas books. The **January** meeting will be held at the home of **Betty Thomas** for the discussion of the book, *Fortune's Rocks*, on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am.

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, 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** met on Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, for a special holiday celebration and exchange of white elephant craft gifts at the home of **Jo Dietz**. The group of 12 enjoyed appealing appetizers, an elegant entrée with artistic accompaniments followed by delectable desserts. Call **Roberta Jones** (972-414-7277) or **Jo Dietz** (972-530-8308) for more information.

The **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH** has scheduled a get together at Patrizio's at 11:30 on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, Call Janice Schadeegg for info and reservations at 972-530-5860.

**STITCH & CHAT** meets at **Norene Murphy's** (972-530-6669) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday to visit and to work on projects – Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am. This creative group met on December 17<sup>th</sup> to exchange wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**WALKERS GROUP** is in transition –until the New Year.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** wishes for **December** go to **Barbara Brunette, Gail Durbin, and Monica Evans**. **January** wishes to **Kay Cutts, Jo Dietz, Roberta Jones, and Mary Reed**.

We send wishes of sympathy to Trudy Schmidt in the death of her mother and Betty Thomas in the death of her brother. Also we send get-well wishes to Clara Mae Muerer.

**Dues of \$12.00** for the year to be paid in January. Bring to meeting or send to treasurer, **Mary Pattie**, at 2101 Windy Ridge.

### **FEBRUARY TEA**

**Please join us for tea  
Tuesday 12th at 2 p.m.**

**Home of Mary Musseman—3001 Oak Springs**



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



**IN MEMORY OF CHERYL HOLAN LANNING**

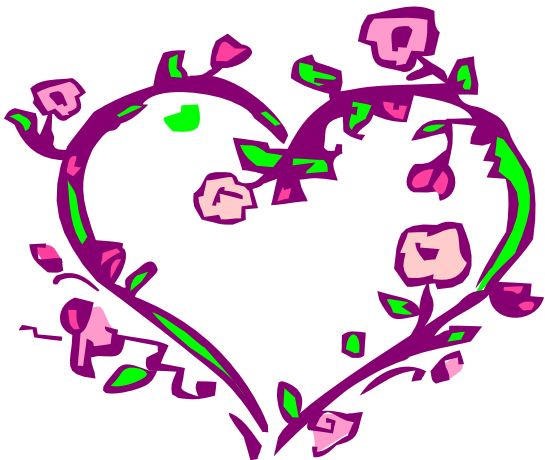
**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

*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. William Edwards
- Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Gingerich
- Mr. & Mrs. Jim Goodrich
- Ms. Sue Hageland & family
- Mr. & Mrs. Lowell McNally
- Mr. & Mrs. Ed Miles
- Mr. & Mrs. Bob Musseman
- Mr. & Mrs. Vance Payne
- Mr. & Mrs. Rick Poole
- Mr. & Mrs. Ritchie Stimpson
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary Klembara
- Mr. & Mrs. Bob Young

This year I received more cash donations than homemade goodies. I purchased several pies, cakes, cans of nuts, and jars of pretzels from Sam's. The firemen thought this was great (especially the pretzels). I usually have about \$20 to \$30 left over each year but this year I had \$72 left over. I made the decision to give each Station \$25 cash and told them to use it however they chose. They were so thankful for everything. I received a thank you card from Station 3 with everyone's signature on it and their many thanks for everything we have done for them. Please keep these special people in your prayers. They have dedicated their lives to helping and saving all of us. I am so proud of all our Garland Firefighters.





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## Oakridge Country Club

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**2002**

*Brenda Olive*

Ok, how long did it take before you were able to write 2002 without hesitating? Not long did it? Did you notice that in the past it would sometimes be weeks before you could write a check or letter with the new date without hesitating, and even then you still made mistakes, but, this year, writing 2002 seems to come easier? Maybe its because almost all of us wanted 2001 to be over, gone, zipped away. It was, no doubt, good for some people, but the vast majority of Americans feel that 2001 was one of the worst years of their lives. All of us lost that sense of safety and security we've felt in this country for so many years. Many of us lost friends and relatives to seemingly senseless acts of terror, others have lost their jobs, or their supposed job security. Still others are worrying because of the financial losses suffered during 2001. So, what do we do? We unite! We become more neighborly, we look out for each other, we become involved in our community, we determine what is needed to help protect us, to make us safe, strong and secure. We become involved.

Stop coming home, going inside and closing the door. Take a look around, find out what you can do to help make our community better. Volunteer to join a committee, or accept a district director position or officer position in the ONA. Perhaps you're the one with the perfect solution to some of our problems. Unless you come forward and express it, who will know? Don't be an "excuser" be a "doer". Even if you're housebound you can volunteer to work a telephone tree. A few minutes out of each month will help you get to know some of your neighbors and help you become involved in some worthwhile efforts. *Get involved, become UNITED. It's important to the well-being of Oakridge.*

If you feel you simply cannot spare a minute or two to volunteer, then at the very least, you should join the ONA and persuade one or two of your neighbors to do so also. Each member recently received their membership directory, check it out, find out if your neighbor is a member, if not, get him/her to write out that check for \$48.00 and send it in immediately. This is just another way to UNITE. It takes money to take care of the mowing, trimming, pruning, watering and electricity each month. It takes money to provide Holiday decorations and it takes money to plant new seasonal flowering plants. That money comes from membership dues. JOIN NOW- either by volunteering or getting new members- you can help. Remember the "UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU" poster from World War II? Well, the "ONA

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

<b>Police &amp; Fire Emergencies</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Police Non-Emergencies</b>	<b>972-205-2150</b>
<b>Lone Star Gas</b>	<b>1-800-817-8090</b>
<b>Sanitation</b>	<b>972-205-3420</b>
<b>Code Violations</b>	<b>972-485-6400</b>
<b>Tommy Cobb</b>	<b>972-485-6418</b>
<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>972-205-3570</b>
<b>Poison Center</b>	<b>1-800-764-7661</b>
<b>Street Light Repair</b>	<b>972-205-3483</b>
<b>Electricity Emergency</b>	<b>972-205-3000</b>
<b>Water &amp; Sewer</b>	<b>972-205-3210</b>
<b>Councilman, Lowell Hyatt</b>	<b>972-495-9394</b>
<b>Off. Sam Castorani, NPO</b>	<b>972-205-2740</b>

**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.

- February 12, 2002
- March 12, 2002
- April 9, 2002
- May 14, 2002

*General Membership Session:*  
February 21, 2002

**YOU ARE INVITED...**

*I would like to introduce myself...I am a professional & Award winning hairstylist, Sabra Ferguson. I am located at The Touch Up 3443 W. Campbell Rd. @ Jupiter Rd. Suite 400, next to Desperados. I have been developing my business through many satisfied customers in the Richardson, Garland And Plano areas for 19 years. I will offer you the latest cuts, styles, color, highlights, perms, up-do's, makeovers, waxing and relaxers for men, women, and children of all ages. I would appreciate the opportunity to earn your family's business.*

Thank you,  
*Sabra Ferguson*

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT: 972-675-8500**

*(Receive a 20% discount on your first visit with this coupon)*

## C.O.P. & Crime Watch Report

*Bill Oliver*

- Oct. 12 criminal mischief in the 2100 block of Hearthside Ln. approx. 1:30 am.
- Oct. 12 criminal mischief in the 2200 block of Overview Ln. approx. midnight.
- Oct. 13 a vehicle burglary in the 2100 block of Diamond Oaks approx. midnight
- Oct. 14 a habitat burglary in the 2000 block of Hearthside Ln. approx. 5:30 pm.
- Oct. 28 a vehicle burglary in the 2500 block of Creighton Dr. approx. 9:00 pm
- Nov. 3 a vehicle burglary in the 2800 block of Stoneridge Dr. approx. 10:00 pm.
- Nov. 3 criminal mischief in the 2800 block of Stoneridge Dr. approx. 5:00 pm.
- Nov. 3 criminal mischief in the 2400 block of Richland Dr. approx. 11:00 pm.
- Nov. 3 criminal mischief in the 2100 block of Richland Dr. approx. 6:00 am.
- Nov. 4 a habitat burglary in the 2400 block of Richland Dr. approx. 6:00 pm.
- Nov. 7 a habitat burglary in the 2100 block of Richland Dr. approx. noon.
- Nov. 23 unauthorized use of vehicle (criminal attempt) in the 2100 block of Rolling Oak Ln. approx. midnight.

### A Surprise Benefit of ONA Membership

On December 5th a COP member reported an “audible alarm” at a Oakridge residence to the Garland Police Department. Per procedures the COP member waited nearby for the responding officer. The officer checked all windows and doors and found no evidence of a break-in, however in follow-up discussion with the COP member the officer expressed surprise that the GPD had not received a call from a monitoring service for the owner’s security company. He left a notice on the front door of the residence. Because we know that many residents don’t enter their homes through their front door, and that the notice might easily be overlooked, the COP member checked the ONA membership directory, found the resident’s name and phone number and gave them a call. The owner was shocked to learn that the monitoring company had not contacted authorities. Naturally the owner contacted the security company and this prompted an investigation which revealed that the monitoring service had never been connected following the system’s installation! The owner called to thank the COP member for the follow-up phone call and advised that the security company was issuing a substantial refund check and apology for the mix-up. If this resident had not been a member, the COP would still have reported the audible alarm and waited for the officer, etc. but, because the resident was a member of ONA we were able to follow-up with a phone call, let the resident know that the police had not received a call from the monitoring company – and this resident might not have discovered that the home wasn’t being monitored until the house had been robbed or worse.

**Being an ONA member has its benefits!!!**

**This brings up another thing that needs to be pointed out to**

all residents. Most, if not all, security companies suggest that you do a monthly check of your system to verify that everything is working correctly and that the monitoring company is receiving proper signals from your home. If you are not doing the monthly check, we strongly suggest that you begin to do so. Pick one day each month, mark it on your calendar and follow the instructions provided in your security company’s handbook. If you don’t have a handbook, contact the security company and obtain one. These few minutes each month may save you some big headaches later and may even save your life in the event of a fire.

Have you tested your alarm system this month?

### New COP Patrollers

By the time you receive this newsletter your COP will have several new members getting ready to patrol our streets and alleys in Oakridge. On January 12, the Garland Police Department will graduate another class of COP patrollers. Then, with the input of our NPO, a new patrol schedule will soon be implemented. We’re looking forward to welcoming these new members into service.

### Crying Wolf, or Coyote

Please be advised that there’s a large, healthy looking wild animal, presumed to be a coyote, apparently living somewhere along the creek that runs through the golf course. It seems to be roaming throughout our neighborhood. The city’s “animal control” officers have been called out several times, but, as of this date have failed to capture the elusive animal. Many residents and golfers have reported seeing it, and all agree that it is beautiful, and quite big. Residents should take precautions; do not attempt to approach this wild animal; protect your small pets like cats and dogs. If you do spot it, call the city’s animal control dept. at 972-205-3570. Perhaps, it can be captured and moved to a non-residential area.

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## **The ONA Directories are here!**

*Peggy Richey, Membership Director,  
peggy@peggyricheyrealty.com*

If you have not received your directory, please contact your district director. If you don't know who your director is Call Jackie Griffin at 972-530-4778.

We are very excited to have the new books because they not only have members listed alphabetically, but also by district. We have a couple of new members since our directory was printed and we will get them to you via the newsletter as additional pages are filled so that you may attach them to your existing directory.

Welcome Tom and Nita Hawkins, Axel and Mary Moch and Don and Carol Eagle.

We appreciate your support. Please take time to get to know your neighbors and let those on your street that have not joined know how important they are to us. Without the support of the neighborhood we could never take care of all of the entries. As it is...many of our members give to the beautification committee to pay for planting flowers that all of us enjoy. We sure could use the extra funds.

There are 1157 homes in Oakridge and at the end of December 2001 we had 424 members. If everyone would participate we would have an additional \$35,000.00 to use for beautification and other neighborhood projects that cannot be started for lack of funds. Imagine... even half that money... what we could do for our neighborhood? WOW!

For those of you who have always participated...THANK YOU. If you see a neighbor, please let them know that we need their support. The annual dues are \$48.00. Some of our neighbors are afraid to get involved. Promise them that their funds will be enough if that is the only reason they are not joining.

With the New Year, we are beginning our annual membership drive. Dues are due in June. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

## **Real Estate in the New Year**

*Peggy Richey, Keller Williams Realty, 972-972-2113*


With the rebound of the stock market, the interest rates are on the rise. They are still wonderful at 7% – 7.25% with no points. You may find some deals in the high 6% range, but watch out for loaded fees. The refinance market has slowed and people are starting to move up in the market place.

In October, November and December we saw sellers very careful about selling their homes and moving to a larger home with a larger mortgage payment while first time homebuyers were taking advantage of great interest rates.

The market appears to be stable for the moment. The real estate trend will depend on the economy and how many people loose their jobs and may have to sell if transferred or inability to pay their mortgage. We have not seen a huge influx of homes on the market at the current time. The slowest price range at the moment is \$400,000 and above with \$1,000,000.00 being a tough market.

I look forward to a promising year and wish all of you a Happy New Year!

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