
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 10 No. 9

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

March - 2002

From the President

Scott Youzva

Spring is just around the corner and the neighborhood will become full of people getting out and beginning those spring cleaning duties. Every year at this time we all begin to observe the outside of our homes. Several neighbors have called in reference to "eye-sores" noticed in our neighborhood. It is good that we are observant and it shows that we care about our neighborhood. Unfortunately, there is not much the ONA can do to correct any problems that may arise. We must rely on the City of Garland to provide the enforcement of the city codes to keep us in-line. My recommended course of action is to speak with your neighbor about your concerns. I realize that many of us will feel uncomfortable about this, but maybe if you offer to help you may find that there is a reason your neighbor is unable to correct a problem. This is just being a friendly and helpful neighbor. If you do not think that you can do this, then your next course of action would be to call the City of Garland code enforcement section. Complaints from a neighbor are much better since the results can be measured more accurately according to your specific request. My suggestion is to be patient, but also be diligent. Give the city an opportunity to schedule a visit to view the complaint, but if two or three week's pass and the problem is not addressed, call back and ask for the status of the complaint. Always get the name of the person you are speaking with, and make note of the date and time of every call. With your help, we can keep our neighborhood clean.

(Continued on page 2)

Seven Ideas to Promote a Growing Organization

Create a Vision. Are you and your group headed in the same direction? Have the same goals? "Back here is the starting line. This is where we are today and there, out in the distance, is where we have to be...."

Communicate the Vision. Tell your volunteers where the group is going so they can anticipate the future. If they believe in it and feel they have a part in developing a course of action, they are going to work to the best of their ability. Mistakes are a powerful learning tool

Think Big, But Not Too Big . Without pressing against the boundaries of peoples' abilities, organizations can fall short. But the vision shouldn't seem impossible to reach or it will be shrugged off as a pipe dream. Set a goal that is conceivable to attain, and then keep moving that goal a little farther away.

Set the Right Example. Don't pretend to know everything. In fact, those who admit their own shortcomings command greater loyalty. Those who pretend to be the Wizard of Oz will be exposed. The ability to admit you don't know everything and to respect the ideas of others often requires a change of attitude.

(Continued on page 2)

 Spring is finally here! Time to spruce up our homes as well as the entrances to Oakridge! If you would like to donate time and/or money to the beautification fund contact a member of the board or send a check to the ONA, P.O. Box 450145, Garland, TX 75045-0145
Let's keep Oakridge beautiful!!

(Continued from page 1)

From the President

In the upcoming weeks we will begin to see information concerning several candidates provide information about the office they are running for. The Mayor's position as well as several District representatives is up for re-election. Pay close attention to the messages concerning neighborhood vitalization. This is a hot topic and should provide some interesting ideas.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring General Meeting. We hope to provide an event that you will want to attend. Look for more information in upcoming articles.

(Continued from page 1)

Seven Ideas to Promote a Growing Organization

Foster Diversity. Make it clear that it is the differences, not the similarities, that lead to new ideas and fresh approaches, adding depth and dimension to the group as a whole.

Don't Be a Mower. Work with your volunteers, don't mow them down. In a neighborhood organization where we must have every good idea from every man, woman, and maybe even every child, we cannot afford to suppress and intimidate.

Let People Make Mistakes. Mistakes are a powerful learning tool. Did the fundraiser fall flat this time? It does not have to again. When people draw more reprimands than encouragement after a failure, they stop learning. Be generous in handing out responsibility and miserly in placing blame. Good leaders are persistent in the pursuit of a vision, but they also have the patience to let others develop along the way. The goal is progress, a safer neighborhood, a feeling of security.

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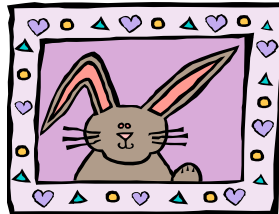
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OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

By Dianne Winter



The  Luck o' the Irish was with the Daytimers as they met for their monthly Coffee at the home of **Mary Jensen** on Tuesday, March 12th at 10 am. Mary's love of flowers and rabbits made her a perfect spring hostess and those who assisted her by bringing the food were **Jo Dietz, Mary Jo Herring, Ruth Kimberlin, and Ruby Nell Ormon.**

Things were hopping as everyone gathered to visit and exchange information. Plans were made for the April Luncheon for favors and decorations. Some members will decorate individual tables to add variety to the selection.

A new interest group was announced by **Roberta Jones** in memory of **Kathrine Payne**, deceased past member, and mother-in-law of **Luanne Payne**. Members of this group will form a traveling tea party to take to home-bound members.

The nominating committee was named by the president as follows: **Roberta Jones, chairman, Chris Beyers, Lucy Brock, Mary Jensen and Suzanne Snow**. If you want to fill a position or nominate someone or ask a question, call Roberta at 972-414-7277.

The following activities are springing up:

BOOK CLUB on the third Fridays—call **Nell Burt** at 972-496-1338. The book club has gone to the dogs. After discussing Audrey's dog in January, we were introduced to Toby at the February meeting at the home of **Carolyn Wallen**. Toby is the Wallen's white poodle who entertained us, but did not want to join in the discussion. The club will discuss *Blood Rich* by Jane Wolfe at the home of **Dianne Winter** on Friday, March 15th. The April book is *Not Without My Daughter* by Mary Mahood at the home of **Mary Musseman**, 3001 Oak Springs.

Call **Jane Buchanan** at 972-530-4762 for **BRIDGE** events that occur on the first through fourth Wednesdays of every month. A new Monday afternoon group has been formed to study the book, *The Play of the Cards*.



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 and CRAFTS Group met at the home of **Becky Parks** on February 18th for a demonstration of decoupage. Becky created a lovely furniture piece. They will meet the third Monday—March 18th at the home of **Suzanne Snow**. Call **Roberta Jones** (972-414-7277) or **Jo Dietz** (972-530-8308) for more information.

The **OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH** has planned a fun day for you! Call **JoAnn Williams** at **972-530-2938** for reservations by Wednesday, March 20th, if you want to experience lunch at the Mariposa at Neiman Marcus at the Shops of Willow Bend on Friday, March 22, 11:00am Meet at the Country Club parking lot (pool) at 10am. Lunch cost is approximately \$15.

STITCH & CHAT meets at **Norene Murphy's** (972-530-6669) on the 3rd Tuesday to visit and to work on projects. Call for more information. In **April** only, they will meet on the 2nd Tuesday.

Happy Birthday wishes for March - Nell Burt, Christine Beyers, Margaret Fowler, Eleanor Nelson, Luanne Payne, Sue Pauley, Janice Schadegg, June Sheppard, Doris Autrey, and Trudy Schmidt.

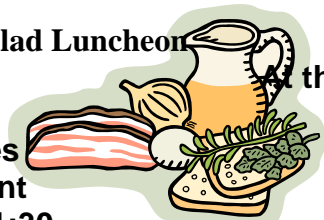
New membership lists were distributed by **Mary Pattie**, treasurer /membership chairman.

The "Getting to know You" segment featured **Jackie Tucker**. Her quote was an inspiration to us all "It's never a burden to try to do better".

The door prize was won by Mary Jensen.

REMEMBER YOUR SECRET PAL

The Spring Salad Luncheon
At the
home of
Roberta Jones
2601 Oak Point
April 16th -11:30



Oakridge Women's Club

Libby Morse

Last Month: We Had a great turnout for our babysitter meeting! The girls are all ready to baby-sit for us and we could all use a night out!! The babysitter book should be ready by the next meeting.

This Month: We are planning our spring picnic. The meeting is on Tuesday the 19th. We are meeting at Rita's house at 7:00 p.m. 2118 Ridge Oak Drive.

New Members: We had 2 new members! Please welcome Francis Ignacio and Holly Nash. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your families!



If you are interested in joining the Oakridge Women's Club Dues are just \$20 per year. Please call Libby Morse at 972-495-9034 or e-mail TOMLIB@attbi.com



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Now is the time to make plans for your family's summer fun! With our new Summer Swim Membership, you will enjoy unlimited Swimming and Snack Bar privileges from Saturday, May 25th through Monday, September 2nd.

Our Summer Swim Members are also invited to join our Annual Holiday Celebrations and Children's Summer Camps, Swim Lessons and/or Swim Team.



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

Christmas Lights

Are your neighbor's Christmas lights still up? Looks kind of tacky with the flowers blooming! Here are a couple of suggestions:

1. Offer to help take them down. Maybe they have a broken bone and can't climb a ladder.
2. Or you can call the Code Enforcement department for the city of Garland. This is a code violation. The number is on page 5 in the important numbers box.

Mostly try to be nice about it. We do all need to get along! After all we are neighbors!

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Speed Humps Made Easy
Through Neighborhood Enhancement Grants

The following is intended to provide a general overview of the steps involved in applying for speed humps.

Step 1

- Contact Neighborhood Development (972) 204-3315 and request a Neighborhood Enhancement Grant application
- Grant requests are reviewed and approved in the order they are received

Step 2

- Contact the Traffic Department at (972) 205-2438
- Make sure you indicate the location of the intended speed humps by block number
- A packet will be mailed to you by the Traffic Department
- Feasibility study and determine the appropriate placement for the humps. This process usually takes 3-4 weeks.

Step 3

- Complete the signature support form and return to Traffic
- The Traffic Department will provide the signature form and define the boundary area
- The approval process cannot proceed until the required signatures are collected. Therefore achieving this goal in a timely manner will help to expedite the process.

Step 4 **

- Neighborhoods that fall outside CDBG (non-shaded areas on CDBG map)
- Neighborhoods outside CDBG will need an income survey conducted to verify eligibility
- A survey is used to income qualify a neighborhood. The survey can be obtained while collecting signature support or you may have the resident mail their income survey into the office
- At least 51% of the total residents surveyed must fall with HUD income guidelines
- Contact Neighborhood Development at (972) 205-3315 to obtain the necessary income survey forms

Step 5

- Finalize Grant Application-make sure all documentation is complete and submitted to Neighborhood Development
- Neighborhood Development will approve applications based on current funding, approval from the Traffic Department and income eligibility for neighborhoods outside CDBG.

***This step is only required when the neighborhood is not CDBG*

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.

March 19, 2002

April 9, 2002

May 14, 2002

General Membership Session:

February 21, 2002

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. Jeff Gooch NPO	972-205-2740

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Citizens on Patrol and Crime Watch Report

By Bill Olive, Coordinator

Crime Stats for January

The following are the "crime stats" for the month of January. The month of February will not be available until mid-March.

1/14/02, approx. 3:30 p.m. Vehicle burglary in the 2500 block of Pebblestone Dr.

1/16/02, approx. 10:00 a.m. Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (criminal attempt) in the 2000 block of Hearthside Lane.

Your C.O.P. Patrol Members

The following people are the active C.O.P. patrollers in the Oakridge area at this time: Ken Byrd, Jim Cook, Bill Edwards, Bill Johnson, Jane Mayers, Bill Olive, Brenda Olive and Jim Tucker.

FAQ of the C.O.P.

Q: How often do you patrol?

A: Each patrol member does as much as he/she can do. There's no minimum amount of time required. During the month of February, the total number of hours patrolled was 38.75.

Q: Who determines the time of day patrolled?

A: This is determined by the individual patroller, Garland NPO, and the coordinator. Most patrollers choose to patrol at a time that fits their schedule. Our NPO (neighborhood police officer) suggested the timeframes that are currently in use. These can be altered as needs arise. Currently, evening hours are less frequent but we anticipate more evening hours will be included in the near future.

Q: Who provides C.O.P. equipment?

A: The only equipment provided by the Garland P.D. is a tee-shirt on completion of the C.O.P. training. The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (O.N.A.) provides some money for magnetic signs, lights, etc. The cost of gasoline is the individual patroller's responsibility.

Q: Do patrollers carry any kind of weapon?

A: NO, NO ,NO, ----This is FORBIDDEN by the Garland P.D. Even if the patroller has a concealed weapons permit, he/she can not carry a weapon while on C.O.P. patrol. All C.O.P. members carry cell phones and have a special number to call Garland Police for assistance. In addition to a cell phone, vehicle patrollers may carry a disposable camera, field glasses, a tape recorder, a flashlight, a police scanner, a resident list, and an O.N.A. membership book.

Q: When patrolling, what are you looking for?

A: During training we are given specific things to watch for and how to handle different situations that may arise. We also look for things that are "out of place". Obviously, the more you patrol, the more familiar you become with the Oakridge area. After a short time, you know what car belongs at a certain residence, where kids like to play basketball, who jogs at a certain time, and the faces of our mail carriers and other deliverymen, as well as some of the many gardeners and golfers.

Q: What areas are patrolled?

A: The Oakridge area, which is broken down into three sectors. Obviously, if a patroller is walking patroller, he/she will not be able to cover all of the Oakridge area. However, those who use vehicles patrol at least one of the three sectors and most vehicle patrollers cover the entire Oakridge area, including alleys. If all three sectors are covered (including alleys), the patroller averages about 18.5 miles and this usually takes a little less than one and a half hours to complete.

Q: Does the C.O.P. report Code Violations?

A: Your C.O.P. is responsible ONLY to the Garland P.D. It's NOT the responsibility of the C.O.P. to report code violations. The Oakridge Neighborhood Association (O.N.A.) has an Architectural Committee that may report violations. Don't Telegraph Your Absence. If you leave your front porch light on when you're planning to return home after dark, you're telling people that your house is unattended. Stores such as Radio Shack and Home Depot have electronic devices that you can use to place light switches on remote. Place a flashlight inside your car to light the front walk if needed, and look for small key chain lights to use for lighting the keyhole for quick entry at night. If you leave for work before the newspaper comes, have a neighbor place it on your porch, out of sight. Usually, seeing a newspaper in a front yard at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m., for example, means that no one is home. Another suggestion is putting some inside lights on timers—have a lamp come on and off so that it appears someone is inside your home.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Oakridge C.O.P. please call Bill Olive at 972-495-3402.

Sidewalks Made Easy

Through Neighborhood Enhancement Grants

The following is intended to provide a general overview of the steps involved in applying for Sidewalks.

Step 1

- Contact Neighborhood Development (972) 204-3315 and request a Neighborhood Enhancement Grant application
- Indicate the addresses in need of repair
- Grant requests are reviewed and approved in the order they are received

Step2

- Staff will provide Engineering with the areas in need of repair
- Repairs will only be made to those considered hazardous

Step 3

- Complete the signature support forms
- Support forms are provided in your application packet. If you need additional forms you may make copies.
- The approval process is contingent on obtaining the signatures. Therefore achieving this task in a timely manner will help to expedite the process

Step 4 **


- Neighborhoods outside CDBG need to perform an income survey along with the signature support forms. At least 51% of the total residents surveyed must fall with HUD income guidelines (income survey and HUD income guidelines are included in packet)

Step 5

- Finalize Grant Application-make sure all documentation is complete and submitted to Neighborhood Development
- Neighborhood Development will approve applications based on current funding, approval from the Engineering, and income eligibility

***This step is only required when the neighborhood is not CDBG*

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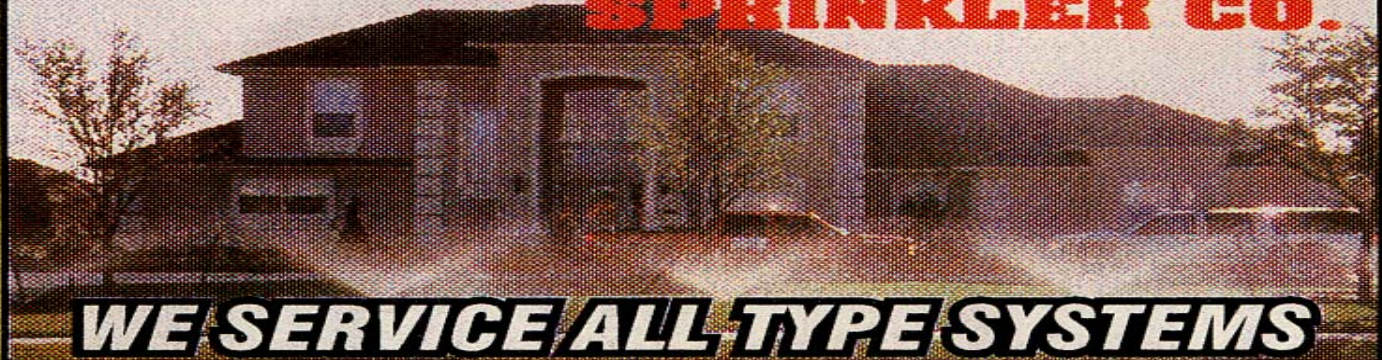
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