
◊ Oakridge News ◊

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A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

June - 2002

The Red White and Blue – “Old Glory”

We as Americans must proudly display our flag in honor of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. Did you know the following:

War for American Independence	25,324 killed	8,445 wounded
War of 1812	2,260 killed	4,505 wounded
War Between the States	644,120 killed	418,206 wounded
Spanish-American War	2,893 killed	1,637 wounded
WW I	116,708 killed	204,002 wounded
WW II	408,306 killed	607,846 wounded
Korean War	54,246 killed	103,284 wounded
Vietnam War	58,219 killed	153,356 wounded
Desert Storm	363 killed	357 wounded
War on Terrorism		

There is no better symbol of our country's values and traditions than the Flag of the United States of America. Chosen by the Continental Congress in 1777, it continues to exemplify the profound commitment to freedom, equality, and opportunity made by our founders more than two centuries ago. Our flag's proud stars and stripes have long inspired our people, and its beautiful red, white, and blue design is known around the world as a beacon of liberty and justice.

Today, America's Flag graces classrooms, statehouses, courtrooms, and churches, serving as a daily reminder of this Nation's past accomplishments and ongoing dedication to safeguarding individual rights. The brave members of our Armed Forces carry "Old Glory" with them as they fulfill their mission to defend the blessings of democracy and peace across the globe; our banner flies from public buildings as a sign of our national community; and its folds drape the tombs of our distinguished dead. The Flag is a badge of honor to all -- a sign of our citizens' common purpose.

Its 13 red and white stripes represent not only the original colonies, but also the courage and purity of our Nation, while its 50 stars stand for the separate but United States of our Union. Let us pledge allegiance to this Flag to declare our patriotism and raise its colors high to express our pride and respect for the American way of life.

To commemorate the adoption of our Flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the Flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. The Congress also requested the President, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), to issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 falls as "National Flag Week" and calling upon all citizens of the United States to display the Flag during that week.

President Clinton called upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor our Nation, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

In view of what has happened to our country the past nine months, we all should proudly display “Old Glory” from Flag Day through Independence Day. Please do not wait for a real estate agent to place a flag in your yard – go buy one and properly hoist the Red White and Blue.

parts taken from a POTUS release dated June 7, 1996

CRIME WATCH/C.O.P. REPORT

By Bill Olive

SOME GREAT NEWS

According to the monthly crime watch coordinators report, the Oakridge area had NO incidents reported for the month of April.

Also, we have only had a couple of non-official incidents for the month of May. We are trying to initiate a plan whereby we can be informed of Oakridge incidents more quickly. On June 29th Officer Gooch will be meeting with the Oakridge C.O.P. patrollers to discuss various issues. If you have any questions for our NPO please call me at 972-495-3402.

A PROBLEM AREA

If you live along Stoneridge Dr. and Meadowridge Dr. and your home's alley is adjacent to The Windsor Apartments be extra careful NOT to leave your garage door open and unattended. We found two cuts in the fence in that area recently. On at least one occasion, a C.O.P. patroller observed a teenager climbing through the fence. We've contacted the apartment management company and both holes were repaired. We'll be monitoring the area closely.

HELP YOURSELF

There are still too many homes that do not have their address numbers on them along the alleys. Some homes have the same color numbers as the paint on the woodwork making reading the address almost impossible. Please, let's get the address clearly visible. It is a city code violation not to have the number there. Remember, emergency vehicles need to be able to see and read your address.

Lights

During this past months "lights out" patrol we only came across one street light that needed to be called in. This shows that our residents are calling the city street light repair people when they see a light that needs replacing (call 972-205-3483). Keep up the good work.

Have you ever noticed that when you drive down an alley at night many driveways have motion detector spotlights. These are better than nothing, but, the best type of security light is the one that comes on at dusk and goes off at dawn. Let's get those alleys lit up! ***Bad guys hate to be in the spotlight.***

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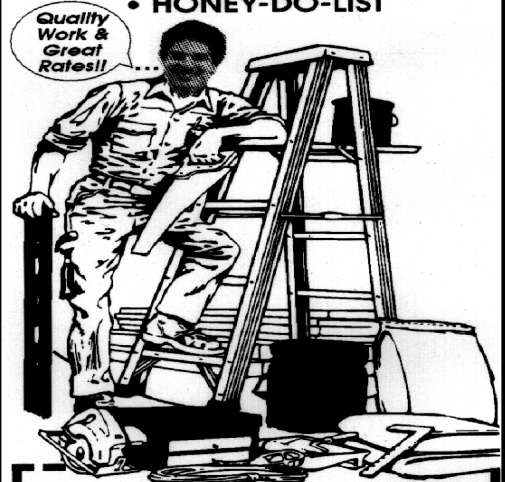
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OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

by Becky Parks

After a long wonderful spring , along comes June and summer has arrived, bring with it those 90 degree temperatures. We all know what that means! **WATER AEROBICS!!** At this writing the water temperature has not yet reached our criteria of 84 degrees, but any day now it will. Come join the fun at JACKIE GRIFFIN 's pool, Mondays and Wednesdays 10 - 11:15 am. We use fun noodles and beverage jugs to assist in our workout. Even if you have never participated in this type of program you can benefit from just showing up for the laughs and conversation! Call JACKIE , 972-530-4777 or BECKY 972-495-8776 for more information or water temperature.

Our May Coffee, held at CHRIS BEYERS home, featured News columnist, Steve Blow. We all enjoyed his humor and greatly thank him for his stories and antidotes. I understand from BARBE BRUNETTE's conversation with Steve, that our Daytimers group may be a "feature" in a future column. Way to go BARBE! There are no Coffees during the summer but we look forward to the *September 10th Coffee at the home of GAIL DURBIN , 3322 Greenview.*

Book Club meets the third *Friday, June 21st.* Call BETTY THOMAS, 972-414-1547 for information on this meeting as well as upcoming reading selections and meeting locations.

Beginners Bridge will start in September at MARY PATTIE's from 1:00 till 4:00, Monday afternoons. Those interested please call MARY, 972-496-6486. Our local bridge master , JANE BUCHANAN is, of course, playing with the groups that meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30am and the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Oakridge country Club for lunch and bridge.

And for **Canasta groups** _ well, what can I say? Being a member of the daytime group, I know way too much about them, and a funnier group of ladies just simply does not exist. We meet every Tuesday at 1:00pm, call BARBE BRUNETTE , 972-530-4288, for our ever changing schedule. Nighttime canasta is headed by MARGRET FOWLER at 972-530-8585 for schedule.

Our **Craft group** recently enjoyed lunch at Rooster's, which was recommended by JO DEITZ. What a great restaurant and delicious food. Our reputation obviously preceded us. They gave us a private area so we would not disturb their other customers. Shopping followed if you can imagine that! Plans were made our next luncheon at Sara's Good Food on Monday, June 10th, thanks to BRENDA BRITTON. The next craft meeting will be held Monday, June 17th at 1:00pm at the home of SUE PAULY.

Stitch and Chat will continue to meet at NORENE MURPHEY's , 972-530-6669, on the 3rd Tuesday. I wonder what great project they are working on for our annual Christmas Raffle?! For information call NORENE or MARY MUSSEMAN , 972-414-1098.

The **Walking groups** are still out there staying fit. For information call MARY PATTIE, 972-496-6486. Power walkers spend the summer in the water aerobics program and will resume in September.

We are working on a new membership directory. So, if you have any changes or corrections please call BECKY PARKS or CHRIS BEYERS with new information.

Recipe cards go to CHRIS for our new "**I LOVE TO EAT BUT HATE TO COOK**" book and Networking flyers, handed out at the May coffee, are due back to BECKY by July 4th. If you do not have a copy please call for another.

I would like to thank our past president, DIANNE WINTER, and all the other officers and committee leaders for doing such a fine job for our group. We are all especially thankful to ROBERTA JONES because most of us would not know each other if it were not for her. Thanks ROBERTA!!

Any questions concerning the Daytimers Group contact BECKY PARKS, 972-495-8776 or CHRIS BEYERS 972-530-8292.

Remember your secrete pal! New pals contact SARA TRAYLOR, 972-414-5383.

Daytimers is a Social Organization that promotes our Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association. . Residence in Oakridge and \$12.00 annual dues constitutes membership. JOIN NOW!

IN MEMORY OF JUNE SHEPPARD, MARCH 21,1921 - MAY 28, 2002

Sometime this fall or early spring GISD plans to drop a \$375-400 million megaton bond issue on Garland voters, and if history is any indicator, GARLAND voters will sit at home on their "rusty dusty" and complain about the rising school taxes after they get their next tax statement.

In view of the size of the bond package, the purpose of this post is to stimulate debate. With school and property taxes escalating every year there are a few things voters should be asking in order to make an informed decision:

1. How will the money be spent?
2. Are these things absolutely essential to provide students with a good education?
3. How long will it take to pay off the bonds?
4. How much can Garland homeowners expect school taxes to increase every year in order to pay off the bonds?

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Keeping Oakridge beautiful one house at a time

The following information may be of interest: The last GISD bond election was in 1996 for \$152 million. The proposed bond issue will be a "package deal." Voters will be given one choice: to vote the proposal either up or down. There will be **NO** public hearings. Steve Knagg, Communications for GISD stated "the public hearing will be at the voting booth." Although portions of Sache and Rowlett are in the GISD, Garland homeowners will be picking up most of the tab because we have the largest population.

The following is being proposed.

High School - Rowlett

Middle School - Rowlett

Elementary Schools - one for Sache, Rowlett and Garland

Natorium (an Olympic swimming pool will probably be built somewhere in N. Garland. (For the old folks who attended the AARP Forum and recall Councilman Holden assuring them they will someday be able to swim in the natatorium, I suggest they hold off buying a new bathing suit).

Special Events Center - which is also suppose to be a "revenue generator"

Early childhood centers (similar to Head Start)
Technology - computers, internet, desktops, upgrades, etc.

New Stadium with synthetic turf seating 8,000 people and 2000 parking spaces I have not been able to great a breakdown of cost for each of the above. When inquiry was made as to what voters can expect in terms of school tax increases I was told not to worry because Garland gets \$22 million/year from Robin Hood.

(continued on page 5)

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police & Fire Emergencies	911
Police Non-Emergencies	972-205-2150
Lone Star Gas	1-800-817-8090
Solid Waste & Recycling	972-205-3500
Code Compliance	972-485-6400
Tommy Cobb	972-485-6418
Animal Services	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

(continued from page 4)

For those who are not familiar with Robin Hood, it was HB 72 that passed the Texas Legislature a number of years ago when some left leaning liberal judge decided that redistribution of wealth was the constitutionally correct thing needed to equalize educational opportunities. With the sweep of his pen the judge turned every school district in Texas into either donors or recipients.

At the present time contributing school districts are claiming they are near the maximum tax rate and alternative funding sources must be found to maintain their quality of education while confronted with progressively larger Robin Hood transfer payments. The donors are not happy campers these days.

Another interesting fact is the ethnic mix in GISD. Mr. Knagg informed me that at the present the percentage of Anglo students is 46% and shrinking by 2% annually. African Americans, Hispanic, and Asians presently account for 54% and rapidly growing.

Recommendation: This is the largest bond proposal in the history of Garland and how this is going to affect our pocket book is something that must be considered by every voter, so get informed.

Since Garland homeowners will be paying off largest share of the bonds, every voter should get off their "blessed assurance" and make their voice be heard. If you approve of this bond proposal then VOTE.

If you approve of some of the expenditures, but not all, let the school board know. If you believe nobody will pay any attention to you, sound off anyway!

If you oppose this bond proposal altogether, remember that GISD is increasing by about 1500 students a years and they have to be educated. What do you propose?

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Membership Update

Currently we have 479 Members. This month is the last month to receive your newsletter if you have not joined for the year 2002-03. 140 of the 479 have not renewed. We will be sending out a second notice for payment of dues.

We appreciate your sending them in promptly. Your support is wonderful and our goal is to get at least 60% of the neighborhood involved.

Thank you, Peggy Richey Membership Director



**Let Oakridge Country Club
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*Introducing Our New
2002 Summer Swim Membership
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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.



There are not enough pictures or words to describe **Jackie Griffin**. Jackie is the retiring **editor** of the ONA newsletter- a crafter, a reader, and a music lover, in addition to her love for her pets, playing games, working puzzles, friends, and food (anything fried).

Add to the accomplishment of these activities the fact that Jackie, at age 25, after having symptoms since age 16, was diagnosed with CMT, a form of neuromuscular disease, and you have the formula for a very courageous, honest, generous, straightforward, fun neighbor. She worked outside the home until it became too difficult and now she enjoys her activities at home. Jackie is very independent- she doesn't use her handicap as an excuse not to volunteer. When she gets tired and her legs won't safely carry her any further, you see her on Scooter, her battery -powered cart.

Much of Jackie's life, according to her own account, was sculpted by living in a family of twelve children, of which she is the youngest, and a loving mother and father who are now deceased. She still maintains strong ties with her remaining family members that began with 6 boys and 6 girls - 2 brothers and 1 sister are now deceased. Her four living sisters make a pilgrimage each summer to visit, eat Cheerios, and cuddle Jackie. She also goes home to Ohio for family reunions.

She and her husband, Jim, moved to Oakridge in November of 1985. They later became involved in ONA and in 1995 when Jackie said she would help with the newsletter, you guessed it - she became the **editor!** After 7 years of editing the paper (that is almost 100 issues)- she is saying good-bye to the job. It would be impossible to count the accumulated hours she has spent calling, reminding, encouraging and even cajoling contributors of articles in order to get the news to us on time. She has typed, cut, pasted, entered, spelled, capitalized, measured, reviewed, arranged, completed and then carried the original to the printer. Then came the addressing and distribution, either by hand (as a few years ago), or to the post office (presently). She created a product that joined us as neighbors and informed us as citizens.

Jackie's favorite music group is Mannheim Steamroller. She hopes to go to their concert the next time they appear in the area. Jackie is probably drawn to their music by their uniqueness and quality of product - two of the same qualities she possesses and in turn, transferred to the newsletter. We are thankful for her years of service as **editor**. Our headline reads:

THANK YOU JACKIE GRIFFIN!

Parts of this article originally appeared in a previous ONA Newsletter in a tribute to Jackie Griffin as a Notable Neighbor- Dianne Winter



**The 4th Of July Parade will be on
Tuesday July the 4th!
9:00 AM**

Oakridge Women's Club is sponsoring the annual Fourth of July Parade! Everyone is invited to participate! Join us or watch us! It is fun!


- Kids of all ages... Decorate yourselves, your bike, your Tricycle, scooter, wagon Roller blades or Stroller and Join the fun! Meet your neighbors!
- Meet in the Oakridge Country Club Parking lot at 9:00 AM. We will march At 9:30. We go south-east on Stoneridge, then turn right on Big Oaks and proceed back to the club (approximately 1-mile) Residents on the parade route... Please help keep the kids safe by moving your cars from the street. Thanks!
- If you had a tough week and don't want to walk, please set up a lawn chair along the parade route and relax!
- Refreshments for the parade are provided!
- Great prizes for the kids are provided.

The next meeting of the OWA is Tuesday June 18th at Amy's house (this is a change from our calendar) at 7pm. We will be finalizing the parade plans. We will have officer elections at the July Meeting.

If you are interested in joining the OWA or helping out with the Parade in any way, please call LibbyMorse at 972-495-9034. Tomlib@attbi.com

Hey guys! This is just a reminder that the first Teen ONA club meeting will be held on June 15th at Stella's house (2410 Lone Oak Trail) from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. It will be a hot dog cook out so bring your appetite. If you have any questions or comments please call Stella Dollar at: 972-530-4534. I hope to see you there.

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