Dakridge News

Vol. 11 No. 06 A Publication of the Oakridge

Neighborhood Association

November - 2002

Observations by - Mike Rose

Have you noticed the new " No Soliciting " signs popping up in our neighborhood? Check with your District Director on how to order one of these signs. The more signs we have displayed the more effective they become.

It appeared that our neighborhood did not receive much mischievousness from " trick or treats " kids this year. That indicates we as neighbors are becoming more aware of what is going on in our neighborhood and that is a good thing. Know your neighbors and their kids. We will have a safer community as a result of your actions.

The city council is considering allowing neighborhood association (voluntary and mandatory) the option of upgrading the street light poles contained within its community. The board will be able to select from a list the type it would like to see installed in its community. No more ugly gray fiberglass street light poles. The council will deliberate this issue shortly. The ONA board has been involved in this discussion. Stav tuned to Channel 16 or ask your District Director for updates.

Another item of interest is the "water park" that is being considered by our city council. It will be located between the soccer fields at Winter Park and the Spring Creek Forrest Preserve.

The ONA board appreciates our city councilman, Mark Monroe, for keeping us informed and attending our monthly meetings.

We hope you were able to attended the quarterly meeting on November 14th. Mr. Tommy Cobb, Nuisance Inspector, with the Code Compliance group was our invited speaker. We had a conflict with the DART Garland grand opening, thus the change of plans. Your board attempts to have informative quarterly meetings. Do you have an idea for one of these meetings?

The next scheduled Oakridge general membership meeting will be in February '03. At that meeting a nominating committee will be elected. It will be their charge to come to May '03 annual meeting with a slate of officers for the '03 - '04 term. Their slate will be published in the April '03 ONA newsletter. Please begin thinking of individuals who you think would be in a position to lead our well respected neighborhood association.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE FIREMEN STATION NO. 3 & NO. 6

Once again I will be coordinating the dinners to be taken to the firemen on Christmas morning. In the past several of you had made some very delicious dishes of various kinds. The firemen love homemade cooking. If you would like to make a salad, fruit dish, vegetable dish, fruit breads or yummy dessert, it will be very much appreciated. We have two stations, No. 3 & No. 6, that service the Oakridge neighborhood. If you can make two items, that way each station will get equal amounts. If you are not a cook or just don't have time during the busy holiday season but would like to help, you can make a cash donation to help out with the paper products and other incidentals. Please call Luanne Payne at 972-530-9323 to make arrangements. Thanks in advance to everyone!

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CRIME PREVENTION

By Brenda Olive

I was recently appointed Crime Prevention Chairperson by the O.N.A. Board of Directors. Crime stats will be covered in the monthly C.O.P. report, instead, I will be offering suggestions each month on crime prevention. This month's suggestions are for home and personal protection. Future suggestions will be in "bullet" form.

September's G.P.D. city-wide report showed several thefts where the thief gained access through skylights. Although none were in Oakridge, as a precaution it might be wise to contact your security company and have your skylights wired against intrusion if they're not already included. Don't leave ladders leaning or lying near your home ready for a thief to grab and climb onto a roof and don't allow workmen to leave ladders lying in clear sight overnight. Most people observing someone on a roof simply assume it's a workman, doing repairs. You can also purchase the small battery operated motion detectors (Radio Shack carries them) and attach them in the skylight area. In addition, they're good for days when you want to open a door or window for "fresh" air. They attach to the frame with Velcro, you can set them for a siren or chiming type of alarm and they're loud enough to discourage intruders and be heard by you.

Suggestions for everyone: Don't have your phone number, driver's license number or security card number printed on your personal checks! Never give out a credit card number over the phone *UNLESS YOU ARE CALLING* to order something from a reputable company.

Suggestions for **Men**: Most of you carry your "lives" in your wallets. They're big and bulky and visible from the rear. Unfortunately they are easily lifted from a rear

pants pocket. At the same time, too many men find that sitting on those big bulky things is uncomfortable when driving and take them out and lay them on the front seat -this is a no-no. It's too easy to forget it and leave it lying there, just tempting a thief. Try removing some of those "things" you carry inside your wallet, make it smaller and lighter weight and carry it inside your front pants pocket. Better still buy a small card wallet, insert only your driver's license, your insurance/social security card, emergency ID information and a couple of credit/ debit cards and put it into your front shirt pocket. Carry any cash in a money clip-fold it in half, with the large denomination bills inside, dollar bills on the outside- in a front pants pocket. When you're standing in a check out line, cup the clip or card holder in your hand and remove the necessary bills/cards, and immediately put the holder back into your pocket. Never carry large amounts of cash- a debit or credit card is safer. If you're going to be walking in a parking garage, dark areas, etc. put a small number of bills in your pants pocket with a couple of inexpensive paper clips, if you're heldup, remove it and throw it as far as you can away from you, this may buy you enough time to run. Always have your car keys out and ready to enter your car, but before approaching the car look for anyone else in the area, make sure no one is lurking about. It's tempting to "unset" the alarm when you're still several feet from your car- don't- this alerts the thief as to exactly where you're going. Learn the optimum distance you need to unset the alarm and enter the car quickly. As soon as you enter the car, lock the doors, start the car and put it in reverse. If someone approaches your car you can back up quickly, of course, the best position is to be headed forward, so whenever possible, back into your parking space, that way you won't waste time putting your car into reverse. Try not to park against a wall, it's easier to hide there, and a mugger is less likely to be

(continued on page 4 - Crime Prevention)

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Keeping Oakridge beautiful one house at a time

(continued from page 3 - Crime Prevention)

Suggestions for **Women:** Read over the suggestions for men—many of these apply to you also. Don't carry large purses, particularly those with shoulder straps. That long strap over your shoulder can lead to a broken shoulder, arm or worse- you can be dragged by it. Don't carry a purse at all. Instead, wear a fanny pack, on your stomach, not your fanny! Put only your driver's license, insurance/social security card, emergency ID and one or two credit/debit cards in it along with a small amount of cash- leave room for your car keys and of course, your cell phone! You can put a small comb, a lipstick and a small compact in it if you simply must "primp" while shopping. Don't take it off! If you can't reach inside and grab that card readily you have too many items inside. Wear it under a bulky sweater or coat so that no one can remove it from your waist. Try to shop with someone else. Pay attention to those around you. Carry a large knit shopping bag with you so you can place smaller items in it as you go- and never walk out of a store with so many items in your arms/hands that you can't readily get your car door open when you get to it. (read the warnings for Men

about how to park, where to park and how to approach vour car. Women are easier targets because they're lighter, easier to knock down, easier to subdue and because they're busy talking on cell phones, lugging large bulky items, fumbling for their car keys and trying to keep tabs on children or grandchildren. If you're shopping at a shopping center, return to your car and put your items away, then move to a spot closer to other stores you want to visit. It may take a few more minutes to shop because you're looking for another spot, but, it makes it harder for someone watching you, waiting to steal your valuables or hurt you. Never assume that because you have a car alarm your items are safe. Don't put items inside your car that are visible. Put them in the trunk and lock it, and again, look around you, see if someone is watching you. You don't want to come back to find your car gone or your trunk pried open and your gifts gone. Remember, just a little over a year ago one of our residents was kidnapped and subsequently killed while she was out shopping. That one person is too many, please pay attention and be safe.



News from "Let Sue Do It"

LOST/FOUND PETS

Since I pet sit for over 100 families in Oakridge, I am often contacted when someone finds a pet. I invite all of you to use me as a contact when you find or lose a pet and maybe I can assist in getting pets and owners together again.

REFERRALS FOR SERVICES

Many of you call me to ask if I know someone who can provide services other than what I do personally. I currently have excellent referrals for individuals who can replace "fogged" windows, clean houses, refurbish furniture, etc. plus commendations for several of our advertisers in the newsletter.

Please feel free to call me on 972-530-5089 if you need any of this information.



SH 190 Development Finally Set to Begin

Despite the economy, it would appear that a building boom could be just around the corner for north Garland and SH-190. Gregg Simms, vice president of the Garland Economic Development Partnership, gave his quarterly report to the Garland City Council at a recent work session. His report included several developments along the SH-190 corridor:

- · Firewheel Plaza Shopping Center, to be built between Home Depot and Lowes, is expected to be anchored by Office Depot, Pet Smart and Michaels. Full service, sit-down restaurants that have signed letters of intent include two seafood, one Mexican food, one steakhouse and one Asian restaurant. Zoning requests for this development are expected within the next two months, with actual construction beginning by mid-2003.
- The developer of North Garland Crossing (the Super Target site) is expected to request zoning and permits for a 78,000 sq-ft shopping center to adjoin the Target. This center will be anchored by a major junior anchor, which is reported to be near signing a contract. Also, along with the Wendy's that is under construction, will be two banks and two other fast food restaurants. The fast food restaurants are not expected to request frontage lots on SH 190. This shopping center is also expected to be under construction by mid-2003.
- · Across SH 190, next to Outback, two full service restaurants are expected to sign contracts, hopefully by the end of October. At the corner of Brand and SH 190, Academy Sports is very close to finalizing their construction plans.
- · Also along SH 190 between North Garland Rd and the Outback, two big box retailers, such as a Bed, Bath & Beyond, a Best Buy, or an Ultimate Electronics, are consider-



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ing that site.

- · Two full service restaurants have signed contracts to purchase lots from Wal-Mart next to the North Garland Family Medical Center along SH 190.
- · In addition to the items in Simms' quarterly report, Simon Properties, the developer of the Firewheel Town Center, continues to finalize the mall's design and to sign tenants. They state that they will begin construction no earlier than January 2003 and no later than March 2003.
- ~Reprinted for The Greenskeeper, newsletter of Greens Estate Homeowners Association.

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Councilman, Mark Monroe	972-495-8028
Off. Jeff Gooch NPO	972-205-2740

OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS By Dianne Winter

As the fall leaves were rustling, so were the Daytimers as they

met at the home of Jo The table was rated for the fall season joyed the conversation drinks and refreshfurnished by the hostnette, Pat Cathcart,



Dietz on October beautifully decoand everyone enwith friends and the were ments that ess and Barbe Bru-Mary Pattie and

Betty Prickett. The door prize was won by Jackie Tucker.

After everyone was seated, President, Becky Parks, welcomed members and guests and requested reports from officers and group members.

The activity calendars were distributed by Gail Durbin for everyone to note the upcoming events. Gail performs a great service by preparing this calendar for the present and future month.

membership and income. Suzanne also reported that the Book Dot Mohrle, Mary Musseman, Lucy Brock, Shirley Hill, Suz-Club would meet at her home in October with the author- anne Snow, Brenda Britton, Betty Thomas, Jo Ann Williams architect, Overton Shelmire, reviewing his book, Secrets Under the Bridge. That meeting did exceed expectations with Mr. Shelmire displaying humility, honor and humor. Suzanne was a gracious hostess having just returned home the previous evening from an anniversary trip to Florida.

BOOK CLUB on the third Fridays- Call Betty Thomas 972-414-1547. On November 15th the Book Club will meet at the home of Mary Musseman for a presentation by the authorfriend of Audrey Golden. Nancy Vance Cooley will discuss her first book, The Winds Will. The votes have been counted and the winning books will be announced for the previously undecided months. (Come to book club to discover why Betty thinks Audrey is a rebel)

Call **Mary Pattie** 972-496-6486 for BRIDGE events that occur on the first and third Wednesdays and second and fourth Thursdays of every month. A new Monday afternoon group has been formed for beginners. (Come to bridge and ask Jo Ann Williams about the wedding.)



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 CAwould benefit you. I am anxious to hear about Halloween Canasta.

The ARTS and CRAFTS Group met at the home of Chris Byers on October 21st for a demonstration to decoupage a tray. They will meet the third Monday -November 18th at the home of Barbara Brunette to complete the process. Call **Roberta Jones** (972-414-7277) or **Jo Dietz** (972-530-8308) to join this creative group or for more information. (Roberta has been busy moving her Mom here.)

The OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH had planned a great day for you in October, but the outing was cancelled due to a combination of circumstances. Don't miss the November 20th trip to Bugatti's Italian at 3802 W NW Highway Plaza on Bachman Creek. Meet at 11:00 at the pool for a 12:00 lunch. RSVP Chris Beyers 972-530-8292.

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. This group created a basket that is being raffled at the November meeting. Many hours of hard work have gone into this array of items so get tickets for the basket as the proceeds will go to the ONA Beautification Committee!

Remember your Secret Pal! During the November Meeting there will be a drawing for the 2003 Secret Pals. Please attend or tell a friend if you want to participate. Sarah Traylor has worked to involve everyone that wants to be included so call her if you have questions at 972-414-5383. Secret Pals will be revealed at the December meeting.

The treasurer, Suzanne Snow, reported a continued growth in Mary Jensen reports the Happy November Birthdays: and Emily Krause. (Mary Jensen's parents are moving to Oakridge!)

> Get those recipes to Chris Beyers for the "I love to eat, but hate to cook" book to be included in the Oakridge Daytimers Cookbook.

> Don't miss the Tuesday, November 12th, Coffee at the home of Dianne Winter at 2805 Oak Springs Dr. - 10 AM



Any questions concerning Daytimers should be directed to Becky Parks , 972-414-8776 or Chris Beyers, 972539-8292.

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$12.00 annual dues. Daytimers

promotes the Oakridge Community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

We are also excited about the **December Coffee** at the home of Mary Jo Herring. Mark your calendars! This will be a premier event.

The president says it best in the following message:

We, as Daytimers, are so fortunate to have such a diverse and NASTA. If you have any interest here, this is a fun group that talented membership. From beauticians and "grand" babysitters to pianists and soloists. If we aren't sure how to do something we can make a few phone calls and ZAP! We're in business.

Who to call to fix it.

What to cook for dinner (recipe includes).

When the best time is to travel, shop for sales, drive on central expressway.

Where to buy it (for at least 50% off).

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C.O.P. REPORT By Bill Olive

The final official crime stats for October are not yet available, however, weekly updates received from the Garland Police "Crime Net" indicate there have been **no** incidents within Oakridge **between 10/5 and 10/27.**

Maybe the rain and overcast conditions in October have been a mixed blessing! We're working on obtaining all police "incident/ investigation" reports for the past year so we can obtain more details and determine exactly where, when, how and who was committing crimes in Oakridge. We've already gotten some of the more recent reports and have found that these detailed reports give us a better understanding of exactly what has happened --for example, last month's report indicated there were several crimes within Oakridge's sector A (residences along Shiloh), on September 27th. The "Crime Net" report doesn't provide details, however, after reviewing the actual police reports, we've learned that each of these incidents was apparently committed by the same individual. One of these incidents was reported as "unauthorized use of motor vehicle". When you read last month's report you probably thought an Oakridge resident was the victim, however, this was, in fact, a marked police car. Fortunately, the culprit only got a block away before being apprehended. I happened to be on C.O.P. patrol in the area at the time and got a first hand view of the whole thing. Enough excitement for that day!

We're trying to establish a communications method with the GPD so we can be informed of suspicious persons/vehicles/activities in our area in a timely manner. Last month we had a residential break-in by a "white male, mid- 20's, driving a dark sports car"; this type of information would help us be on the lookout for such an individual while we're on patrol. C.O.P. is working on a way to get timely information on incidents and advisories to residents of Oakridge also. We've set Jan. 1st as our goal date, but hope we can bring this about even earlier. In the meantime, should you observe anything suspicious, don't hesitate to call the police and/or your C.O.P. Please also be aware that we have patrollers out at night in motor vehicles, these have reflective C.O.P. signs on them as well as yellow flashing or revolving lights. Some of you may have already received a knock on your door to remind you that your garage door is open; we've found several doors open late at night, probably because someone forgot to put them down or something blocked the automatic eye.

PS: **Thanks** to all who've purchased "No Soliciting" signs, we hear that they DO work. We still have these signs for sale, just call me at 972-495-3402. They only cost \$10.00 each and we deliver and install them for you.



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OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

The children's Halloween party at Karryn's house was a great success! All the children looked adorable in their costumes and they had the opportunity to play games, have their pictures made and framed, etc...

Thanks to everyone that donated to and volunteered for the Achievement Center's Garage Sale. The fundraiser was a big success!

At our last meeting, we planned several Holiday events! We also had a fabulous designer come to talk to us about holiday decorating trends and ideas. Thanks to Sherida for being such a gracious hostess and to Karryn for the delicious food!

Our next event is the ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY (Moms and Dads ONLY!) at Benihana's on Thursday, December 5, 2002 at 7 PM. Please RSVP to Tricia by Sunday, December 1, 2002. Everyone needs to bring a white elephant gift for our gift exchange.

Our next FAMILY EVENT is our Christmas Party! It will be Sunday, December 15^{th} at Sherida & Jeff's home from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. There is a rumor that Santa might just show up around 3:00 p.m., so make sure the entire family is on time for this special event!

Our holiday CHARITY PROJECT will be collecting gently used or new toys, books and videos for the special needs children of the Achievement Center of Texas. Please bring your donations to the Christmas Party, or contact Amy (amylaw@aol.com or 972-495-9466) to set up an alternative drop-off plan. Tax receipts will be available for all donations, as the Achievement Center is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization.

Our NEXT MEETING will be December 17th in a LIMO! That's right, we're having a Mom's Night Out to go check out Christmas lights in style! Dads, as always, thanks for taking care of the children so we can have a girl's night out!

If you would like more details about our club, or would like to join, please call our President, Tricia at tklimko@attbi.com or 972-414-9141.

Oakridge Women's Club is open to all women in the Oakridge neighborhood who share a strong common bond in the love of our children and families. We welcome prospective new members at all meetings!



Mark Monroe City Councilman Jeff Gooch ОДИ Welcome Wagon District Directors Civic Interests Citizens on Patrol Bill Olive Crime Prevention Bill Olive Редду Рісћеу Technical Сһиск Теѕке Environmental Dana Hopkins Communications Редду Рісћеу Membership COMMITTEES Michael & Pegi Bostick Nistrict 7 Kelly Prater District 6 John & Dot Mohrle District 5 Donglas Klimko District 4 Flaine Swint District 3 Pam Hubbard District 2 Kay Abrams ↑ tointsiQ DIRECTORS Mary Musseman Treasurer Deloris Martindale Secretary Vice President Jim Griffin President Mike Rose **OFFICERS**

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