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# ◊ Oakridge News ◊

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Vol. 11 No. 08

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

January - 2003

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## Observations by Mike Rose

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association ( ONA ) repeats a request that you, as members, purchase the “ No Soliciting “ sign the ONA Citizens On Patrol ( COP ) group produced. The cost is \$ 10.00 and it will be installed for you. Call the Chair of the COP group. The more units installed the more effective the entire neighborhood can become in ridding Oakridge of the annoying door to door solicitors.

Speaking of the ONA COP group, did you notice the beautiful Christmas decorations on the bridge this past holiday season ? We should thank the COP for the installation and care of the decorations. Hopefully they will reappear next Christmas time.

The ONA District Directors should, also, receive a rousing thank you for making all of the Oakridge entrances eye-catching this past holiday season. I am sure they all had enough to do around their own home but they took the time to make our neighborhood more attractive. We all appreciate the Directors efforts.

Do you or any of your neighbors have Holiday decorations up outside of the house? There is a city ordinance in force that could cause one to be in violation if the decorations are still up on the outside of a house. Call the City Code Enforcement Officer listed in this newsletter and inform him of the decorations still being displayed. Again, we should all help in making the Oakridge area a more pleasing neighborhood.

Have you taken a drive in the Oakridge area lately? Have you noticed the new houses being built on Oak Point Drive? These houses should assist in improving the value of all of our homes. It is nice to see the Oakridge area become built out. Wonder when someone will purchase a house and redevelop it? This is not out of the realm of possibilities. People will discover the benefits of living in a neighborhood that , for the most part , does not have parallel streets; that neighbors care about one another and that contains a private golf course. This can only happen if we all continue to maintain our houses in a neat and orderly appearance.

Speaking of new houses being built – at the January ONA board meeting the board and several adjacent residents listened to a developer tell his story regarding the 14+/- acres of land located at the Northwest corner Shiloh and Belt Line roads. This developer is the same one who did the development in Richardson located where Bucking-

ham dead ends at Audelia. He intends to request a similar type development in our area. The ONA board will keep all informed. Be ready to listen to his story directly at the next General Membership meeting on **March 6<sup>th</sup>** .

Have you noticed, while driving around the Oakridge area, the many different types of street lights? Some of these are very ugly and do not conform to the type that were originally installed. The city has chosen to allow individuals and or neighborhood associations to upgrade the ugly street lights when these are damaged or destroyed. They will, also, allow the upgrade when the lights are to be replaced due to becoming obsolete. There is a cost involved in the upgrade. The cost depends on several variables too numerous to describe here. The ONA board is working with the city to work out the “ kinks “ in this new city ordinance. However if it all works out there is a question as to fitting into the limited budget the ONA lives with its participation in any excess cost to upgrade. The immediate solution is to increase the number members in the ONA. You can help. How – by getting your neighbors and friends to join. We have approximately 43 % who are members. It is unrealistic to achieve 100 % but why not 50 or even 60 % ? There are 1,187 houses located in the Oakridge neighborhood.

Finally, at our March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting we will elect a nominating committee. Their charge will be to present a slate of officers via the April ONA newsletter for 2003 – 2004. The election will be at our May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Mark **March 6<sup>th</sup>** and **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** on your calendar.

## Christmas Decorating Contest Results

The third annual Oakridge neighborhood Christmas decorating contest has taken place this holiday season. Three city officials, Mayor Bob Day, District 7 City Councilman Mark Monroe and President of the Garland Chamber of Commerce Paul Mayer judged homes the week ending December 15<sup>th</sup> . The signs indicating 1<sup>st</sup> ,2<sup>nd</sup> and Honorable Mention have been placed in the respective yards.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place**

**EDWARD & NORMA HESTER**  
2306 Lone Oak Trail

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

**LARRY & JUDY GRISHAM**  
2705 Oak Point Drive

### **Honorable Mention**

**DEAN & DONNA McCONNELL**  
3205 Ridge Oak Drive

## OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

The **ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY** at Benihana's was a fantastic evening out. The white elephant gifts added plenty of laughs to this great event.

Our **FAMILY Christmas Party** was outstanding! Santa arrived and had gifts for all the children. Special thanks for Tricia and Doug for sharing your beautiful home for this event. You are both superior hosts! Thanks to everyone that participated in our charity toy drive for the special needs children of the Achievement Center. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### MEET THE BABYSITTER NIGHT!

Our next meeting is February 4, 2003 at Tricia and Doug's home, 2718 Oak Point Drive. This is our annual Babysitter get-together! The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and will last until 8:30 p.m. We will have food and prizes for the babysitters!

We are in need of any interested babysitters to please come to our meeting so the members of the club can meet you and hopefully provide you with plenty of babysitting jobs in the future! Babysitters are welcome to bring their Mothers, if they like.

If you would like more details on the "Meet the Babysitter Night", or about our club, please contact our President, Tricia at [tklimko@attbi.com](mailto: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!

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## OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

By Dianne Winter

### Christmas Through the Year

*When I was a child it seemed like Christmas would never come. But now that I'm older, I'm starting to agree with my Mom. She would always say "You might as well leave the tree decorated, put wheels on it and roll it in and out of a closet!" Time does bring a change to things in our lives. However, one thing that remains timeless is our needs for friends, not just at Christmas, but throughout the years. This year why not give the gift of friendship, as friendship truly is the gift that keeps on giving. Make this your New Year's Resolution.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Y'all!!  
Becky Parks, Daytimers President*

November and December are always exciting months. The Daytimers celebrated these holiday months in many ways. The November Coffee at the home of Dianne Winter was well attended. New faces were among the group and the hostesses – Mary Jo Herring, Audrey Golden, Audrey King and Gloria Shanhouse - provided great food and made everyone feel welcome. The president, Becky Parks, and vice president, Chris Beyers, made announcements and group leaders reported on activities listed toward the end of this article.

The December meeting reflected the mood of the group with fellowship and fun and celebration of the season. Mary Jo Herring makes everyone feel so welcome in her home. She presented everyone with candles because “we light up her life”. Pat Cathcart shared her musical talent by playing carols on the grand piano while Suzanne Snow led the group in singing. The highlight of this display of musical talent was the performance of “*The Twelve Days of Christmas*”. Ask Ruby Nell Ormon about the “geese a laying” and Gloria Shanhouse about the “calling bird”. Many helped arrange the array of goodies including Doris Autrey, Chris Beyers, Mary Jensen, Nell Burt, Shirley Hill and Sharon Carlton. Secret Pals were revealed so many mysteries were solved.

**Betty Thomas** (972-414-1547) reported that the **BOOK CLUB** met to discuss *The Winds Will* with the author, Nancy Vance Cooley, at the home of Mary Musseman. The author shared how she became an author at her later stage in life. In December the group met at the home of Nell Burt on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Each member brought her favorite Christmas book, poem or reading. This resulted in a very special time together. January meeting will be at the home of Jo Deitz with *The Genesis Code* to be discussed.

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. The January schedule is

changed due to the holiday.

The **CANASTA** groups are always celebrating, so for details call **Barbara Brunette** at 972-530-4288 for **DAY CANASTA** and **Margaret Fowler** at 972-530-8585 for **NIGHT CANASTA**. These are friendly ladies whose company you would enjoy.

The **ARTS and CRAFTS** group creates great projects. If you like projects and eating out call **Roberta Jones** (972-414-7277) or **Jo Dietz** (972-530-8308). They met at the home of Barbe Brunette in November to decoupage the trays they were working on and in December they met for a luncheon and returned to Becky Park's for dessert and gift exchange on December 18<sup>th</sup>. These are talented ladies that like to shop. Join them.

**STITCH & CHAT** meets at **Norene Murphy's** (972-530-6669) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday to visit and to work on projects. Call for more information. The basketful of gifts that had been made by this group was raffled at this meeting and the winner was Trudy Schmidt. The almost \$140 that was contributed for tickets will be given to the ONA. Good work! This group met in December to Exchange Christmas wishes. It is always good to visit with Jackie Tucker at this group meeting.



**JANUARY MEETING**  
Do you like surprises?

The January Coffee was held  
at the home of Ruby Nell Ormon  
2110 Rolling Oak  
972-414-4775  
January 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 am  
Surprise Speaker

**Don't forget your Secret Pal or to pay your dues in January.**

Any questions concerning Daytimers should be directed to **Becky Parks**, 972-414-8776 or **Chris Beyers**, 972-539-8292.

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.

## C.O.P. REPORT By Bill Olive

The following are the crime statistics for Oakridge from Nov. 7 – Dec 14. The reports for the rest of December 2002 are not available at this time.

- 11/7/02 Criminal mischief, 2200 block of Rolling Oak at approximately 11am
- 11/23/02 Burglary-habitation, 2600 block of Peakwood between 12 – 3pm
- 11/23/02 Burglary-vehicle, 2800 block of Diamond Oaks between 12-1pm
- 12/3/02 Burglary-vehicle, 2100 block of Diamond Oaks between 12-6am
- 12/11/02 Burglary-vehicle, 3400 block of Greenview Dr. between 6-7pm
- 12/8/02 Burglary-vehicle, 3100 block of Big Oaks Dr. at approximately 12:30am
- 12/8/02 Criminal mischief, 2800 block of Grand Oak between 12-8am
- 12/8/02 Criminal mischief, 2200 block of Rolling Oak at approximately 11am
- 12/10/02 Burglary-vehicle, 2500 block of Diamond Oaks between 10pm-8am

Thanks to all Oakridge residents who decorated their homes for the holiday season. It sure made patrolling a much more pleasant experience. Although we did have some incidents of vandalism, I think Oakridge faired quite well. Recently, I had a talk with Officer Tannock who told me that Garland's "operation safe holiday" was a success this year.

The C.O.P. provided the ONA with some photos of places on the perimeter of Oakridge that needed fences installed or repaired. We now have a new fence between a portion of Meadowridge and the Pavilion Apts. Another fence has been repaired behind Hearthside. These fences will add security to our community. Chuck Teske, the ONA environmental chairman, is responsible for this quick action. Thanks Chuck!! In addition, the C.O.P. was instrumental in getting the apartment management company to do the necessary repairs and replacement to their fence.

We have brought to the attention of Garland's "Graffiti Hotline" the only graffiti in Oakridge (on the wall of the alley behind Hearthside). The graffiti does not seem to be gang related. The C.O.P. will have removed this graffiti by the time this article appears. If you see any graffiti, please give us a call. We will take a picture of it, call it in to the appropriate place, and see that it is removed. All graffiti is brought to the attention of the Garland "Gang Unit" for evaluation.

Some statistics----- During the 2001 calendar year, there were approximately 91 incidents in the Oakridge area which were called into the GPD. The Oakridge Citizens on Patrol logged in over 225 hours. This past year, 2002, we had approximately 42 incidents referred to the GPD while the number of patrolled hours increased to over 475. In no way does this mean that the incident drop is a direct result of our patrols, however, it does cast a positive light on our efforts. The one thing that we have tried to do this year is place more emphasis on our visibility. Thanks to

the following C.O.P.'ers who participated in these 475 hours: Brenda Olive, Jane Mayers, Bill Edwards, Jim Cook, Bill Johnson, Jerry Giles, Jim Tucker, Ken Byrd, & Bill Olive. You too can become part of this elite group (sometimes referred to as the "geezer patrol") by enrolling in the next Garland Police C.O.P training class. Contact me at 972-495-3402 for an application and/or information.

The Oakridge C.O.P. will soon have a copy of police reports for all Oakridge incidents during the calendar year 2002. We will then be contacting the residents who were victims to discuss the incident. This will help us evaluate the criminal activities here in Oakridge and better formulate our plan of action for 2003.

I don't know if the "click-it or ticket" push is still ongoing with the GPD, however, the GPD has been issuing tickets to drivers who don't use seat belts. This program is funded by the Federal Govt. and, as one of our officers said, the feds don't fund cities that only give warnings. Buckle Up!!

When driving along Diamond Oaks please do not exceed the speed limit. Perhaps you have seen GPD patrol cars there recently. Their presence is due to complaints from Oakridge residents about speeders. It's hard to beat this new radar in court!!

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of the Oakridge residents who acknowledge us as we patrol. Your smiles and waves mean much to all of us. Thanks, and have a "safe", happy, & healthy 2003.

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**From the Desk of Mark Monroe**

Hope this newsletter finds you healthy and happy after the joyous holidays! 2003 looks to be an eventful and positive time for Garland and District 7. Many things are on the horizon for our fine city.

The one reoccurring image that we will be seeing in 2003 is ground breaking! The Firewheel shopping center is scheduled to break ground this year and along with it, other parts of the 190 corridor will start to develop as well. City Planners have been diligently working to insure that new business will rapidly come to Garland.

The new edition to the Performing Arts Center is scheduled to open in March. This will be a welcomed addition to the existing PAC, and will allow for more opportunities to welcome visitors and development to downtown Garland. Our new Police and Courts building will provide the space and support that this city needs as we continue to provide the best service to our residents.

Additionally in March, Police Chief Larry Wilson will be retiring. Chief Wilson has served the department well. The City Manager will be working hard in the search for his replacement and I will continue to strive to insure that public safety is a top priority in the coming year. For those that do not know our district has both Neighborhood Patrol Officers back on duty. Well in advance of the May date that was mentioned last year.

This is all for now. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have. Again, hope you had a wonderful holiday and best wishes for a prosperous New Year!

Mark Monroe  
Councilman, District 7  
972-495-8028  
mmonroe@ci.garland.tx.us

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<b>Councilman, Mark Monroe</b>	<b>972-495-8028</b>
<b>Off. Chris Tannock NPO</b>	<b>972-205-2122</b>
<b>tannock@ci.garland.tx.us</b>	

**THANK YOU! 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)**

**Mr. & Mrs. Lowell McNally**

**Oakridge Country Club**

**(Joe Don Davis)**

**Mr. & Mrs. Frank Medina**

**Mr. & Mrs. Larry Dayhoff**

**Mr. & Mrs. Ed Miles**

**Mr. & Mrs. William Edwards**

**Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Morrison**

**Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Gingerich**

**Mr. & Mrs. Bob Musseman**

**Mr. & Mrs. Harry Green**

**Mr. & Mrs. Vance Payne**

**Ms. Sue Hageland & family**

**Mr. & Mrs. John Sholden**

**Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hubbard**

**Mr. & Mrs. Ritchie Stimpson**

**Mr. & Mrs. Gary Klembara**

**Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Tripp**

I would like to share the visit to Station 3 with you. We were a real Christmas surprise to them. The "B" Shift did not get the message that we were bringing dinner to them so they were very surprised when we walked in with all the food. They had just returned from a fire call that the shift before them began on. When they got back to the station, they were going to heat up some left over ham to make sandwiches. They seemed pretty blue but when they saw all the food they jumped up and just couldn't believe their eyes. What a special surprise this was! They just couldn't say thank you enough. So thanks to all of you who helped in this special surprise. 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.

**A "HUGE" thank you from Fire Station  
#3 !!!!!!!!!!!**

Dear Mr. Moseley (Albertsons), Mr. Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Dayhoff, Mr. & Mrs. Edwards, Mr. & Mrs. Gingerich, Mr. & Mrs. Green, Ms. Hageland & family, Mr. & Mrs. Hubbard, Mr. & Mrs. Klembara, Mr. & Mrs. McNally, Mr. & Mrs. Medina, Mr. & Mrs. Miles, Mr. & Mrs. Morrison, Mr. & Mrs. Musseman, Mr. & Mrs. Payne, Mr. & Mrs. Sholden, Mr. & Mrs. Stimpson, and Mr. & Mrs. Tripp. I hope I did not leave anyone out but if I did please know that you are still included in our thoughts.

Once again you went "above and beyond the call of duty"! We had no idea you were coming due to a communication glitch between shifts but were we glad to see you!!!! We had brought in some items for supper but lunch was going to be left-over ham for sandwiches. What a great sight to see all the food arrive and the sweet stuff. We don't need the sweets but let me assure you we put a dent in them as well as the rest of the meal. The turkey was just about the best I have ever eaten and we had to freeze the ham for a meal next week because we simply had more than we could work on today. I guess we will be kind and share with the other guys who have to work tomorrow. Most of the pies and cakes may be pretty well worked over but we will share whatever is left.

If you have an incident in the fire service that uses a big number of people we call it a two-alarm. I would call the kindness from the Oakridge Neighborhood Association a five-alarmer!!!! Thanks so much again and if you ever need us just feel free to call and we will be glad to assist. Always remember that you are the tax-payers and we work for you. We are here for you and I can assure you that our guys on B-shift will help you in any way we are able to.

Well gotta go. I think I hear a red velvet cake and a turkey leg calling...and a pie, and a plate full of dressing, green beans... etc., etc., etc.!!!!

Thanks from Capt. Rick Townsend, Kristi Shepherd, Eric Lovette, Cory Bolt, Bobby Hamill, Oscar Lozano, Brandon Ethridge, and Brett Warren



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