
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 11 No. 10

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

March - 2003

Observations by Mike Rose

The following individuals have agreed to serve on this years Oakridge Neighborhood Association's nominating committee : Karen Engler, Angela Greenwald, Sue Hageland, Brenda Olive and Vickie Smith. If you have an interest in serving the ONA, please contact one of these folks and let them know of your interests. The ONA members should give a great big thank you to these individuals. Their task is not impossible but does take time. Be sure to read in the April '03 ONA newsletter the results of their efforts. After the May '03 election their job will be completed.

Jim Griffin, Bill Olive and Chuck Teske, Jr. have agreed to review our current ONA by-laws and make any recommendations to the general membership. Watch for their report in our April ONA newsletter. It is hoped that their suggestions will have a positive affect in the operations of our neighborhood organization. Their report will be voted on by those in attendance (and a member of the ONA) at the general meeting **May 22nd**.

Two very important elections to take place at the last membership meeting of the 2002 – 2003 ONA board term. The new slate of officers will take effect May 23rd and run through May 27th of 2004.

Have you noticed how many yards are being neglected as you drive around the Oakridge area ? There are three phone numbers listed in the boxed section labeled “important phone numbers“ that you should have posted on your refrigerator (icebox for those of us who remember that far back) for quick reference. The three important numbers belong to - Code

Compliance, Tommy Cobb and Councilman Monroe. If you see problems existing within the Oakridge area please contact each of these and tell them your story. It is extremely critical that all residents within in the walls of Oakridge communicate problems to all three. Perhaps we will get a more immediate and effective response to compliance situations if we all are responsive. Have you called any of these numbers lately ?

On March 24th the city Plan Commission will deal with the development of the 14+/- acres of land located at the Northwest corner of Shiloh and Buckingham Roads. The developer made a presentation to the ONA board at the March 6th general membership meeting. Thus far it appears that this development would be a fantastic addition to the Oakridge area. This development would have its own mandatory association. It would be good if several Oakridge folks could attend the March 24th meeting and voice their approval. It would take about one year from City Council approval to see houses being constructed.

Spring is a time for the regeneration of plants all around us. Are you doing your part in keeping your yard in top shape – one that shows that you are proud to live in the Oakridge area? We have a new “ team “ maintaining the commons of Oakridge. The ONA board would like to expand the beauty of our area but it takes more memberships to cause that to happen. Have you asked someone to join the ONA? Are you a member of one of the many functioning groups within the ONA but not a member of the ONA? Why not participate.

For Your Information

The following information is provided for your convenience in the event that the portion of the exterior wall surrounding Oakridge for which you are responsible is damaged.

Brick on Oakridge Walls:

Jupiter & Beltline -- Acme Brick "Blend 10"
(Exception: some repaired areas)

Shiloh & Buckingham -- mostly
U.S. Brick "Old Town"

(Exceptions: some repaired areas; and north end of Shiloh from Big Oaks is Acme "Blend 10")

The company below stocks small quantities of brick and should be able to give you a list of masonry contractors or you may look in the yellow pages under "mason Contractors":

Gartex Masonry Supply
10310 Plano Road, Dallas
214-343-0571

Although an exact match of brick is difficult at best, we hope you will make every effort to match your repair as closely as possible in order to retain the aesthetic appeal of the neighborhood.

Information made available
By the ONA Board
Revised 2/15/03

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OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

By Dianne Winter

As **March** blew through Texas with inconsistent weather, the Daytimers remained the same – ready to meet and fellowship at the home of **Suzanne Snow** on Big Oaks Drive. Suzanne and Paul had worked feverishly to remove the remodeling dust before the Daytimers arrived and had achieved with great success the creative results that only Suzanne can envision. We thank the Snows and our other hosts who so graciously volunteer their homes to keep us in the comfortable atmosphere that fuels our meetings. The hostesses for this March 11th meeting - **Pat Cathcart, Heddy Johnson, Audrey King, and Janice Schadegg** - covered the beautifully decorated table with tasty food.

The speaker for the meeting, **Bill Olive**, relayed very good information. Bill explained the duties of the Citizens on Patrol Committee for Oakridge. The COP are part of the Oakridge Neighborhood Organization and Bill recited statistics of crime in Oakridge and how the crime had been reduced since using the Citizens On Patrol. We thank them for their volunteered time. You can be a volunteer also by calling Bill at 972-495-3402.

Becky Parks conveyed precautions to use in a car crash when the air bag becomes inflated. Becky had a recent accident that prompted her to share these suggestions with us – such as proper position prior to a crash. We are glad that Becky and Sue Pauley were with us at the meeting – safe and sound..

The president, **Becky Parks**, appointed a nominating committee for officers for the coming year. Those that will serve are: **Barbara Brunette, Sharon Carlton and Audrey Golden**. If you wish to serve or have a suggestion, please call one of these members.

There were several new members returning with enthusiasm.

Reports and activities that were discussed consisted of:

Betty Thomas (972-414-1547) reported that the **BOOK CLUB** will meet on Friday, March 21st at the home of **Mary Jensen** to discuss *The Painted House* by John Grisham.

Call **Mary Pattie** 972-496-6486 for **BRIDGE** events that occur on the first and third Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings.

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). The next meeting will be held at the home of **Chris Byers** on March 17th at 1pm.

STITCH & CHAT meets at **Norene Murphy's** (972-530-6669) on the 3rd Tuesday to visit and to work on hand made and sewing projects. Call for more info.

THE OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH has had to reschedule. They will try the *Taste of Italy* on March 26th at 11:30. You must call Barbe Brunette at 972-530-4288 to make a reservation even if you were on the February list.

Don't forget your Secret Pal!

Other tidbits concerning our members:

JoAnn Williams is a proud grandmother! **Janice Shadegg's** phone call that she received during the meeting concerning her mother proved to reveal a less major concern than was first believed. We wish the best for Janice's mom who has been ill. Please remember our members who have become caretakers in their families as we have several. **Clara Mae Meurer** was back after an illness and **Norene and Jackie** were able to get out and about now that the weather is nice. **Emily Krause** is still recuperating. We extend sympathy to **Mary Mussemann** in the death of her mother who lived in California.

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.

APRIL COFFEE



Home of Chris Beyers
2205 Fulton
Tuesday, April 8th
10 am

FROM OUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

CIP and Budget Updates

By Mark Monroe, Garland Council Member, District 7

Dear Friends and Neighbors of District 7:

First of all, I wanted to tell you that I received a new laptop computer, and my e-mail list went with my old one. I regularly send e-mail updates about occurrences in city government. If you would like to be added to or removed from my distribution list or know someone who wants to be added, please let me know.

Here is a brief overview of the City's capital improvement program (CIP) and some areas that may be of interest to you. Capital improvements are a planned investment in an infrastructure improvement in a municipal facility - in short, areas within particular departments, per se, that have the potential to expand. The 2003 CIP is aimed at making significant progress toward the completion of the 1997 bond program. The breakdown is as follows:

1. Parks and Recreations Department - 4 million +
2. Performing Arts Center - 3.9 million (PAC completion scheduled to open in March.)
3. Street and Transportation - 36.5 million, including the addition of a traffic light at the intersection of North Garland Road and Naaman Forest (specific site undetermined) due to the increased traffic in this area. I will continue to request a light at Shiloh and Homestead.)
4. Drainage - 5.1 million
5. Library - 1.9 million (including 2 library per capita goal)
6. Landfill - 4.9 million
7. Public Safety - 26.7 million (including new courts building, fire training facility, fire stations 10 & 11; Station 10 will be located in District 7 on Beltline and Sam Houston)
8. Facilities and Miscellaneous - 7.4 million

All of these projects are debt funded. Other projects such as Firewheel Golf, Wastewater and Electric, etc. are revenue funded. I feel that they are a good step toward upgrading our city's infrastructure and adding overall improvements.

I recently received a report from our Budget and Research Department which states that if current economic trends continue, we will be facing another difficult budget year in 2004. I

want to share this information with you to give you a better understanding of the impact the city will face. Some of the revenues seeing a decrease in the General Fund are the ad valorem tax, sales tax, landfill revenues, municipal court, Emergency Medical Service, and investment income. Additionally, in Utilities, Electric is experiencing a decrease from the number reported last year. Group Health Insurance expenditures increased, and Firewheel Golf and the Hotel/Motel Tax revenues were down. There are, however, other areas that are offsetting some of these declines. A review of several economic indicators for Garland points to improvements but only a modest increase in the 2003 tax base. In addition, there are initial indicators that we may experience a decline in the 2004 property values. These will be tough times, but I know that with strong leadership, we will persevere.

I hope this gives you an idea of what is on the horizon for the city in the near future I will continue to do my best to represent each and every one of you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 972-495-8028 or e-mail council7@ci.garland.tx.us

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OAKRIDGE MEMBER, NEIGHBOR, OWC

Sherida (Sher) Stone

Independent Consultant

214-533-4332

Southernshers@aol.com

OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

Everyone enjoyed a Mardi Gras party at Amy's house, as our March meeting was held on "Fat Tuesday."

The OWC would like to congratulate Karryn, Ernest, Parker and Turner on the arrival of baby Carson!

Our next meeting is **April 1, 2003** at **7 P.M.** at **Desperados** Restaurant.

Our **family Spring Party** will be held on **Sunday, April 13, 2003** from **3 P.M. to 5 P.M.**

If you would like more details about upcoming events or joining the OWC, please contact 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! Annual dues are \$20.00.

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

March C.O.P. Report

By Bill Olive

The incidents for Oakridge for the month of February as reported by the GPD are:

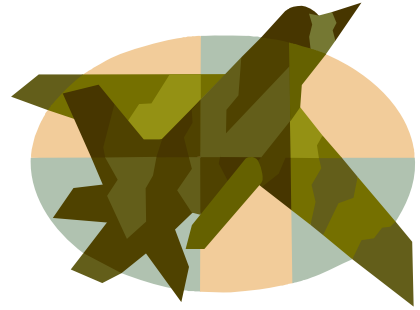
- 2/2/03 Burglary-Vehicle 2600 Block of Big Oaks
 - 2/14 03 Criminal Mischief \$50-\$500 3200 block of Bending Oaks
 - 2/14/03 Criminal Mischief \$50-\$500 2400 block of Golden Oaks
 - 2/18/03 Burglary Vehicle 2000 block of Diamond Oaks
 - 2/18/03 Burglary Vehicle 2200 block of Moss Tr.
- (times were not available for any of the incidents)

We've recently seen some magazine salespeople in Oakridge. They come to your front door and ask you to let them show you what they have to offer. They want to get inside. They talk about getting "points" for selling magazines. These people may be fine individuals, however, this type of "pitch" is one similar to several "scams" being run throughout the country. We recommend that you **do not** open your door to them. Ask them politely to leave because you are not interested. If they do not leave, call 911!! On 3/1/03 C.O.P. called GPD to Oakridge because several "salesmen" were out here soliciting and making some residents feel uneasy because of their persistence.

A word of warning, the Garland Police Department is aware of the major problem we have with drivers running the stop signs at Moss and Diamond Oaks. Over 60% of drivers **do not stop** at this intersection. It's just a matter of time until someone gets hurt, or worse, at that intersection. When you get that "expensive" ticket don't say that you weren't warned! Don't forget, last year the GPD gave out "many" tickets to stop sign runners at Big Oaks and Laurel Oaks.

If you have an hour or two per week, we need your help patrolling Oakridge. All you need to do is go through a one day (Saturday) training session given by the Garland Police Department. After training, you will be ready to help us patrol Oakridge.

Several of our police officers as well as other city employees, are now on active duty "in harms way". The Oakridge Citizens Patrol wishes them a quick and safe return to our city. God speed "warriors"!!



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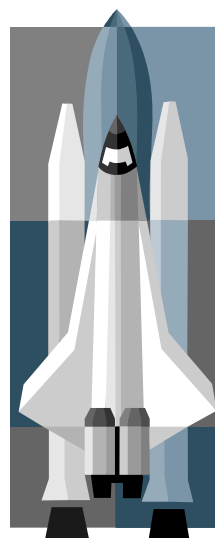
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