# Oakridge News

Vol. 11 No. 11

A Publication of the Oakridge

Neighborhood Association

April - 2003

#### Observations by Mike Rose

This will be the only issue of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) newsletter to be mailed to all 1,187 homes. There are several articles contained within these pages that are important to you as a resident of Oakridge. The ONA board hopes that you take the time to read this issue.

Are you concerned about maintaining the value of your residential investment? Do you think all the other homeowners in the Oakridge community have the same concern? As one drives around our community, it appears as though there may be families who can not positively answer these questions. What do you see when you trek throughout our Oakridge community?

The ONA was formed in 1992 to assure the beauty, safety / stability of our community and to promote neighbor-liness and pride among its residents. The ONA is not a mandatory association, therefore its existence relies on the common concern that we all strive to live in an area which is comfortable, friendly, stable, beautiful and neighborly. The cost to be involved in the ONA is approximately \$ 0.925 per week. That is less that one dollar per week per household.

Presently the ONA has a little over 500 members. That is less than 50 %. Just imagine what the ONA could accomplish if 60% or 75% of the households became members? As it now is the ONA can barely keep ahead of landscape maintenance alone. We need updated and/or additional irrigation systems; we could use additional street lighting, we could aggressively update our common landscaped areas; and how about an annual picnic in which all (including several city officials – police, fire, code, elected to name a few) are welcomed to participate. Talk about community building! We could also expand our newsletter since the local newspaper does not begin to cover what happens in our city let alone the Oakridge area. Just a few ideas and there are more to be sure.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> is the date to circle on your calendar. It will be the annual meeting where the new ONA Board is elected. You can influence the outcome. Every election is important. The city does not have an election this year. Perhaps our new board will work towards influencing the city in how its spends the \$\$\$. A city bond election and charter amendments may be in the offing for the May 2004 election. Your new ONA Board should be in a position to help influence the contents of those items. You should influence what happens in our city. Become involved in just a small way. See you May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **2003-2004 NOMINEES FOR O.N.A.**

By Brenda Olive

(Nominating Committee: Sue Hageland, Vicki Smith, Angela Greenwald. Karen Engler and Brenda Olive)

This year there are three District Director positions to be filled along with the four Officer positions. The nominating committee has prepared a slate of candidates as follows:

President: Mike Rose
Vice-President: Nelson Prater
Secretary: Fern Cook
Treesurer: Angele Green

Treasurer: Angela Greenwald
District 2: Martha Dollar
District 4: Karen Engler
District 6: Phil Hanas

All of these nominees have agreed to serve in the office as shown if elected. Some may recall that last year, Bill Johnson, Director for District 4, resigned mid-tern and Doug Klimko agreed to serve the remaining term of office for Bill. Our By-Laws stipulate that Directors for District

2,4 & 6 are elected in odd years and serve a period to two years. Directors for District 1,3,5 & 7 are elected in even years and serve for a period of two years. Someone taking the position of a resigning director serves for the remaining term of the person whom he/she is replacing. Please be aware that candidates can be nominated from the floor on election night and that any O.N.A. member in good standing (fully paid dues) can be nominated and elected to any of the above positions.

The nominating committee thanks everyone who took the time to give input, recommend potential candidates, and volunteer their time to work for the betterment of our community.

Finally, the nominating committee thanks all those outgoing officers, directors and committee chairs for their service to our community; your time, effort and commitment are appreciated.

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#### CITIZENS ON PATROL/CRIME WATCH REPORT

by Bill and Brenda Olive

#### **MARCH REPORTED INCIDENTS**

During the month of March, we had 6 incidents reported in the Oakridge area:

3/11/03 - Criminal Mischief - 2500 block of Pepperidge - no specific time

3/11/03 - Criminal Mischief - 2800 block of Stoneridge - early morning

3/12/03 - Criminal Mischief - 2600 block of Richland - early morning

3/19/03 – Burglary Habitation – 2500 block of Golden Oaks – mid-day

3/27/03 - Burglary-Vehicle - 2500 block of Pebblestone - early morning

3/27/03 - Burglary-Vehicle - 2600 block of Richland - early morning

Some of these incidents brought about additional patrols by the G.P.D. as well as your C.O.P. The criminal mischief incidents appeared to have been a result of youths driving through the area breaking side view mirrors on vehicles parked along the street

#### G.P.D. & C.O.P. WORKING TOGETHER

The C.O.P. has worked closely with our N.P.O. Officer Tannock in solving the problem of youngsters using the area behind Home Depot and Hearthside as a skateboard arena. We distributed flyers to Hearthside residents, contacted the management of Home Depot, and kept in constant contact with G.P.D. to resolve this situation. The C.O.P.'s responsibility is to cooperate with the G.P.D. by helping in any way possible.

#### FENCING DAMAGED

ALERT for residents of Meadowridge, who live on the side with alleys bordering Pavilion Apts. We again have a problem with people jumping over the fence behind your homes. The apartment's repair costs are extensive and they would like your help. If you see anyone, kids or adults, damaging this fence, call 911. Please provide the G.P.D. dispatcher with as good a description of the person(s) as possible. We need to get this under control as quickly as possible, just like we did with the Home Depot problem. Allowing it to continue puts everyone's property in that area in jeopardy.

#### **ALERT**

We have learned that in some situations you may seem to be getting "no answer" if you are using a cell phone to reach 911. In fact, 911 isn't the problem, it's the cell connection which indicates no answer. The call actually doesn't even reach 911. We personally experienced a problem recently, and we know of other residents who have experienced problems when dialing from a cell phone. Keep dialing!

(continued on page 3)

#### **LET SUE DO IT**

The refrigerator repairman is coming today but you have an important meeting

#### **LET SUE DO IT**

You need a week away, but Kitty and Rover don't want to go to the Kennel

#### **LET SUE DO IT**

The possibilities are endless (and the prices are reasonable)

- Pet Sitting
- House Sitting
- · Mail/Paper Pickup (Nominal Charge)
- Errands (Bank, Cleaners, Pharmacy)
- Grocery Shopping (Especially for Home Bound)
- Rides (i.e. Soccer, Ortho, Doctor)
- · Etc., Etc.

#### **LET SUE DO IT**

Oakridge Resident Since 1988

Sue Hageland

972-530-5089



#### CITIZENS ON PATROL/CRIME WATCH REPORT

(continued from page 2)

#### **ALERT**

If you arrive home and notice that your door is ajar or a window is broken, do not enter the house, <u>leave immediately</u> and call 911 using your cell phone from the car or go to a neighbors to use a landline phone. Remember, a burglar or thief can still be inside and your life is more valuable than anything that he/she may be stealing.

#### **MAILBOX PROBLEMS**

We have received a report that someone, probably youngsters, is switching people's mail from one mailbox to another. Parents, please impress upon your children the serious consequences of tampering with the U.S. Mail. If this continues, you may find yourselves in "talks" not only with the Garland Police, but also with postal inspectors. This is a hot seat that neither you nor your child wants to be in.

#### **SOLICITORS**

Now a word about solicitors---They need to have a permit issued by the City Of Garland, they need to solicit during specific hours, and they must respect your request to "leave" if you ask them. Recently, we have had sales people selling magazines, vacuums, tickets, etc. If approached, ask to see their city permit. If they have no permit, ask them to leave. Some of these people have been persistent in attempting to get residents to open their door and let them in. For your safety, we strongly suggest that you do not allow them to enter your home. If they don't leave when asked, call 911 and give the dispatcher a description of the person(s) and tell (him/her) that the person had no permit. If you wish, call us at the C.O.P. (972-495-3402), and if possible, C.O.P. will respond and keep an eye on the solicitor(s) until the police arrive. Because this type of call to the police is not one of high priority, it may take a bit of time for them to get here. The C.O.P. will, from a distance, keep track of the solicitor(s). This makes it a great deal easier for the police because we update them on the location of these people by staying in contact with Garland dispatch. Recently we tracked one individual from Beltline throughout Oakridge (including allevs and streets and the golf course), and ultimately out to Buckingham. Unfortunately, this individual wasn't alone and we had to track more than one person at the same time. Because of the information we were able to provide, the police knew exactly where to go, thus, they did not have to waste time by looking all over the area. The result of this incident was that the two police units dispatched escorted these solicitors out of our city with a stern warning not to come back. As a further note, you may receive a phone call from Brenda during one of these "tracking" situations so we can be sure we've providing up to the minute information to the police department, particularly when there is more than one individual involved.

#### RECRUITING FOR C.O.P.

If any resident would like to become part of our Citizens on Patrol, we could use your help. Simply call Bill Olive at 972-495-3402. You do not have to be a member of the O.N.A. to participate in the C.O.P program, but we do strongly suggest that everyone join O.N.A. As we noted above, when we've dealing with unsavory characters in the neighborhood, the O.N.A. member directory is a valuable tool as we have a list of names, addresses and phone numbers at our disposal.

CITIZENS ON PATROL & NO SOLICITING SIGNS Since this Oakridge newsletter is going to all residents, C.O.P would like to say thanks to everyone who has made our patrols a bit less boring with their smiles and waves. The C.O.P. functions for ALL Oakridge residents, whether they are ONA members or not. With this in mind, we want to put in a plug for our "no soliciting" signs that you may have seen in front yards. These signs may be purchased from the C.O.P. for \$10.00. Just give Bill Olive a call at 972-495-3402. Your sign will be installed within a week of your call.



#### Let Oakridge Country Club Be Your Family's Summer Playground!

Introducing Our New 2003 Summer Membership

Now is the time to make plans for your family's summer Fun! With our new Summer Membership, you will enjoy unlimited Swimming, Tennis, Snack Bar and Full Dining privileges from Saturday, May 24th through Monday, September 1st.

Only \$250

Our Summer Members can also join our Annual Holiday Celebrations and Children's Summer Camps, Swim Lessons and/or Swim Team and Champagne Sunday Brunch

> Join now and start enjoying Social, Dinning & Tennis Privileges TODAY!

For information call our Membership Office at (872) 530-8008. Also ask about Golf Memberships with dues of just \$157.

#### OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

By Dianne Winter

President, **Becky Parks**, rang the school bell to gain the attention of the visiting Oakridge Daytimers at the home of **Chris Beyers** on April 8, at 10am on a beautiful, cool, spring morning. Chris is a gracious hostess and all were welcomed with the anticipation of the unveiling of the Daytimers Cookbook. The food hostesses who supplied the tasty goodies were **Kay Abrams**, **Sharon Carlton**, **Sue Pauly and Sarah Traylor**. Our thanks to Chris not only as hostess but as editor of the cookbook along with the assistance of **Valerie Harper**, **Shirley Hill**, **Barbe Brunette**, **Sharon Carlton**, **Audrey Castleman and Dianne Winter**.

**Norene Murphy** was honored by the Daytimers, who sang Happy Birthday to her for the 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of her birth. Congratulations Norene!

An interesting part of the meeting was the attendance of **Councilman**, **Mark Monroe**, who patiently answered a variety of questions. From neighbors, coyotes and barking dogs to trash and traffic, he either gave a knowledgeable solution or a resource for the solution. Membership in **Oakridge Neighborhood Association** and attendance at the meetings will help answer the questions you may have concerning the area in addition to the phone numbers provided by Mark Monroe.

Another visiting guest was **Officer Chris Tan-nock**, the Neighborhood Police Officer for the Oakridge area. He was introduced and he answered questions and gave information.

Along with the distribution and sale of the cookbooks, **Gail Durbin** distributed the April/May Calendars.

Reports and activities that were discussed consisted of the following:

**Betty Thomas** 972-414-1547 reported that the **BOOK CLUB** will meet on Friday, April 18th at the home of **Dianne Winter** to discuss The *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*.

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 and is preparing items for the luncheon in May. 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 **Roberta Jones**, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm.

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

LOST AND FOUND – Roberta Jones reports that she and Dan have a new addition to the family – a parrot they have named Cheerio – that appeared at their window. They have fallen in love with the bird, but if you are the owner, you may contact them at 972-414-7277.

New officers will be introduced at the May Luncheon



May Luncheon
Tuesday, May 13
11:30
2601 Oak Point
Home of Roberta Jones

Bring your favorite salad

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.

#### DON'T FORGET YOUR SECRET PAL

#### **City Street Lights**

Near the end of 2002 the city council passed a new ordinance which was intended to assist homeowners, neighborhood associations and mandatory associations in their quest for upgrading city street light from the ugly gray fiberglass pole and unstable luminaries to a more desirable pole/fixture. Believe it or not this new ordinance does not do much in helping neighborhood groups or individuals in the process. It is clear for mandatory groups. As written, the ordinance is not clear and in fact has been interpreted differently by the fourth floor city folks and those who run GP&L! The Oakridge Neighborhood Association along with the Garland Homeowners Coalition approached city staff and asked for clarification.

After a lengthy wait, an item was made part of the council utility sub-committee agenda for their March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Much discussion resulted in revealing that in fact there were multiple interpretations. The talks then moved to trying to define what constitutes a neighborhood. The current street light ordinance has been left vague on purpose. The speed hump request process is very clear as to how obtain the installation of the speed humps. Assistant City Manager Bill Dollar was assigned the task to write a correction to the current ordinance. That document was to clarify for all what was the intention of the new street light ordinance. He was to write what a constitutes a neighborhood and that the city will replace destroyed light poles/fixtures with the same type that was destroyed. In fact, it was agreed that those poles that has an incorrect luminary installed would be replaced by GP&L with those that match the surrounding neighborhood. This would be done as the unstable incorrect luminary needed replacement. This would all be done at GP&L's expense. The corrected document was to be submitted directly to the full council at its April 14<sup>th</sup> work session for their review and hopefully approval. At the March 31st council work session it was reported to the full council that there is no problem with the current street light ordinance as passed in late 2002. Go figure!

by Mike Rose, President of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association and Treasurer of the Garland Homeowners Coalition

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

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#### From the Mayor of Garland

On February 18, 2003, the City Council approved and adopted the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for 2003. The CIP reflects the City's planned investments in infrastructure improvement and municipal facilities, as well as the acquisition of specialized equipment for the next five years. In particular, the CIP details the \$161.8 million work program for 2003.

The 2003 CIP is aimed at making significant progress toward the completion of the 1997 Bond Program. Projects being completed this year include the Police and Courts building, the Fire Training Facility, Fire Station No. 11 located on Belt Line Road east of Sam Houston, the expansion of the Patty Granville Arts Center, the achievement of the two library books per capita goal, and a significant number of street projects.

Street projects near the Oakridge neighborhood include Apollo from Jupiter to North Garland, Galaxie from Arapaho to Apollo, North Garland from the George Bush Tollway to Campbell and Lookout/Campbell from Telecom to Wateroak. A concrete walking and jogging trail will be built around Holford Park and land acquisition for a recreation center is West Garland will begin this year.

If you would like more information on what is included in the 2003 CIP, please visit our website at www.ci.garland.tx.us and click on Government.

#### OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

Our April meeting was held on April 1st at Desperado's Restaurant. Good food and fellowship was had by all!

The Family Spring Party will be held Sunday, April 13, 2003 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. We will enjoy an egg hunt, games, a piñata and a bunny!

Our next meeting is May 6, 2003 at 7 P.M. at Rita's house. Sharron is coordinating a "Girls Night Out" for Friday, May 2nd. Please contact her for additional details.

The next major event the OWC will host is the Annual Neighborhood 4th of July Parade! Last year we were honored to have the C.O.P. members join

us is making the parade safe and a big success! Additionally, the Garland Fire Department was kind enough to bring a fire engine to lead the parade. We would ask that all members of the neighborhood mark your calendar now and plan to attend this wonderful event.

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.

#### Dear Friends and Neighbors of Oakridge:

As we enter into this new spring season, many new things are happening in the city. First of all, the Community Multi-Cultural Commission has had there first meeting in order to begin the process of guiding our city through the changing demographics that we have and will face in the future. One of the Oakridge residents, Bashir Ashimi, is one of the representatives. I have no doubts that Mr. Ashimi will represent us all well, and bring great ideas to this important commission. Future updates on the progress of this committee will be included.

District 7 will be the new home to a state of the art independent senior living and nursing home. This will be located on the southwest corner of Apollo Road and North Garland Avenue. The proposal includes 3 wings and 130 beds, 80 of which are subsidies by Medicare. The need for this type of facility is increasing, and we are happy to have it in our area. It will be beneficial for both the city and district 7.

New development on the northwest corner of Buckingham and Shiloh is scheduled to go in front of the Council on April 15. I believe that this truly will benefit not only Oakridge, but the City as well. In my opinion, this is one of the best uses for this piece of land. I encourage the residents of Oakridge in support of this to attend the Council meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

The hiring of the new police chief is scheduled for the council to review in May. It has been narrowed to 7 highly qualified candidates. I have no doubt that the City Manager will be diligent in his final selection, and the candidate will serve our city well. On this note, crime statistics have been up in the city. Typically, when economic conditions are on the decline, petty crimes such as car break-ins, etc. are on the increase. Please be extra alert to any suspicious activity in your neighborhood and the city, and call the police. The police have a better chance of apprehending the criminal if activity is reported.

Please call or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Mark Monroe, Councilman, District 7

**WALLPAPER:** 

CARPENTRY:

#### **Philip Hanas**

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#### **MEMBERSHIP**

This month begins the annual membership drive. The ONA board has decided to mail out newsletters neighborhood wide! You will all find an application and an envelope, for your convenience, enclosed in this newsletter. Won't you please take the time to fill out the application, write your check to the ONA put it all in the envelope and mail it to the board? Our homeowner's association is a volunteer association and your annual dues are used to keep our entryways and borders into and around Oakridge looking neat and planted with seasonal flowers and Christmas decorations. They also provide a neighborhood directory, and the newsletter as well as Citizens on Patrol and Crime Watch. Our dues are minimal – just \$48 for a whole year! – and you get the monthly newsletter and the neighborhood directory! The more that join, the better our entryways will look. It is your neighborhood, so please do your part! Our thanks to all of you who have already joined for the 2003/2004 term!

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