
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 12 No. 05

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

October - 2003

CRIME PREVENTION

BY: Brenda Olive

Have you become complacent about crime in Oakridge? After all, we haven't had rapes, murders, armed robberies, home invasions, etc., here like some neighborhoods in Dallas County have---yet! Instead we're dealing with vandalism, vehicle break-ins, or walk-in garage thefts. Unfortunately, by ignoring these types of crimes and failing to be pro-active in protecting your property and yourself, you may in fact be encouraging criminals to turn Oakridge into an area of major crimes. Here are some simple ways you can help reduce and prevent crime in Oakridge:

- A. Put up a "No Soliciting" sign- this discourages strangers from coming onto your property.
- B. Tell your neighbors (left & right)-(front or back) you'll watch out for them and ask them to do the same for you.
- C. Don't hesitate to contact the Garland Police Dept. non-emergency # 972-205-2150 (press 1) when you are concerned about something you see that doesn't seem right-OR call 911 if you suspect a crime is in progress -Don't wait and think about it, if you do it may be too late for the police to apprehend the culprit.
- D. Call the Oakridge Citizens on Patrol, 972-495-3402 if you feel uncomfortable calling the Garland Police Department. Remember however, that the C.O.P. are not police and can not make arrests. Don't worry that you will be "pointed out" as the person making the report-you can remain anonymous.
- E. Keep your garage door closed when you do not have clear sight of the entrance.
- F. Do not leave valuables in your car.
- G. Keep your lights on in the alley area at night.
- H. Register your vehicle with the Texas Department of Public Safety H.E.A.T. program (call me at 972-495-3402 for an application)
- I. Trim shrubs around the house, especially near windows and doors.
- J. Be aware of your surroundings and think of how a criminal might make you a victim.
- K. Don't leave your garage door opener in clear view in your car and be extra careful if you have a vehicle with a programmable garage door opener. Today's criminals are computer savvy, so figuring out your

combination may be easier than you think.

- L. I've reminded residents frequently, don't advertise your new purchases-cut open large boxes and fold them inside out, or better still, cut them up and put them in black plastic garbage bags before putting them out for pickup. Yet, you can drive around Oakridge on Monday nights or Tuesday and see boxes stacked on the curb-new TV's, Stereos, Computers, you name it.
- M. Don't give your house key to a valet parking attendant. It takes only a few minutes to make a copy, and more than likely your address is on your vehicle registration papers, right there in the glove compartment.
- N. Finally, never, never, never enter your residence if you come home and suspect your home has been broken into-this seems to be one of those things we all know, but for some reason we just have to "go in to be sure". Remember the robbers may be waiting inside. Leave immediately and call the police-let them go in, they know how to do it safely. (As an aside, someone recently told me that she came home, noticed the glass on her rear door was broken and the door was slightly ajar- and, instead of leaving and calling the police, she went inside and "straightened up my house because I didn't want the police to think I kept a messy house!" She had run out on an errand without making her bed or putting her breakfast dishes into the dishwasher-she was out of the house for less than an hour--instead of looking at a messy house the police could have been looking at a murder victim.

BE SAFE, NOT SORRY.

Time for a chuckle

By: E.S.

"Can you read this?"

Aoccdnrig to a rscheraerch at an Elnigsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mttajer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can siltl raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by it slef but the wrod as a wlohe.

I know this was a real pain to type because I found myself automatically correcting the spelling errors-unbelievable!

OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

Mary Musseman

I heard that the October 14th **COFFEE** went very well. I was a little under the weather with a cold. Thank you to Jo Dietz for the use of her lovely home. Thank you also to Kay Abrams, Gwen Garrett, Val Harper, Mary Jo Herring, and Sarah Traylor for the delicious refreshments.

OUT TO LUNCH will be at Cappuccino's Italian Bistro on **Friday, OCTOBER 24th**. Meet at the Oakridge Country Club parking lot at **11:00 a.m.** R.S.V.P. to **Valerie Harper** at 972-495-7236.

CANASTA LESSONS will be on **Wednesday, OCTOBER 29th**, at **1:00 p.m.** at the home of **Barbe Brunette** located at 2806 Big Oaks. Call Barbe for more details. 972-530-4288.

A combined **FUN ON THE RUN and LUNCH** will be at the Arboretum on **Friday, OCTOBER 31st**. We'll leave the O.C.C. parking lot at **10:30 a.m.** R.S.V.P. to **Becky Parks**, 972-495-8776.

Our next **COFFEE** will be **Tuesday, NOVEMBER 11th**, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of **Gail Durbin**, 3322 Greenview Drive 972-495-6045.

E.T.C. will meet on **Monday, NOVEMBER 10th** at **1:00 p.m.** at **Becky Parks**, 2910 Laurel Oaks and again on **Monday, NOVEMBER 17th** at **1:00 p.m.** at **Roberta Jones**, 2601 Oak Point.

Check with **Mary Pattie**, 972-496-6486 for **BRIDGE** dates and times.

Barbe Brunette, 972-530-4288 leads the daytime **CANASTA** on **Tuesdays** at 1:00 p.m. and **Margaret Fowler**, 972-530-8585 keeps track of the evening group, which plays every other **Monday** at 6:30 p.m.

STITCH & CHAT meets on the 3rd **Tuesday** of each month. Our next get together will be on **NOVEMBER 18th**, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of **Norene Murphy**, 2830 Stoneridge 972-530-6669. We'd love for you to join our group.

BOOK CLUB will meet this month on **Friday, NOVEMBER 21st**, 10:00 a.m. We'll be discussing *The Guardian* by Nicholas Sparks. Please join us at Dianne Winter's located at 2805 Oak Springs Dr.

Any questions regarding Daytimers should be directed to **Chris Beyers** 972-530-8292 or **Mary Musseman**, 972-414-1098. 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.



"LET SUE DO IT"

SO THE REFRIGERATOR REPAIRMAN IS COMING TODAY BUT YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT MEETING?

"LET SUE DO IT"

OKAY—YOU NEED A WEEK AWAY, BUT KITTY AND ROVER DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE KENNEL?

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FALL HOME MAINTENANCE TIPS

By Michele Dawson

There are a number of indoor maintenance projects that most homeowner's can do to help maintain their safety and health as well as reduce heating costs. Although the U.S. Government doesn't have regulations mandating regularly scheduled chimney inspections, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, The Environmental Protection Agency, the National Fire Protection Association and the American Lung Association all recommend regular maintenance of your home heating and cooling system as well as your chimney. Here are some suggestions:

1. Find a good chimney sweep. A chimney sweep installs, cleans, maintains your fireplace, evaluates performance, offers suggestions to improve performance, educates you about safe and efficient operation and sweeps your chimney, to prevent carbon/soot buildup and a potential fire. Be sure your sweep is certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA).
2. Vacuum your a/c-heating vents and outlets frequently, to remove any dust, lint, animal dander, pollen, plant and mold spores, bacteria and other contaminants so this stuff isn't blown back into your home for you and your family to inhale. The American Lung Association says you should change your furnace filter (in the summer change your a/c filter frequently) because breathing in contaminants can have a negative impact on your health, ranging from irritation of the eyes and/or respiratory tissues to potentially more serious long-term effects such as decreased lung function and/or cancer. Allergic reactions, asthma attacks and infectious diseases can all be triggered also. Avoid those cheap air filters, spend the extra few dollars and get good ones and change them regularly. If you have pets in your home you will need to change them more frequently.
3. Remove the grills on your forced air system and vacuum inside the ducts as far as you can reach. This is a lot cheaper than hiring one of those companies to clean your vents and ducts, and is generally pretty effective.
4. Call your furnace maintenance company to check out your system before cold weather sets in-they should check fan belts for wear, looseness or noise and clean fan blades and other areas of any dirt and dust buildup as well as make sure that your gas furnace pilot light or starter is working properly as well as your thermostat.
5. Now is a good time to have your air-conditioner drainage pipe cleaned also, to prevent mold or mildew from building up inside of it during the winter. (it's inside your house so it isn't going to get cold so mold/mildew can still grow in there-yuck!
6. Check all doors to the outside to make sure they shut tightly. Replace weather stripping around outside doors if needed- it can save you money on your heating bills. While you're doing this, check other doors for ease of use to make sure they're closing properly to ensure that your foundation isn't in need of repair-doors that don't close properly or are hard to close can be a warning

sign of foundation problems. Get this checked out before it becomes a costly problem.

7. Check your garage door-make sure the rubber weather strip along the bottom hasn't become worn, torn or unattached. These aren't hard to replace, can be ordered via the internet or purchased at your local home store. A good seal not only helps keep out cold air but also helps keep rain/snow/ice from getting in under the door or debris from blowing in-and-helps keep any pesky little critters from sneaking into your garage for the winter. You can even get a rubber gasket for the edge of the floor of the garage to fit tightly against the one that goes along the bottom of the actual door.
8. NEVER-NEVER-NEVER- run your vehicle inside your closed garage. It takes little time for carbon monoxide to build up inside a closed garage and leak into your home.
9. Check around your windows, make sure the caulking hasn't dried out and cracked over the summer, scrape it off and re-caulk where needed. Make sure windows that open close tightly. Heat goes out and cold air comes in around those that don't close/lock properly and your heating bills go up.
10. Use a hose and wash any debris/leaves etc. from inside your outside a/c unit. Buy a cover or make one from a heavy duty plastic drop cloth and duct tape to cover your outside air conditioning unit and cover the unit as soon as it gets cold and you no longer need your a/c. Don't forget to take it off before using the a/c in the spring!
11. Get some insulated wrap and wrap outside faucet pipes before it gets cold. Get some faucet covers and have them ready so you can put them on at the first freeze warning.
12. Get ready to drain and store outdoor hoses. Ok-that's enough-sit down and rest and enjoy the beautiful fall weather -oh darn, I forgot, there's still those leaves to rake!



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Friends in Oakridge:

First of all I would like to say how much my family and I are enjoying being residents of Oakridge. Everyone has been most sincere and kind and has welcomed us with open arms. You all have made our house feel like a home. Oakridge is truly a great place to live!

Many of you are aware that Jeff Muzzy resigned his position as City Manager and also with a vote of 8-2 to pay him a severance pay of \$344,000. Councilman Dunning and myself were the opposing votes on this matter. Based on the conversations that I had with Mr. Muzzy regarding his severance, I did not feel that this was an appropriate amount for someone who resigned on their own. I also felt that this sets a precedent in future negotiations with other employees who report to the council. I do feel that Mr. Muzzy did a great job for the city and I have a great deal of respect for him, but I tried to put aside my personal feelings for him and make a judgment call based on what I felt the citizens would want as well as what I felt was

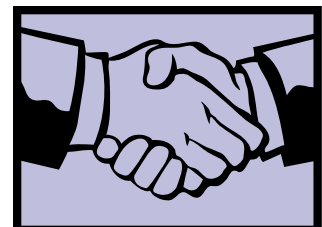
right. Please note that these are only my opinions, and I think that the council missed an opportunity to lead.

Council also voted to hire Assistant City Manager Bill Dollar to replace Mr. Muzzy. I feel that Mr. Dollar is a great choice to lead Garland in the upcoming years. He has been with the city for 32 years, with 18 in the City Manager's office. He has great leadership abilities, and has a good vision for the city. I look forward to working with him to continue to make Garland a better place.

If you would like to discuss these issues, or any other, please contact me at 972-495-8028 or council7@ci.garland.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Mark Monroe

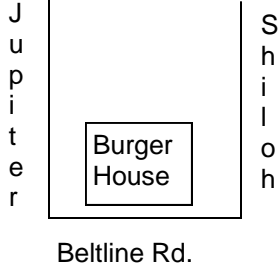




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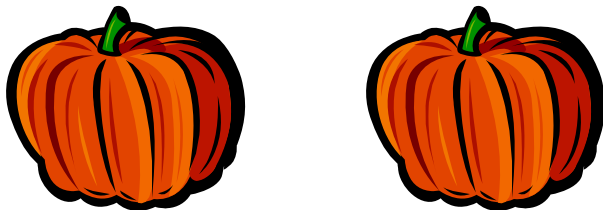
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TIME FOR A CHUCKLE
 By: E.S.

One of life's big mysteries-how can a 2 pound box of chocolates make a woman gain 5 pounds!
 Marriage advice---Don't marry a beautiful person. They may leave you. Of course, an ugly person may leave you too, but who cares?

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Councilman, Mark Monroe	972-495-8028
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Good News! Incidents for the month of September -
- From Sept 1 through Sept 27th Oakridge had only 1 incident, a criminal mischief in the 2000 block of Diamond Oaks on 9/9 between 7pm and 8am -- Way to Go ! Read below, maybe this story will help keep our rate down.

C.O.P. Hours for September

During the month of Sept. the C.O.P. logged over 70 patrol hours. This increase is partially due to our two new patrollers Kathleen Gannon and Mark Edwards being out there. Remember, if you would like to join the C.O.P. give us a call and we will get an application to you.

Now for "the rest of the story"

"Blitz Blitzes Oakridge"

August was extremely bad for Oakridge because we had 13 incidents. However, I'd like to relate a story associated with one of these incidents. Some names have been expunged to protect the "guilty", but, it's true and taken directly from the police report about this particular incident.

In the early morning hours of 8/9/03 officers were dispatched to the 2600 block of Big Oaks in reference to a "suspicious person". Two of Garland's units observed two subjects in the alley. When one of the officers illuminated (used those blinding lights!) the suspicious persons ran--one of the officers gave chase. A third officer responded and found one of the subjects hiding in the back yard in the 2500 block of Big Oaks. Now here I have to tell you the third officer has a ride along partner, a K-9 dog---Officer "Blitz" who doesn't take no for an answer! Obviously Officer Blitz had no intention of letting these two get away. After taking subject 1 into custody, "Officer Blitz" led the other officers to another back yard nearby where they found surgical gloves and a black hard case with golf clubs inside. The case had the name of an Oakridge resident living in the 2400 block of Lone Oak. Officer "Blitz" then tracked to still another back yard of Big Oaks where suspect 2 was located. The suspect apparently was under the influence of something(s) because he was foolish enough initially to refuse to give up---but apparently decided to do so when Officer Blitz gave him his "winning smile" with all those gleaming white teeth! Officer Clark, Blitz's owner went to Lone Oak, returned the golf clubs and made the necessary reports--all of this occurred around 3 in the morning before the victims were even aware of the theft.

When I read this report I was surprised because the following week I got to meet Officer Clark and his K-9 partner, Officer Blitz, at one of our crime watch coordinators meetings. Of course, at that time I did not know of Officer Blitz's recent trip to Oakridge. These two culprits may have committed other crimes here in Oakridge and without Blitz, they might have gotten away. Blitz, like Garland's other K-9's were all born in Ger-

many where it appears their breed have stronger bones and thus are better suited for police work. Blitz lives with Officer Clark and will continue to do so even after K-9 retirement (Blitz has another year or two). Most don't know that commands given to Garland's police dogs are in a foreign language. Blitz is bilingual, he understands English but takes commands in an Eastern European language.

A word of warning---it is important when you see police cars in our area, especially during late evening hours, that you stay inside. It is highly possible that one of Garland's K-9 units is on the scene. Let them work without distraction or interruption!

HALLOWEEN

Halloween will be here soon ---please watch out for the little ghosts and goblins running around our neighborhood. Help keep Oakridge a safe place for them to enjoy this all too fleeting period in their childhood. DRIVE SAFELY and SLOWLY, THEY ARE EXCITED AND MAY NOT BE WATCHING OUT FOR YOU!



OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

Halloween Party

The Oakridge Women's Club had their annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 19th. The kids enjoyed the games and treats. Our next event will be an adult Christmas Party and a kid's Christmas Party in which they will get to meet Santa.

If you would like more details about upcoming events or joining the OWC, please contact our new President, Tracy Murphy at 972-496-3165.

The 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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MEMBERSHIP

Jackie Griffin

We have reached 530 members! The directory was given out at the last General Membership meeting on October 2nd. And those of you who did not attend will be receiving them in the mail. If you do not get a directory by the end of October please feel free to call me at 972-530-4777.

My thanks go to Brenda Olive who was a big help in getting the directory out this year, and to Bill Olive for taking them to be mailed. If there are any errors please call me – I can't correct the directory but I can correct the membership list! If your neighbor hasn't joined yet, ask them why not and encourage them to sign up!

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