
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 12 No. 06

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

November - 2003

Observations by Mike Rose

The holiday seasons are upon use. Were did this year go? In a few weeks the youngsters will be out of school and as a result we must all become more careful drivers as the kids will be out and about throughout our community. It is better to slow down and save a life than to try and make up few minutes of travel time. We all can make our streets safer. Be a defensive driver.

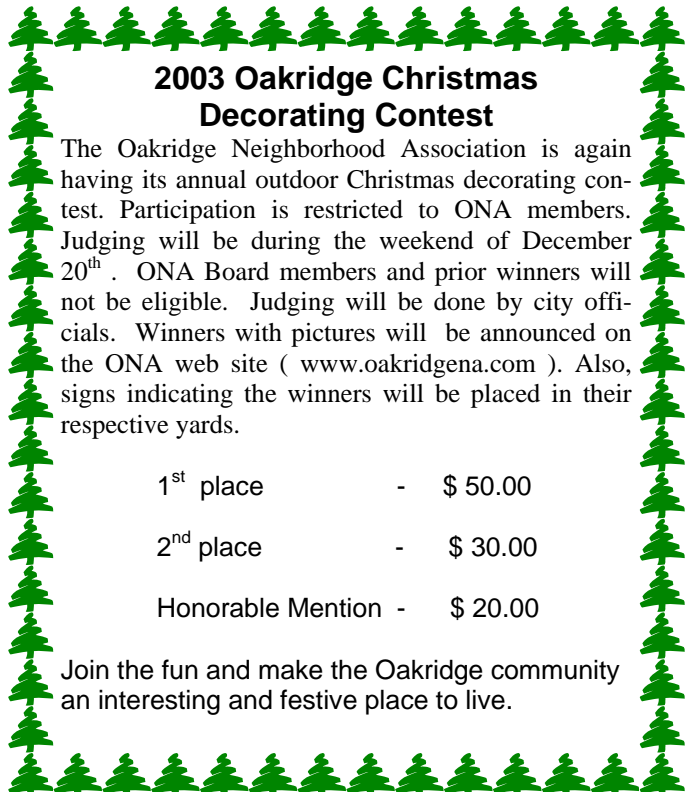
Your ONA Board has been actively working towards improving the environment of our community. We have upgraded or added to the irrigation systems; we have replaced or added shrubs; we have repainted the Oakridge entrance signage; we have improved accent seasonal floral plantings and we are working on adding lights at the major entrances as well as repainting the bridge over Duck Creek. All this has been done to improve our neighborhood. As the Board continues to improve our neighborhood it is hoped that our home values continue to grow. We as individuals can help to improve our community by continuing to maintain our own homes appearance both outside as well as inside. Our home is one of biggest investments. We all need to work together in this regard.

There has been a reoccurring situation appearing at the various Oakridge entrances. There is **NO** property owned by the ONA. All the land at our entrances is owned by the City of Garland. The ONA over the years has made the decision (and continues to) to maintain these amenities. One can only imagine what our entrances would look like if we relied on the city to keep them up! Because these entrances are City property City Codes apply. The City allows for temporary signs (garage sale, home sale, etc. etc.) only to be placed on private property. One must obtain the permission of the private property owner in order to place a sign on their property. The City Code folks as well as several ONA individuals work together to remove all signs located on City property. We have had to replace or repair irrigation lines / heads as well as shrubs or flowers. It is frustrating to continue to fight this situation. The

Board knows our residents would like to place a sign out along a major street but the City has its codes and they continue to enforce these codes. The City appreciates all community organizations that help in this regard. The ONA Board would appreciate it if all folks living in our community would spread the word that signs are not to be placed in / on City property. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping our neighborhood beautiful.

As you may have noticed, the ONA will be sponsoring its annual Christmas decorating contest. The details may be found on the front page of this issue of the ONA newsletter. It would be grand if we all participated and made our community a wonder to behold.

The ONA Board would like to wish all a safe, joyous and happy holiday season. Be careful at home and while you are out and about. Have a HAPPY NEW YEAR !



2003 Oakridge Christmas Decorating Contest

The Oakridge Neighborhood Association is again having its annual outdoor Christmas decorating contest. Participation is restricted to ONA members. Judging will be during the weekend of December 20th. ONA Board members and prior winners will not be eligible. Judging will be done by city officials. Winners with pictures will be announced on the ONA web site (www.oakridgena.com). Also, signs indicating the winners will be placed in their respective yards.

1 st place	-	\$ 50.00
2 nd place	-	\$ 30.00
Honorable Mention	-	\$ 20.00

Join the fun and make the Oakridge community an interesting and festive place to live.

C.O.P./Crime Watch Report
By: Bill and Brenda Olive

Incidents for Oct.

- 10/7/03 Burglary Vehicle,
2100 block of Hearthside between 9pm & 7am
- 10/12/03 Burglary Vehicle,
2600 block of Ridge Oak Pl. between 8am & 5pm
- 10/15/03 Burglary Vehicle,
2700 block of Hickory Bend between 7pm & 8am
- 10/16/03 Criminal Mischief (\$500-\$1500 range),
2600 block of Meadowridge between 12 noon & 8pm
- Incidents from Nov. 1 - Nov. 8
- 11/5/03 Burglary Vehicle,
3400 block of Greenview Dr. between 10pm & 6am.
- 11/5/03 Burglary Home,
2800 block of Stoneridge between 6pm & 8am.
- 11/6/03 Criminal Mischief (\$50-\$500 range),
2700 block of Hickory Bend at 4am.

Bicycle Found:

A boy's bike was found at Oakridge Country Club around Nov. 1. If you lost a bike and think this is it give me a call. If you answer some identifying questions, we will deliver it to you. Call 972-495-3402

Halloween:

On Oct. 31st the C.O.P. had six patrollers out between the hours of 5pm and midnight. These patrollers used five vehicles during this time. The great news is that there were no recorded incidents within Oakridge by the Garland Police Dept. It was a pleasure to see all the youngsters out having a "fun" time.


Soliciting:

It appears the number of "solicitors" working the Oakridge area has somewhat diminished, either because of the change in the weather or our continued monitoring of these individuals. It is our hope that this trend will continue. We generally call the Garland Police when a solicitor violates city ordinance by placing fliers at homes where a "no soliciting" sign is exhibited. This is usually the only time when we do ask for police assistance with solicitors because of the current city ordinance. We have been in contact with GPD and confirmed our position regarding when we should call for an officer to help regarding solicitors. Usually, when they see the C.O.P. vehicles they leave the area, so if you see someone leaving fliers at homes where no soliciting signs are displayed, please give us a call.

Stop Sign Violations

Motorcycle officers from the "traffic division" of the GPD recently gave out many tickets to Oakridge residents who thought that the stop signs on Diamond Oaks and Moss were really "slow down" signs. The officers spent several days in Oakridge between 3pm and 4pm watching for violators. BE AWARE, however, that just because they were there during those particular hours it doesn't mean they can't or won't be there or elsewhere in Oakridge, at other times.

(continued on page 3)



"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?

"LET SUE DO IT"
 THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS
 (AND THE PRICES ARE REASONABLE)

- PET SITTING OR 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.)

New Item
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(continued from page 2)

They said they are more than willing to return and "meet and greet residents and visitors", who run stop signs. Next, perhaps the "speeders" on Big Oaks may be in for a surprise. Please, drive carefully!

Holiday Season:

We are about to start the fall/winter holiday season and because there is no December Newsletter, members of the C.O.P (Jim, Jim, Mark, Kathleen, Ken, Jane, Jerry, Bill, Bill, Paul, Brenda, June, & Donna) wish all a wonderful, safe holiday.

Remember, if you are going out of town, give us a call and we will try to keep an eye on your home while you're gone.

Now for some "**safety and security**" suggestions for the holiday season:

1. Make sure your lights have no damaged or loose wires to prevent fires or electrical shock. Toss any that may not be safe.

2. Never leave candles burning unattended. It only takes a second or two for a fire to begin dripping candle wax or for the flame to rise quickly or be blown into fabrics, etc. when a door is opened.

3. Don't overload your electrical circuits. A fire can develop in the wiring and be burning for sometime before you become aware of it. Most of our homes were built in the early '80's and the wiring is over 20 years old. If in doubt about the wiring, call a qualified, licensed electrician to check it out. Be safe, not sorry.

4. Be extra careful if you're climbing onto the roof of your home. All the roofs in Oakridge are sloped and it can be easy to slide right off.

5. When shopping- take only one or two credit cards with you. We strongly suggest that you don't put them in your purse (ladies); in fact, we suggest that you don't carry a purse at all. Either use a fanny pack, and put it in front, not on your hip or rear, or tuck your credit cards, driver's license, insurance/identification cards and a couple of dollars into a small cosmetic bag and slip it into your pocket (pants or skirt, or front pocket blouse or sweater). This makes it difficult for a pick-pocket to get to and makes it impossible for purse snatchers and, if you lose it, you have only 2 cards to cancel and replace and driver's license to replace.

6. For Men: carry your wallet in your front pocket when shopping. Carry your money in one pocket in a clip and your wallet in the other. Don't put it in your hip pocket, even one that is button down. Believe it or not it is easy to lift it, even from a buttoned pocket, without you knowing it. If you're wearing a jacket, you can put it in an inside front pocket, but watch out for someone bumping into you head on and lifting it. This is a common ploy of pick pockets.

7. Always lock your car when you exit it to go into a shopping center or store. This is a simple precaution to prevent someone from getting into and hiding in your vehicle awaiting your return. Always look at your vehicle as you are approaching it-if you spot a broken win-

dow or other damage don't go to the vehicle, immediately return to the store/mall and call the police.

8. Before you leave a store or mall, make sure you have your keys in hand, ready to enter your vehicle-if you have a security lock on the car, have it ready to be used so that you don't have to stand outside the vehicle and fumble for your keys.

9. Go shopping, make some purchases and return to your car, secret the items in the trunk. If you're planning to shop in another area/store in the mall which isn't immediately accessible to your vehicle, get in and drive the vehicle to a different location. Never, ever, shop at multiple stores and load your arms and hands down so that you can not get your keys out, can't easily see where you're going and/or run if you need to.

10. Every one tries to be friendly during the holidays, but, don't take a stranger (man or woman) into your vehicle. If someone needs help, use your cell phone and call the police. Remember, it's only been a year or so since one of our friendly residents was killed by someone who grabbed her at a mall. I'm not telling you to be rude, but, your life is more important than being friendly!

11. Watch for anyone who may be following you-either when driving home or walking in the store/mall. As you exit a store/mall, look around you to make sure no one is watching you.

12. As a final suggestion-we all know it's sometimes hard to find your vehicle when you exit a mall or large store. Two things you can do to help remember where you're parked. A. When you park, write a note to yourself on a piece of paper and put it in your pocket (I use a sticky note so I don't accidentally drop it). You can refer to it when you're finished shopping or feel it's time to put things in the car. B. Buy yourself a large, colorful, artificial flower, use some hot glue around the bottom of the flower at the stem to make sure it won't come off easily and after that dries tape the stem onto your radio aerial using some electrical (black) tape or other strong, weatherproof type tape. This will enable you to see your car above all the others in the parking lot. If you can't see it or if you don't remember where you parked, flag down a mall security vehicle and describe your vehicle to the driver, they will help you find your vehicle safely-don't get into the car with anyone other than mall security and don't ask anyone other than mall security to help you find your car.

AS ALWAYS, THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN WE GET SOME GRINCHES- SO ANYTHING THAT YOU PLACE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME FOR DECORATION SHOULD BE SECURED AGAINST THEFT AND VANDALISM.

Hopefully we have given you some suggestions you can use to help keep you safe and secure your belongings during this holiday season-without scaring you to death-that said-**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

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OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

Mary Musseman

I arrived back in town just in time for our November 11th **COFFEE** went very well. There was a full house at Gail Durbin's. Thanks to Gail, Mary Jensen, Valerie Harper, Trudy Schmidt, and JoAnn Williams for the delicious goodies.

Our next **COFFEE & COOKIE EXCHANGE** (3 dozen) will be on **Tuesday, DECEMBER 9th**, at **2:00 p.m.** (new time) at the home of **Mary Jo Herring**, 3213 Ridge Oak Dr. Please be ready to sing and celebrate.

E.T.C. will gather on **Monday, DECEMBER 15th** for a "Festive Luncheon". Call **Becky Parks** 972-495-8776 for time and place.

STITCH & CHAT is back on track on **Tuesday, DECEMBER 16th**, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of **Norene Murphy**, 2830 Stoneridge 972-530-6669. Please stop by and see the progress on the quilt that Norene and I are making.

Our **DECEMBER 19th BOOK CLUB** will be sharing Christmas traditions at **Mary Jensen's**, 3021 Oak Point Dr. at 10:00 a.m. Our **January** selection is *Big Cherry Holden* by Adriana Trigiana.

Here are a few names and numbers in case you're interested:

BRIDGE - Mary Pattie 972-496-6486

CANASTA-DAY-Barbe Brunette 972-530-4288

CANASTA-NIGHT-Margaret Fowler 972-530-8585

Secret Pals - There's still time to participate if you missed the November meeting. Contact **Sharon Carlton** at 972-530-4317.

Since the O.N.A. newsletter and Dana Hopkins get a vacation in December, the DAYTIMERS want to wish **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** to one and all. Please drive responsibly during the holiday season.

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.

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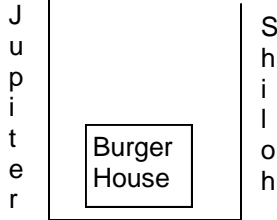
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Dear Residents of Oakridge:

I wanted to give you an update on recent changes that John Teel has implemented in the Code Compliance Department. Most important is that your code inspector is now Tim George. Tim should first address any concerns or questions you have regarding code. Should a problem arise over the weekend, there will now be someone available to answer requests. The number is the same (972-485-6400), and a prompt will lead you to the weekend code inspectors.

Last week, Council attended a fall retreat to discuss next year's budget and how to bridge the gap of our shortcomings. Most of the time was spent talking about the upcoming bond program. The rest of the afternoon was dedicated to development and re-development. I believe that there were some beneficial ideas that came out of the event and I am very enthusiastic about what will happen in the next year.

I hope that you and yours have a happy and safe holiday season. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 972-495-8028 or council7@ci.garland.tx.us.

Mark Monroe
 Councilman, District 7



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Water & Sewer	972-205-3210
Councilman, Mark Monroe	972-495-8028
Off. Sam Castorani NPO	214-878-4663
castorani@ci.garland.tx.us	

Garden Corner

By: Garden Lover

This is the time to plant bulbs for spring blossoms if you haven't done so already. If you're planting tulips, be sure to intersperse some daffodils with them to prevent the squirrels from eating your tulips (they don't like daffodils). You can also use some of the "paper skins" from daffodils and put them in with your tulip bulbs if you want to plant daffodils elsewhere in the yard. Always try to group the bulbs in clusters of five or more, this makes for a much prettier show, and, if the squirrels happen to grab one bulb, you'll still have a nice display. Another suggestion to help fend off the pesky little critters is to plant your tulip bulbs, then insert a pansy in the hole before you push in the soil. This helps, but won't completely discourage them if they're very hungry.

Now is also the time to prune hedges, roses and other plants back- by now you should have pruned your roses by at least 1/3, and before frost, a second 1/3 should be pruned. At the same time, put some food/insect repellent/killer like BAYERS ROSE CARE around your roses. This will not only feed them through the winter but also help take care of any insects, grubs, etc. so that spring comes you will have nice healthy plants. Mulch should be placed around all your plants to help keep the ground warmer but be careful not to place the mulch against the trunk of the plant to prevent fungus. You can also purchase a cold barrier cloth at your home center, it's flexible and allows water and air to circulate, but helps keep frost

bite or cold burn from affecting tender plants. It works well on roses-I even kept some petunias over the past two winters using this stuff. Obviously, some plants will need to be brought inside for the winter. Now is the time to prune them back (within reason) and reduce the amount of water you give them and no fertilizer. Before bringing them inside, take them out of their pots (or the ground), check the roots for insect or nematode damage, then repot them in fresh soil and water well (don't soak them, just make sure the soil is seated and air pockets don't exist. Take them inside immediately after repotting them to ensure that you don't bring insects (like ants and roaches) inside. I store my plants in my garage, it's not too cold because your vehicles put off some warmth (and carbon monoxide) when you drive in. I also installed a grow light so that they would have some light occasionally but I usually forget to put it on. I mist once a week and water very lightly about once every other a week. If the soil seems overly dry you can water more frequently, just don't make the soil "wet" or you will get fungus and mold. You don't want growth, just life. No fertilizer at this point. In late February or early March begin watering more frequently and include a light liquid fertilizer to encourage the plant to wake up. When it's warm enough, you can take the plant back outside!

Looking forward to seeing lots of beautiful flowers throughout Oakridge this spring-until then, enjoy the holidays and stay warm.

OAKRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB Upcoming Events

The Oakridge Women's Club has some great activities planned for December.

We will have a Limo ride, in which the members ride in a limo and look at Christmas lights. This year we will be going to Arlington to see the lights on December 10th. There is also an adult Christmas Party at Benihana; this has always been a favorite with the members. The Christmas Party at the Japanese Restaurant is on December 3rd. The kids will get to enjoy their own Christmas Party on December 14th, in which they get to meet Santa and take pictures with him. Our January meeting is on January 6, 2004, at a restaurant that will be announced.

If you would like more details about the upcoming events or joining the OWC, please contact our 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 and 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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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!



Gwen Garrett, Realtor
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