
◊ Oakridge News ◊

Vol. 12 No. 07

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

January - 2004

Dear Oakridge Residents:

Happy New Year! I hope all of you are all rested from the holiday season. I wanted to let you know what Garland has in store for the upcoming year.

First of all, we have a new Solicitation Ordinance in place. It will require that business solicitors register in the City Secretary's office prior to doing home-to-home solicitation. It will also give homeowners the opportunity to place "Do not Solicit" signs in their yards. It will not, however, affect non-profit organizations. Although it will not completely eliminate unwanted solicitation, it will give neighborhoods an additional tool in order to stop unwanted ones. The registration will begin in March, allowing the City's Secretary's office to prepare for the new ordinance.

Secondly, additional development along 190 will be on the horizon for '04. Look for new restaurants and retail stores in the New Year. Although many of you are aware that the mall has started construction, the official groundbreaking should be in the next couple of months. As this begins, a lot of new development in the adjacent areas should prosper as well.

A bond election will be placed on the May 2004 ballot. About 75% of it is street reconstruction. The other 25% is parks, libraries, and public safety projects, to name a few.

A Charter review is set for the month of January. Traditionally, this is reviewed every 2 years if council chooses to do so. The committee will have to diligently meet in the month of January in order to give their suggestions to council. The items selected will then also be placed on the May ballot.

Capital Improvement projects for '04 include 78,543,000 worth of improvements. Topping the list are streets/transportation at 42, 894,000 and public safety at 12,901,000. Others include parks, cultural arts, drainage, library, landfill, and facilities. These projects are a part of the 1991 and 1997 bond programs, which are 98% and 86% complete.

As always please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Mark Monroe
Councilman, District 7
City of Garland
972-495-8028
council7@ci.garland.tx.us



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:

Albertsons, Mark Drake
Oakridge Country Club,
Joe Don Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Darrel Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dutch
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Gingerich
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Green
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Griffin
Ms. Sue Hageland & Family
Mr. Stephen Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Lowell McNally
Mrs. Clara Mae Meurer
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Miles
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Musseman
Mr. & Mrs. Vance Payne
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rummel
Mr. & Mrs. John Sholden
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Webster

This year I had two families to join us in delivering the dinners. One family is new to Oakridge and bought their children and the other brought their grandchildren. The firemen gave the kids a tour of the fire truck and took pictures.

(continued on page 2 - Thank You)

(continued from page 1 - Thank You)

It was very special for all of us. Station 3 got a call while we were there and had to load up and leave, so this was exciting for the kids to see the firemen in action.

I received a thank you note from Station 6, which I will share, expressing 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.

Thank note from Station 6:

Mrs. Payne,

I am writing to say thank you on behalf of Station 6 for the generosity you and your association showed us on Christmas Day. The dinner was great. It was very nice of ya'll to remember us. On the holidays it is especially difficult to be away from your family, but people like you make it more bearable and remind us why we do this job. Once again thank you!

The Firemen of Station 6

2003 Oakridge Christmas Decorating Contest

As you have previously read, the Oakridge Neighborhood Association held its annual outdoor Christmas decorating contest. Participation was restricted to ONA members. Judging was completed during the weekend of December 20th. ONA Board members and prior winners were not eligible.


The finalists in alphabetical order are :

- 3209 Bending Oaks, 2522 Creighton,
- 2201 Fulton, 2809 Hickory Bend
- 2614 Richland, 3101 Ridge Oak,
- 2505 Ridge Oak Court, 2702 Ridgeview.

The judges completed their task, however we have no consensus winner. Also, the photographer had missed the settings on his camera, thus no pictures. At is January meeting the ONA board will discuss what to do with the total prize money.

We hope everyone truly enjoyed driving around our community and looking at all the very nice decorations. It seemed like there were many more homes participating in making Oakridge a festive community this holiday season.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



“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)

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- MAIL/PAPER PICKUP (NOMINAL CHARGE)
- ERRANDS (BANK, CLEANERS, PHARMACY)
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- RIDES (I.E. SOCCER, ORTHO, DOCTOR, ETC., ETC.)

New Item GiftCertificates

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COP/CRIME WATCH REPORT

by Bill & Brenda Olive

December was a month filled with incidents of criminal activity within our community. Unfortunately, only 5 incidents were recorded by the police department, (even though C.O.P. knows there were more than 20)-because many residents failed to report problems to the police department. The criminal acts ranged from theft of expensive Christmas decorations, malicious damage to other decorations, driving across at least 15 front yards, destruction or damage to mailboxes, broken vehicle windows and paint ball shots onto homes. This type of behavior has got to be stopped. When residents don't report incidents to the police, the police don't have a clear picture of exactly what is going on in our area. At the same time it sends the message to the perpetrators that it's ok to do their dirty work in Oakridge because our residents do not care or won't stand up for themselves. This can only lead to more and worse incidents in the future. Please remember, the C.O.P. patrollers are not the police department, we are a bunch of mostly retired individuals who volunteer our time to try to assist in deterring criminal activity in Oakridge. During the month of December we spent countless hours-as late as 3:30am, in an effort to curb these crimes. We also asked for additional assistance from the police department. C.O.P. can not do this alone--the other residents of Oakridge must also do their part by making sure that they remain vigilant and report any criminal activity, no matter how insignificant you may think it is, to the police department. Don't worry about "crying wolf" or that even if you call, the police won't respond-they will. You can also give us a call-after you've called the police-so that we can follow up.

On January 7, 2004 we met with Chief Bates and City Manager Dollar to ensure that they were well aware of our problems. Both men indicated they will work toward helping us reach a satisfactory solution.

Here is how everyone can help:

1. If you are a victim of a crime (no matter how small), call the Garland Police Dept. immediately. If the crime is in progress, call 911, if it is after the fact, don't disturb the scene and call 972-205-2150, follow the voice mail instructions and report the

crime. If the police take the report over the phone ask for the "R" number (case number) and name of the officer taking the report. If an officer responds and comes to your home, ask that he/she write up a report, get the "R" number and ask the officer for his/her business card.(All Garland Police Officers have business cards!)

2. If you see something suspicious contact the Garland PD, or, if you feel uncomfortable with that, call us at 972-495-3402, or stop one of our COP patrollers and give them the information-don't wait to do this -give the police an opportunity to "nail" the bad guys-or at least verify that nothing is wrong before they leave the area.

3. Watch out for your neighbors. Keep an eye out for any strange comings and goings. Find out their names and phone numbers-and where they work so they can be reached in an emergency. Share your information with them.

4. Watch for vehicles that don't appear to belong in our neighborhood and drivers who might be looking for a place to rob.

5. Make sure that your home is as robber proof as possible.

6. If possible, place your vehicles in the garage overnight. If you have to leave your car outside, set the alarm, use "the club", and by all means, take anything out of the vehicle that might look inviting to a thief.

7. Buy a sign that says "beware of dog" or "alarm system" even if you don't have either one.

8. Never let anyone working on your house know that you live alone or tell them you won't be home. Lie-say your son, husband, wife, daughter, etc. is sleeping or visiting a friend for a few minutes, or you can say that you are in the middle of a project and won't be answering the phone between -&-hours, say that you're expecting guests and won't be answering the phone, etc. If you're going away, disconnect your answering machine. A friend has a message on her machine (a male voice) that says, "I'm currently otherwise engaged, if you're selling or promoting something hang up the phone now, if you're giving me a million dollars, hang on a second and I'll be right with you. If you're a friend, leave a message and I'll call you back after I finish my current activity".

(continued on page 4 - Crime)

(continued from page 3 - Crime)

The message is so long that most of those "machines" that call hang up before the message finishes, and real friends all know to leave their message.

9. If you list your name in the phone book as Nancy Smith, change it to N. Smith.

10. A "fake" video camera can be bought for very little at an electronics store. Put it up on your house in the alley or near your front entrance. Only you will know that it isn't real.

11. Sit down with friends or neighbors and "brainstorm" about security. You would be surprised at the things that might come up.

12. Help by becoming a COP patroller. Call 972-495-3402

13. Get a "no soliciting" sign! Call 972-495-3402

14. Never let uninvited strangers (people such as repairmen that you've called, or your exterminator are "invited") into your home when you're alone. Stay near repairmen and the exterminator while they're inside, don't allow them to wander freely around your home alone. For that matter, don't let uninvited strangers in even when you're not alone-don't give anyone an opportunity to "case the joint" as they say.

15. Teach your children and/or grandchildren not to tell people who call or come to the door that you are not at home or are alone with that child. Children should be taught not to answer the door-let an adult do it, or, at the very least to never open the door to anyone. Yell-who is it?-make sure it's someone you know before that door is opened. Yes, this may sound paranoid-but, in this day and

age you can never be too careful. If it's a salesperson, just yell out that you're not interested, if they don't step away from the door, tell them you're calling the police-and if they don't leave-do it!

16. Make sure your children-especially teenagers-read these suggestions, they are more likely to open the front door before determining who is outside.

We would like to put together a phone tree for Oakridge so that residents could be contacted immediately when there is a need. If you are home most of the day and would be willing to receive or to make a call to others on your street to ask them to look or watch for something that might be important contact us at 972-495-3402. This is not part of "blue siren" but rather, an Oakridge tool.

C.O.P is also looking into the possibility of obtaining video surveillance devices for use in the Oakridge community. This equipment can be costly, but it could prove extremely effective in prevention and/or solving crime. We will let you know if this is financially and legally feasible.

A big thank you to Mark Edwards for helping us put up the ribbon and garland on the Duck Creek bridge this year-and thanks to all the golfers and country club employees who took the time to stop and put the garland back in place after it was blown "over rail" on those windy days-we really appreciate everyone's help.

Oakridge Citizens on Patrol logged over 704 hours during 2003. Hopefully, we can make 1,000 hours a goal for 2004, but, we will need additional volunteers-please make joining the C.O.P. your goal for 2004.



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Take a Minute to Laugh

By E.S.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

I've still got it, but nobody wants to see it.

I'm getting into swing dancing--not on purpose, it's just that some parts of my body are prone to swinging.

Don't let aging get you down..it's too hard to get back up!

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
Tim George	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. Sam Castorani NPO	214-878-4663
castorani@ci.garland.tx.us	

Oakridge Daytimers
Christine Beyers

Christmas is a time for sharing and our December Meeting and Cookie Exchange, held at the lovely home of Mary Jo Herring, not only fulfilled, but exceeded all expectations. We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, filled with delicious refreshments, laughter and singing of traditional Christmas songs. Everyone received a giftbox of "love" handcrafted by the members of the ETC group. And, what a wonderful surprise to be entertained by our very own Oakridge Out-of-Timers (Pat Cathcart, Mary Moch, Sue Pauly and Suzanne Snow) who performed in harmony several Christmas selections. Speaking of surprises --what Christmas celebration would be complete without an appearance from Santa -- with a jolly "Ho, Ho, Ho" Santa appeared at the front door. Our thanks to Henry Pauly for being a great sport as Santa.

How quickly Christmas festivities conclude and we move into a New Year. Roberta Jones' home was the location for our January Coffee on Tuesday the 13th. We enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by our food hostesses Nell Burt, Sharon Carlton, Pat Cathcart and Ruby Nell Orman. Don't forget if you did not pay your dues at the January meeting; make your payment to our Treasurer, Suzanne Snow, as soon as possible.

Our February Coffee will be Tuesday, **February 10th at 2:00 p.m.** at the home of **Mary Musse-**

man, 3001 Oak Springs. Our February Coffee will actually be a Tea! -- but not the traditional English Tea we have enjoyed the past several years. This year, one of our members, Kazue Masuda, will share her knowledge and expertise and demonstrate a Japanese Tea Ceremony. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss this wonderful experience.

The various activity groups are back on track. If you are interested in any of the following groups, please contact the group leaders listed below. They would love to have you join their group and share the fun.

BOOK CLUB, Betty Thomas, 972-414-1547

BRIDGE GROUP, Mary Pattie, 972-496-6486

CANASTA (Daytime), Barbara Brunette, 972-530-4288

CANASTA (Evenings), Margaret Fowler, 972-530-8585

ETC, Becky Parks, 972-495-8776

STITCH & CHAT, Norene Murphy or Mary Musseman, 972-414-1098

Any questions regarding Daytimers should be directed to **Chris Beyers** 972-530-8292 or **Mary Musseman**, 972-414-1098. The Oakridge Daytimers is a social organization for adult women living in Oakridge. The Daytimers promote the Oakridge community and the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

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Garden corner

By garden lover

This month is not a "gardening" month because it is too cold for digging and planting, however it is the time for you to make sure that any unwanted debris is picked up and properly disposed of. Old dead plants, broken limbs, and leaves should be removed so that things look neat, even if they're brown and dormant. (Don't let dry leaves pile up around the foundation-it's an open invitation for insects like roaches and ants-those pesky little things that are always looking for an easy entry into the house, and come spring-you may find that the rotting debris and moisture have created a haven for termites or wood rot).

Any plants that are still outside and might be susceptible to the cold should be protected-you can still buy the plant protection materials at your local home supply store, or, use old unwanted sheets. I use two sheets, one on top of the other on some of my more needy plants, only 1 on others. They may not look as nice as those plant protection materials, but they add some color in the garden and allow air and moisture to get through without weighing down the plants too much. Avoid solid plastic covers-they don't allow air or water inside and if the sun hits them it can cook your plants in a couple of hours. IF, it gets above freezing and the sun is shining, I remove the top sheet from the doubled up ones, if it gets

above 37 degrees I take them all off just to give the plants an opportunity to get some sunlight. You just have to remember to put them back on before the sun goes down so that they don't get chilled however. Don't forget to water your pansies or other winter blooms-but do it in the morning when they have time to drink before the sun sets and the ground or soil drops below freezing. Remember, it is not necessary to sprinkle your lawn as frequently during the winter-most grasses are dormant and don't require as much water. If you do sprinkle, be careful of sprinkler "over-spray" on the roadway, you can cause a serious accident by allowing your sprinklers to spray onto the road and ice over-and possibly incur some serious legal ramifications. Finally, if there is frost or snow or ice on the grass-avoid walking on it. Your footsteps can cause the grass to die-in the spring you'll have nice little brown footprints in your lawn!

Now is the time for relaxing, or working out with weights to build up those arm, back and shoulder muscles, looking over home and gardening magazines, placing orders from your seed catalogs and planning for your springtime gardening! OK, ok, you can have a cup of cocoa with lots of marshmallows while you're reading,, you'll just have to lift those weights a few extra minutes! No, you can't just put in green concrete...



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