


Oakridge News



Vol. 12 No. 10

A Publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association

May 2004

Observations - Mike Rose

It is finally here—the tenure of the current Oakridge Neighborhood Association Board of Directors will come to an end with the election of the new officers / directors at the May 27 General Membership meeting. Some will say that is ok, while others would like the direction this Board took the ONA to continue. We must extend the same courtesy to the new ONA Board that was granted to the outgoing Board. The entire “old” ONA Board would like to thank the members of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association for its continued support. A personal note; I would like to thank the Board for their continued guidance over these past many years.

Do you know who is on the ONA Board without looking at their names in this newsletter? You should at least be aware of the many facets of our operating board? The folks who volunteer their time and energy must be commended for without their efforts one can only imagine what our community would look like. We have a monthly newsletter full of information; we maintain a current (as much as possible) list of all living inside the walls of our community; we have one of the most active COP groups in the city; our landscaping remains among one of the most beautiful in the city not withstanding the many mandatory associations and their bigger budgets and we continue to have the ears of our city leaders. In addition to these we have a multitude of women’s groups who are active. See their articles in our monthly newsletter. I am sure I am leaving out individuals who have contributed to the continued growth of the ONA. There are those of you who will continue to do so on the new Board. Continuity is a good thing. Conti-

nity is necessary. The entire community thank you for your efforts.

If you are reading this issue you are one of the approximately 530 members of Oakridge. Please continue your membership as it is vital. As with any family there will be differences, but these differences should be worked out. Please do not let your differences fester. Talk with the new Board and they will do what they can to solve your concerns. We have 1,157 home in Oakridge and wouldn’t it be marvelous to achieve the 50% membership level. That would mean 30 more homes would have to join along with maintaining the current membership count. Except for mandatory associations there is not another community in Garland that can make that statement. As the letter that accompanied our annual membership invoice stated, there are those who will give of their time and money but all that is asked is that we **all** become members. Do your part and stay a member of the ONA. Talk to your neighbors to ensure they are members. By maintaining a strong and active association our property values will stay strong and our influence in the city will be strong.

Spring is a wonderful time of the year. All the new growth, newly planted flowers and generally a cleanup of ones yard and house occurs. Take a walk around your neighborhood and see the beauty in Oakridge. Keep it up folks as it is marvelous to see the beauty of Oakridge.

See you all at the **May 27** meeting.

May 27th - Meeting Information

6:30 p.m. Social

7:00 to 7:45 Presentation

8:00 Business Meeting

The ONA nominating committee submits this slate of officer nominees for 2004-2005. This list will be voted on at the May 27th meeting.

Officers:

President: Nelson Prater
Vice President: Keith Engler
Secretary: Gwen Garrett Bledsoe
Treasurer: Sherri Rutherford Franks

Directors:

District 1: Sue Cole
District 3: Mary Reed
District 5: Don Eagle
District 7: Scott Youzva

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Winter, Chairman
Sherri Rutherford Franks
Chuck Teske



“LET SUE DO IT”

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

“LET SUE DO IT”

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- RIDES (I.E. SOCCER, ORTHO, DOCTOR, ETC., ETC.)



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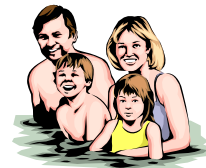
Garden Corner

By: Garden Lover

Are you overwhelmed by the lushness of our gardens and lawns this year? I know I am! Things are growing faster and blooming earlier than normal and I am having a hard time keeping everything pruned, cut and deadheaded. Isn't it great? There are a few things to keep in mind at this time of year, as the days get warmer (and they will) don't forget to water your container plants as they dry out faster than your lawn and the plants in the ground. Watch for snails, beetles and other insects and treat them aggressively before they kill your plants. Use a commercial spray or try beer (for snails) or a small amount of liquid dish detergent in a spray bottle for other insects. You'll have to use the beer and detergent more frequently than a commercial product, but both of these home remedies work. Pour the beer in an aluminum pie pan in late evening then place it on the ground near where you suspect or know you have

(continued on page 5 - see Garden)

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CRIME WATCH/C.O.P. REPORT

By: Bill and Brenda Olive

We had 4 incidents reported to Garland Police Department for the month of April; they are as follows:

- 4/3/04 between 4- 6 p.m. burglary of habitation
3300 block Greenview Dr.
- 4/17/04 approx. 1 a.m. criminal mischief
2000 block of Peakwood
- 4/29/04 between 10 p.m. & 6 a.m. burglary of
vehicle- 3000 block of Oak Point
- 4/29/04 between 10 p.m. & 6 a.m. burglary of
vehicle- 2700 block of Oak Point

If anyone has any information regarding any of the above incidents that may be useful (however unimportant you may think it is) please contact the Garland Police Department or the Citizens on Patrol. It is one of the great things about Oakridge- we work together as a community to help prevent incidents and oftentimes, a small bit of information may be the key to unraveling or preventing a criminal act. Don't hesitate to contact the police department or the Citizens on Patrol if you have information or any concerns.

Before moving on to the "Hardening of Target" segment we promised you last month, we want to thank Oakridge residents who have brought suspicious persons and vehicles to our attention. It is encouraging to see residents taking an active interest in the safety and welfare of our community! Many of these residents have utilized some of our previous suggestions and have been able to provide vehicle tag numbers, accurate descriptions of the vehicle and excellent descriptions of the vehicle's occupants. In some instances, we believe that the appearance of a marked C.O.P. vehicle may have scared some individuals sufficiently that they left Oakridge!

More good news: Our Neighborhood Police Officer, T.C. Blassingame, recently advised us that after reviewing District 12, Beat 7's (Oakridge) crime incident reports, there are no major criminal trends within Oakridge. Additional good news, there has been no gang activity in our neighborhood.

Warning: There is a new three way stop sign located at the corner of Laurel Oaks Drive and Big Oaks Drive. Traffic coming into Oakridge from Beltline does not have to stop. Please be extremely careful at this corner. A motorcycle officer has been spotted in the area- don't be the first to get a ticket for running this stop sign.

Hardening Targets

Hardening a Target is the terminology used by law enforcement to indicate ways one can make themselves, possessions, identity and homes safer and less

attractive to individuals' intent upon committing a criminal act. The purpose of this segment of our article is to make you aware of ways and means to protect your home. As many of you know from experience, criminals are not always satisfied with just stealing your possessions, oftentimes they also damage or destroy things that are irreplaceable personal items. This month we are discussing how to harden the target-your home-next month we will provide suggestions for your personal security and the following month we will review identity security and the following month-vehicular security.

Home: To begin you should walk around your home, inside and outside, and pretend you are a thief. Ask yourself, how would I break into this house? Does this house look like it would be easy to enter and exit unseen? From the outside, can I see anything inside that makes me want to break in? Are there any lights outside that would make me visible at night? Now look at the following:

1. Check windows and doors- are they easily pried or jimmied open. Is there a window left unlocked "just in case you or a family member is accidentally locked out." If so, be aware that a thief will quickly find it.

2. Do you have a key hidden outside "just in case..". Again, be aware that a thief will quickly find it. Instead, exchange keys with a neighbor or friend- tag each key with a code so that if someone else gains access to it they will not know whose key it is.

3. Can a patio-door be lifted out of its track or can the lock be forced? Purchase pins to insert into the frame to prevent lift out, they are inexpensive and easy to install. A novice thief can easily open the lock installed by the door manufacturer and slide the door open. Buy a metal paint roller extender, extend it to fit into the track of the door and "lock it" at that point. Insert it in the track and make sure it is in the track whether you are home or not. If you want to open the door slightly during the day, simply change the length of the extender by "unlocking it", then relocking it at a shorter length and reinserting it in the channel. Do not open the door far enough to allow someone to squeeze inside, and remember to readjust the extender when you close the door.

4. Can a French door be easily jimmied open? If so, buy a pin lock and install it in the frame to prevent opening.

5. Do you leave windows open day or night? Invest in a portable alarm that attaches to the frame with Velcro. They cost about \$10.00 each and emit a loud, annoying sound. At least it will alert you that someone has approached the open window and give you time to grab your cell phone to call police.

(continued on page 4 - COP Report)

(continued from page 3 - COP Report)

6. Never leave windows open while you are away, in the short time it takes to drive around the block a thief can be in your house.

7. Do not leave blinds or drapes fully open, tilt blinds upward so that someone looking in will only see the ceiling. Be aware that at night it is easy to see inside a lighted home.

8. Are bushes high enough for a thief to hide behind? Trim or remove them to prevent "cover" for a thief.

9. Statistics indicate that homes with well-manicured yards are less likely to be targeted by thieves. Keep your lawn and hedges cut.

10. Consider getting a Loud Dog or at least a sign that says "BEWARE OF DOG".

11. If you leave for work before the newspaper arrives, ask a neighbor to place it on your porch or some other prearranged place. Do not advertise that you are not at home.

12. If you're going on vacation, business trip or have another situation requiring your absence, notify at least two (2) neighbors when you're leaving, when you will return and where you can be reached in case of an emergency. Be a good neighbor and offer the same courtesy to your neighbors when they are going away. Garland Police offer a home check service for vacationing residents. You can also notify the Citizens on Patrol and they too will keep an eye out. Be aware however that the C.O.P. will not walk around the perimeter of your home as we are not permitted to do so, but we will notify the police if we see anything, front or back, that appears to be "out of place". We will remove advertising materials from your front door if requested.

13. Do you have an alarm system? Is it monitored? Have you tested it during the past month? Most monitoring companies suggest monthly testing to verify that all sensors are working correctly. (We have had some residents who learned their system was not being monitored even though they were paying for that service.) **USE YOUR ALARM SYSTEM!**

14. Install dust to dawn sensors in your front porch and rear lights. This way you don't have to remember to turn them on and off.

15. When you valet park, only give the ignition key to the attendant. It takes only minutes to copy a key and there is no need to give your house key to the attendant.

16. If you have a firearm in your home, know when it is legally correct to use it. If you don't plan

to or think you can't use it, don't keep it in your home for a criminal to find and either use it against you or someone else. Instead, take a course and learn how to use it and store it safely.

17. Remind children to never discuss with anyone what type of valuables you have and/or where you keep them. While it's important for them to trust their friends, kids will be kids, and a friend may inadvertently tell someone who isn't trustworthy.

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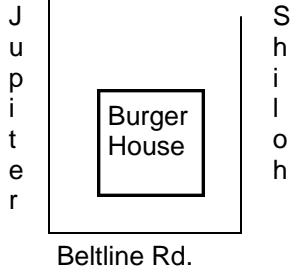
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(continued from page 2 - Garden)

snails. You will have to empty the pan and rinse and refill it every day until you have no more snails in the pan. This may take more time and beer than you expected-snails seem to love beer and they keep "bellying up to the bar" and they are messy! (That commercial stuff sounds better and better doesn't it?)

It's time to fertilize blooming plants with a 14-14-14 product to ensure blooming without a lot of greenery. It's also time to start looking at the greenery left from your bulbs- if it has turned brown down to the ground, dig the bulbs, clean them off, dry them and store them in dry peat moss or shredded newspaper, in a dark, cool place. I don't have to worry about digging tulip bulbs, squirrels took care of that chore for me. The neighborhood cats were feisty this spring so most of my daffodils were broken off and never had a chance to bloom. I have decided grass is easier so next year there will be no bulbs for the squirrels to eat and no wrestling ring for the cats!

Get out there and dig in the dirt, it is great therapy, enjoy the beautiful weather and do not forget to use sunscreen. Have to go; there are plants waiting to be planted and butterflies waiting to be admired!

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OAKRIDGE DAYTIMERS

Mary Musseman

Our May meeting was at The Los Rios Country Club. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and were entertained by a group of musicians called "The Survivors".

E.T.C. will depart from the Oakridge parking lot (by the pool) on **Monday, May 17th** at **9:30 a.m.** for an outing to McKinney. Shopping and lunch are the planned activities. Becky Parks at 972-495-8776 will coordinate this activity.

STITCH & CHAT is on **Tuesday, May 18th** at **10:00 a.m.** at the home of **Norene Murphy**, 2830 Stoneridge, 972-530-6669.

Our **BOOK CLUB** will meet at the home of **Jo Ann Williams**, 2725 Hickory Bend, 972-530-2938 on **May 21st** at **10:00 a.m.** May is **Readers' Choice**. The last meeting before summer will be on **June 18th** at **Mary Pattie's**, 2101 Windy Ridge, 972-496-6486 at **10:00 a.m.** *Traveler's Gift* by Andy Andrews will be discussed.

A new group called **LATE BLOOMERS** (a.k.a. Garden Group) will meet at the home of **Chris Beyers**, 2205 Fulton on **Wednesday, May 26th** at **10:00 a.m.**

Check with the following groups for their summer schedule:

BRIDGE

Mary Pattie 972-496-6486

CANASTA - DAY

Barbe Brunette 972-530-4288

CANASTA - NIGHT

Margaret Fowler 972-530-8585

LATE BLOOMERS

Eleanore Nelson 972-495-0060

Our first **COFFEE** after summer will be on **Tuesday, September 14th** at **10:00 a.m.** at the home of **Jo Dietz**, 2906 Oak Point, at **10:00 a.m.** Be sure and mark your calendars. Have a fun summer.

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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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
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Councilman, Mark Monroe	972-495-8028
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Dear Friends and Neighbors of Oakridge:

The election on Saturday, May 15 was most impressive! The voter turnout from Oakridge as well as the whole city was great! I want to thank you for vote, as it will influence the progress that this city will see over the next 10 years. We strive to be an All-American city and this past election will help us get there.

Please be aware that a third stop sign has been added at Laurel Oaks/ Big Oaks/ Beltline intersection. The sign has been up for 2 weeks and there will be traffic enforcement of these 3 signs in the next weeks. Also the same intersection is very dark at night and the traffic department is also looking into remedying this as well. I am also working to get a stop light at Big Oaks and Shiloh, if you have any comments or questions about that please contact me.

As always, if you have any questions of problems, email me or call.

Mark Monroe
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 council7@ci.garland.tx.us



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