

ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME

Coming to the monthly meetings gives you an opportunity to find out what's going on and helps us to know your problems and concerns. Many of our regulars have a wide range of experience in dealing with the same sort of problem you may be experiencing and can usually help you find a way to resolve the issue. Join us on the second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at Candlelight Park, 1520 Candlelight Boulevard, at the intersection of Oak Forest and Candlelight, and find out what's going on. If you have not already paid your voluntary dues for 2003, please send your check for \$20 to: OFHA INC., P.O. Box 920561, Houston, TX 77292-0561.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: () _____ Email: _____

Additional donation enclosed for: Tree Fund Ella Blvd Esplanades Citizens on Patrol

OAK FOREST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
P. O. BOX 920561
HOUSTON TX 77292-0561

www.ofha.org

OAK FOREST
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

FALL 2003

OAK FOREST IS DEED RESTRICTED

THE HISTORY OF OAK FOREST

by Ruth Metzger

Development of the Oak Forest Subdivision started in 1946. The first house, which served as a sales office, was built at the corner of Golf and Fisher. Almost all of the first houses were sold to World War II veterans. My husband, who had been a Captain in the Army in WWII, and I bought our house in April, 1947, when it was only a slab and moved in on June 1, 1947.

Oak Forest Realty Corporation, founded by Frank Sharp, built houses only in Section 1 (Golf Dr. to Oak Forest Dr., and DuBarry to W. 43rd). Mr. Sharp continued to develop the neighborhood for 17 more sections, by building the streets and installing utility lines: however, building contractors would then build the houses.

We had no telephone service. The only telephones were in the construction shack on the corner of Wakefield and Kinley and in the house of Frank Sharp's niece at on Wakefield. We finally had telephones about the middle of 1948. Sufficient acreage in Oak Forest was set aside for building churches and many denominations took advantage of this.

Also space was made available for parks, and Oak Forest has four parks within the area: T.C. Jester, Candlelight, American Legion and Oak Forest Park.

Areas were also set aside for commercial development and this accounts for the many grocery stores, cleaners, service stations, etc., which are located on W. 43rd St. and Ella Blvd. Oak Forest was annexed by the City of Houston about 1949. In the year 2000, there were 5,523 homes in Oak Forest with a population of over 23,000.

Oak Forest was the largest subdivision in Houston until Mr. Sharp built Sharpstown. Now the area is the third largest after the annexation of Kingwood.

The original Oak Forest Elementary was built in 1951, followed by Black Junior High School in 1958 and Waltrip High School about 1961. Stevens Elementary was added as the area was built up.

The first houses in Oak Forest sold for \$8,000-\$10,000. Larger houses built in the 60's sold for \$15,000-\$20,000.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings of the Oak Forest Homeowners Association (OFHA) are held at the Candlelight Park clubhouse. Candlelight Park is located at 1520 Candlelight Blvd.

Meeting dates through December are as follows:

- **October 13, 2003**
Meet the District A Candidates
- **November 10, 2003**
OFHA Officer Nominations
- **December 8, 2003**
OFHA Officer Elections and Christmas Party

Members of the OFHA newsgroup receive reminders by email of upcoming events, OFHA meetings and committee meetings. Announcements about upcoming meetings are also placed in The Leader. Is there anyone you would like to see speak to OFHA or is there someone you know who would be an interesting speaker? If so, please let me know. We are always looking for interesting speakers. You can contact me through the OFHA Hotline 713-688-6342 or by email at lindsey@ofha.org.

ELECTION FORUMS

The Northwest Area Mayoral Candidates Forum is being held this year on Tuesday, October 28th at 7:00pm at the Waltrip High School auditorium. Previous years events have drawn standing room crowds and heated debates. The event is being organized by the Shepherd Forest Civic club and will be co-sponsored by OFHA, the Leader and 12 other neighborhood and civic groups. If you would like to participate or want to submit a question to be directed to the candidates for Mayor, contact Lindsey Lee, at lindsey@ofha.org or Greg Ryden at greg@ofha.org. You can also dial the OFHA Hotline, 713-688-6342. With the mayoral forum one week from election day, November 4th, there is sure to be a large public turnout and good media coverage from the local news outlets this year. Come early to get a seat.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS,
GO TO "CITY ELECTIONS" ON PAGE 3.

CRIME STATISTICS

The following presents trends in property and violent crimes in the two police beats (3B10 & 3B30) which patrol all of Oak Forest. Beat 3B10 patrols the area from Hempstead Hwy/ Fairbanks N. Houston to White Oak Bayou, and 610N to Tidwell. Beat 3B30 patrols the area from White Oak Bayou to Shepherd, and 610N to Pinemont (see Figure 1).

This discussion is not a survey of crime within the neighborhood of Oak Forest, rather the beats that patrol Oak Forest and the surrounding neighborhoods, including the sections of 290 and Hempstead Hwy corridors as well as Northwest Mall. 10% of 3B10's area is composed of Oak Forest residents and 33% of Beat 3B30's area is Oak Forest residents.

Table 1 presents the total number of criminal acts reported to the Houston Police Department per year from 1999 to 2002 for eight criminal activities:

- Murder
- Rape
- Aggravated Assault
- Burglary
- Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (stealing items from a vehicle)
- Auto Theft (stealing a vehicle)
- Drug Laws

From 1999 to 2002, total criminal activities reported to the Houston Police Department increased from 3,080 to 3,525 acts, or at an Annual Growth Rate (AGR) of 4.6% per year. The primary sources of these increases in criminal activity over the three year period were auto theft and burglary of a motor vehicle. From 1999 to 2002, auto theft increased by 10.6% per year and burglary of a motor vehicle increased by about 7.2%. These two categories dubbed "crimes of convenience" by the HPD have jumped significantly in large part to due to new homeowners unfamiliar with safeguarding possessions. HPD recommends that people remove valuables from your autos before locking them for the night. Be aware of others watching you and your surroundings. If someone see you lock items in your trunk, they are valuable enough for others to steal. Keep your cars out of the street at night. Lights with motion sensors in the driveway are another good way to deter criminal behavior. For more info, visit: www.ci.houston.tx.us/departments/police/prevention.htm.

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	AGR
Murder	5	9	8	4	-7.2%
Rape	16	19	25	19	5.9%
Robbery	334	262	320	368	3.3%
Aggravated Assault	316	285	244	265	-5.7%
Burglary	885	835	791	902	0.6%
Burglary of Motor Vehicle	595	712	758	733	7.2%
Auto Theft	769	812	972	1,041	10.6%
Drug Laws	160	158	158	193	6.5%
Total	3,080	3,092	3,276	3,525	4.6%
% Change	—	7.6%	7.6%	7.6%	—

OFHA WEB SITE

Its official, the Oak Forest Homeowners Associations' web site is complete. Take a look at the site by going to www.ofha.org.

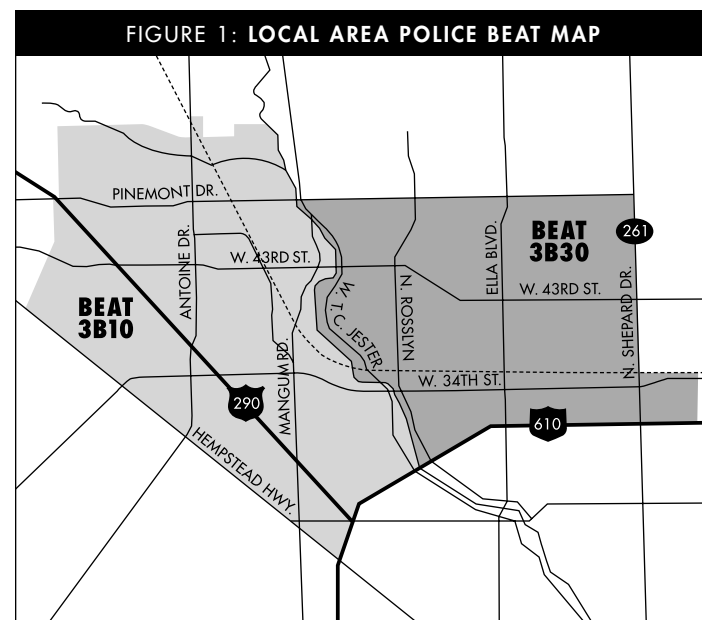
As many of you know, we have been hard at work building this resource for the residents of Oak Forest. The site is rich with information. Many of the answers to questions you have can be found there. The site will be updated regularly so check in frequently to see what's new.

Be sure to sign up for the OFHA Yahoo newsgroup to stay on top of activities in the Oak Forest community. Membership is restricted to residents and property owners only. The group is moderated. To subscribe send an email to:

OFHA-subscribe@yahoo.com or lindsey@ofha.com

OFHA MISSION STATEMENT

The Oak Forest Homeowners Association is an IRS 501(C)(4) organization that is devoted to informing, improving, promoting, encouraging, developing, beautifying, protecting, and unifying the Oak Forest Community.



CITY ELECTIONS

Rob Quarles and Wes Jones

The city general election is set for Tuesday, November 4th, 2003. This election will determine all elected city officials, including the Mayor, the City Controller and the 14 members of City Council. In addition, there will be a METRO referendum on the proposed light rail as well as Capital Improvement Bond Election for the Houston Community College System.

Due to term limits, Lee P. Brown is unable to run for Mayor and someone new will have to lead City Hall. Although eleven people filed for the mayor's post, former Council Member Orlando Sanchez, Texas State Representative Sylvester Turner and Chairman of the Wedge Group and former Energy Undersecretary for the Clinton Administration, Bill White, are considered the serious contenders.

If none of these candidates for Mayor garner a simple majority of 50%, a run-off election will occur. Typically, a run-off election takes place 3-5 weeks after the general election. At that point, voters will have to vote again for the top two candidates.

District A represents Oak Forest as well as a large majority of west Houston north of I-10 and West of Loop 610. There are 3 candidates running for Council Member District A. They include Joshua Berry, P.M. Clinton, and Toni Lawrence.

Houston is one of the few big-city governments with an independently elected city controller, which was created more than 90 years ago to serve as a check and balance to Houston's "strong mayor" form of government. Houston's city controller conducts audits of city departments, manages the city's investments and debt, pays the city's bills and payroll, develops forecasts for the city's financial future and issues the annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). There are five candidates for City Controller: Steve Jones, Certified Public Accountant (CPA); Mark Lee, CPA and tax lawyer; Annise Parker, current Council Member At Large #1; Bruce Tatro, current District A Council Member; and Gabriel Vasquez, current District H Council Member.

Another important decision that will need to be made on Election Day is a referendum on METRO's "Mobility Plan." METRO wants voters to approve \$640 million in bonds this November so it can build 22 miles of light rail by the year 2025, extending the 7.5-mile line nearing completion between downtown and Reliant Park. For more information on the proposed referendum visit METRO's web site at www.ridemetro.org and click on "METRO Solutions."

Take the time and effort to vote in the City's general election. These are the people and policies that will shape our future for many years to come.

For more information on this and other upcoming elections, go to www.harrisvotes.org. To get more information on the candidates and links to their web sites, visit us at www.ofha.org.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4TH

RECAP FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2003

Each year, the City of Houston prepares and adopts a five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for physical improvements to public facilities and infrastructure. The CIP is revised annually to include new projects, reflect changes in priorities, and extend the plan an additional year. The first year of the plan is the current Capital Budget and is revised throughout the year as needs dictate or when changes are made to existing approved capital projects.

Oak Forest is located in Houston City Council District A. By area, Oak Forest accounts for about 2.6% of District A. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, the City of Houston spent over \$184 million on projects in District A. Of this amount, the City spent \$5.7 million (approximately 3.1% of the total amount spent in District A) on three projects that directly improved Oak Forest. One such expenditure was the street renovation to 43rd from Ella to Oak Forest Drive that was a hard battle to get done. Another was the 54" water line running along Ella, and the third, a coincidence of the waterline, one new strip of concrete lane from Pinemont to 610.

Every January, each district city council member holds a meeting with district constituents to discuss the upcoming CIP. At this meeting, residents and neighborhood representatives present requests for projects in their neighborhood to be included in the CIP. It is time for the residents of Oak Forest to prepare for the CIP neighborhood meetings in January. If you have a suggestion for any City funded projects to be constructed in Oak Forest, please attend a monthly meeting of the Oak Forest Homeowners Association and present your ideas.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING

According to the EPA, the average U.S. citizen produced 4.4 pounds of waste per day during 2000. This is the equivalent of over 1600 pounds of trash per year per person.

The City of Houston provides free curbside recycling. Curbside recycling is the largest and most popular recycling program with more than 140,000 homes receiving biweekly service. For more information on all city recycling services and your area's curbside recycling schedule, go to www.ofha.org.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Beautification Committee has had an active quarter. We have recently finished the task of placing mulch at the base of all the trees on Antoine Dr. Two Oak Forest signs have been restored and placed at each end of Antoine Dr., one at Acorn St., the other near Saxon Dr. Also, all of the trees located in Oak Forest on Antoine Dr. and W. 43rd (from Hwy. 290 to Watonga Dr.) have been trimmed. This work is part of an overall plan to beautify our neighborhood's esplanades. The Beautification Committee has several more projects in the works. To get involved with the beautification committee, contact Wes Jones at wes@ofha.org. Remember, we are a volunteer group and only function because of your help.