

TAKE PART IN WHERE YOU LIVE!

Coming to our monthly meetings gives you an opportunity to find out what's going on and helps us to know your problems and concerns. Join us on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Candlelight Park, 1520 Candlelight Boulevard, at the intersection of Oak Forest and Candlelight. If you have not already paid your voluntary dues for 2005, please send your check for \$20 to: OFHA INC., P.O. Box 920561, Houston, TX 77292-0561.

DETACH AND MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: () _____

Email: _____

Additional donation enclosed for:

\$ _____ Esplanade Improvement \$ _____ Oak Forest Movie in the Park

\$ _____ Citizens on Patrol

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

To correct your address,
please email: hotline@ofha.org



The Next Movie is February 5th!

Join us at Oak Forest Park for a night of fun for the whole family. The show starts at 7p.m. Read more about the last one on page 2.

For more information, go to www.ofha.org.



OAK FOREST IS DEED RESTRICTED

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Greg Ryden

Imagine for a second a toll road slicing through Oak Forest along the existing BNSF rail line, T.C. Jester Park gone to make way for a 6-lane wide "smart street", driving down a 10-lane wide Ella Boulevard, or a few hundred homes in the neighborhood demolished. Seem far fetched? Not according to the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

If you blinked, you might have missed them. Many of us did. Earlier this year the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Transportation Policy Council held public hearings to listen and discuss the future of transportation in and around Houston. Who is this mysterious council with apparently so much influence you ask? The TCP is comprised of officials from local, state and federal governments from the eight county region, charged with the task of planning the development of the region's future transportation corridors.

From the poorly attended public hearings and internal forecasts from the HGAC, the TPC put forth the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan, a voluminous document that could impose a great amount of impact on Houston neighborhoods inside and near the loop, ours in particular. Online at www.ofha.org, there is a list of where the construction proposed for our area, what will be done, the length of road and the cost of construction in dollars.

Half of the funding for these projects must come directly from the local government that would implement the plan, in our case the City of Houston. Proposed methods for raising the funds, stated in a co-author's review of the proposal, The Greater Houston Partnership, listed the following:

1. Add new toll roads and add managed (toll) lanes to existing facilities.
2. Allow toll road authority surpluses to be used for construction of non-toll facilities.
3. Limit the use of the State motor fuel tax to transportation expenditures.
4. Increase motor fuel taxes and index to the rate of inflation.
5. Increase private sector participation in transportation system development.
6. Increase the motor fuel tax, vehicle registration and driver's license fees for transportation investment, or establish a local option transportation tax (LOTT).
7. Streamline delivery of transportation investments.
8. Increase property or other local taxes.
9. Reduce needed highway expansion through improved traffic, access and incident management.

Continued on page 3

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Oak Forest Homeowners Association invites you to join or renew your membership. Membership is only \$20 per year and is a way to become involved in the revitalization of your community. OFHA is the only organization dedicated to making our neighborhood a better place to live and work. Become a part of this effort by joining today.

Remember that membership in OFHA is voluntary. Your voluntary dues help to sponsor many projects: esplanade beautification, Oak Forest Movie in the Park, the quarterly newsletter and Citizens On Patrol. Join your neighbors in helping Oak Forest live up to the name, "The Urban Woods."

NEW OFFICERS FOR 2005

OFHA's officers for 2005 were elected at the meeting on Monday, December 13, 2005. The new officers are:

President	Greg Ryden
Vice President	Wes Jones
2nd Vice President	Claire Jones
Treasurer	Zack Derryberry
Secretary	Amy Hernandez
Parliamentarian	Ruth Metzger
Sergeant at Arms	Richard Rabe

Committee Chairmen are:

Beautification	Wes Jones
Deed Restriction	Richard Rabe
Architectural Control	Richard Rabe
Public Relations	Andrea Warren

Special thanks to Angela Ryden for their service last year.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Oak Forest Homeowners Association meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Candlelight Community Center located at 1520 Candlelight Boulevard at 7p.m.

Dates of upcoming meetings are:

- **January 10** - Speaker Council Member Toni Lawrence
- **February 14** - Speaker TBA
- **March 14** - Speaker TBA

OAK FOREST MOVIE IN THE PARK

by Andrea Warren

Remember when life was simpler and your relationship with your neighbor was more than just an occasional, polite wave? Oak Forest Homeowner's Association is bringing back a feeling of community with "Movie in the Park."

Reminiscent of the old-fashioned local drive-in of the past, approximately 150 people watched the holiday classic film, "A Christmas Story," on December 4th on a giant screen outdoors at Oak Forest Park. Filled with humor and warmth, the movie's undeniable charm makes it an all-time favorite for young and old alike.

OFHA understands the importance of community bonding. We have coordinated a series of social events to bring friends and neighbors together. "Movie in the Park" promotes a strong sense of community that can lower crime statistics while also giving our residents an activity that encourages family time.

We plan to host an outdoor movie night several times a year. The next free movie night will be on Saturday, February 5, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at Oak Forest Park, located at 2100 Judiway. The general public is invited to bring a lawn chair or blanket and non-alcoholic refreshments and join neighbors and friends for a relaxing evening. The movie selection will be announced on www.ofha.org after the first of the year.

Thanks again to our generous sponsors of December's "Movie in the Park," including Hartman & Associates, J&S Audio Visual, Double Dave's Pizza, and "Red Texas" calling cards.

If you would like to volunteer for this committee or sponsor the event, please email andrea@ofha.org or call 713-688-OFHA.

Visit us online at

www.ofha.org

BUREAU OF ANIMAL REGULATION AND CARE (BARC)

by Lindsey Lee

The Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC) enforces city ordinances that encourage annual rabies vaccination and licensing of pets and requires that all dogs are confined in a yard or on a leash. BARC investigates animal bites and encourages spaying/neutering to control the unwanted animal population. BARC'S services include:

- Investigating reported animal bites
- Vaccination against rabies
- Licensing dogs and cats
- Placing dogs and cats up for adoption
- Operating shelters lost and stray animals
- Enforcing animal ordinances
- Providing educational speakers
- Leading tours of its shelters

You can contact BARC by telephone at 713-238-9600.

HAND-CRAFTED CUSTOM FURNITURE

We can reproduce/refinish ANY type of furniture, from Modern to Rustic styles - serving Houston over 11 years!

www.yubos.com
713-862-3239 or sales@yubos.com

ADVERTISE HERE WITH OFHA

Support your community!

Reach over 5,000 homes with our quarterly newsletter and website.

Contact Wes Jones
at wes@ofha.org

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

OFHA would like to thank all who have volunteered for our recent Beautification Saturdays. The last Saturday of the month is when residents from around Oak Forest meet up and take part in the upkeep of our community.

Our latest projects have included mulching the trees along 43rd Street between Oak Forest Drive and Rosslyn Road and cleaning up Oak Forest Park by trimming trees and covering up near by graffiti.

The only way we will be able to accomplish this goal is through the financial support of residents and volunteers with a "hands on" attitude. So support us by joining OFHA and volunteering for our next Beautiful Saturday. Again, it's the last Saturday of every month. To find out more, contact Wes Jones at wes@ofha.org.

U-STOR Quality Self-Storage Facilities

24 Hour Access

25% off first month's rent
when you mention OFHA.

(713) 688-8700

ADVERTISE HERE WITH OFHA

Support your community!

Reach over 5,000 homes with our quarterly newsletter and website.

Contact Wes Jones
at wes@ofha.org

OAK FOREST'S BEAUTIFUL HOME WINNER FOR FALL 2004

by Claire Jones

The winner of OFHA's Winter 2005 Beautiful Home Award is David & Stacey Bartula at 1317 Thornton.

The Oak Forest Homeowners Association is committed to improving the beautification of our neighborhood. Because Oak Forest has long since surpassed its fiftieth birthday, many of its homes are in need of restoration and beautification. We are grateful for the efforts of our homeowners to enhance the aesthetics of their homes and yards, and in turn, enhancing the value of our collective neighborhood.

We invite our neighbors in Oak Forest to take a look at our Beautiful Home winner and get inspired to make their own house a Beautiful Home! Please submit your nominations for next quarter's winner by email to Andrea Warren, Public Relations Committee Chairperson, at andrea@ofha.org or by phone 713-688-OFHA.

VIEW THE FALL 2004 BEAUTIFUL HOME ONLINE
www.ofha.org/beautiful_home.html

THE SEARCH FOR OAK FOREST'S PAST

by Kevin Smith

The war was over. Boys who left their homes returned as men and an era had past, setting a new foundation for the threshold of a different kind of world from which they left. The home front being put on the back burner, left progress here a little stale and a mad rush to recondition the deferment of our countries growth was the antecedence of the time. A vibrant feeling spread quickly across this great land to expand on this new horizon, fate had laid out for us.

A boom had begun and new families were anxious to get their lives in order, but housing was scarce. The demand was overwhelming and the drive was on across the country to fulfill the need to settle and live the American Dream. Like the new growth of early spring, houses were germinating all over in the freshly developed neighborhoods. Progressive techniques for building came into play to greet this new euphoric lifestyle. Houses built on concrete foundations, new and stronger framing systems, modern kitchens with the latest appliances, better electrical services, affordable pricing and much more. The better life was apparent and Americans were savoring this newfound hope.

Along with these many newly developed suburbanized communities, one emerged from a heavily wooded forest, which had an undisturbed bayou babbling and winding through it. Quiet, peaceful, lushly verdant and off the beaten path. This small corner of the world, as if a village, had most everything one needed. With parks, schools, churches, grocery stores and community services, what an outstanding place to raise a family.

Many wonderful life events have taken place here in the almost sixty years of its presence. Oak Forest has had its good along with bad times, but holding strong in remaining one of the best places to live. I feel privileged to have grown up here. My dad still lives in this charming place and just received Beautiful Home of the Quarter. I feel most of the original homeowners have moved on and no longer reside here, taking a piece of its history with them. I am sure many photographs were taken during the maturity of this dignified environment and have helped in keeping alive the memorable changes it has endured.

Oak Forest has a history which needs to be kept alive for now and future generations. Oak Forest Homeowners Association and I feel that creating an archive of past photos and documents pertaining to its history would be advantageous. A place where people can post these items for everyone to view, share and see the changes and growth that have taken place along with learning about the people who lived them.

We are asking for anyone with connections to or actually having items to share contact OFHA. We hope you will join us in creating this reference library of memorabilia. If you have something of interest, contact us at hotline@ofha.org.

President's Message / Continued from page 1

Increased taxes are mentioned in 6 out of 9 items. Added to increased taxes, this plan would increase the risk of flooding as well as decrease property values and quality of life aspect of those living closer to the city by adding more lanes of road putting more vehicular traffic near our homes. The harsh reality is that the plan does not benefit our neighborhood by any means and not many people know about it.

I encourage you review the plan and get involved. Some of these proposed projects have already begun to fail, such as the 249 Toll road Conversion. We need to see that those projects proposed for our neighborhood and others around us fail as well. Over the next few months, speakers at the general meetings have been tailored to address these concerns.

Contact your local, state, and federal representatives and let them know you are not in favor of having a 6 to 10 lane freeway outside your front door. Trust me, elected officials listen to their constituent's concerns. Many are on our side, but the plan is scheduled over the next 2-16 years and elected officials can change. Pressure and vocal opposition over the coming years will need to remain constant.

Additional information, such as proposed project details, links to websites with info on the 2025 RTP are available online at www.ofha.org.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The City of Houston is encouraging residents to recycle Christmas trees and give them a new lease on life. The Solid Waste Management Department is requesting that residents remove tinsel, lights, plastic tree stands and plastic water bowls from the trees. The recycled trees will be converted into mulch, which will in turn help save landfill space and help preserve the environment.

Flocked trees will not be accepted for recycling; they will be picked up on the neighborhood's scheduled heavy trash day. Commercial vendor trees will not be accepted.

For more information on the City's tree recycling program, contact City of Houston information by dialing 3-1-1.

BY STATE LAW, RESIDENTS ARE ALLOWED NO MORE THAN TWO GARAGE/YARD SALES PER YEAR.

YAHOO NEWSGROUP

The Oak Forest Yahoo newsgroup is the fastest, most efficient method to get information on activities in the Oak Forest community. The group provides notices to residents of upcoming events and provides a place to ask questions or raise issues of interest to the Oak Forest community. Membership is restricted to residents and property owners only, and the group is moderated.

To subscribe, send an email to OFHA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or email us at hotline@ofha.org