

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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #2552
HOUSTON TX

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



MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK IS BACK!

★

Join us at Oak Forest Park for two nights of fun for the whole family. See page 3 for more info, or go to: www.ofha.org

OAK FOREST
MOVIE IN THE PARK

The OAK LOG

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM OAK FOREST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



FALL 2004

OAK FOREST IS DEED RESTRICTED

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Greg Ryden

At the coming November meeting of the OFHA, we will be organizing the Nominating Committee that will be selecting candidates for the next Board of Directors of the OFHA. To many residents in the neighborhood, this will be a trivial item at best. However, to most everyone in our large neighborhood, the conclusion of the Nominating Board will have significant consequence. All of the current board members are term-limited, and as a result, a fresh palette of officers is needed. The current board members are willing to stay around and help during the transition period and some of us will stay on in a reduced capacity in various committees.

The continuity of the OFHA is important to the preservation of the neighborhood. Remember back to the opposition to the HISD Bus Barn at the old Acme Brick yard, or the "No Toll Road" meeting at Scarborough High School, these and many other events were coordinated or organized by the Oak Forest Homeowners Association. We also enforce the 18 different sections of deed restrictions and along with the City of Houston, we improve and maintain the esplanades and parks in the neighborhood. The OFHA also listens to its members on topics such as flooding, street & sidewalk improvements and infrastructure issues and reports those important neighborhood issues directly to city council & city departments that deal with the issues.

The actions of the board and the organization have a direct bearing on the preservation of your property values and overall well-being of the neighborhood. A good board of directors will make good decisions that will impact the neighborhood. We are hoping that the next round of leaders can continue being trying to bring more community related projects to fruition, such as the Movie in the Park's greater objective, OaktoberFest and starting a July Fourth Parade for Oak Forest. With as many people in this neighborhood as there are, there is no reason that Oak Forest cannot accomplish some great projects in the future. A strong neighborhood makes for a strong community and that is why it is important to get involved and support the Oak Forest Homeowners Association.

Use your Randalls Card and donate money to OFHA.

For more information go to www.ofha.com/donate.html

USE CODE:
9719

OFHA UNVEILS NEW ONLINE FORUM

By Lauren Swarts

On September 6, the newest addition to the OFHA website was launched to the neighborhood, the Oak Forest Forums. This online message board serves as a virtual meeting place for all residents to chat and share their input about the neighborhood and more.

The forums, which replaced the Yahoo Newsgroup format, allow a more open conversation among members with a real-time response as opposed to a published email newsletter setup.

Featured forums include Critic's Corner: where you can share your opinions on area businesses, Oak Forest Committees: where you can learn more about volunteering and becoming more involved in the community, The Oak Log: where you can gab about anything and everything, Classifieds, Lost & Found, as well as numerous others that will allow YOU to let your voice be heard and get your questions answered by your own neighbors!

If you haven't already, log onto the new OFHA forum. It is easy, just go to www.ofha.org/forums. There you can register and shoot the breeze with fellow Oakies! Be talking to you there!

CHRISTMAS CAROLERS

Do you have more than enough holiday cheer and want to share it with your neighbors by caroling around our neighborhood? You don't have to have a good voice to join our first-ever Oakie Carolers. Traditional songs will be provided, but original renditions are also welcome. If you are interested, email Andrea Warren at andrea@ofha.org or call 713-385-7707. If you would like carolers to come to your home, please let us know as well.

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:

- **October 10th** - Speaker - District A City Councilmember Toni Lawrence
- **November 14th** - Organizing the Nominating Committee
- **December 12th** - Officer elections and Winter party.

Master Electrician
 Custom Remodeling Specialist
 Serving Houston since 1992
 Centrally located in the Heights
 Universal Wiring Inc.
713-863-8564

**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

NEW AND IMPROVED WATONGA PARK
 by Claire Jones

About four years ago after we bought our house, my husband, Wes, and I took our dog to Watonga Park. It didn't take long for him to start daydreaming again about how great this neighborhood could be. This time, it was how great Watonga Park could be. We came there regularly and had met neighbors there.

A couple of years later after being active in the OFHA, Wes was asked to submit a capital improvement plan for Watonga Park by Council Member Toni Lawrence's office. So he made one. This sounds like a big deal, but it was just a formal letter to the City with a bulleted list of ideas he had accumulated over time. Since he went there so often and talked with others, he got a lot of input from people that already used the park. The plan included replacing the batting cages, putting in benches and picnic areas and also a creating a skate park. This last point was added only because there was a makeshift skate park already established in the gully that feeds into White Oak Bayou. It's been used as a skate park since the seventies. They call it EZ7. Google it!

Then for two years we both forgot all about it.

Not too long ago, we noticed the new batting cages and thought, "Hey, that's swell!" But we didn't think too much of it. Then the City of Houston Skate Park sign came, along with a Watonga Park Rules sign. It was official now: the gully had become a sanctioned skate park! Yay for the skateboarders! Still, we didn't put two and two together until we saw them pouring a gigantic concrete slab near the skateboarders gully at the edge of the park. That's when Wes remembered the capital improvement plan he had submitted. We couldn't believe it! Shortly after that, huge, blue ramps were brought in, and benches and picnic areas were also erected.

It may have taken two years, but my point is that change CAN happen! Neither of us skate, and we don't have any children, but it's wonderful to see the park being used more! It is up to the people who live in this neighborhood to make it better. So, what are you waiting for? Go figure out how you can make a difference in Oak Forest and be part of where you live!

**Gretchen & Ivy's
 Pet Sitting & Doggie Walks**
 Certified Pet First Aid & CPR
 Insured & Bonded
www.gretchenandivypetsitting.com
713-290-1633

HARTMAN & ASSOCIATES
 Where Do You
 Want to Live?
713-861-2004
www.hartmanassociates.com

**OAK FOREST'S BEAUTIFUL HOME
 WINNER FOR FALL 2005**

As an ongoing project of the Oak Forest Homeowners Association and in an effort to encourage the preservation of our historical community, we selected Mr. Ronnie Holz's home at 1308 Gardenia as this quarter's Beautiful Home winner.

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. Enhancing the aesthetics of neighborhood homes and yards enhances the value of our neighborhood in addition to setting an inspiring example to the surrounding community.

The homeowners will be given an "OFHA BEAUTIFUL HOME" sign to put in their front yard and a letter of appreciation from the homeowners association.

For future awards, we'd like to invite the community to submit your nomination for Beautiful Home. Send your nominations to the committee chair via email at andrea@ofha.org or call 713-385-7707.

VIEW THE FALL 2005 BEAUTIFUL HOME ONLINE
www.ofha.org/beautifulhome

TEXAS HOME GROUP-REALTOR
Gilbert Padilla-CPM Candidate
Buy/Lease/Sell
 For all of YOUR Commercial
 or Residential Needs
713-269-4497

U-STOR
 Quality Self-Storage Facilities
 24 Hour Access
25% off first month's rent
 when you mention OFHA.
 (713) 688-8700

OAK FOREST GETS COOKIN'
 by Andrea Warren

A lot of mouth-watering recipes for our community cookbook have been submitted. All recipes should have been submitted by September 23rd to cookbook@ofha.org or by mail at P.O. Box 920561, Houston, TX 77292-0561. But don't worry, you can still send your recipes in for the second edition.

Be sure to include your name and how long you've been an Oak Forest Resident so everyone can easily locate the favorite recipes of their friends and neighbors. We've also received recipes from Mayor Bill White, Councilmember Toni Lawrence, Texas Representative Dwayne Bohac and other local VIPs.

Profits from the sale of the cookbook will go to the OFHA Charitable Fund. Beneficiaries of the Charitable Fund include the 43rd HPD storefront, MANNA, beautification projects and more.

The cookbook is scheduled to be published just in time for holiday gift-buying season. These padded 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inch binders with a spill-proof cover will be sold by OFHA members for \$10 each. If your business would like to sell the cookbook, please contact OFHA PR Chair, Andrea Warren, at 713-385-7707 or andrea@ofha.org.

WAKE UP & CHILL OUT
 GOURMET COFFEE & SHAVED ICE BAR
3307 ELLA BLVD.
 M-F: 7am-7pm Sat:10:30am-5pm
 BRING IN THIS AD FOR A BUY 2 GET 1 FREE SPECIAL.
 DISCOUNT FOR LOCAL TEACHERS W/ I.D.

ANGELICA WURTH
 Your neighborhood Realtor In
 Oak Forest for many years!
 Call for a free consultation on buying or selling.
 (832) 715-8324 or
angelicawurth@gmail.com

CALLING ALL ELVES

The non-profit group, Elves and More, puts together more than 25,000 bicycles for under-privileged children in the three weeks leading to Christmas and then delivers all the bikes on the night before the holiday.

They are currently looking for volunteers as Bike Assemblers, Treasure Box Wrappers, Meet & Greeters, Food & Beverage Coordinators and more.

There are several dates and times to volunteer and OFHA would like to pick one evening after work or a Saturday and go together as a group. The hours vary, but there are several weeknights that need volunteers until 10 pm and there are several Saturdays open. Volunteering as a group will allow you to get to know your Oakie neighbors, do a good deed for the community, and spread good cheer as a team. We have green OFHA shirts so we can be easily recognized.

Please contact andrea@ofha.org or call 713-385-7707 by November 1st if you are interested in volunteering. For other information, visit their home page, www.elvesandmore.org.

SK DESIGNS
 Award Winning Designs
 CUSTOM SEWING FOR THE HOME
 713-697-4110 • skdesigns@mindspring.com • www.picturetrail.com/skdesigns
**Custom Window Treatments, Bedding, Tableskirts,
 Blinds, Shutters, Shades and More!**
HOST A TRUNK SHOW
 See many draperies, valances, fabrics, pleats & details
WE MAKE CUSTOM FABRIC
 Create patterns in any colors or patterns; even use your child's artwork!
**STYLE RENDERINGS
 SHOWN ON YOUR WINDOWS**
 See your treatment style on your
 own windows to help make a decision!

A CREATIVE EXAMPLE
 Child's tea set saucers are used as finials on
 this scalloped box pleat valance


Home of the Go Dog Social Club
 Celebrating the canine spirit with socials, field
 trips and classes for you and your dogs.
Services Include:
 Social Club
 Petsitting
 Mid Day Walk Packages
 Canine Massage
 Puppy Kindergarten
 Pet Taxi
 Pet First Aid & CPR
The dogs have fun and the people have fun.
Ain't Life Grand!

 Casey Farris
713-688-6363
www.goDOGusa.com

OAK FOREST MOVIE IN THE PARK

Oak Forest Movie in the Park is back. It is part of a new endeavour we would like to expand on in the coming years called OaktoberFest. We plan to show *The Wizard of Oz* on October 29 and *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* on November 12. Movies will start at 7 p.m. in Oak Forest Park at 2100 Judiway.

For our last movie, several people brought camping equipment to make s'mores and grill hot food. It has continued to be a fun-filled evening and we'd love to have you join us. If you have questions about OFHA's Movie in the Park or if your business would like to sponsor part of the event, please contact OFHA Public Relations Chair, Andrea Warren, at andrea@ofha.org or 713-985-7707.



Susan Kostelecky
 Owner

SK Designs has professionally designed and fabricated custom window treatments and bedding since 1995. Throughout the greater Houston area, Susan assists clients in selecting fabrics, trims and styles for their homes, including many featured on area home tours.

With commercial equipment and the latest methods and styles, SK Designs designs, fabricates and professionally installs your treatments, using your fabric or ours

- ✓ **Window Fashions Certified Professional**
- ✓ **Published in worldwide trade magazine**
- ✓ **Accounts with all major fabric vendors**