

The OAK LOG

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM OAK FOREST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



ALL VOLUNTEER!

OAK FOREST IS DEED RESTRICTED

President's Message

from Zack Derryberry

Instead of drafting the proverbial 'Here we are again - happy new year' message, I'm opting to take this brief opportunity to (hopefully) improve all of our daily lives. During the last 12 months serving as your Association President, I've witnessed and read many complaints and grievances that have me very concerned. Concerned enough that I fear some of you may one day devour your young, but I digress.

However, leaning on the wisdom and logic of our good friend and author Stephen Covey, I've composed a short list of what I'll so ingeniously call the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Neighbors. Many of you will read the list and think that I've lost my mind among fruit salad and turkey leftovers, while others may consider me the Nostradamus of neighborly peace. Either way enjoy yourselves, live well, and remember to laugh at this crazy world in which we live. Let's make 2007 a great year for Oak Forest and let's be careful out there.

Seven Habits of Highly Effective Neighbors

1. Mow your yard. Seems like a simple one I know, but you won't believe how many complaints I receive about unsightly yards. Rule of thumb, if you can't see the middle of your shins when standing in your yard. It's time to mow.
2. Know your neighbors. Knowing the people who live nearby enables you to communicate and monitor your surroundings more efficiently than on your own. Good neighbors will help survey your property during vacations or trips and can help you move a sofa in a pinch.
3. Become a member of OFHA. Take an active roll in your neighborhood organization and learn how you can do more to improve our community.

President's Message / Continued on page 6

WWW.OFHA.ORG

Join or renew OFHA online.
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NEW OFFICERS FOR 2007

OFHA's officers for 2007 were elected at the meeting on Monday, December 8th, 2006. The new officers are:

President	Zack Derryberry
Vice President	Lauren Swarts
2nd Vice President	Steve Kyles
Treasurer	Andrea Warren
Secretary	Kathy Boulte
Parliamentarian	Ruth Metzger
Sergeant at Arms	Richard Rabe

Committee Chairs are:

Architectural	Greg Ryden
Beautification	Zack Derryberry
Deed Restriction	Greg Ryden
Public Relations	Lauren Swarts & Andrea Warren

Special thanks to Mike Markey and Wes Jones 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 7 p.m.

Dates of upcoming meetings are:

- **Monday, Febuary 12th** - Speaker - Solomon Mengisteab, Washington Mutual, discussing Growing Money and Investment Tips
- **Monday, March 12th** - Speaker - Jeff Abrams, Houston Bar Association Speakers Bureau, discussing "Solving Disputes the Neighborly Way."
- **Monday, April 9th** - Speaker - Alma Salman, Principal, Black Middle School

If you have a topic or suggested speaker, please share them with us at 713-688-OFHA or hotline@ofha.org

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**OAK FOREST'S BEAUTIFUL HOME
WINNER FOR WINTER 2007**

As an ongoing project of the Oak Forest Homeowners Association and in an effort to encourage the preservation of our historical community, we selected Teresa Bishop's home at 1635 Wakefield as this quarter's Beautiful Home winner.

For future awards, we'd like to invite the community to submit your nomination for Beautiful Home. Email your nominations to the committee chair at lauren@ofha.org.

VIEW THE WINTER 2007 BEAUTIFUL HOME ONLINE
www.ofha.org/beautifulhome

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President's Message / Continued from page 1

4. Attend at least three OFHA monthly meetings each year. Join us at the Candlelight Community Center on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm. Witness first hand the decisions that are being made that affect your neighborhood.
5. Respect and uphold our Deed Restrictions. Stop building permanent structures without consulting the Architecture and Deed Restriction Committee. This is a serious threat to our neighborhood and quality of life.
6. Drive the speed limit. At least while you're in the neighborhood Mister "I like to drive 75 mph down Oak Forest Dr. because I'm a weak minded girly man." Many of us have kids and pets, and we'd all prefer not being forced to consistently dodge flying debris as you rocket down the runway.
7. Bar B Que frequently. This is a no-brainer. Any neighbor who fires up the grill and invites you over for dinner has to be good company. Many friendships have been consummated while tending a small stack of briquettes and wafting at bird sized mosquitoes.



Zack Derryberry,
President
Oak Forest Homeowners Association

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**ATTENTION
ALL VOLUNTEERS**



The Beautification Committee would like to invite you to the next Beautification Saturday. That's when Oak Forest residents gather on the last Saturday of every month to beautify their neighborhood. Sign up to receive an email alerts & get times, dates and locations for upcoming events by going to:

www.ofha.org/beautification

**SOLVING YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD PROBELMS**

Got graffiti? Potholes? Junk Cars? Neighbor running a business? OFHA receives calls on these and a variety of other issues. While we are thankful that you've let us know, you should dial 311 to reach the City of Houston.

311 requests for a specific city service like a pothole repair or a traffic signal malfunction can be tracked from start to finish. This system routes each request to the appropriate department and assigns a deadline for field investigation and resolution. If the same individual or someone else subsequently reports the same problem, the 311 system will notify staff that it is a duplicate request so that up-to-the-minute status can be reported to the caller.

In addition, the Neighborhood Protection Corps, (713) 837-0311, seeks to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by reducing blight and substandard living conditions. The Neighborhood Protection Corps enforces City Codes related to dangerous building, weeded lot, junked motor vehicle, and graffiti abatement services on private property when owners have failed to comply with city ordinance. Liens are placed against these properties once the City has performed the work.

Here are some other numbers that can help you solve a problem:

- UNITED WAY HELP LINE**
Dail 211
Information about senior services, food, shelter, disaster relief, counseling, after school programs
- ASK YOUR NURSE**
713-633-2255
Answer questions about medical concerns and right medical care
- CRISIS OF HOUSTON CENTRAL**
713-468-5463
Counselors to help with emotional emergencies 24 hours a day
- FREE LEGAL ADVICE**
713-759-1133
A call-in program on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 5-9 p.m.
- POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)**
713-884-3131
- MAYOR'S ANTI-GANG OFFICE**
713-247-1576

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EXCITING HAPPENINGS AT BLACK MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Kathy Boulte

You may know that Black MS has a new principal, Ms. Alma Salman, but do you know about all the exciting changes going on? Here are a few "just for starters", limited due to space:

- "Coffee with the Principal" informal meetings, everyone invited, to discuss school happenings. Refreshments served. Upcoming dates: (Wednesdays) Jan 10, Feb 7 and March 7 from 8:45 – 9:30 am.
- Ribbon cutting for the Black "College Room" Wed, Jan 24 at 10 a.m. – an after school student lounge with a college pennant theme. Has a big screen TV, air hockey tables and more. Provides a safe, supervised place for students to enjoy "hanging out" or to relax while doing homework after school.
- In addition to new Saturday math tutorials, a math class "Survivor" competition between the grades to see who can make the best subject gains in the quickest amount of time.
- New volunteer program; contact Ms. Bennett at (713) 613-2505 to set up an orientation.
- New school website www.blackmiddleschool.org. Go check it out!

Additionally, Ms. Salman will be the speaker at the OFHA general meeting on April 9.

Stay tuned for future developments.

OFHA FORUMS

THE TALK OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD are the OFHA Forums. It's the best way to get information on activities and happenings in Oak Forest and the Houston area. Ask questions, meet neighbors, gain knowledge and share interest.



TO VIEW THE FORUMS, REGISTER, OR POST, PLEASE VISIT:
www.ofha.org/forums

OAK FOREST TURNS 60! THE HISTORY OF OAK FOREST

Oak Forest was established in 1947 by Oak Forest Realty Corporation, owned by Frank Sharp, a developer who would later establish Sharpstown. Oak Forest Realty Corporation built houses only in Section 1 (Golf Dr. to Oak Forest Dr. and Dubarry to West 43rd Street. Sharp would later develop the neighborhood for 17 additional sections by building streets and installing utility lines, but left the home construction to other contractors.

The first house, which served as a sales office, was built at the corner of Golf and Fisher Dr. Almost all of the first houses were sold to World War II veterans for \$8,000-\$10,000. One of the original homeowners, Ruth Metzger, bought her house in April 1947 when it was only a slab and still lives there to this day.

Originally, there was no telephone service. If a homeowner needed to place a call, they had to use one in the construction shack on the corner of Wakefield and Kinley Lane or one in the house of Frank Sharp's niece at on Wakefield. Telephone service finally arrived in the middle of 1948.

Acreage was also set aside for churches, parks and schools. Additional areas were reserved 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.

When it was first established, Oak Forest was a golf course and a part of the Aldine Independent School District. The land was ceded to Houston ISD. 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 grew beyond the capacity of one elementary school.

Oak Forest was annexed by the City of Houston about 1949. Sixty years later, there are 5,523 homes in Oak Forest with a population of over 23,000. Oak Forest is the third largest area after the annexation of Kingwood and continues to improve gracefully with age.

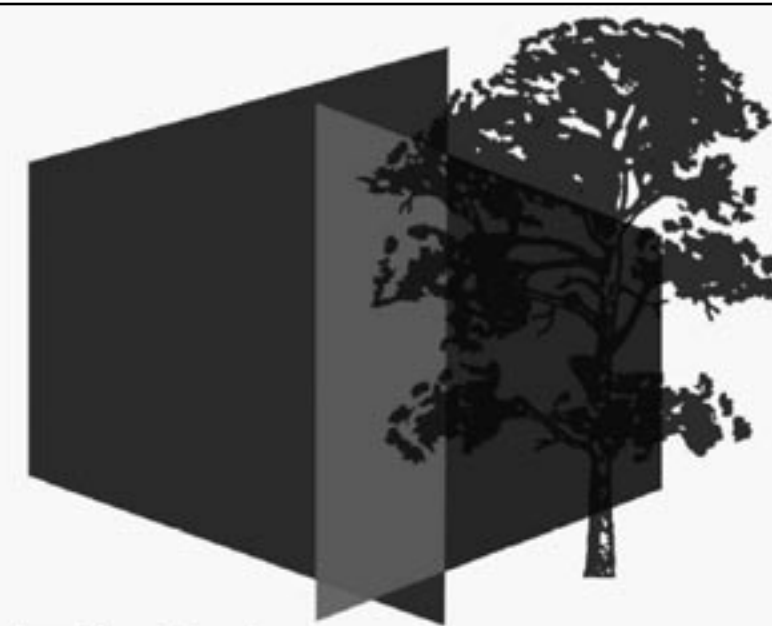
HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY, OAK FOREST!

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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 this year, please send your check for \$20 to: OFHA INC., P.O. Box 920561, Houston, TX 77292-0561.

DETACH AND MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK

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