



**OAKMORE
HOMES
ASSOCIATION**

Oakmore Homes Association

FALL 2003 NEWSLETTER

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Mission Statement

“The Oakmore Homes Association is a community of Oakmore neighbors committed to promoting and enhancing safety, beautification, community and property values in our neighborhood.”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the fall issue of the Oakmore Homes newsletter. There's a lot going on just now that should be of interest to you. I urge you to read the articles here as an update of doings in our own little community. Perhaps your interest in something in particular will be piqued.

We've launched a website! www.oakmorehomes.org. Our web guru, Bob Thyken, who also doubles as the association secretary, has done a fantastic job of creating and editing. Even the web-challenged (that's me, unfortunately) can easily navigate the screens for our background and news. Read the web article for more details.

We're going to the zoo. This year's OHA fun outing is Sunday, September 28. Save the date. Read the article. Look for a separate mailing with detailed instructions for signing up. Check the bulletin board at Rocky's too.

Have you noticed the bulletin board at Rocky's? Your Board of Directors is trying another avenue to keep you informed. If you miss a newsletter or mailing, you can find the news there. Our thanks to Gabe Dib for generously sharing space there with us.

Our OHA sub-committee following the progress of the Leimert Bridge rehab has experienced real success in its attempt to see the railings and fencing fixed too. Check the bridge article.

The stair repair is about to commence. Yeah! Three+ years since we started pursuing this subject with the city. Read the public stairs article and the web for details.

We're pursuing Oakmore Road sidewalk repair as well. Check out the article here and on the web.

Look for holiday decoration in our business district. The Board has sub-committee working toward local cheer. Read the article and check the web.

Another sub-committee is addressing the possibility of seeing all of Oakmore in the same school district. See the article.

Lastly, save the date of Wednesday, November 5, 7 P.M. The annual Association member meeting will again be at the Zion Lutheran terrace room. Wonderful food. Open forum. We look forward to seeing you there.

- Gayle Ranson -

In Memoriam

Karen Egan Gorndt, long-time Oakmore Highlands resident, passed away on September 2, 2003. She was a good friend to Oakmore as well as being a good neighbor. She served as a director on the board for the homeowners' association, and then went on to serve as secretary of the association. Many of you have had contact with our sunny and efficient Karen. She stepped down as secretary to fight this last battle of her life. She will be truly missed, and our deepest sympathies go to her children, Kristen and Sean, and to her husband, Grey.

Leimert Bridge Retrofit - Update

Action by our Association has led to the broadening of the Leimert Bridge Seismic Retrofit project to include repair work above the roadway. We have received word that the City of Oakland is now securing engineering documents and funding to increase the bridge project to include:

- Repair of concrete railing walls
- Resurfacing of the roadway
- Replacement of the chain link fence with a more suitable railing

This is great news for the Oakmore neighborhood because it means we will benefit from safety improvements that we can experience every day, not just during an earthquake. Formerly, the seismic retrofit project was only going to include mandated reinforcement of the bridge structure 'below the deck' to prevent a total collapse. However, the Oakmore Homes Association, with guidance from our Bridge Subcommittee, contacted the Oakland Public Works Agency Director Claudette Ford, City Councilperson Jean Quan, Assemblyperson Wilma Chan, State Senator Don Perata and CalTrans. We expressed our concern that serious safety issues existed 'above the deck' as well, and we escalated the level of attention on these matters. (See the Spring 2003 Association newsletter for details)

CalTrans and the Federal Highway Administration are reviewing the completed construction plans and environmental impact report for the bridge retrofit. The construction project will be supervised and managed by the City of Oakland. The Oakland Public Works Agency has responded directly to the Association and taken action to address the community concerns regarding the bridge structure. However, they have referred us over to PG&E and to the City of Oakland Electrical Division for discussion of the utility wires and pipes attached to the bridge. Scheduled undergrounding of the electrical structures could be years away but we might be able to expedite work on those utilities attached to the bridge if they are integral with the seismic safety retrofit.

The OHA has a copy of the engineering plans for the retrofit and they are available for viewing by all interested Oakmore residents. There has been some controversy surrounding the proposed retrofit design scheme, as it proposes to eliminate the horizontal braces from the bridge and encapsulate the remaining vertical columns with steel casings (similar to what is happening on many freeway overpasses in the State). This could substantially degrade the beauty of the design that George A. Posey and the other engineers created in 1926. There is some question about whether that is a necessary loss in the upgrade process or simply the result of misguided cost-cutting design measures. However, we all agree the bridge must be made safe from collapse in the event of a major quake and some aesthetic compromises are inevitable.

The Association has learned from CalTrans that the bridge is also eligible for federal funds for rehabilitation under the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP). In that instance, the cost of additional repairs would be reimbursed to the city at a rate of 80%. The City of

Oakland would only have to fund 20% of that work. The Association and the City are both looking into ways to pursue this avenue in the future. Additional 'historic rehabilitation' work on the bridge could possibly be implemented under a separate grant and contract at a later date.

Many thanks to the OHA Bridge Subcommittee: Kurt Lavenson-Architect, Dan Brand-Engineer, Jackson Yu-Engineer and Cindy Haines-Board Member. And thanks to the City of Oakland Public Works Agency: Director Claudette Ford, Engineering Design Manager Mike Neary and Engineer Wladimir Wlassowsky, for being responsive to Oakmore's concerns.

Expect more news on this topic to appear on our new association website in the coming months.

- Kurt Lavenson -

Unite Oakmore Highlands Schools

Are you aware that Oakmore Highlands has two sets of schools? Somehow after the building of Joaquin Miller and Monterera Middle School, Oakmore Highlands was what we believe to be incorrectly divided into two separate school districts. Oakmore Road, one block of Clemens, two blocks of Leimert, Hoover to the stairs and all of Edge have Glenview and Edna Brewer and their elementary schools. Skyline is the high school for all of Oakmore.

The task ahead of us is to unite the entire Oakmore neighborhood into one set of schools, Joaquin Miller and Monterera. It's good for the kids and it's good for the unity of the neighborhood. Help us accomplish this task. Contact Lisa Lamoureux at 336-0420.

Oakmore is one great neighborhood, with great kids.

- Cindy Haines -

Oakmore Highland's Public Stairs – Update Community Meeting Thursday Sept 23rd at 7 PM

The reconstruction and repairs to the public stairs is scheduled to start during the week of September 29, 2003. A community meeting between the City of Oakland's Public Works Agency staff overseeing this project and the residents of Oakmore Highlands is scheduled for September 23, 2003, 7:00 PM, at Wells & Bennett Realty (1451 Leimert Blvd.). Final design details, timetables, and issues that affect and/or concern the community will be addressed. PLEASE ATTEND this meeting . . . or forever hold your peace!

Should you miss this meeting, check with our website for details as they emerge: www.oakmorehomes.org.

- Virginia Lew -

Dog Daze:

Many of us use and enjoy the rustic trail that runs from the end of Bridgeview Drive along the bank of the Sausal Creek Canyon. Some of us have dogs with us when we're there. And some very few of us have dogs with bad manners- or should I say that a few of the dogs have owners with bad manners?

Please, let's all remember a few basic courtesies so that we can share the trail and this great neighborhood without incident. We are fortunate to have this section of wild landscape in our midst and we should treat it as a gift to be cherished and maintained by all. It would be sad indeed if we spoiled the ecosystem there with trash or dog waste and it would be equally sad if we proved to be so incapable of mutual courtesy and cleaning up after ourselves that the area required more government regulation.

My dog Cleo and I have a few modest requests for our neighbors, doggie and otherwise:

- *The obvious*- dog owners please clean up after your pets. Bag it, pick it up on your return walk and put it in the trashcan at the end of Bridgeview Drive. Bring extra bags when you can, and leave them in the dispenser near the trashcan.
- *The almost as obvious*- dog owners please clean up after other peoples pets. Yep, if your dog buddies 'forget' then pick it up for them and encourage the other dog people not to 'forget' next time.
- *'Forgetful' dog owners*- you know who you are...and I'm tired of picking up after you. Get with the program. It's easy. We all know dogs and dog people can be great for the community so let's not let something this simple create ill will in the neighborhood. Please stop making the rest of us look bad.
- *Control your dogs*- socialize them and have them under your control at all times. There are many good dogs in the neighborhood who are well trained, fun loving and easily controlled while off leash. There are also occasionally one or two who are not. Teach them, work with them, leash them or leave them home. Bad actors ruin the fun for everyone and endanger us all.
- *Dogs who jump on people*- remind your owners that 1) you might be one more jump from doggie jail, and 2) they have failed you as well the community by not teaching you some better manners, so please get started now and make changes.
- *To the Joggers & Cyclists*-if you think a dog is taking too much interest in you or charging at you, then stop for a second. It's that simple. Some dogs get very interested in chasing things that run past them. This is true whether the dog is leashed or not. In

fact, their reaction is often more severe when they are leashed. Perhaps stopping for a few seconds is inconvenient and slows you down. Well, I feel the same way about stopping my car when you're in the crosswalk. But I stop anyway. It's part of living together in the City.

I am a firm believer that when the trails are used frequently by good people, good dogs and good professional dog walkers, they are a cleaner and safer place for us all. I have seen dog walkers clean bucket loads of waste- including people trash- from the trails. It has also been shown many times that good dogs running and playing freely on the trails tend to deter bad dogs, bad dog owners and bad characters in general. The bad guys lose their privacy and they go elsewhere. That is a direct and tangible safety benefit to the community.

- Kurt Lavenson -

Oakmore Homes Association Working for You

With the power of the Association behind us, the sidewalk on Oakmore Road has been patched with a "make safe" fix in record time. Without the voice of the Homes Association, the temporary fix would have taken much longer. While the "make safe" is not a thing of beauty, it does provide for a temporary safety measure until the sidewalk is repaired. We are told by the City that the more permanent fix may not take place for a couple of years.

- Terry Kulka -

Holiday Lights and Decorations

The Oakmore commercial district will be planning a more festive look this holiday season to brighten the storefronts in our shopping area. Oakmore Homes Association Board members Cynthia Gaines and Nona Smith, along with longtime Oakmore resident Beverly Thomason, have been working with storeowners to develop a plan. If you are interested in participating in this project, please call the Oakmore Homes Association office at 510-530-4719 and let us know. All input is welcome.

- Nona Smith -

OAKMORE GOES TO THE ZOO

Date: September 28, 2003 – Time: 10:00 - 4:00
Call: 530-6022, for details and tickets

Group rate admission applies for all Oakmore residents (including friends and family). You don't have to be an OHA member to get these savings from OHA.

- Adults (15-54 years) \$4.50 save \$3
- Children (2-14 years) \$3.50 save \$1
- Seniors (55+ years) \$3.50 save \$1

Oakmore Homes Announces New WEB SITE:

www.oakmorehomes.com

To help keep members up-to-date on all that is happening in our neighborhood, Oakmore Homes Association has launched its new web site. Check the site first for the latest information on everything from the Leimert Bridge retrofit to community events like Oakmore Day at the Oakland Zoo. The site includes information about the Association and how to let us know what's on your mind. Read about public safety concerns and see pictures from the early days of our neighborhood. See some of the things that make our neighborhood special and beautiful. Our site will be regularly updated, so be sure to check out "What's New" and special events on our "Keep the Date" page. Let us know what you think and what you would like to see added to the site. We welcome your input, articles and any classic photos you would like to see included on the site. So check out the web!! - Bob Thyken

Oakmore
Community

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OAKMORE GOES TO THE ZOO
 Date: September 20, 2000
 Time: 10:00 - 4:00
 Call: 530-6022, for tickets

Oakmore Homes Association is sponsoring this day with the animals.

Group rate admission applies for all Oakmore residents (including friends and family). You don't have to be an OHA member.

Adults (15-54 years)	\$4.50	save \$3
Children (2-14 years)	\$3.50	save \$1
Seniors (55+ years)	\$3.50	save \$1

There is a parking fee of \$3.00 per car/van, which is paid at the gate.

The animals are not the only attraction, either. There is a Rides Area for the young and the young-at-heart. The Miniature Train, Roller Coaster & Skyride are \$2.00 per person. Other Children's Rides cost \$1.00 per person. Children under 2 ride free on the Train.

At 2:00, OHA is hosting a refreshment break at the Zoo Meadow. Members of Oakmore Homes Association will be treated to something sweet and cool...

OAKMORE HOMES ASSOCIATION

►What's New?
 ►Keep the Date
 ►Email OHA



**OAKMORE
HOMES
ASSOCIATION**

Mark Your Calendar!

**Community Meeting
Stairs Repair**

**Tuesday Sept 23
at 7pm
at Wells & Bennett**



WEB SITE:

www.OAKMOREHOMES.org

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