



**OAKMORE
HOMES
ASSOCIATION**

Oakmore Homes Association

Spring 2004 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

Greetings to all of our neighbors in Oakmore. This is my first newsletter as President of the Oakmore Homes Association (OHA). I am the newest member of the board and I am proud to be serving with four other dedicated directors in our efforts to maintain the special qualities of Oakmore Highlands. My colleagues are **Virginia Lew, Nona Smith, Cynthia Haines and Terry Kulka**. We are all volunteers and we work for you.

The new Board of Directors is in transition as we bid farewell to our former President, Gayle Ransom and our former Secretary, Robert Thyken. Please join us in thanking Gayle for her four years on the board, the last two of which were at the helm. Gayle- thank you for leading OHA through several years of great accomplishments, like the public stairs which are now nearing completion. The remaining directors and you have created a lot of momentum that will carry us much further. Bob- thank you for serving in the past as President and recently as the administrative Secretary. As I review the files and the archives I realize how much work is required to keep this organization running smoothly.

As you look through this newsletter you will see highlights of recent OHA efforts. However, these are just the high profile issues. We also work ‘behind the scenes’ to facilitate resolution of neighborhood problems, coordinate with local Realtors regarding homes within the Oakmore boundaries, monitor City of Oakland planning issues and request help from the City Council or the Public Works Agency when needed.

Which brings me to a call for more neighborhood involvement. Please join us in our efforts. Oakmore needs you. Our community is stronger when we work together. The strength of OHA is directly proportional to both the quantity of member of households on our rolls and to the number of motivated neighbors involved with our committees and projects. So, if you are not officially a member household, please sign up and join us. If you are already a member, please let us know what projects or topics interest you and whether you could volunteer some time to help make more good things happen.

Our board is focused on neighborhood outreach and inclusion for 2004. We welcome your involvement.

~ Kurt Lavenson ~

DID YOU KNOW?

The Oakmore Homes Association is one of the oldest homeowners' organizations in California.

For decades, the Oakmore District remained an area of rugged and grassy hills, with canyons and lush creek beds cutting them off from the surrounding community. In 1926 the Park Boulevard Company, an association of land developers headed by realtor Walter H. Leimert, planned a residential development that was to be a model for its time. By constructing the Leimert Bridge (Sausal Creek Bridge) which they dubbed “The bridge that wrought a miracle for Oakmore Highlands”, they created access to these hills and created the neighborhood that is now Oakmore.

ADDRESS PAINTING

Having your address visible on the curb or driveway allows emergency services to easily locate your home. In the interest of promoting safety and public welfare, the Oakmore Homes Association contracts with a painter every other year to paint addresses in Oakmore. **Member properties can have this done for free.** Non-member properties can get this done for \$11, which is almost a 50% discount off the regular price.

Numbers will be painted in black against a white background. You will have the option of having numbers painted on the side and on top of the curb, or on your driveway edge. Take advantage of this offering by **returning the enclosed postcard** (or you can email us). The painting will take place in early summer.

~ Terry Kulka ~

UNITING OAKMORE'S SCHOOLS

Are you aware that Oakmore Highlands has two sets of schools? Somehow after the building of Joaquin Miller and Montera 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 as their elementary & middle 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 Montera. 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 STAIRS

The stairs between Bridgeview and Leimert are almost totally done. They are getting their handrails installed as this is going to press, and some adjustments to the concrete will be completed in May. The stairs between Leimert and Oakview have been reconstructed, and the repairs to the remaining two sets of stairs are complete. The City of Oakland is quite proud of the stairs between Bridgeview and Leimert – they told us that these are the prettiest stairs that they have undertaken. Besides being easy on the eye, the stairs are also easy on the legs – their excellent design makes climbing the steep stretch between Bridgeview and Leimert surprisingly effortless. The cost of these stairs was high, though, so this design is uniquely Oakmore's as they will not be duplicated again.

Take a walk and enjoy the attractiveness and safety of our stairs.

~ Virginia Lew ~

KEEPING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE

Occasionally, the Oakmore Homes Association office will receive a phone call from a member reporting a theft or other crime incident in our neighborhood. We appreciate the information, and pass it along to our membership as a warning. However, the very best way to keep our neighborhood safe and crime free is to know what to do to prevent crime in the first place. The Oakland Police Department recommends that each neighborhood block form a Neighborhood Home Alert Group.

Forming such a group is an easy thing to do. Neighbors simply decide to participate as an entire block, or portion of a street, if a street, such as Leimert Boulevard, is particularly long. One or two neighbors volunteer to be the Block Captain (or co-Captains). The Block Captain is responsible for being the "point person" who keeps contact with the Oakland Police Department to schedule meetings and distribute information.

After the Block Captain is chosen and the neighbors interested in forming a Home Alert Group decide on a place to meet for the first session, several possible meeting dates should be selected. Next, the Block Captain should call Melanie LeVine, the Coordinator for Oakland's Home Alert Program. Her phone number is 777-8617. She will facilitate a date selection and organize a representative from OPD to attend the session. The first session should run about an hour and a half, with each succeeding session running about an hour. Sessions usually start around 7:30 pm. Police session leaders are available Mondays through Thursdays, and will need a three week lead time to get coordinated.

The topics of the first four meetings are pre-selected:

- Meeting Number One deals with organizational matters such as the completion of Operation I.D.
- Meeting Two deals with the prevention of residential burglary, and includes a 30 minute video.
- Meeting Three concerns personal safety.
- Meeting Four deals with the use of the 911 System.

There are 21 different topics that OPD offers in their Home Alert Program. Each group chooses its own topics.

The safest neighborhoods are the ones where neighbors watch out for each other and are prepared to act to prevent crime. We would encourage you to start a Home Alert Program on your block.

~ Nona Smith ~

LEIMERT BRIDGE RETROFIT- update

We are working to keep the bridge retrofit a priority in the midst of substantial budget cuts and a changing political climate. Your board stays in touch with our City Councilperson Jean Quan and her staff regularly. She is

checking with CalTrans to determine the current scheduling proposed for construction. We have also checked with PG&E regarding the safety of the existing overhead wiring. They assured us it is satisfactory. We look forward to a day when we can get these wires relocated and get the fences replaced. We think (and hope) it will be in the near future.

~ Kurt Lavenson ~

A WISH LIST.....

Like all other nonprofit associations, the Oakmore Homes Association is high on enthusiasm and energy and low on funds to make all the projects we wish to accomplish happen. We are hoping that as interested members of the Oakmore Homes Association, you will take the time to review the (short) list of our needs below and offer to help us out with one or two of them.

Immediately, we are in need of:

- ❖ Someone with artistic skills to help manage and update the Oakmore Homes Association portion of the community bulletin board in front of Rocky's Market
- ❖ Occasional pro bono legal advice
- ❖ Spare time to help with special events & annual meeting

~ Nona Smith ~

PARK BLVD MEDIAN STRIP GETS DRESSED UP

The Glenview Neighborhood Association (GNA) has spearheaded a project to revive the Park Blvd. median strip from Excelsior to Estates. The City of Oakland will install and maintain an irrigation system and a Glenview resident – landscape architect Dan Morris – has donated his services to provide a plan for planting that will give year-round color and presence to the strip.

GNA is coordinating a fundraising effort through Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, Inc. (a non-profit, private organization) among businesses from Montclair to Oakmore to Glenview for monies to buy the plants for this project. Of course, they hope that the residents of Glenview, Oakmore, and Piedmont Pines will appreciate the beauty of their drive along Park Blvd. and will contribute to the planting too. More information can be found at www.glenviewneighborhood.org, including a link for making a contribution. For those without web access, donations can be sent to GNA, 4200 Park Blvd., PMB 111, Oakland, CA 94602. Make your tax-deductible checks payable to "Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, Inc."

~ Virginia Lew ~

FINANCES & BUDGET

We are currently operating on a budget consistent with our Annual 2003/2004 Disclosure as mailed last year. We have completed the annual review by our certified accountants.

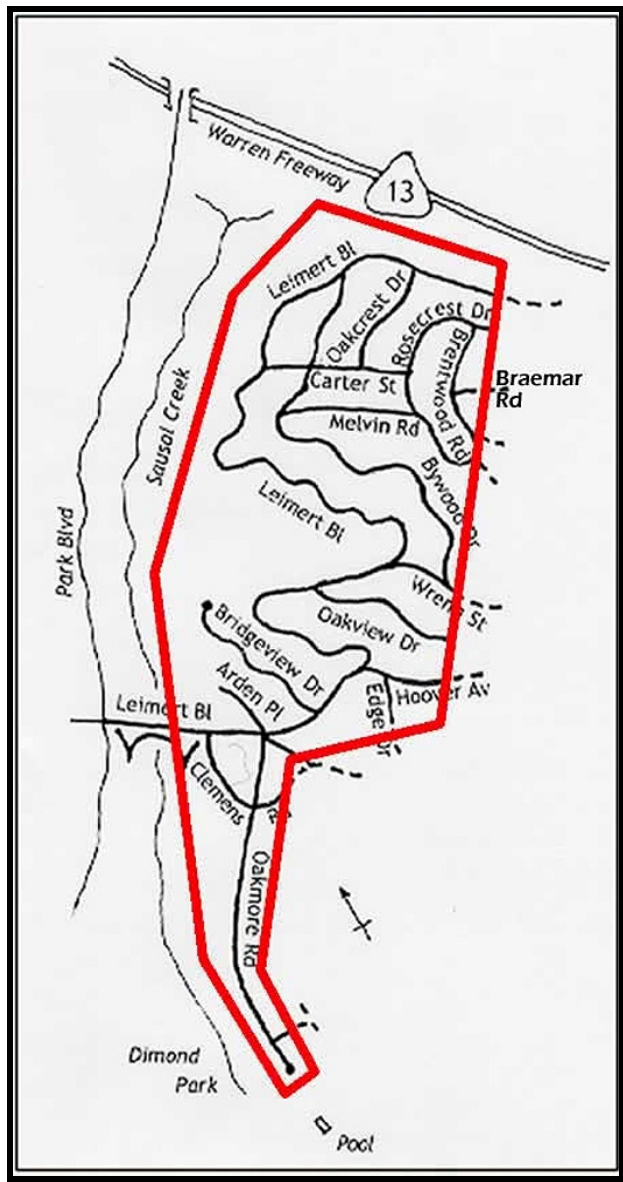
BOUNDARIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

There is only one Oakmore and the boundaries are clearly defined. These are the same boundaries that define our Association limits and they were specifically deeded by Walter H. Leimert when he created the subdivision in the 1920's. There are 430 homes located within the deeded boundaries. 220 of them are also currently enrolled in the Oakmore Homes Association.

The planning and design guidelines employed by Mr. Leimert and the maintenance of that legacy by The Oakmore Homes Association and our member households are valuable assets to Oakmore.

The Map below shows the streets included within our association boundaries. If this newsletter is addressed to "resident" your home is not currently enrolled in the association. Please contact us to sign up and join.

~ Cindy Haines ~



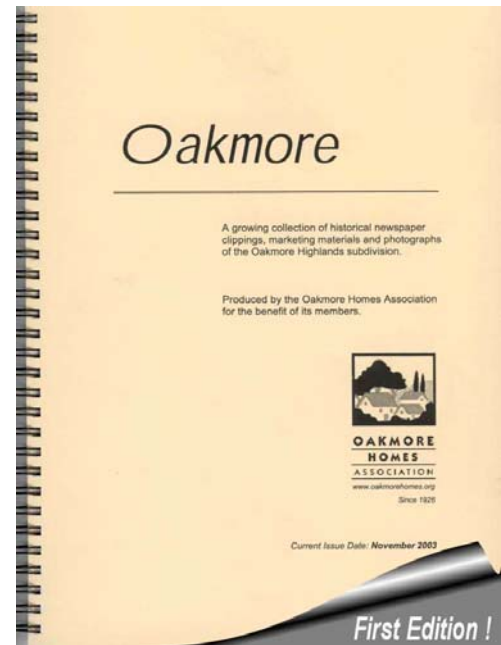
~ Map courtesy of Bob Thyken Maps.© 2004 ~

FREE HISTORY BOOK FOR MEMBERS:

For many years the dedicated members and directors of the Oakmore Homes Association have been preserving copies of historical newspaper clippings, photos and real estate information about our neighborhood. Much of it is from the Oakland Public Library History Room, Courtesy of the Oakland Tribune. We have also received some great historical materials from the archives of Wells & Bennett and from Bosko Photography. We have now assembled a substantial collection of interesting articles and marketing materials dating back to the original opening of the Oakmore subdivision in 1926.

Many of the old clippings are displayed on the bulletin board at Rocky's Market, in the commercial district near the Leimert Bridge. Due to strong and growing interest in the history of Oakmore, the Association is now offering a bound booklet of these historical materials to the membership. Reading through the materials inside, one gets a sense not just of Oakmore's neighborhood history but of the evolution of the real estate market in Oakland and Piedmont .

Members can contact us to receive a free copy of the booklet. Non-members can contact us to become members.....and then get a booklet....!



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