



**OAKMORE
HOMES
ASSOCIATION**

Oakmore Homes Association

SUMMER 2002 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.”



Meditations

The Oakmore Homes Association's Board of Directors occasionally hears this question from members: "What is the Association doing for me?" What is the value of belonging to the Association? We want to provide at least a partial answer.

- There is power in numbers. If a large constituent goes to City Hall and asks, demands, pushes for something, they are more apt to be heard and to get action. With large numbers, discounts in costs of services or products are possible. Here's a short list of recent Oakmore Homes Association activities (see details in this newsletter):
 - ◆ Oakland had abandoned the care and maintenance of public paths and stairs throughout the city. Because of your Association's pressure on the city, Oakmore will once again have the safe use of its stairs.
 - ◆ The dilapidated light and utility poles on Leimert Bridge are being rehabbed as this goes to press. This is 100% due to the Association's request for action.
 - ◆ We have negotiated a price reduction for painting addresses on curbs and on driveways on a biannual basis. Incidentally, for all Oakmore residents interested in this service, OHA will underwrite it for its members and, in the interest of safety, offer the painting at the group rate for non-members.
 - ◆ The Oakland Heritage Alliance is conducting the Oakmore Open House tour on Sept. 29. The regular price is \$30. Because of the huge interest from Oakmore residents, the Association will be offering

tickets to Association members at a substantial discount. Even non-members will be able to buy their tickets from the Association at a reduced group rate.

- ◆ By organizing the Oakmore Night at Chabot, we can get a group rate admission. Members interested in attending will again receive a further discount from the Association, and non-members are invited to attend at the group rate.
- Property values increase when there is a homeowner association. In addition to the "power in numbers" aspect mentioned above, a homeowner association's CC&R's helps the community to maintain stability and a unique character. Have you noticed the number of homes for sale advertising themselves as Oakmore when in fact, they are outside the Oakmore boundaries? These owners and agents know that the "Oakmore" designation will attract potential buyers. After the Oakmore Highlands signs were put up, OHA heard some grumbling from homeowners situated on the "wrong" side of the signs - they do not fall within the Oakmore boundaries and were not happy about that.
- A feeling of community is important for most homeowners. The Oakmore Homes Association has been active in promoting and enhancing this sense of community, with recent activity centering on the upcoming Oakmore Open House Tour, historic landmark plaquing of the Leimert Bridge, and a night at the Chabot Space & Science Center. A published historical Oakmore archive, currently in development, will be offered at cost to members.
- A brief historical reminder of past services:

For decades, prior to Waste Management offering pickup of garden clippings, the Oakmore Homes Association arranged for removal of yard waste. OHA negotiated an annual large-volume rate, collected the monies from the membership, and paid the collectors. This was a highly popular service. More recently, OHA contracted for neighborhood security patrol by Westec, now performed by Bay Alarm, at a group rate for members. OHA collected the fees from the subscribers and paid the patrol company for the first several years of this service. (Bay Alarm now bills the individual homeowners)

- The Board of Directors is aware that there are feelings of dismay about the recent development of lots along upper Leimert Blvd. We wish that area could have remained open, too. However, what the general membership may not be aware of is that over the last 15 years, the different Boards have negotiated with owners, developers, and the City to lower the density of new construction. Without the active intervention of the Board, there would easily have been twice the number of new buildings in that same area. As hard as it is to see this as a victory, the alternative would have been so much worse.

The Oakmore Homes Association brochure has been included in this mailing. It is updated annually, providing a quick overview of the Association, its mission statement, and some of its activities. We distribute them to realtors, to Oakmore Highlands' residents at various local gatherings, and to any who request them. Please take a look at it to see what your Association has been doing for you. If you are not currently a member, we encourage you to join. \$60 annually works out to be about 16.5¢ a day. You may call us, email us, or drop us a note with comments, questions, or requests. - *Virginia Lew*

OAKMORE CELEBRATES OAKLAND'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

Sunday September 29, 2002
Leimert Bridge Ceremony – 11 am
Oakmore Highlands Home Tour – 12 to 5 pm

Is September 29 marked on your calendar in red ink? If not, it should be. This will be a gala day.

At 11 a.m., with city dignitaries present, a plaque will be placed on the Leimert bridge. The plaque is an original design of metal, in color, with photo detail and a short history; it recognizes the importance of the bridge and the tract. Our bridge is among the first city landmarks to be plaqued. Your association is underwriting the cost of the plaques. We hope you will participate in what will be an historic event.

At noon, and running until 5, is the Oakmore Highlands Home Tour sponsored by the Oakland Heritage Alliance. Last year that O.H.A. conducted the first-ever walking tour of Oakmore Highlands; this year we'll be able to see the inside of 10 of the homes scattered from Oakmore Road up the hill to Brentwood. This tour recognizes Oakmore in the league of areas that traditionally see home tours: Piedmont Pines,

Piedmont, Rockridge. We've known all along how special we are. It's good to see this attention focused on Oakmore.

The tour will reflect the flavor of the 20's, 30's and 40's. Each tour home will be marked in front with a vintage Packard, courtesy of the Packard International Motor Club. Known architects are featured: Guy Brown, Miller Warnecke, Earl McDonald, C.H. Anderson. For the most part, tourists will have full access to the homes, which will be decorated to elicit ooh's and ahh's. Many of the homes are also garden showplaces. A mid-point rest stop will provide water and a chance to view one of the beautiful gardens on this hill. The final home will host a reception

The Oakland Heritage Alliance will offer a group rate to our Association, which we will pass along to all residents in our Association area. Association members will receive a special, additional discount. We will keep you posted about this day. We take this opportunity to remind you to set this day aside to take advantage of a unique experience. – *Gayle Ransom*

Leimert (Sausal Creek) Bridge - Update -

The Leimert Bridge was originally called the Sausal Creek Bridge. It has been designated an historical landmark by the City of Oakland, and in this year of celebrating the 150th birthday of Oakland, the Leimert Bridge will be graced with a beautiful plaque identifying it as an historical landmark. The Oakmore Homes Association is paying for this wonderful plaque, which is being designed under the sponsorship of the Oakland Heritage Alliance. The plaque will be unveiled on September 29, 2002 at an 11:00 AM ceremony at the bridge.

You may also have noticed our Oakmore Highlands signs around. One of them is posted on the Leimert Bridge so that incoming traffic (both car and foot) is greeted mid-span by this welcoming sign.

So with the Leimert Bridge under more scrutiny nowadays, it is difficult to ignore the ratty appearance of the lamp and utility poles across the span. Yours truly placed a call to Dave Lonestar, who is in charge of graffiti and deterioration abatement within the Public Works Agency. When the message was retrieved, a second pair of ears was sitting nearby. Turns out this maintenance painter is quite familiar with the decrepit appearance of our bridge's poles and agreed they needed TLC, ASAP. He began the work within a week, and as this is going to press, the work is still ongoing.

The bridge power poles are getting a black coat of "paint". This is rust-buster coat that bonds to the metal. Later, the poles will be painted a mild green. A graffiti- and sticker-resistant final coat will be applied a certain distance up the pole (this is a slightly cloudy, colorless coat). The job should be completed before our September 29 ceremony. Good thing, too. We are inviting several dignitaries, and of course, we hope you will be joining us. So we want the Leimert (alright, the Sausal Creek) Bridge to be looking its best.

Now if only we could do something about that wire fencing along the top of the bridge . . . – *Virginia Lew*

Oakmore Night at the Chabot Space & Science Center

We are very fortunate to have the Chabot Space & Science Center virtually in our backyards. This excellent facility has much to offer for adult and child alike. The Oakmore Homes Association has arranged for an Oakmore Night at Chabot on **Saturday, November 2**. Daylight Savings Time will have ended and sunset will occur an hour earlier. There will be a new moon on Nov. 4, which means that Nov. 2 will be a fairly dark night for star gazing through telescopes (weather permitting). Included with general admission will be a show of your choice, either in the Planetarium or in the MegaDome Theater. There are many exhibits, including hands-on activities, to interest the curious.

Although we are calling this Oakmore Night at the Chabot, ticket holders can actually go anytime from 10:00 AM to 7:30 PM. The entire center is open during these hours, and the Planetarium and MegaDome have frequent showings. While the exhibits close at 7:30 PM, there are still 2 final show times, at 7:30 and 8:30. Ticket holders can come and go throughout the day and evening by showing their admission tickets. This allows for flexible personal planning of your day. There are several different shows to choose from for both the planetarium and MegaDome. Log onto Chabot's website at www.chabotspace.org for a list of the shows for both venues. Parking is \$4 during the day.

The observatory is free on Friday and Saturday evenings, and will be open from 7:00 PM to at least 10:00 PM. The two large telescopes, Leah and Rachel, will be showing the sky's mysteries to us. But their 36-inch sister telescope probably will not be up and running before the end of the year. However, Chabot has an alliance with the East Bay Astronomical Society, whose members frequently set up numerous telescopes on the plaza on Friday and Saturday nights, and they are aimed at various points of the night sky for any and all to gaze through. Parking is free on these evenings, in conjunction with the free telescope viewing.

The group admission price plus one venue (show) is **\$12.75** for adults and **\$9.00** for youths (4-12) and seniors (65+). OHA members will receive a further **50%** discount on these prices, with a maximum of 2 adults and 2 children/seniors. (More tickets may be ordered from us at the group rate.) For Oakmore residents who are not members of the Association, we would be pleased to include you at the group rate. Those wishing to attend more than one show will need to purchase regular tickets at the Chabot desk.

Please return the enclosed "Reply Requested" postcard. Tell us how many tickets you will need and how we can reach you. Also indicate which venue (planetarium or MegaDome) you wish to attend because those are separate tickets from the admission one. The choice of show for each venue is up to you (check out that website!). Or you can email us at oakmorehomes@yahoo.com with this information. We will arrange delivery of the tickets to you beforehand. Remember; to get these rates you must purchase your tickets through your Oakmore Homes Association. – *Virginia Lew*

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Update on Public Stairs/ Paths

The City of Oakland is ready to begin reconstruction of 2 sets of public stairs in Oakmore. One set runs between Bridgeview and Leimert, the other connects Oakview and Leimert. These 2 sets of stairs are both on the city's list of 10-worst stairs. These paths are deteriorated to the point of being quite dangerous, and it is not possible to just repair them.

Reconstruction is a major undertaking - for example, the Merriewood stairs took about a year to design and rebuild. The funds for the Oakmore stairs are now available. During this next year, the Public Works Agency will work with our community to design and rebuild our stairs. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin Summer 2003. If you wish to contribute to the design issues, plan on attending our Annual Meeting on November 6, 2002 (more details on that meeting in the next newsletter). We will be inviting staff from PWA to come and talk to us about the stairs and their design, as well as the timetable and logistics of this project. (If you are not now a member of the Association but want to be kept abreast, use the enclosed Reply postcard and indicate your interest.)

The remaining 2 sets of public stairs are in reasonably good shape and generally only require cleanup, which the City has promised to do more often. Your OHA Board regularly reminds the City of this promise! - *Virginia Lew*

Oakmore History

Your association board will be publishing an area history, a book that can be used as a general historic resource. This will be made available to members once completed. Board member Terry Kulka and others have spent many hours in the Oakland History Room of the main library making the best copies possible from the microfiche files of the newspapers.

We know there's more we can include. Your input and participation are needed. Do you have old pictures or documents pertaining to Oakmore? Do you have stories you can tell which bear on the Oakmore Highlands? Is there anything you know or have which would bring the past to life? We want and need whatever that is. Your gift of time working on this project is welcomed. Just say the word.

Help us by calling the OHA number, emailing us, or by using the enclosed reply card to let us know there's something we should pursue. We and your fellow association members thank you in advance. – *Gayle Ransom*

FREE Curb Painting – LAST CHANCE FOR 2002

Return the enclosed **Reply Card** by August 31 to get **FREE** curb painting. No curb? We'll paint it on your address number on your driveway if you desire. Not an Association member? Return the Reply Card and receive the Oakmore group discount rate (between \$8 and \$15 depending on number of households participating). We must have your reply card to paint your curb or driveway. Remember, this is a **FREE** biannual service for Oakmore Home Association members.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday
September 29

11 AM - LEIMERT BRIDGE
DEDICATION CEREMONY

NOON - OAKMORE HIGHLANDS
HOME TOUR

SPECIAL MEMBER OFFERS

- Free Curb Painting
- OHA Open House Tour Discount
- Oakmore Night at
Chabot Space and Science Center

Return the enclosed
Reply Post Card to
claim your discount.

Offers available ONLY through Oakmore Homes Association



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