

Oakenshawe Log

FEBRUARY 2003

PUBLICATION OF THE OAKENSHAWE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

2003 COMMUNITY & DINNER MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH - 4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

The 2003 Oakenshawe Improvement Association Community Meeting will be held Sunday, March 9th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland (4 East University Parkway, in the northwest corner of the University Parkway - St. Paul Street intersection). The format will be a general meeting between 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. and an informal dinner/social hour between 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. The OIA will provide dinner (menu TBA) and babysitting will be provided by Oakenshawe teens.

Topics on the 2003 General Meeting Agenda:

State of the Neighborhood Address	2003-2005 OIA Board Member Elections
2003 OIA Initiatives (House Tours, Street Lights)	OIA Budget & Financial Report
OIA Dues	Oakenshawe Resident Welcome Packets
Question & Answer Session	

The OIA Community Meeting is open to all Oakenshawe Residents. If you have comments, questions or concerns regarding any facet of living in Oakenshawe, the OIA General Meeting is a perfect opportunity to voice them.

OIA Board Member Election: Every two years, the Oakenshawe Improvement Association elects its board members. The OIA is actively recruiting for new board members. If you are interested in becoming an OIA board member, please contact Perry Bridger (410) 662-9672 or Ann Griffen (410) 889-9189 prior to the March 4th OIA board meeting.

OIA Membership: If you are not already an OIA member, why not? As an Oakenshawe resident, you already enjoy many of the benefits of the OIA's efforts; however, the OIA could do much, much more to improve our neighborhood if more residents contributed. If you want more information about how the OIA benefits Oakenshawe, please be sure to attend the Community Meeting on March 9th. Thanks for your support!

Street Lights: Replacing the existing street lights in our neighborhood will be a primary initiative of the OIA in 2003. The existing street lights are too high, too dim and are not congruent with our neighborhood's architectural style. The OIA encourages you to attend the March 9th General Meeting to hear and/or provide discussion on the street light initiative.

OIA House Tour: Tentatively scheduled for late spring of this year, the Oakenshawe house tour will provide a fun and educational means to gain perspective on the homes in our neighborhood. You may even gain a few ideas on tips for fixing up your own Oakenshawe home. The Oakenshawe house tour will be open to all Oakenshawe residents and will be held at a nominal charge (to pay for expenses and to benefit the OIA). Please contact Becky Bridger (410) 662-9672 for information and/or if you would like your Oakenshawe home to be a part of the OIA House Tour.

Oakenshawe New Resident Welcome Packet: The OIA is pleased to announce that the New Resident Welcome Packet is almost ready for distribution! The welcome packet includes valuable OIA board member contact information, contractor reference list, National Historic Register Designation information, neighborhood history and many other items that no Oakenshawe resident should be without. Union Memorial Hospital has graciously agreed to print, collate and assemble the welcome packet free of charge. An OIA board member will deliver one copy to every home in the neighborhood. If you have any questions about the Oakenshawe New Resident Welcome Packet, please contact Joe Rauseo (410) 261-5546 <rauseo-ent@earthlink.net>.

Crime:

Crime trends in the Northern District of Baltimore City are down overall; however, there have been a few recent incidents of thefts and break-ins within Oakenshawe. On one occasion, the perpetrator forced entry into the home as the home owner was opening their door. Unlocking and opening our front doors makes us vulnerable because our backs are turned toward the sidewalk and street. Please take extra precaution when you approach your home - especially at night. Make an effort to inspect your surroundings for unfamiliar people and/or people who appear to "watching" and not walking. Carry a cell phone or personal alarm. If these are not available to you, yelling "FIRE" in a threatening situation can be an effective alternative.

Most of all, the best deterrent to becoming a crime victim is to make you, your home and your car less crime-friendly. Lock your doors during the night and day, while you are out and while you are at home. Perform a crime inspection on your home during the day and again during the night. Assess how difficult breaking into your home would be, were that your intent. We view our homes and vehicles as places of familiar safety; criminals view them as opportunity. Check whether your doors and windows are locked during the day and night. Do you have valuable belongings in plain sight from the sidewalk or alley? Check that your fence gate and/or garage door are locked. Do you have an alarm, a dog, or at least indications that you have an alarm or a dog? Making you and your home a less inviting target will benefit you and the entire neighborhood.

Clubs and Activities:

OIA Restoration & Renovation Club: The next OIA Restoration and Renovation Club event is scheduled for Saturday, March 8th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Becky and Perry Bridger, 3435 Guilford Terrace. Light refreshments will be served and the Bridgers will lead a tour of their home. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear what your neighbors are doing and share your own restoration and home improvement experiences. All Oakenshawe and Guilford residents are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP to Perry and Becky Bridger (410) 662-9672. For more information concerning the OIA Restoration & Renovation Club, please contact Mrs. Ann G Giroux (410) 889-6484.

OIA Garden Club: The Oakenshawe Garden Club is hosting a floral arrangement seminar/demonstration by Master Gardener May Messerly on Wednesday, February 12th. Please bring nips, clips, some evergreens and a container for the hands-on experience. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Vivian Coombs (410) 243-7232.

Winter 2003 Community Gardening & Greening Class: Greater Baltimore Master Gardeners, Parks & People and the Enoch Pratt Free Library will be hosting free gardening classes at the Waverly branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library on Saturday mornings from February 1st through March 29th. For more information, please contact Dennis Bishop (410) 396-1888 or <db288@umail.umd.edu>.

Community News:

- Union Memorial Hospital OB Unit: Effective March 25, 2003, Union Memorial Hospital will discontinue OB services. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Amy Strong Asfa or Jenny Hodgins of UMH (410) 554-2500.
- Public hearings on City Council Bill #03-1004 - Mayor's Redistricting Plan - will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. City Hall, Fourth Floor, City Council Chambers - 100 N. Holliday Street (televised on cable channel 21) and on Thursday, February 20, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. Baltimore City College High School (auditorium) 3220 The Alameda.
- A bill to kill Historic Tax Credits (SB 302) will come before the Senate Budget and Tax Committee on Wednesday, February 12, 2003 at 1:30. Resident (constituent) turnout will be crucial to preserving historic tax credits. Midtown Development is sponsoring a car pool at 11:30 a.m. at 1221 N. Calvert Street.

Neighborhood Notes:

Greenspace: A gentle reminder to all neighbors about the Greenspace, our collective back yard located along Barclay Street in the eastern section of Oakenshawe. The Greenspace is fragile territory built in the early 1970's on top of asphalt. It is privately owned and maintained by the community. Please do not park on the Greenspace, and ensure that any contractors, delivery or other service people also do not park there. If you would like to contribute toward its upkeep, please contact Tucker Fulwiler at (410) 467-1101.

Trees: Winter snow and ice weigh on limbs, sometimes causing them to break or crack. Most property lines extend the curb of the street in front of your house. This means that the tree or trees in front of your house is your responsibility, even if the city planted it. Although the city will prune and/or remove damaged or dying trees, we are still liable for any damage or injury our trees may cause. If your trees need pruning, removal or if you need a new tree, please complete the form below and return to Deborah Curtis-Johnson at 3418 Guilford Terrace by February 28, 2003. The City will not tend to your tree(s) without a signed and dated request.

Tree Pruning / Removal / New Tree Request Form:

Property Owner: _____

Address: _____

Tree Location (Please be Specific): _____ Request (Pruning, Removal or New Tree): _____

Signature / Date: _____