

OAKMONT HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Annual Neighborhood Meeting Thursday, November 20, 2008

The annual meeting of the Oakmont Heights Neighborhood Association (OHNA) will begin at **7 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, in Harris Bell Hall at Westminster Manor.** Harris Bell Hall is on the third floor in the north wing of the building, across from the elevator. To get to Harris Bell Hall, enter Westminster through the health care center at the north end of the facility, go to the end of the hallway behind the front desk, then take the elevator up one floor (or take the stairs at the end of the next hallway to the right). If driving, park in the lots at Jackson and Bull Creek Road.

The neighborhood association will review the status of issues affecting our neighborhood, and set goals and priorities for 2009. We also will elect officers and fill at-large positions on the Executive Committee, the association's governing board, for next year. If you have time and interest to serve, please contact association president Arten Avakian at 452-6188 or at ajavakian@aol.com. The meeting should be relatively brief; please attend if you can.

Association Dues \$3.00 for 2009

Annual neighborhood association dues for 2009 will continue to be \$3.00 per household. Dues payments cover association expenses such as printing this newsletter, and a small reserve for emergencies. Payment of dues allows you to vote at neighborhood association meetings, although everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

Even if you are not able to attend meetings or help with association activities, your dues payment allows your neighborhood association to remain active and maintain and improve the quality of life we enjoy here in Oakmont Heights. Please take a moment to complete the attached form and return your payment today.

Issues Affecting Our Neighborhood - The Past Year in Review

If it seems you haven't heard much in the past year from your Neighborhood Association (OHNA), it's

because it's been a relatively quiet year, not requiring lots of announcements and big meetings. During the year the OHNA Executive Committee assisted several neighbors affected by rezoning cases, but has largely had the year off. The big issues are either dormant or already decided. Following is a summary of things that the OHNA has been tracking during the past year.

MoPac

Dormant. The ongoing and perhaps worsening budget woes of the state and federal governments have caused TxDOT to repeatedly scale back highways plans around the state. This includes the plans to add managed lanes and sound walls to MoPac. The latest news is that TxDOT has asked the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) to take over the project. However, neither TxDOT nor CTRMA is committed to resuming the project in the near future. For more information see the minutes of the October 2008 meeting of MoNAC (the MoPac Neighborhood Associations Coalition, of which the OHNA is a member) on the MoNAC web site at www.main.org/monac/.

Apartments on Bull Creek Road

Well underway, as you've surely noticed. It sure is big, but appears to be going according to the plans that the developer presented to the neighborhood last year.

Westminster Manor

Westminster Manor expects to begin a long-planned expansion in February 2009, affecting the area immediately north of the facility, and eventually the north end of the facility itself. For more information, see www.westminstermanor.org/whatsnew/expansion/.

State Property on Bull Creek Road

Dormant. The State Property Report continues to identify the State Cemetery Annex (open area near 45th and Bull Creek Road) and TXDOT Bull Creek Campus as unutilized or underutilized properties and recommends disposal (sale or lease) for development of residential and mixed uses. The designation is not new; the General Land Office has designated these properties as desirable for sale several times before. The OHNA will continue to monitor for any change.

The undeveloped portion of the property currently is

open to the public and is used primarily as a “dog park.” However, continued public access may be at risk because unleashed dogs sometimes threaten state employees on the TxDOT portion of the property. The area is marked as requiring that dogs be kept on a leash. The city of Austin, TxDOT, and the State Cemetery Committee have warned the nearby neighborhoods that the privilege of public access could be restricted or even eliminated if those using the property continue to violate the leash requirement.

Other Items of Interest

Comerica Bank at 35th and Jefferson

Comerica Bank filed an application earlier this year to construct a branch on the site of the former gym in the southwest corner of 35th and Jefferson, and the now closed convenience store next door on Jefferson. No news of when construction would begin.

1904 W 35th Street

Earlier this year the last remaining residential-zoned property on 35th Street - 1904 W 35th - was rezoned to commercial. The owner intends to build a small office building. The site has been mostly cleared. No news of when construction would begin.

Join the Oakmont E-Mail List

If you have not done so already, join the Oakmont E-mail list, a relatively low-traffic forum for neighborhood news, events, and other information. To join the list, simply send a message to oakmont-subscribe@yahoo.com.

View Past Newsletters on the Oakmont Web Site

Remember to visit the Oakmont Heights web site, at www.main.org/Oakmont, prepared and maintained by our neighbor Carl Hehmsoth. Please E-mail any comments and suggestions for content and links to Carl using the contact link on the site.

Handy Links

Curious about a remodel or other development on your street? Want to read City codes? How much rain did we get? Try these handy links:

City Permits:

www.ci.austin.tx.us/devreview/a_queryfolder_permits.jsp

City Codes:

www.amlegal.com/austin_tx/

Travis Central Appraisal District, Appraisal Rolls:

www.traviscad.org/search1.php

Links to Camp Mabry Weather Station:

www.wunderground.com/history/airport/KATT/2008/11/13/DailyHistory.html
www.met.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base.cgi?stn=KATT