



Laurel Oaks Neighborhood Association

www.laurel-oaks.org

March 2005

The Laurel Oaks Neighborhood Association includes the area bounded by Jollyville, Oak Knoll, Raincreek Parkway, Yaupon and Spicewood Springs.

Join Us!

**Oak View Park
Cleanup on April 23rd
9:00 am start**

**We plan to have another
park cleanup on
Saturday March 12th.
The scheduled work
includes some more
trimming, basic cleanup of
the park and painting the
back of the tennis practice
board. Bottled water will be
provided for the volunteers
by LONA and we will try to
get the Austin Parks
Foundation tool shed again.**

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To My Neighbors

Dear Neighbor,

As spring is almost upon us, there is some great news about the entrance sign project. After some additional modifications to the sign, Austin Hardscapes should be commencing construction shortly. More details are provided in the sign update article, but many thanks are in order for **Shari Ryan** and **Jason Radcliff** for their perseverance and continued efforts on the entrance sign along with all the others that have contributed with their time or money in this effort. While the most difficult part of this endeavor is complete, the landscape plan requires approximately an additional \$1000 to complete, so neighborhood support is still needed and we will be holding more fundraisers to finish this portion of the entrance sign project.

We will be having the 10th annual LONA Easter Egg Hunt on March 20th and I hope that your family can make it out for this event. We plan to have a silent action and baked good sale at the egg hunt to help raise money for the landscaping around the entrance sign. Additionally, we plan to have a neighborhood-wide garage sale later this spring as another fundraiser.

Once the sign effort is finally complete, LONA would like to focus on improvements to Oak View Park, although we welcome any input on the next project that LONA members think we should consider. We will be holding another park cleanup on March 12th to build momentum on the park improvement effort.

I wish to also thank **Rob Guthrie** for serving as LONA president in the past year. We hopefully can find someone to fill his shoes when we hold the next officer election.

Finally, as an all-volunteer and non-profit organization, LONA can use additional volunteer help in order to continue to hold events like the Egg Hunt and Fall Festival. I hope that you would consider helping out in one of several committees that we wish to renew. In the tear-out on page 7 of the newsletter, in addition to asking for a small annual contribution, we also indicate the committees that can use volunteers, and you can mail this form in or drop it off at one of the upcoming events if you would like to devote some time helping make this a better neighborhood to live in.

Rob Gjertsen
Secretary

10th Annual Egg Hunt, Silent Auction & Cake Walk
Details on page 2!



LONA General Meeting
March 22, 2005 7:00 pm
Spicewood Springs Library

Entrance Sign and Fundraising Update

By **Shari Ryan**

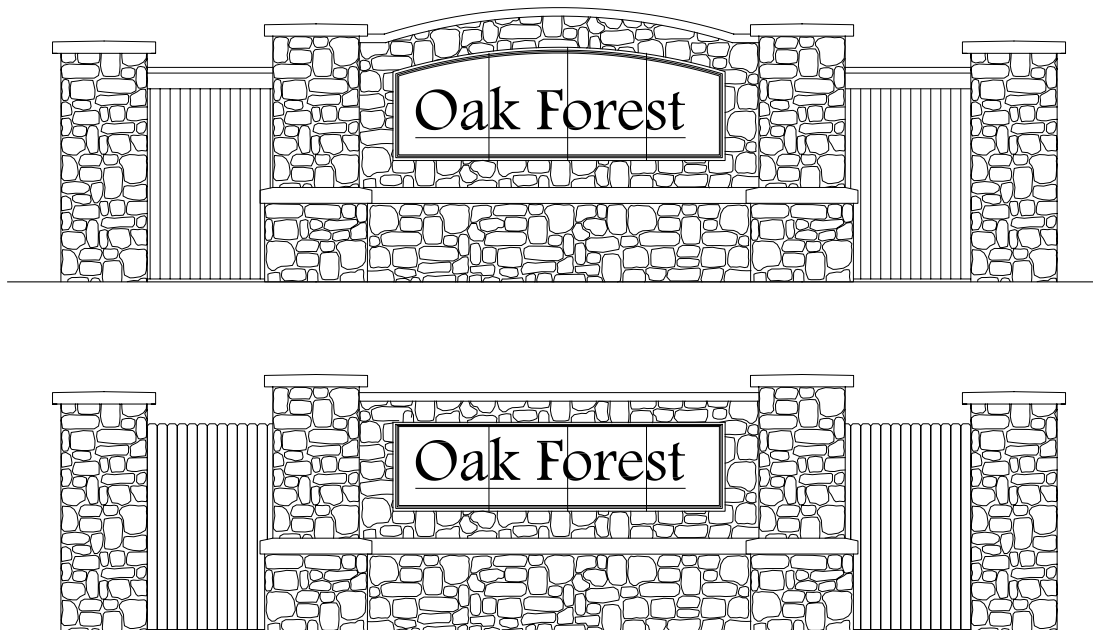
LONA Fund Raising Committee

It's probably evident by now that all of LONA's fundraising efforts have paid off. The main entrance to our neighborhood will soon go from dilapidated and uninviting to eye-catching and welcoming! But before I write another word, there is an unending list of people to thank. Not the least of which are all the donors: homeowners and businesses. Without your financial contributions this project would have never come to fruition. YOU are the reason that all of the fundraising events were so successful and YOU are the means by which we had faith in reaching our goal. Next, the volunteers, you know who you are and you should be proud of what you have done for this project and for the neighborhood! You cared enough to lend your time and talents...what an incredible group of people you are!

Now to explain how we were able to reach our goal is to bring attention to **Jason Radcliff**, our architect, and **Blake Adams** of Austin Hardscapes, our builder. Jason and Blake have worked tirelessly on the design in order to meet our budget. Blake also agreed to waive \$2400.00 of masonry costs because he is "piggy-backing" our job with another job in the area. In addition, with a slight change to the design of the sign and fence, Blake has saved LONA another \$2000.00. As seen below, the sign arch and fence cap have been eliminated.

We will continue to fundraise for the landscaping portion so I encourage you to send your donations to LONA by using the handy tear off on page 7.

Our next fundraiser is a silent auction and cake walk during the Egg Hunt on March 20th. Whether you have children or not, come on out and bid on some wonderful items and take a moment to visit with your neighbors.



10th Annual Egg Hunt, Silent Auction & Cake Walk

Come join us for the 10th Annual Neighborhood Egg Hunt & Silent Auction on **Sunday, March 20, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.** Have your children bring their baskets to pick up 12 plastic eggs filled with treats. LONA also provides snacks, drinks, photo-op with the Easter Bunny and good conversation with your neighbors.



We will also have a **Silent Auction** — items from our neighborhood businesses, and a **Cake Walk** — bake goods from our neighbors, with proceeds going towards the entrance sign project.

Deliver one dozen or more filled eggs **per child** to:
6703 Vallecito Drive (new location) on or before 12:00 noon on March 20th. Come to North Oaks Elementary on March 20th at 3:45 p.m. **The egg hunt begins at 4:00 p.m. sharp.** Each child hunts for 12 eggs after the whistle is blown.

Please contact lona_board@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Vallecito Drive is located between Oak Knoll and Oak View Drive.



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Financial Report

By **Dan Dunn**
Treasurer

Since our last newsletter in August 2004, LONA has raised \$3,120 through various fundraising efforts. Our bank balance, as of February 8, is \$14,727.90. Many thanks to those residents who continue to contribute to the sign entrance project. The LONA board members would also like to thank the volunteers who have helped to make our continuing fundraising efforts a success. We greatly appreciate your assistance.

If you have not contributed to the sign project, please consider helping us out. All you need to do is complete the contribution form on page 7 and mail in your money.

LONA is a non-profit organization. Please feel free to contact us at lona_board@yahoo.com if you have questions about our group or if you would like to get involved.

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Crime Information

for period of 8/31 to 2/15

AUTO THEFT - 8
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE - 17
BURGLARY OF VEHICALS - 60
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - 55
THEFT - 22

This information is available from the city of Austin at <http://coagis1.ci.austin.tx.us/website/CrimeViewer/viewer.htm>

Contractor's Corner
By **Darin Hathcock**
The Weekend Warrior



Why I've Become an Admirer of James Hardie

As a home owner/contractor in the Oak Forest (LONA) subdivision, I have seen first hand the beating that a home's exterior can take over a 25-30 year period.

I've replaced or repaired all types of exterior siding including cedar clap board, shiplap, plywood sheathing to a variety of masonite products and each has its inherent drawbacks. Some of which you might have experienced first hand. There is an alternative that many local builders, contractors and homeowners have embraced.

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10. most insurance companies rate Hardie products the same as brick – thus lowering premiums

To find out more information, visit the James Hardie Web site at www.hardie.com.

Oak View Park Cleanup
Sunday, October 24, 2004
Oak View Park

On Sunday October 24th, about 17 members of the Laurel Oaks Neighborhood Association along with other volunteers spent the day cleaning up Oak View Park. We began at 8am and finished at 4.30pm. In that time we were able to clear away underbrush from the southeast corner of the park and clear the path, clear out the trees growing into the tennis court fencing, spread gravel over worn pathways and repaint the lettering on the stone entrance sign. Litter was also cleared from around the park.

Thank you to those who saw us working and joined in. An additional thanks goes to the pack 162 cub scouts who helped out, to the Austin Parks Foundation for loaning their tool trailer and to the Austin Parks Department, especially **Max Moore** and **Warren Struss**, who also helped with the fall festival planning.

A lot of people passed by and thanked us for the work - perhaps not realizing that it was volunteer work!

Oak View Park Grant

In September, LONA was granted \$250.00 from the Austin Parks Foundation to assist with paying for park signage and plant species identification. LONA plans to use the grant in the spring and summer of 2005. Volunteer effort is needed with this project; this endeavor would also be an ideal Eagle scout project. Please contact LONA if you are interested in helping out and a big thanks to **Jason Kelley** for submitting the grant.



Personal service for all your automotive repair and maintenance. We have been in the area since 1991. We are your neighborhood mechanics. If you already know us, thank you for your trust. If not, we look forward to meeting you and the privilege of servicing your vehicles.

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\$0
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Bring a bag of nonperishable food items the week of March 7th to your local Curves and join with no service fee. All groceries will be donated to local food banks.

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New Neighborhood Signs

You may have recently noticed the neighborhood association signs at the park or front entrance for various events. Given that the newsletter is only published 2 times per year, LONA purchased a set of reusable signs for various events in order to improve our ability to get the word out. A big thanks to **Ellie Brady** and **Gary Shaw** for designing and ordering the new bandit signs!

Sign up for the neighborhood mailing list!

The yahoo email group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/laurel_oaks_na/ is the best way to stay informed of neighborhood happenings. A digest form can be subscribed to if e-mail traffic is a concern.

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Fall Festival

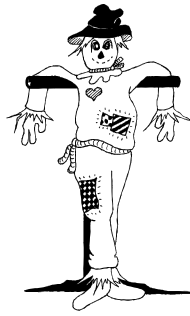
Saturday, October 30, 2004
Oak View Park

The first fall festival held by Laurel Oaks Neighborhood Association on the afternoon of October 30th in Oak View Park was successful in raising almost one thousand dollars for the sign fund.

Approximately one hundred fifty adults and children stopped by to enjoy the festivities. Many adults enjoyed the food provided by Outback Steakhouse and/or the bake sale treats, while children in their costumes enjoyed playing various games and winning small prizes.

The Austin Fire Department at Station 33 also stopped by and allowed the children to explore and play around in the fire truck. Towards the latter part of the festival, drawings were held for the children and prizes were awarded to the winners of the Halloween costume and pumpkin carving contests.

The positive feedback from the neighborhood and success of the event as a fundraiser for LONA likely will make the fall festival an annual tradition.



We wish to give a big **thanks** to following parties that helped make the festival a success:

- **Outback Steakhouse** on Research Blvd for donating all food: **Brian Davis** (proprietor) and **Julius Hamilton** (manager);
- **Mary Battaglia** of Coldwell Banker Realtors for sign holders, mailers and monetary donation;
- **Barbara Bittner** of Coldwell Banker Realtors for donating the Halloween candy bags for the children;
- Austin Fire Dept Station 33;
- Austin Parks Department, especially **Max Moore** and **Warren Struss**;
- **Melissa Hathcock** for donating all the flyers;
- **Trudy Le** for making the bean bags for the Bean Bag Toss;
- **Radijazz, Chaparrel Ice Skating Rink, Playland Roller Skating Rink** and **Inflatable Wonderland** for donating prizes;
- **Dan Dunn, Shari and Mark Ryan, Rod and Tammy Busfield, Lesley Guthrie, Ellie Brady, Rob Gjertsen, Carol Barton, Melissa Hathcock, Jason and Michelle Kelley, Aruna Bernier and Mary Kay Sexton** for volunteering their time and helping run the event; and
- everyone who brought baked goods for the Bake Sale.

Neighborhood Projects & Events

**THE MISSY PROJECT HAS SCHEDULED
THEIR 6th ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
AND SILENT/LIVE AUCTION FOR APRIL 25, 2005.
(DID YOU KNOW THAT BRAIN ANEURYSM DISEASE
IS THE THIRD OVERALL CAUSE OF DEATH IN U.S. ?)**

**THE MISSY PROJECT COULD USE YOUR HELP TO SPONSOR
OR DONATE TO THIS EVENT ***HELP SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE***
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MARY MAGEL
AT 257-9680 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT WWW.THEMISSYPROJECT.COM**

**NEW ENTRANCE SIGN: OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION IS
COLLECTING FUNDS TO REDO THE ENTRANCE ON JOLLYVILLE.
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.laurel-oaks.org**

**MY PLEDGE: IN ADDITION TO MY INITIAL DONATION, FOR EACH OF MY
LISTINGS IN OUR AREA THAT SELLS, I WILL DONATE AN ADDITIONAL \$50
TOWARD OUR NEW ENTRANCE SIGN UNTIL WE REACH OUR GOAL.**

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Special Announcements

Our thoughts and prayers go to **Gary Shaw** (previous LONA President) during his fight with cancer.

Spicewood Springs Library reopened with an expanded parking lot and a safety-enhanced thoroughfare on Saturday, January 29th; more details at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/news/ma20050125.htm>.

Tennis classes are now being offered at Oak View Park; for more details, www.tennisbuddys.com.

A huge thanks goes to **Shari Ryan** for leading the entrance sign efforts for the past year!

Helpful Tips

Try to avoid pruning your red or live oaks from February through June when spore-carrying beetles that spread oak wilt are most active. See <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/> for more information on oak wilt.

Remember to take advantage of the state sales tax deduction with your 2004 federal taxes. Texas has a 6.25% sales tax rate, while the city/county tax is 8.25%. You can itemize large purchases (boat, car, RV, etc) in addition to using the sales tax tables from IRS publication 600.

Volunteer Committees

Without help from members of the neighborhood, LONA cannot continue to provide events like the Fall Festival or Egg Hunt, or pursue items of importance to the neighborhood. Please consider helping out in one of the following committees:

Park / Garden Club – Organizes Oak View park cleanups and evaluates park for areas of improvement. Also will organize occasional work on Oak Knoll entrance landscaping. Another item of consideration is choosing Yard of the Month.

Fall Festival – Organizes the fall festival, which also serves as a fundraiser for LONA.

Egg Hunt – Annual event at Oak View Park. May include a silent auction or raffle.

Fundraising / Advertising – Organize or plan necessary fundraising for current LONA projects and also recruit advertisers for the newsletter. Perhaps eventually pursue having online ads for the Web site to generate additional revenue.



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LONA General Meeting
March 22, 2005 7:00 pm
Spicewood Springs Library

YES! I would like to help in the LONA fund raising. I would like my donation to go to:

Entrance sign project

General contribution

\$20 per year contribution is recommended for neighborhood projects such as sidewalks, oak wilt, etc.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Amount Given: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
Laurel Oaks Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 201454
Austin, Texas 78720-1454

YES! I am interested in volunteering with the following committees:

Sign

Park/Garden Club

Fall Festival

Egg Hunt

Fundraising/Advertising

10th Annual Egg Hunt, Silent Auction & Cake Walk

March 20, 2005

Details on page 2!

**LONA General Meeting
March 22, 2005
Spicewood Springs
Library
7:00 pm**

The Laurel Oaks Newsletter is produced by:

Editors: **Rob Gjertsen, Melissa Hathcock**

Contributors: **Dan Dunn, Rob Gjertsen, Darin Hathcock, Shari Ryan**

Advertising Sales: **Rod Busfield, Rob Gjertson, Shari Ryan**

Layout/Design: **Melissa Hathcock**

Advertising

The LONA newsletter is distributed to 2000+ medium to high income residential neighborhood homes within the 78759 zip code. It is published at least twice a year. Advertising rates are available on the LONA Web site at www.laurel-oaks.org/Newsletters.htm

**Laurel Oaks Neighborhood Association
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