

THE OAK HILLS ORACLE

Serving the Oak Hills Community Since 1973



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COUNTY AND '3NOT5' PART OF ANNUAL HOMEOWNERS' MEETING

A large crowd filled the sanctuary of the Oak Hills Church for the Annual Meeting of the Oak Hills Homeowners' Association on May 11. It was reported that 181 homeowners had signed in.

The first order of business was a presentation by Matt Costigan, of Washington County's DLUT on the county's plan to widen Bethany Boulevard to five lanes and add bike lanes and sidewalks continuously on both sides of the roadway for the one mile stretch of the project. Costigan was joined by Wayne Bower of WH Pacific, design consultants. Costigan explained that the county believes the road needs to be five lanes to accommodate current and future traffic.

The county's presentation was followed by one from the 3Not5 group that has been working to convince county officials to reconsider the project. Fran Bates, Oak Hills resident, gave a power point presentation listing several objections to the project, particularly the loss of property and possibly homes of Oak Hills homeowners bordering Bethany Boulevard. The group also argues that a five lane road will be no better than a three lane road because the current bottlenecks at both the north and south ends of this stretch of Bethany Boulevard will remain unchanged.

The election of Board members followed the board member reports. The terms of four board members were expiring and all four incumbents asked for re-election. The four incumbents were Linda Kitchin, Brad Buchholz, Kristin Parks and Dave Busby. In addition, newcomers Michelle Schnoor, Myra Lee, and Fran Bates were also on the ballot. Michelle Schnoor will join the board and Linda Kitchin, Brad Buchholz and Dave Busby were returned to the board.

A full report of the Annual Meeting is on page 6.

SPRING PRIMARY ELECTIONS HAVE EFFECT ON OAK HILLS

Andy Duyck was elected Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, May 18. Duyck received 54% of the vote; a candidate that receives over 51% of the vote in a primary election is declared the winner. Greg Malinowski and Mike Niehuser will face each other for the District 2 (including Oak Hills) Commissioner post in the November general election.

The importance of the county races to Oak Hills is due to the fact that the controversial Bethany Boulevard widening project can only be reconsidered by a vote of 3 out of 5 elected commissioners. Some members of the community want the board of commissioners to re-evaluate the value of a five lane project in light of concerns raised about the loss of property to homeowners, the lack of improvement for the bottlenecks that will continue to be a problem at both the north and south ends of the project, and many other concerns about the project's impact.

REPORT: OHHA MONTHLYBOARD MEETING, MAY 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance: Kitchin, Smith, Rose, Parks, Erzen, Rauch and Buchholz. Busby was absent, Lachman is on medical leave. Rauch left the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Homeowner Desiree Bolduchi complained about what she thought were unethical comments and what she said was grossly inaccurate information in the Oracle. She did not clarify her comments further.

Homeowner Erzen (acting as a homeowner not as a board member) stated that he wanted to be sure the election has complete transparency and had several questions about how proxies will be collected and counted and asked if CMI had a process to insure that proxies were counted just once. CMI explained their sign-in and verification process.

Peter Rauch, (acting as a homeowner not as a board member) said he objected to the wording on the candidates' signs in the neighborhood. He said he believed they are misleading because they suggested an endorsement from OHHA. He demanded that all signs be removed immediately. Norm Rose explained there was no other way to identify the candidates as running for the OHHA Board without including OHHA on the signs

Several homeowners emphasized that residents are responsible for insuring their proxy was handled properly; no one should hand one to someone they don't know and trust. Diane Wood, CMI, added that a proxy can be revoked if a resident changes their mind. She also stated that proxies sent to the board are equally divided among board members who then decide how to vote them. At last year's Annual Meeting, Wood stated, approximately 60-70 proxies were divided up this way.

Homeowner Bates suggested that the board consider mail-in ballots and direct elections in the future.

Homeowner Alan Lachman asked about a letter in the Oracle's Viewpoint section. In the letter a homeowner questioned if the board wrote a letter to the county, as promised, opposing a Bethany project that would cause any homeowner to lose their property. The request for such a letter had been made and approved by the board at the January 2010 board meeting. Secretary Kristin Parks admitted that she had not written the letter; no other board member indicated they had done so.

The board approved minutes of the April 7th regular meeting with some amendments and the minutes of the April 15th work party meeting.

Treasurer Dan Smith stated that the budget remained in good

shape. There are nine homeowners who have not paid their assessments yet this year. Liens have been or will be placed on several properties. He also distributed the annual financial review by a CPA firm. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2008-2009 financial review as presented.

Kristin Parks, Secretary, commended Amy Cole, OHHA webmaster, for the recent remake of the association's website. She noted the CC&R restatement document is on the website in a searchable PDF format. Paper copies will be available at the recreation center and Annual Meeting. A process will be set up to get a copy to those who don't pick up one at the annual meeting or other locations.

Jim Erzen, Maintenance, reported that maple trees had been planted at the Rec Center and the community garden is complete and planting had started. Erzen requested clarification of a bill for \$430.00 for new keys and locks for the tennis courts. Rec Program Manager Doug Castagna replied that he was concerned that a combination-type lock would be too easily passed along to other users. The tennis pass will cost \$25.00 this year. The tennis courts were pressure washed, which cost \$2600. Erzen detailed the chemicals used to control weeds. Ronstar is used for the bark areas, a 2-4D spray is used on the soccer fields, recreation center area, maintenance yard, and at the 153rd/Cornell entrance. In addition, the soccer fields are fertilized in May. He also stated he had received bids for treating the shake roof on the Rec Center gym. Two bids were received for \$1500 and \$1250. Diane Wood, CMI, suggested this cost come from the Reserve Fund since it is required every 5 years. He noted that there will be two yard debris drop boxes the first weekend in May.

Kitchin reported that she has permits and insurance certificates for the July 4th activities.

Norm Rose, Architectural Review, stated that he has a lot of requests now for fences, paint, etc. He stated that there is a power line running overhead on Perimeter and he would be contacting the homeowner to find out what it is and why it is there. The Bonneville Loop house remodel is still pending. The homeowner has rejected alternatives presented and re-submitted his original plans. Rose will view the site again this weekend. New forms for Architectural Review are still in the discussion stage and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Pete Rauch reported that there are still five unpaid accounts in the RV Lot. He will send a final letter notifying them they must pay the fee or have their vehicle towed. After discussion it was decided a prorated fee will be placed on their account of money owed to OHHA and filed with CMI after the vehicle is towed from the RV lot. He has received proposals for new fencing and will report on this at the next meeting.

Brad Buchholz, Internal Affairs, reported he is fining one ho-

meowner regarding their loose pet; a copy will go to CMI. He discussed how and when he should get involved with property owners over issues that may violate the CC&Rs. He believes that only immediate neighbors should complain. He believes the priority is dealing with neighbors and issues in positive and productive ways. Kitchin reminded homeowners to report CC&R violations to Buchholz.

Kitchin reported that appointments to the Bethany Blvd focus groups are running behind schedule; a list of suggested members has been sent to county commissioner Desari Strader for selection. She said that she had had discussions with the focus group facilitator about how those not in the focus group can stay informed. She was advised that there will be workshops, open houses, and a web site. Parks read from a letter her husband, a real estate attorney, wrote about homeowner rights under condemnation procedure law. In the letter, Mr. Parks recommended that homeowners not accept any initial offer as it will be at the low end of the scale. He also recommended that the homeowner should obtain legal counsel and fight for higher reimbursement for any property taken and loss of value to the remaining property. The 3not5 group was asked if they had been advised to seek legal representation concerning the project. They responded that they had been so advised. Homeowner Michelle Schnoor stated that the latest traffic study had been completed on Oak Hills Drive and that early results show lower traffic counts than previously. She is still compiling new data and will forward it to the board shortly.

The board discussed renovating the baseball field. Erzen reported it would cost about \$1800 to make the field playable this season; this includes removing weeds, tilling, and amending the soil with loam and a drying agent. Smith stated that the field currently looks bad and is not an inviting feature in the community. Kitchin suggested that the field be made useable to support summer recreation programs. Smith made a motion to spend up to \$1850 from the Capital Improvement Fund to restore the baseball field to playable condition for this year and to budget money for maintenance on a yearly basis for the future. The motion was seconded and approved.

Jim Erzen, Maintenance, reported that he had received two proposals for professional re-landscaping of the Cornell road entrance triangle. One was for \$400 and the second \$1000. The bids were for providing a design and planting list only. The re-landscaping proposal was submitted by a homeowner as a Capital Improvement project. Erzen noted that maintenance is trying to save the birch trees and is treating them to stop a beetle infestation. He is concerned that digging up the English Ivy will kill the tree roots. A homeowner suggested using goats to eat the ivy. No decision was made.

Diane Wood, CMI, reported that 13 staffers will support the sign-in and voting process at the Annual Meeting on May 11.

OAK HILLS' HOME OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL



15495 NW Oak Hills Drive. Congratulations to Lane and Ruth Clem

The Oak Hills Homeowners Association is pleased to recognize one homeowner each month exhibiting pride of ownership in Oak Hills! Winners are recognized in the Oracle, are given a copy of this recognition and also receive a gift certificate to Home Depot, courtesy of Ron Crutcher, John L. Scott Real Estate. If you would like to nominate a home for Home of the Month, please contact Ron Crutcher at 503-645-7433, x276.

They will also need board help to direct homeowners to the sign-in tables and keep the lines moving. Names and phone numbers will be collected by CMI in their verification process for attendance and proxy checking. Kitchin stated that the 3not5 group and Washington county officials will each have 10 minutes to present information about the Bethany Blvd project and that questions from the audience would be allowed. Candidates for the OHHA board positions will each have a few minutes to present information before the election. A homeowner asked if CMI had written instructions about the vote counting process, especially for the volunteer vote counters that will be selected at the meeting.

Brad Buchholz announced that the county CERT (citizen emergency response team) would like to make a presentation at a future OHHA meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

The regular monthly meetings of the OHHA Board of Directors are the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Board members also meet in work party sessions on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Meetings are open and all Oak Hills residents are welcome to attend.

NOTES FROM THE OHHA BOARD

Linda Kitchin, President

The Annual meeting on May 11th was very well attended and it was good to see so many homeowners present. Before I go into too many details I would like to welcome Michelle Schnoor to the board as our new secretary, she is already proving herself to be an asset to the Homeowners Association. I would also like to thank Kristin Parks, for her service to the board and all the hard work and many hours she put in on our behalf.

A high homeowner turnout meant that more people had a chance to hear the County's plans for Bethany Boulevard as presented by Matt Costigan the project manager and Wayne Bauer, a consultant from WH Pacific. Homeowners also heard from Fran Bates, representing the 3 Not 5 group who are opposed to the five lane plan in favor of a 3 lane option. Homeowners had the chance to ask both parties questions and although the County had many more questions to answer it did mean that more concerns were hopefully answered.

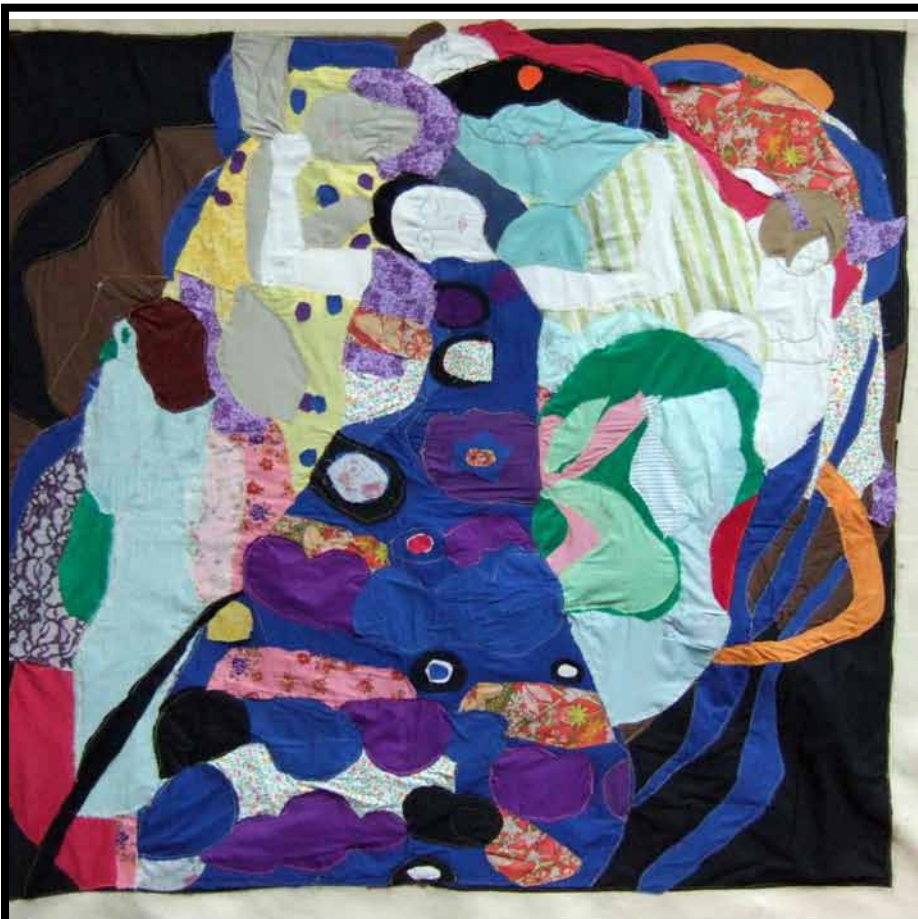
After the presentations homeowners were asked to complete their surveys and along with those that had already been handed in we received a total of 215.

Following this the candidates for election to the board spoke and answered a homeowner question before the ballots were collected. Dave Busby, Linda Kitchin and Brad Buchholz were reelected and Michelle Schnoor also joins the board.

The board met the following evening to discuss the results of the survey and decide what actions we would take next. We made motions on three key statements:

1. A survey of Oak Hills homeowners revealed 88.6% are opposed or strongly opposed to the five-lane expansion of Bethany Boulevard. The Oak Hills board believes this indicates a strong opposition to a five-lane expansion to Bethany Boulevard among our homeowners.
2. A survey of Oak Hills homeowners revealed 86.98% either support or strongly support a three-lane expansion of Bethany Boulevard. The Oak Hills Board believes this indicates a strong preference for a three-lane expansion to Bethany Boulevard among our homeowners.
3. The Oak Hills Homeowners Association opposes the five-lane expansion of Bethany Boulevard. The

Notes/Continued on page 5



After Klimt's The Virgins, Fabric Collage, 48" X 48" by Rose Potter



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Oak Hills Homeowners association board will take active steps to ensure the current project be reevaluated by the Washington County Board of Commissioners to address the concerns of the Oak Hills community.

The active steps we have and will be taking are to send a letter to all the candidates for County Commissioner, current Commissioners, candidates for County Chair and current Chair informing them of the results of the survey and expressing our concerns. Press releases will have been sent out to the local media along with the letter and interviews with the press will be done as asked. Copies of the letter and press release will be posted on the website. The board will also be active in attending meetings regarding Bethany Boulevard and Norm Rose is our board member who will represent the Homeowners Association on the County's Focus Group. Also on the Focus Group for Oak Hills are homeowner Christine Biggs and representing the local School Committee, homeowner, Anne Bryan.


On a completely different note, July 4th is fast approaching and I would just like to remind you all that the theme is Famous Americans. So get planning your floats and costumes!! The schedule will be in the next edition as well as on the website and notice board; we will be following our usual schedule.

As always we are in need of volunteers throughout the day and would appreciate your help for any length of time. If you can help or would like more details please contact: Linda Kitchin 466-2149 or Brad Buchholz 533-5765.

LEEDY GRANGE FLEA MARKET


Beginning Saturday, June 5 and the first Saturday of every month, Cedar Mill's Leedy Grange Hall will hold a public Flea Market at the hall, 835 NW Saltzman from 9 am -2 pm. Clear out your garage and closets, get rid of stuff without the mess of having your own sale and attract a better crowd. Put a few bucks in your pocket and keep usable goods in circulation at bargain prices for your neighbors. Your own table is only \$10, which benefits the Grange. Call Marc Leuthold for more information: 503-646-1631, or visit www.leedygrange.org






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REPORT: ANNUAL MEETING - OHHA, MAY 11, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Diane Wood from CMI. Wood read the minutes of the preceding Annual meeting, May 14, 2009. Parks moved the minutes be accepted and Buchholz seconded. All were in favor.

Mat Costigan from the Washington County Department of Land Use and Transportation (DLUT) and Wayne Bower from WH Pacific, design consultants, presented information about the Bethany Boulevard Expansion. Costigan and Bower held up charts showing their vision of a five lane road and argued that 5 lanes were necessary because of current and future traffic loads.

Fran Bates, an Oak Hills homeowner and member of the 3not5 Group, showed a powerpoint presentation on the impact of a five lane road on homeowners' and Oak Hills' property and argued that a five lane road would not be any better at solving the traffic problems because both the north and south ends of the proposed project area will feed into existing 3 lane roadways that are not scheduled for updates.

Reports of Officers

Dan Smith, Treasurer and Vice President, stated that passing the assessment increase last year helped the budget situation. He indicated that the financial position of OHHA is sound, but board members will continue to control spending. The budgets are posted on the website.

Jim Erzen, Maintenance, reported that the heaters in the gym had been replaced and that the gas bills had gone down this year. He is working on landscaping for the west side of the 153rd Avenue entrance, planting trees and shrubs to match the landscaping on the east side of the entrance. Residents with irrigation and landscaping experience/and companies have been helping. Money has been saved on insurance this year. The Community Garden has been established and appears to be a success. There are plans to improve the baseball field.

Kristin Parks, secretary, reported that the CC & R's with all changes and amendments over the years had been collected and organized into a compact form. Norm Rose helped in gathering the documents and Tim Parks donated the time for assembling them into a cohesive document. They are now ready to begin reviewing and collecting suggestions from homeowners. She thanked Amy Cole, an Oak Hills' homeowner, for improving the Oak Hills website and it's recent makeover.

Brad Buchholz, special events, said he has been wearing different hats and helping in different areas. He has been serving as director of internal affairs while Alan Lachman has been on medical leave. At Kitchin's request he also assisted Norm Rose and Kristin Parks

with an architectural review project on a house remodel request on Bonneville Loop.

Alan Lachman, Internal Affairs, explained that he had had recent shoulder surgery and some heart issues so he had been on medical leave until released by his doctor. He reported that some old cars and SUVs have been removed from the streets. Brad assisted with a dog control incident resulting in a fine for the owner.

Pete Rauch, RV Lot, reported that there is a short waiting list to get into the lot. He would like to see the fence replaced as it is old and unsightly. Possible future improvements include installing security cameras and widening the RV spaces.

Dave Busby, Recreation, was not present because he was attending his son's graduation out of state. The recreation report was made by Doug Castagno on his behalf. Doug noted that every family should have received a copy of the Summer Recreation booklet. Some of the summer highlights include: a pair of horseshoe pits, volleyball nets, and organized summer games every Sunday evening.

Norm Rose, Architectural Review, reminded residents they are required to fill out an architectural review form prior to beginning any exterior project, including fences and painting. He has processed over 100 this last year. Contact him with any questions. The Yard Debris Drop Box is now open for the summer. Stickers for using the yard debris service is \$10/season. He thanked Dan McAllister for his many hours of volunteering monitoring drop box use. He asked more people to volunteer to help in monitoring.

Linda Kitchin, President, stated that there had been many challenges during the last year. She expressed a desire for additional Rec Center improvements as funds allow. Concerning the Bethany Road expansion she said she had contacted each candidate for county commissioner for their views on the Bethany Boulevard project. The text of their responses is on the website. She announced that the theme for July 4 is "Famous Americans". Since the 4th falls on Sunday this year, the fire engines and motorcycle patrol will not be part of the parade this year. The rest of the activities will be the same.

Diane Wood, CMI, asked for eleven volunteers from the floor to assist with counting the ballots. She asked if there were nominations from the floor for OHHA board candidate, and there were none. There were four positions to be filled; seven candidates were announced. Each candidate had an opportunity to themselves and make a short presentation on why they sought to serve on the board.

Diane Wood reported there were 181 homeowners in attendance and 98 proxies turned in. She reported the results of the election: Top vote getter was Busby, 171. Votes received by other candi-

dates: Schnoor, 165; Buchholz, 160; Kitchin, 160; Parks, 157; Bates, 132; Lee, 128; and Bristol, 6. Elected to office: Buchholz, Busby Kitchin and Schnoor.
Adjournment at 10:15

**REPORT: SPECIAL OHHA MEETING,
May 12, 2010**

The Oak Hills Homeowners Association board met in special session on May 12, at Oak Hills Church. Linda Kitchin opened the meeting. Board members present were Linda Kitchin, Dan Smith, Peter Rauch, Norm Rose, Brad Buchholz, Jim Erzen, and Michelle Schnoor. Absent were Alan Lachman and Dave Busby.

Kitchin thanked those in attendance and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the results of the survey the board conducted concerning the Bethany Boulevard expansion project and to take a position regarding the project.

Kitchin then asked Norm Rose to present the data summary of the survey. Rose distributed a three page report and summarized the results by saying that a total of 88.68% opposed or strongly opposed the five lane option while 86.98% supported or strongly

supported the three lane option. Rose responded to several questions regarding how the data were presented and how they could be interpreted. A discussion followed. Dan Smith suggested that the board adopt a board statement summarizing the survey data and indicating what action the board expected to take as a result of the survey. After discussing options, the board agreed to adopt three motions: 1)opposition of a five lane expansion, 2)support for a three lane option, 3)action the board would take regarding Bethany Boulevard project.

A motion was made that the survey of the Oak Hills homeowners revealed that 88.68% opposed or strongly opposed the five lane option. The Oak Hills Board believes this indicates strong opposition to the five lane expansion by our homeowners. The motion was seconded and it passed.

The board discussed various options and alternatives they could present to the Board of Commissioners indicating that a three lane option would be a significant improvement while protecting surrounding neighborhoods.

A motion was made that the survey of Oak Hills homeowners revealed that 86.98% either supported or strongly supported a three lane expansion. The Oak Hills Board believes this indicates a

Continued on page 8



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Special Meeting/Continued from page 7

strong preference for a three lane expansion to Bethany Boulevard among the homeowners. The was seconded and it passed.

After discussion regarding what action the board would take, a motion was made that the board adopt a position to take active steps to ensure that the current project is reevaluated by the Board of Commissioners taking into consideration concerns of our community. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Kitchin will draft a letter based on the three motions and circulate it to the OHHA board for review and approval. The letter will be sent to the Board of Commissioners, the candidates for the Board and other appropriate individuals. Michelle Schnoor will incorporate parts of the letter and background information into a press release to be distributed to local newspapers.

A discussion of election results followed with questions regarding which board member would take the one-year term. Rose stated that in the past the person with the lowest number of votes took the one year term. Kitchin announced the board would go to executive session to discuss a personnel matter.



OAK HILLS SUMMER RECREATION

The Oak Hills Summer Recreation program will be offering all the old favorite summer activities and is trying out a few new ideas as well.

In June, the pool will be open only on weekends from 1:30 – 6 pm until June 18 when it will be open every day. Consult your Rec booklet for details on schedules for Swim Team, swim lessons, adult lap swim and open swim times.

A new neighborhood game day challenge will be one of the new activities for residents. Game Day will start on June 20 with a neighborhood basketball game.

June Recreation Schedule

18	Pool opens with daily schedule
20	Game Day: Basketball
21	Swim Team begins
26	Golf League begins
27	Game Day: Dodgeball

For more information on activities or events, contact Activities Director Doug Castagno at oakhillsrec@aol.com or 503-645-4303.

MEADOW PARK STUDENTS WIN STATE AND REGIONAL AWARDS

Meadow Park Middle School has been collecting a host of academic awards at both the state and regional levels and will be fielding several teams at the national level.

The school's MathCounts team placed second in the state and one of it's students will be the alternate for the Oregon team that will compete at the National MathCounts Competition.

The Meadow Park Robotics Team also took a first place title in the Inspire Awards, Oregon FIRST Tech Challenge Championships in February. The team, The Short Circuits, will advance to the World Championship in Atlanta, Georgia.

A Meadow Park student scored in the top 100 in the Geography Bee, qualifying her to compete in the Oregon Geography Bee.

Meadow Park's Science Bowl team won the regional Science Bowl Competition against 56 other middle school teams. The team will represent the region at the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C.

Oak Hills is in the attendance area for Meadow Park Middle School.

YOUR POSTMAN THANKS YOU



WOW! Thank you again Oakhills. The word around the office is that my route (that's you Oakhills) brought in the most food again this year. Let me express my most sincere thanks and appreciation for your kindness, faithfulness, and unselfishness. But, lest we lose sight of the true meaning of this annual event, let me say that it's not about me bringing in the most food year after year. It really is about you reaching out and giving of yourselves to meet the needs of hungry people everywhere It's about the people of Oakhills joining with other communities to help people who are less fortunate. You have always stepped up to the plate and this year is no different. For this I am truly grateful and forever will be because you are a generous, caring, and loving people. Thank You!

Larry (Your Postman)



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BEAVERTON SCHOOLS CALENDAR June 2010

- 1 - 4 Oregon Trail Week, Oak Hills Elem.
- 3 Full Day Kindergarten Field Trip to Hoyt Arbo return; 4th Grade Field trip, PCC Rock Creek
- 3 6th & 7th Grade Celebration, Meadow Park, 3:45 - 5:15 pm
- 3 Band Concert, WHS, 7pm
- 7 - 11 Book Fair Week, Oak Hills Elementary
- 9 Senior Awards and Reception, WHS, 6:30 - 8 pm
- 10 Senior Day: Breakfast, Graduation Rehearsal, Senior Assembly, Senior Video, WHS
- 12 Grand Floral Parade, WHS Marching Band appearance
- 14 5th Grade Breakfast, Oak Hills Elementary
- 14 Graduation: Westview High School, 7:30 pm, Chiles Center
- 14 Grad Night Party, 10 pm - 5 am, buses leave from Chiles Center
- 15 Field Day, Oak Hills Elementary
- 16 8th Grade Celebration, MP, 11 am - 2 pm
- 17 Field Day and 8th Grade BBQ, Meadow Park
- 17 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

OAK HILLS STUDENTS WIN WITH MUSIC VIDEO

The 3rd grade students in Mrs. Fennell's class at Oak Hills Elementary school won the Best Elementary Music Video category in the Signal to Noise competition. This is a yearly event for Elementary, Middle and High School students. The video is being featured on the Beaverton School District web page and you can also view it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtv4FUwcsso>

The third grade students were very excited and the school community is very proud of their accomplishment. In addition to Mrs. Fennell, Mr. Amorose, and Mr. Nagy also helped the students with this production.

KIDS NEEDED: WEBSITE DESIGN HELP

Sunset Credit Union, with an office at the Cornell/Murray intersection, is looking for kids to help them design a new website that will educate children about money. The website will be for children 12 and under. If you have a child, grandchild, niece or nephew who would like to be a part of the design process, send an email to cugirls@sspfcu.com or call them at 503-643-1335.

TUTORING PROTECTS WHAT YOUR CHILD HAS LEARNED

Protect your child from losing important reading skills over the summer months. Tutoring keeps this from happening and gives your child a great start for fall.

- ✎ For incoming first, second and third grade students
- ✎ Free diagnostic assessment for your child
- ✎ Creation of individualized phonics based reading program
- ✎ Instruction in Oak Hills home by retired public school teacher with over 20 years experience
- ✎ Flexible scheduling to accommodate family vacations

Lynn Nelson
503-533-0476

NEIGHBORS

by Shirley and Fran Bates

There are a few people in this wonderful community who contribute in a thousand ways to make Oak Hills livable, and yet you never know who they are. They are the people behind the scenes, the folks who open the doors, who always help out, who will be there 24 hours a day when you need a hand. **Carl and Lori Leep** are two of those people. Who? Never met them? They've been here since 1987? Who did you say?

Carl is the pastor of the Oak Hills Church, a Christian Reformed Church. The church that has been in Oak Hills since 1965. Lori is the mom, the quilter, the gardener, the sun lover, and the love of Carl's life. Together they form a terrific team, and provide a huge lift to the Oak Hills' community. Carl believes that the church should be a community building and is not closed after services or to folks who are not church members. It is a structure that was built to serve the community, and in that capacity, and with that spirit of openness, Carl, Lori, and this church thrive, and we as a community receive the benefits. Oak Hills' Homeowners meetings, candidate forums, youth volleyball, boy scout, girl scout and cub scout troops, symphony orchestras, music classes, kindergartens, pre-schools, and even a Korean church congregation all benefit from the openness that Carl and Lori practice by making their church available to us all. You are always welcome at the Oak Hills church, and you know that the minute you speak with Carl and Lori.

They are busy people. Carl is currently involved with the revitalization churches in Corvallis and Spokane WA. He was one of the founders of Responder Life, designed to provide support for the families of first responders—police, fire, EMT's—families who often are forced to deal with the stress of a spouse's job without the support systems to help out. The organization sponsors weekend family escapes in Antelope, Oregon. Yes, the Antelope once made famous by the infamous Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and his red-clothed followers. Their camps was sold and is now known as Wild Horse Canyon Camp. Lori works with pastor's spouses in a personal ministry to help them understand their creative side and relieve some of the stress that comes with being on call 24/7. In both cases they demonstrate their concern for the whole person, and the collective community.

Carl was called to Oak Hills in 1987, and feels extremely lucky to be able to say he has been here ever since. They raised

three children here, walking to Oak Hills School and then Meadow Park and finally local high schools. Nick is married and living in Michigan with an 18 month old daughter that makes Lori and Carl just beam when they think of her. Kara works in the area and is living at home and Erika is a registered nurse working in Philadelphia. They think that the stability of the neighborhood helped offset the hectic life that comes with being a minister's family. Lori and Carl said that when they first came here they were amazed that the community was built around a school, church and recreation center. The community of 800 in northern Washington they came from had a gas station, bar, and post office. Quite a contrast, and for them, this initial impression has constantly reminded them that the decisions made by the community developers have greatly impacted the values that this community believes in today. It was interesting to hear that the original developers interviewed 13 different church denominations before offering the land to the Oak Hills church. The developers were looking for a conservative, community focused church that would sponsor a kindergarten and boy scouts. That must have been a really interesting interview process.

Lori and Carl do get to play a bit. Monday is couples day and they reserve the time for themselves. It may be just a day in the garden, but it is their time to unwind from the pressure that comes from being always available. Carl also likes fly fishing whenever possible while Lori is a quilter and jewelry maker. She offers an open invitation to other quilters to join a small group at the church on the 3rd Saturday of every month to do what quilters do best: socialize, and of course, make quilts.

Over the years they have seen the trees grow and the community change. Early on it was filled with young families, then empty-nesters, now a new crop of young families returning in larger numbers again. They appreciate the diversity among their neighbors. They believe in the inclusion of all and the development of relationships across the wide spectrum of attitudes, beliefs and activities that make the Oak Hills community so interesting. In their ideas and their behavior, they demonstrate that we can come together and create a great community in spite of our differences.

So folks, if you haven't met Carl or Lori, take the time. Stop by for a fish story, or a quilt story, or a Bible story, but whatever you do and for whatever reason rest assured that they will be available, and ready to listen, and the church they so capably serve will always be open.

GROWING ORGANICALLY

by Margie Lachman



Vegetable gardens are getting more popular every year. If you want to grow vegetables but have not done so before, you first need to decide how big to make the garden plot. If you have experience growing annuals and perennials, you will be able to grow veggies. Most of them are annuals, which grow for one season and die down in the winter.

A big garden will mean more plants and seeds, more water, more weeding and most of all, more time. So decide what you really want to eat before you grow it. A salad garden with lettuce, tomatoes and a few herbs is an easy way to begin. These plants could be grown together in a large pot in full sun. A more ambitious garden can provide vegetables nearly year round in our climate.

But summer is also for fun activities like swimming, picnicking, trips to the coast. If you are planning to be gone from home at times, an automatic watering system is a must. Since vegetables require full sun, they will dry out quickly in hot weather. You can lose all of your plants in a day or two without water when they are young. Drip systems and soaker hoses save time and help reduce weeds by keeping the soil surface dry. Mulches like compost and straw help keep moisture in soil and prevent weeds. Planting in a diamond pattern so the leaves shade the soil helps reduce weeds and more plants can be grown than in a conventional row.

Well-drained soil amended with compost and six or more hours of sun are essential for healthy, nutritious veggies. Plants resist diseases and insects in such ideal conditions, but monitoring daily when possible for insects and diseases allows for quick action to control these problems without having to resort to chemicals.

When planning your garden, ask yourself some questions before you begin. How much time do you want to invest? Is freezing or canning your goal or do you just want to eat fresh veggies and fruit? A small garden plot four feet by four feet can give enough salad veggies like lettuce, radishes, carrots, spinach, beets and onions for one person if planted in blocks not rows. An hour a week is all that is needed for care. If you start small and are successful, you can enlarge the garden next year. Don't make a garden so big that you resent the time and energy it requires. Just plant what you want to eat and have time to invest in caring for the garden. It will be an activity you really enjoy!

Questions? Email me at margierose2@gmail.com or call 503-645-2994.



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VIEWPOINT

The Oracle invites submissions from subscribers. *Viewpoint* is intended as a forum for Oak Hills residents to express views on a variety of topics. The Oracle is not responsible for views expressed here and reserves the right to edit submissions as necessary and to reject letters deemed unsuitable for publication.

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Dear Editor,

First, I want to thank the Blankenbakers and the Bates' and others in my neighborhood for their strong support and their wonderful friendship. Although I had met both couples in passing, it wasn't until we joined forces for 3Not5 and thereafter for my candidacy for the OHHA Board that we became friends.

Although I had a very active career for over 35 years in the field of emergency and disaster management, when I am home I am a fairly private person and somewhat reserved until I get to know people. Consequently, I am still fairly unknown throughout the community, although I have become familiar with a lot of people I've met while walking. Some who purport to know me have never even met me. All this is preparatory to what I have to say next.

I have thought long and hard about writing this letter but in the end decided that accusations left unchallenged would pass for true. The last few weeks have produced some fairly embellished allegations. I read the emails as several were swirling around, and reread them again over the past couple of days. Although both explicit and implicit charges were made about homeowners who went around with petitions, there was only one instance that was substantiated regarding a homeowner who had turned a proxy over under mistaken circumstances. The proxy in question was returned with apologies for any misunderstanding and was received in a forgiving manner. There were rumors circulating that this was widespread and that proxies were being "stolen" but this was the only incident I am aware of.

My neighbor I and went door-to-door to procure signatures for the 3Not5 group in Oak Hills. We tried to explain the difference between the OHHA survey, the 3Not5 petition, and the proxy form. We also were open about the fact that I was a candidate. We responded to many questions and in a few cases were asked to carry both surveys and proxies to the annual meeting. We refused, and suggested they ask a neighbor to do that for them. A broad brush of implied wrong-doing was used to paint myself and many other undeserving people who did nothing wrong, and were acting in good faith.

We realize that homeowners were being hit with a lot of information and requests for support on various issues. This resulted in a perfect storm of misunderstandings and unsupported allegations. The 3Not5 issue is one the entire Oak Hills community needs to be involved in because situations like that can affect any neighborhood in the community. You never know when your neighborhood might need the type of unflinching support that has been given unselfishly by a few people.

Further, there were additional allegations made after the May 5th Board meeting regarding the front page article in the Oracle as well as the Board Report as provided by two very fine people who were requested to keep notes. The writer claimed that her own email contained an "accurate summary" of the meeting, and stated the Oracle's report was inaccurate and is "simply one homeowners opinion". After reading the email several times I failed to see what made this writer's opinion any more valid and was simply one other person's personal opinion.

The Oracle is owned and operated as a business by a homeowner, and is provided to all households. It is a vehicle for notices and community classified ads as well as announcements of community events, including Board activities. Much credit has been given to Board members for special events and their hard work on many fronts. However, the editor has a right to organize and present information in the way she sees fit, just as any other newspaper or media outlet does. There is no requirement nor should there be an expectation that the Oracle should only represent the voice of some of the Board members.

I attended the meeting referred to in one of the recent emails. I attended several other meetings as well. I heard the discussions. I heard the tone in several people's voices, including the writer of the email cited above whose stated intent was to provide an "accurate summary" of the meeting. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, including the writer of the email. Everyone has the right to speak out passionately in the Board meetings, as did the writer. However, after all is said and done, it is still just one more opinion. Other people referred to in the writer's email are dedicated to the welfare of the community, and they are also entitled to support their opinions in a fervent manner.

Many other rumors, gossip and outright lies were spread throughout the neighborhood through email, facebook and twitter. They were all directed at good people in the neighborhood whose only offense [at least to some people] was that they had volunteered to be candidates for the OHHA board. Those who willingly passed along unfounded rumors without any regard for the truth were the cause of significant stress which people should not have had to deal with for volunteering their time.

It seems to me that the Oak Hills community ought to reflect better values than what some have described as high school antics. We all need to forgive and move on, and go a step further in being civil and considerate to each other, as well as refuse to be drawn into unwarranted and petty activities.

I have lived long enough to know the true value of community spirit and mutual respect among neighbors. The divisive actions are truly not representative of most of the people that live here. However, I really hope that people will not believe all they hear, or all that someone presents to them without honest proof.

Myra T Lee

.....

VIEWPOINT, continued

Dear Oracle Readers,

At the May 5 OHHA board meeting, homeowner Desiree Baldocchi made public allegations concerning the Oracle. Her allegations are included in the Report of the Meeting on page 2 of this issue. She charged the Oracle (and by insinuation, myself as editor) with being “unethical” in printing reports of meetings the editor had not attended in person and further, that the front page article of the May issue describing actions the board had taken was “inaccurate”.

The integrity of the Oracle as a reliable source of news and information in the community is of the highest importance to me. Since Ms. Baldocchi made her allegations in public (and later in emails she sent to a large number of residents) I feel I must respond in public.

As I am out of the country I asked two good friends to take notes at the Board's meetings and work party sessions. They are highly reliable and professional people and I trust their judgment. I prepare the reports printed in the Oracle based on their notes. I sometimes have questions or need clarification and check with them before publication. Occasionally I will check with other sources for additional information.

In preparing the front page article for the May issue I was well aware that the topic was sensitive. Therefore I took the extra step of sending an email to all board members, describing the events of the April 7 meeting as I understood them and asking for any corrections. One board member forwarded the exact text of two motions. The board president responded with several justifications for the actions taken by the board, but did not dispute the account of the events. The full text of the motions was included in the Report of the April 7 Board Meeting printed in May. To paraphrase, the first motion concerned support for the work of the 3Not5 group; the other concerned a resolution to oppose a Bethany Boulevard project that would result in property loss by an Oak Hills homeowner. As reported in the May issue, both motions were defeated. I am very confident that every word of the article titled, "Board Rejects Pleas of Homeowners" is accurate in every respect.

Since the story appeared in the May issue I have been subjected to a veritable storm of emails, attacking the Oracle for its “inaccurate” reporting concerning the front page article. Oddly, many of the emails used very similar language leading me to believe they were all prompted by a single source, but who the source may be I couldn't say. I challenged all the email writers to show proof of inaccuracy, but as of this writing, no one has come forward with a single sentence of the article that was untrue or inaccurate. Once they found they could not find inaccuracies, the swarm of emailers then changed their attack and charged the Oracle with being “too negative”.

In addition to May's front page article (half a page), the issue also included over 2.5 pages of Notes from the Board; Summer Recreation information; the Beaverton School Calendar, the Neighbors column, Neighborhood Watch report, column on organic gardening, article

LIVE JAZZ



We had tried a month or so ago to find a place here in Sarajevo that advertised itself as a jazz club. We had the address, but try as we might, we couldn't find it. This was not the first time this had happened here. The numbering system in the downtown area appears to apply to an “area” rather than to a specific doorway or building. It can also include alleyways and passageways running perpendicular to a street. There could be as many as 8 – 10 different shops and businesses all with the same street number. It was a rainy night and we had to give up.

Ever optimistic, we tried again. This time we were in search of the Celtic Pub. It was listed in the Sarajevo events guide as having a live jazz trio.

We found it down a narrow passageway. The passageway was about as wide as a hallway in an average American home. The name of the place had led me to think it might be sort of a tourist trap, or catering mostly to the international set. Arriving around 9 pm, the place was already bustling and it was clearly a local crowd. Music was set to begin at 9:30.

The interior was wood paneled, similar to many pubs in England or Ireland and featured football (soccer) banners, scarves and jerseys. There were also some framed pictures of Scots in kilts. In the spirit of things, our server was also attired in a kilt.

At 9:45, two young women came in, one carrying a guitar, and started getting things set up on stage. Around 10, a young man appeared, also carrying a guitar. By the time the music started at 10:30, the pub was jammed and it was standing room only.

Once the music began, it turned out that the “jazz trio” actually were performing popular rock songs from the US and Britain. One young woman played guitar and was lead singer, another young woman sang backup, and the young man supplied lead guitar. Every song was in English. The local crowd greeted every song with a lot of enthusiasm and frequently sang along. The most popular song of the first set was Sting's “A Legal Alien in New York” with many in the crowd singing along.

What made this particular song so popular? An enthusiasm for Sting? A song easy to follow and sing along with? Or were they wishing they could get visas to become a legal alien in New York – or anywhere? A friend here lives near the Austrian embassy and he reports that there is a line there nearly every day with Bosnians applying for work permits and visas, hoping to find better prospects.

It was a fun and interesting evening of “jazz” in Sarajevo.

(Oracle editor Micki Sparr will return from Sarajevo in late June.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

(See additional classified ads on page 16)

MISCELLANEOUS

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

By Norma and Scott Wolf,
Neighborhood Watch Coordinators



Editor's Note: It is with sincere regret that I have decided to temporarily stop publishing information or events sponsored by Neighborhood Watch. Just prior to the Annual Meeting, one or more individuals used the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain list to send out an email that included falsehoods about some board candidates and endorsing others. Some block captains were misled into then forwarding the email to all the contacts on their block. The allegations in the email were very hurtful and damaging to two fine individuals in our community.

Neighborhood Watch coordinators vouched for the integrity of their email list and promised to expel anyone found to have abused the list. The email in question was signed by the individual who sent it but thus far the coordinators have refused to act, raising troubling questions of the integrity and motives of the entire Neighborhood Watch organization.

Neighborhood Watch is a valuable tool in Oak Hills and adds to the safety and security of our neighborhood. An organization whose mission is to protect, however, must be above reproach and should be willing to remove anyone who participates in "vandalizing" the good reputations of our neighbors by email or otherwise.

It is my hope that the situation will soon be properly resolved.

Viewpoints/Continued from page 13

and photograph on the community garden, Viewpoints section that is open to views of all subscribers, Buster Says, and my column on life in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

Two other people in the Oak Hills community, candidates for the OHHA board, were subjected to even worse email attacks. They were swarmed with many similarly worded emails rife with one bizarre rumor after another. Each time they responded with denials, the wording of the rumors was changed slightly and it all began again.

One very disheartening aspect of all these email attacks is that all came from women. 100%.

Readers who do not agree with the Oracle's content are always welcome to share disagreements with me privately or to submit a letter for the Viewpoints section. Organized email swarm attacks are not acceptable. Those behind it and those who participated in it should be ashamed. I believe that they represent just a very small fraction of our neighborhood and still count myself lucky that I am a resident of Oak Hills.





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The listing of Babysitters and Odd Jobs is a public service provided free by the Oak Hills Oracle. Listings are not screened by the Oracle. Anyone between the ages of 12 – 17 can be listed on either list, but families must be paid subscribers to the Oracle. Contact the Oracle editor including your name, address (for verification purposes only) phone number, and age. For the Babysitters' List, include whether or not you have passed the Red Cross Baby Sitting certification class. For the Odd Jobs list, include what types of jobs you want to be considered for. Those listed are responsible for providing age and other changes to the listings.

OHHA Board Members



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Dan Smith Vice President, Treasurer	2845 NW 154th Ave	dan@comsmiths.com 503-690-7597
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(See additional classified ads on page 14)

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