

# THE OAKWOOD HEIGHTS LANTERN

NEWS ACTIVITIES OF THE OAKWOOD  
HEIGHTS HOME OWNER ASSOCIATION  
("OHHA")

ISSUE NO. 1  
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## THE LORRAINE TERRACE PROJECT

Not long ago, the Executive Committee of OHHA issued a letter to alert the residents of this community that a new attempt was being made to construct four houses on a lot on Lorraine Avenue. Numerous residents have registered their opposition by phone or via e-mail. No one has spoken in favor of the project. We are confident that we are interpreting the general sentiment of the residents by opposing the new project. In order to carry out the project, the developer needs to purchase land belonging to the City of Mount Vernon and such an acquisition requires the approval of the City Council. The developer has wasted no time and has already submitted the ir request to the City.

The Executive Committee will address a letter to the City Council urging them to reject the developer's request. When this item comes up for discussion, our representatives plan to be present at the City Council meeting and will speak against it. We will urge our elected officers to stand up and help protect our neighborhood integrity and our quality of life.

We invite all Oakwood Hights residents to join us. We need to let our elected officers know that we care, that we do not approve of many things that are going on in our City, and that we wish for them to take notice of our position.

## ONE MORE CHURCH

Does Mount Vernon need one more church, one more property taken off the City's tax base? We don't think so! Do we need the noise, traffic and parking problems that such an establishment would bring? Surely not!

We strongly disagree with this proposal, especially when the Church is going to occupy one of the wonderful homes on Espknade, in the very heart of a prime residential area.

We cannot let this happen. We must not surrender. The value of our homes and the quality of our life is at stake. We have already voiced our opposition by writing to the Mayor, the City Council, the Planning Commission and to the Building Commissioner.

However, if we wish our voices to be heard, we must be persistent and must vocalize our opposition. The law requires that the immediate neighbors be notified of the date and time of the meeting in which the request for variance will be discussed. There is a chance that the Board meeting be scheduled in the morning or another inconvenient time to discourage participation and to avoid opposition. We must make the sacrifice and show up in full force to voice our opposition. It is the only chance we have to be heard and to be counted.

## FIRE ON MAGNOLIA AVENUE

We hold in our heart our friend and neighbor Anna Maria Assevero who lost her home to a terrible fire on February 17.

The fire department arrived when the flames were already shooting out of the front windows of the lower floor and had difficulty turning on the water hoses for 20 MINUTES. The fire hydrants were apparently frozen and there wasn't sufficient water on the trucks. Our fire department should not be unprepared due to the problems of cold weather.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

In the coming weeks and months, your Block Captains and other volunteers will knock on your door for the purpose of compiling an updated list of the residents and to invite you to join the Oakwood Heights Homeowner Association. Please welcome them.

Oakwood Heights needs your cooperation, your input, your suggestions and your participation. Membership dues for 2003 are \$20 per household.

What does OHHA need the dues for?

1. To pay for postage. The current method of delivery by hand is inefficient, slow, laborious, work intensive and taxing. We have obtained a bulk mail permit at the cost of \$300. The cost for the stamp is 22.7 cents per piece.
2. To pay for a meeting room. When we hold the OHHA general meetings the Church requires the payment of \$75 per hour.
3. To pay for our website. The initial registration fee is \$99. The annual fee to maintain the website name is \$35 per year.
4. Supplies. The members of the Executive Committee currently donate their personal time and personal funds to make telephone calls, purchase paper and ink and whatever else may be needed.

Beginning with the next issue we will publish a financial report of the Association.

Membership in the Executive Committee is open. If you wish to participate, please inform us. YOU WILL BE ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOME. You can join by accessing our website ([www.ohha.org](http://www.ohha.org)) and communicate your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if any) to the Webmaster, or by calling Fiorella Kelley, 664-2852, and giving the same information. If there is no answer, leave a message.