

Oak Ridge Homeowners Association, Inc.

*David Rosin, President; Mike Brescia, Vice President
Julie Rosin, Secretary; Pat Spence, Treasurer.*

Current Events

- **Luminaria**—The Association has everything you need to participate.
- **Responsible Pet Ownership** — Keep you pet happy, healthy and home.
- **PCC** — Who represents YOU and your district
- **President's Corner** — Thankful
- **Caring for your Poinsettias** — Enjoy their beauty this year and for years to come.

Calendar

Dec 24 — Luminaries December 24, 2012, you can find out more on page 1

Apr 9 — Annual Oak Ridge Members' meeting. Time again to elect a new President

Jul 4—Annual Oak Ridge flag celebration

You probably know what luminaries look like, but did you know that not all of the United States calls them by the same name?

In parts of New Mexico, for instance, they're generally referred to as *farolitos*. This name is common in Santa Fe and other northern areas of the state. *Farolito* means "little lantern" in Spanish, and luminary, or luminaire, means "festival light." Traditionally, the term luminaire was used in reference to a vigil bonfire, though it's primarily northern New Mexicans who have kept this distinction. But whether you call it a *farolito* or a luminaire, it's beautiful to look at and easy to make."

"Just about everybody loves making a luminary, especially during the Christmas season."

The hope among Roman Catholics is that the lights will guide the spirit of the Christ child to one's home. To others, just a lighted path for Santa Claus. Which ever your purpose, join your neighbors to create a fantasy filled evening on Christmas Eve.

FUTURE HOME REALTY
727-375-2288
Nancy & Bob Kinney
OREA Member

Luminaire—Help light the neighborhood on Christmas Eve

Help light up Oak Ridge on December 24, 2012, Christmas Eve with Luminaries lining your property frontage.

Additional details, purchase options and the necessary safety precautions are available at the web site: www.myorha.org

From the web site www.lumabase.com:

"Several variations of the luminary exist, but the one people are most familiar with is the one that contains a light source — usually a candle — inside a plain or decorated small paper bag.

Luminaries are made from paper bags weighted down with sand and illuminated from within by a lit candle. These are typically arranged in rows to create large and elaborate displays.

Be a part of the traditional Luminaries display here in the Oak Ridge neighborhood on Christmas Eve.

Members and non-members of the association are welcome to participate to create a great festival of lights in our Oak Ridge Neighborhood that will be the



envy of neighborhoods that surround us.

You may purchase your luminaries from the association for a discounted price as a member and it will be the best Christmas activity you can do with your family in conjunction

with bringing the neighborhood together with the holiday sprit.

Safety Safety Safety

The Association has a two page luminary how to and safety tip sheet available at:

<http://www.myorha.org/Documents/LuminaryHowTo.pdf>



Responsible Pet Ownership by Julie and David Rosin

It is your responsibility as a pet owner to spay or neuter your pet if your pet has the opportunity to pro-create with stray animals.

Per Wiki, "A **feral animal** is a descendant of a domesticated animal that has returned to the wild. It is distinguished from a **stray**, which is a pet that has been lost or abandoned, while **ferals** are born in the wild." Wikipedia

A fertile female stray cat can produce hundreds of kittens in a lifetime, and each female offspring, having the same potential, will result in a feral population explosion.

Should you encounter a problem with a stray or feral, Pasco Animal Services is the County agency that has been funded to handle such animals. Animal services can be reached by phone at: 813-929-1212 or 727-834-3216, or their web site address is: <http://www.pascocountyfl.net/Index.aspx?NID=408>

To find a low-cost spay/neuter program near you, search ASPCA's [Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Provider Database](#). The closest one to Oak Ridge is: **Pasco Animal Welfare Society, Inc.**
11720 Hwy 19 N.
Port Richey, FL, 34668
727 819 1910

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has 10 Reasons to Spay or Neuter Your Pets

- 1. Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life.** Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases.
- 2. Neutering provides major health**

benefits for your male. Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer, if done before six months of age.

3. Your spayed female won't go into heat. While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently—sometimes all over the house!

4. Your male dog won't want to roam away from home. An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate! That includes digging his way under the fence and making like Houdini to escape from the house. And once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other males.

5. Your neutered male will be much better behaved. Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unneutered dogs and cats may mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.

6. Spaying or neutering will NOT make your pet fat. Don't use that old excuse! Lack of exercise and overfeeding will cause your pet to pack on the extra pounds—not neutering. Your pet will remain fit and trim as long as you continue to provide exercise and monitor food intake.

7. It is cost-effective. The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is a lot less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. It also beats the cost of treatment when your unneutered tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray!

8. Spaying and neutering your pet

is good for the community. Stray animals pose a real problem in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage the local fauna and frighten children. Spaying and neutering packs a powerful



punch in reducing the number of animals on the streets.

9. Your pet doesn't need to have a litter for your children to learn about the miracle of birth. Letting your pet produce offspring you have no intention of keeping is not a good lesson for your children—especially when so many unwanted animals end up in shelters. There are tons of books and videos available to teach your children about birth in a more responsible way.

10. Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation. Every year, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as

strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering.



727-375-2288

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TAMPABAY.RR.COM

ORHA Member

Pasco County Commissioners—who holds the office —by Doug Lines

“The Board of County Commissioners is the legislative and policy-making body of County Government. The Board establishes policies through the enactment of ordinances and adoption of resolutions. The Board adopts the budget and makes all budget decisions with regard to appropriation of funds to county departments, divisions, and some Constitutional Officers in accordance with State Statutes.”

There are currently five commission members from different districts.

- District 1 Theodore (Ted) Schradler (R)
- District 2 Pat Mulieri (R)
- District 3 Kathryn Starkey (R)**
- District 4 Henry Wilson (R)
- District 5 Jack Mariano (R)

Oak Ridge subdivision is located within Commission District 3. This past election year caused a change in our Commission District

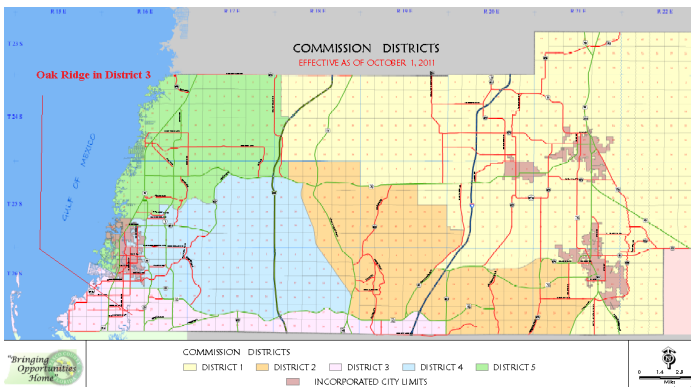
representative due to the retirement of Commissioner Ann Hildebrand. Ann has decided to pursue other interests after being involved in Pasco County

District. We had developed a good working relationship with Ann through many years of face to face discussions on

matters that were important to the Oak Ridge residents. We wish her well in her future endeavors and we will miss working with her.

Kathryn Starkey was elected to District 3 Commissioner during the last election cycle. We congratulate her on her successful election and we look

forward to working with Kathryn to resolve any matters that might affect Oak Ridge in the future.



matters for 28 years. Oak Ridge has been involved in many, and sometimes contentious, issues affecting our neighborhood over the 28 year time span of Ann's representation of our

President's Corner

Julie and I are thankful and blessed to have our health, our friends and family in Florida.

I give thanks every day for our close circle of Oak Ridge friends (Frank, Martha, Pat, Mark, Bob, Gayne, Joe Linda, Mike, Deena, Athena, Terry, Susan, Jeff, Doug, Julie, Mike, Jane, Rene, Bill, Doreen) as their presence in our lives enrich us.

You have a responsibility here in Oak Ridge. That responsibility is to be a good neighbor. While this is a simple concept, some choose to be drawn into their homes, missing opportunities to socialize with their friends and neighbors around them.

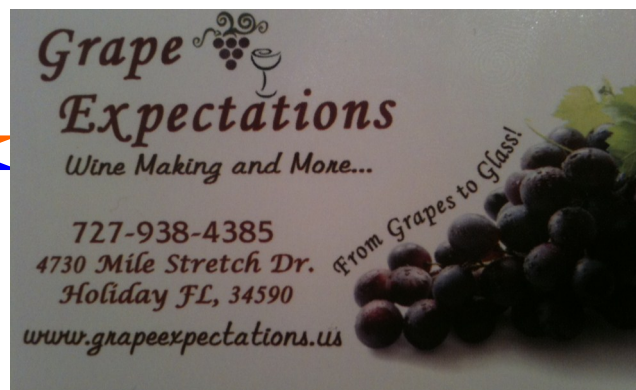
It's time to accept your responsibility. When you see a neighbor out, say hello, ask them how they are doing, it's your responsibility. Invite

a neighbor over for a cookout, it's your responsibility.

Oak Ridge residents have put on the best display of Christmas lights of any subdivision within a 10 mile radius. Drive down Overview, up Governors, and onto Pepperell. Simply beautiful. I do miss the gentleman on Overview who previously displayed dozens of white lighted decorations.

Another well decorated house on Overview was part of the New Port Richey Christmas Tour of Homes that occurred on Saturday, December 8th.

Julie and I hope you have a safe and fun holiday with whom ever you cherish and hold close.



Your creator only allows you to walk upon this planet for a few short decades and you have the choice to go through this life happy and helpful or sarcastic and cynical.

Happy and helpful is a much better way to go. Merry Christmas.

David Rosin
President



Oak Ridge Homeowners Association, Inc.

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Together we can do wonderful things

The Oak Ridge Homeowners' Association, Inc. (ORHA) is a voluntary HOA in a deed restricted community located in beautiful New Port Richey, Florida.

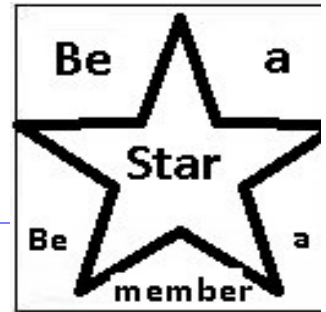
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<http://www.myorha.org>

Caring for you Poinsettias—By Bill Higdon

This is the time of year when a lot of us run out and purchase poinsettias for decorating our homes. These beautiful plants come in a variety of colors from pink, cream, two tone pinks white and the most popular color, red.

Poinsettias are tropical plants originating from Mexico. They prefer an evening temperature of 65 degrees and a daytime temperature of 75 degrees. They need an extended period of darkness to bloom. The flower of this holiday plant is made up of modified leaves called "bracts". The actual flowers are small and clustered in the middle of the bracts.

In your home keep them in a bright draft free area and keep them from drying out. They will do quite well on a sunny porch or patio. Protect them from frost and freezing temperatures. Water when the surface is dry to the touch.

As gardeners we hate to waste any good plant. Here are some suggestions on successfully planting your poinsettia outside after the holidays are over. Reds seem easier to establish than other colors.

- Choose a sunny spot that will not receive any artificial light (streetlight, security light, etc.).
- Plant after danger of frost is passed.
- Cut off fading bracts, leave 4 - 6 inches on each branch.
- Fertilize with balanced fertilizer.
- Keep soil moist, a ph of 5.5-6.5 is recommended.
- Fertilize monthly from March - October.
- Prune in early spring removing any frost damage to 12-18 inches. Don't allow plant to become "leggy".

- Trim back monthly as needed. Leave four leaves on each plant.
- Stop pruning in mid September.
- Flowers begin to form in October.
- Remember, a delay or disruption can occur if fall temperatures become too hot or cold. Also the same result can happen if the required dark period is interrupted.

Follow these easy instructions and with some luck, you will have some beautiful plants for next year and years to come.