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WINDOWS TO OPENA!
Special Edition, 2023 NEWSLETTER
Volume 4, Issue 1

**Reminder: OPENA Spring Cleanup
Saturday Morning, March 18th**

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OPENA Neighborhood Clean Up

Set aside a few hours tomorrow morning to join your neighbors as we do our official Spring Cleanup for Oak Park Estates, Druid Hills, and St Annes Neighborhood Clean Up, Saturday, March 18th.

We meet between 8am to noon to hand out assignments and supplies. City of Dallas Code Enforcement and Sanitation will assist with the trash disposal. We provide gloves, safety vests, trash bags, bag rings (with handles), and pickers available for you to use. Let's make our Neighborhood sparkle this spring!!

Let us know if you can volunteer to help with the neighborhood clean up -

Sign up on [FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/events/884204432816139/?ref=newsfeed) <https://www.facebook.com/events/884204432816139/?ref=newsfeed>

Or email us at oakparkestates1@gmail.com.

Code Compliance Services
City of Dallas

WHEN?
March 18th 2023
8am-12pm

JOIN US

WHERE?
Kiest Park Rec Center
3801 S Hampton
Dallas, TX 75224

OPENA Clean-Up Drive

Meet at our booth at Kiest Park
Recreation Center between 8a-9a
Email:
oakparkestates1@gmail.com

Oak Park Estates
Druid Hills

The illustration at the bottom shows three people participating in a cleanup. On the left, a man in a green jacket and tan pants uses a long-handled tool to pick up trash. In the center, a woman with a backpack is filling a brown trash bag. On the right, a woman in a red patterned shirt and tan pants is handing a blue water bottle to the woman with the backpack. They are standing on a dirt path with green bushes in the background. To the right of the scene is a signpost with two green directional signs: 'Oak Park Estates' pointing left and 'Druid Hills' pointing right.

OPENA Yard of the Month

Billy Benham and Paula Cantrell bought their Druid Hills home during the pandemic, in August 2020. Paula says,

"We were looking for a place to retire and lake living, while attractive, doesn't offer close health care and other important items for the seniors we were becoming.

We fell in love with this lovely neighborhood with its trees, parks and green spaces. We did our research and found this area had one of the lowest crime rates in all of Dallas! I drove through and saw that the residents had large beautiful brick mid-century homes, lovely gardens and, more than that, they acknowledged me whenever I drove through. A far cry from the overpriced, overly-rushed, dense areas of North Dallas. It took about a year, but the perfect house went on the market...My "Forever Home". I'd been frequently and mandatorily relocated by my previous employer. I was ready to settle down to stay. We left our Kessler Plaza home, with our two dogs and one cat, and moved into this lovely home. A portion of the house had been reworked by it's owners, but the outside was overgrown with red tip photinia and thorny briar vines. We rolled up our sleeves and started to work.

Now the sunny west front yard has a lovely vista of Mexican feather grass and boasts a new Vitex tree, along with a Small Mexican Plum tree and baby male Sentry Ginkgo tree. The front entry is flanked with new Japanese maples and the front border is lined with new President Clay azaleas, holly ferns, and a leatherleaf mahonia. The occasional hydrangea from my late step-mother's yard is tucked into corners. New David Austin roses round off the corner with an ancient twisted holly tree. In the front yard, the hot afternoon sun is broken by a large double oak tree, with the help of an ancient native elm.

The backyard ends in an overgrown cliff which makes us a little windy. After losing a couple of umbrellas, we installed a large louvered pergola to give us relief from the summer sun, since it's going to be awhile before our our sapling trees, ash, redbuds, Mexican White Oak, Dogwoods, and Japanese maples, become big enough to provide some shelter. A small pond now sits where a giant ancient oak stump was excavated out and the patio leveled, now surrounded by old iris and a new Japanese black pine tree. A pile of rock stands at the ready, to add finishing touches to the pond (The pond is courtesy of our neighbors' help, Bill McKinney and Tom Forsyth).

We love our neighborhood and are very happy to be here. Since this is the house that I hope to live my days out in, I did all of the planting that I wanted, and in a hurry since time is passing rapidly. The day is coming where I will be less able to do this type of work. The OPENA Beautification committee caught me out planting the azaleas. Since it's spring, things are not leafed out, but will be filling in this summer. I'm pretty close to done and now ready for the occasional cup of coffee on our back porch... Any day now!"



Paula and Billy with budding greenery and two watchful dogs in the window!



Golden sun setting on the house, with Spring ready to get started.



Before, overgrown with grasses, photinia and nandina, the work started!

Photos courtesy of Bill McKinney, Tom Forsyth and Billy Benham.

Happy St Patricks Day!

Take an extra minute to enjoy this beautiful day!!
Spring is almost here.





Oak Park Estates Neighborhood Association (OPENA)

Serving Oak Park Estates, Druid Hills & St. Anne's Hills

Visit us on Facebook [@OakParkEstates](#)

Join us at: <http://www.opena.org/join-us.html>

Our mailing address is:

oakparkestates1@gmail.com

If you have comments or concerns, please direct to OPENA Publications Chairperson:

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