



## QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2004, 7:00PM  
OAK CLIFF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- I. **Call to Order-Welcome** -Joseph Hernandez opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.
- II. **Introduction of Guest Speaker** - Joseph Hernandez introduced Kimberly Engler with the Texas Cooperative Extension.

**Presentation by Kim Engler:** Kimberly Engler from the Texas Cooperative Extension gave a presentation about fire ants' biology and the Texas Two Step Method for eliminating them. Kimberly's e-mail address is: [k-engler@tmu.edu](mailto:k-engler@tmu.edu).

The fire ant arrived from South America and now continues to spread through the south. It is a sub-family of Myrmicinae. Fire Ants are reddish brown/black and have a stinger. They feed primarily on insects and arthropod pests and they aerate our soil through building tunnels underground. After mating season, the male quickly dies. The Fire Ant queen sheds her wings and then lays her eggs. The first brood is made up of sterile female workers. When they develop, they care for the queen as she continues to lay eggs. A Fire Ant Queen can lay up to 800 eggs a day. The worker ants construct and maintain the colony, provide food and protect the colony. Monogyne vs. Polygyne Colonies. This is one queen vs. the two-queen system. Single queen colonies are territorial. In the super colonies, the workers will move freely from one colony to another.

Controlling Fire Ants – approximately \$2 billion a year is spent to control Fire Ants. Mounds can be found in grasses and are located in almost all areas. The Fire Ant colony can actually go down 20 feet underground.

When to treat: First survey the land, if there are more than 5 mounds per quarter acres, it is time to treat. After you have surveyed the land, test for foraging activity with a potato chip or hot dog. If the fire ants come to the food within 30 minutes, it is time to treat because they are actively foraging.

Texas Two Step program – Sep One – Spread Fire Ant bait over the entire yard in the fall and spring. You want to treat the entire yard. Certain products only have to be used once a year. The worker ants will collect the bait, feed on it, and eventually the queen will feed on it, weaken

and die. Once the queen is gone – everyone dies. Bait needs to be fresh; the soil temperature needs to be between 70F and 98F. Grass must be dry. Before spreading out the bait, no rain should be in the forecast for at least eight hours after the application of the bait. Do not mix bait with fertilizer and you should not use a push type spreader with the bait.

Step Two – Treat the individual mounds. This is the fastest way to kill the Fire Ants. Place the bait on the top of the mound. However, this step should be limited to mounds found around high traffic areas or the foundation. Organic products contain d-limonene found in Safer Brand Fire Ant Mound Drench. Each mound requires a gallon of water to treat. It is a great idea to treat for Fire Ants as a neighborhood. If you treat and your neighbor doesn't, the ants will just move over a yard.

Home remedies – gasoline is illegal to use and just moves the ants to another location in your yard.

Pesticide Safety – Always protect yourself, read the label and only use what you need.

Interesting Biological Control Tactics – Phorid Fly Release. The Phorid fly lays its eggs in the fire ant and when the lava is born, it decapitates the fire ant during birth. There is also new technology to infect the colonies with disease. As humans, we are a fascinating group – all these new ways to kill Fire Ants!!!

Joseph introduced our second speaker, Suzanna M. Swanson, LMSW Director of Off Our Rockers Program through the Senior Source. Senior Source has been serving seniors in the Dallas area since 1961. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for Dallas Senior citizens.

Programs offered by Senior Source include:

**Elder Support Program** – Eldercare specialists provide information and supportive counseling to older adults and caregivers of aging loved ones. In addition, older adults receive assistance in accessing low cost or free prescriptions.

**Senior Employment Source** – Mature job seekers are provided with job search techniques, skills assessment, seminars and job leads. Senior Connection, a support group for older adults looking for work, is coordinated through SES.

**Nursing Home Ombudsman Program** – Trained volunteers and agency staff work to improve the quality of life in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

**Guardianship & Money Management Program.** Volunteers help manage the personal and/or financial affairs of vulnerable elderly, some of whom have been determined to be incapacitated by the probate courts.

There are nine programs serving the very active retiree to the frailest elderly. Senior Source will provide help to caregivers of aging loved ones. They offer financial management services. They assist with employment opportunities. They advocate for nursing home residents. They assist in educating the community on issues affecting older adults. They will coordinate volunteer activities for retirees and the help to place older adults as elementary school tutors and mentors.

They encourage all neighbors to assist their older neighbors. Call your older neighbors to just check in on them.

There are numerous volunteer opportunities with Senior Source – so call them if you are interested. All of the programs offered are free of charge.

**III. Reading / Approval of Minutes** Motion was made by Mary Scherer and seconded by Chris to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**IV. Crime Watch Report** – Terry Thomas. Reported that the police would like to have the alleys cleared so that alley access is easier. There were 13 offenses in this quarter, we had an armed robbery and two additional robberies. The police had a line-up, but the victims were unable to identify the suspects. There have been no reported crimes in the last 5 weeks. Terry said that he believes that one of the reasons is because the neighborhood has become more diligent in watching out for their neighbors.

Volunteers in Patrol Program. To establish this program, you need at least 6-8 volunteers. There is all day training by the police and a background check. Please remember to secure your car at night, secure your potted plants. Remember to continue to make the police feel welcome in our neighborhood. Joseph added that he felt the additional touring of the neighborhood by neighbors has been very beneficial. There is strength in numbers – remember to continue to report anything that looks out of place.

**V. Oak Cliff Conservation League Report** –. Robert Curlin reported on the OCCL. The homes that will be on the fall tour of homes will be announced in September. The preview of the home tour will be available as well if you are a member of OCCL. Lowes is sponsoring a home improvement workshop. There are also some Town Hall meetings on the Dallas Budget.

**VI. Treasurer's Report** – YTD we started with \$6090.00, through the year we have collected \$3013 dollars. After expense, we have \$8054.00

**VII. General Items**

1. Yard of the Month Recipients were:

- a. February: 515 South Manus - Todd Suddath and Robert Mooney
- b. March: 504 Monssen - Joseph Hernandez and Jeremy Ratliff
- c. April: 533 Mayrant – Richard Przybysz and Steve Williams
- d. May: 510 Monssen - Verti Stanley
- e. June: 611 Woolsey - John Sarley and J.P. Arnhart
- f. July: 507 Monssen - Wendy Lopez and Connie Moorer

2. New Publications Director – All newsletters were delivered. Greg asked that neighbors send him e-mails of anything going on in the neighborhood, or anything of interest in Dallas. We want the newsletter to be the neighbor's newsletter – not the Boards newsletter.

**Open Forum – Mary** Scherer spoke about SSNOW the group that is forming in the neighborhood to assist our elderly neighbors. Currently they are trying to identify the neighbors who might need assistance. They are open to suggestions and needs for services. Contact a SSNOW committee member if you want to volunteer or know of someone who needs help.

Preservation Dallas – Andy discussed the progress made on the Preservation Dallas project. The surveys have been completed and sent in. We have six people who have volunteered for the research group. Every neighborhood in the city of Dallas is participating in the survey.

Joseph advised he is trying to get the Clarendon Street under I-35 resurfaced as well. The Oak Cliff Tribune did a small story on the spring clean up. The Home Depot on Ft. Worth Ave. is now open. The structure is one of a kind. It is not a typical Home Depot store. It is also the largest Home Depot in Texas.

Outstanding Neighbor of the Quarter – the first recipient will be Christy Crane. We will be giving Christy a gift certificate to a restaurant in Bishop Corner.

Liz asked if there was any discussion to cut down the Hibiscus on Woolsey, which is too tall. There have been some discussions, but no action is going to be taken until the fall. There are plans to do some additional landscaping on the Woolsey triangle.

The question was posed if there was something we could do for the police to show our appreciation such as a gift certificate? Terry Thomas advised it would be better to take them food – not do something for an individual officer.

- Next Quarterly Meeting is Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>; it will be the last meeting at the Chamber of Commerce.

### **VIII. Adjourn**