



oak leaves

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Calendar

- **Tuesday, June 15**
Board of Directors
Meeting, Saxtons.
- **Sunday, July 4**
Fourth of July!

Cul-De-Sac Circles- Update

In the last newsletter, River Oakers were asked their thoughts on whether or not the cul-de-sac circles in River Oaks should be removed. Of the responses received by various Board members, opinion supported removal of the upper cul-de-sac circle but retention of the lower cul-de-sac circle. In the case of the lower cul-de-sac circle, it was suggested that the circle be kept, but that it be made smaller, if possible. One of the points brought up by residents is that removal of the lower cul-de-sac might encourage people to drive faster, which would not be desired.

The Board agreed to contact the City to discuss these possibilities, in light of the fact that the subdivision's roads are scheduled to be resurfaced next year. The issues involved include who has ownership of these traffic circles and what kind of work the City would be willing to do to remove the existing circles.

Keep track of this situation in the upcoming newsletters. Again, your thoughts on the matter are always welcome. Please contact a Board member with your ideas.

Articles

Cul-De-Sac Circles	1
Block Party/Garage Sale	1
New Sign	2
Board of Directors	2
Chronicles	3
Minutes	4

Fall Plans - Block Party And Garage Sale



At the last Board meeting in April, Linda Saxton, chairman of the Entertainment Committee, reported that plans are underway for the annual River Oaks Block Party to take place in the first part of September, after school begins and summer holidays are over. She and her committee will meet to decide on an exact date. The Block Party has been a River Oaks institution since the first year of the



homeowner's association (see the Chronicles article as to its rather strange origin).

It was also decided that this year, the annual River Oaks Garage Sale will take place during the first weekend in October. As well as being a comparatively slow time of year, this puts more time between events for the committee. Put the date on your calendar and plan to join the

So you've read the Oak Leaves, are fired up about the committees, want a free tree, and want to express yourself on the traffic circles. The best way to be heard is to contact a Board member, by phone or e-mail. Or catch one outside on a nice day and give them a piece of your mind. Also, remember that all monthly Board of Directors Meetings are open to all homeowners. Check the time and place in the calendar section of Oak Leaves.

New Sign Update



Plans go forward to get bids from various contractors for a new brick entrance-way sign. Board members hope to contact various vendors in the next month to determine which sign is best.

At the last Board meeting, the possibility of lighting the sign with some kind of solar lighting was discussed. There is no

electricity in the center island where the sign would be placed. The Board will look into the possibility of solar lights.

Again, input from the homeowners on this, and all issues, is always welcome

Board of Directors

Marnee Sinnott	President Landscaping	393-2808	tsinnott@megsinet.net
Andy Gorski	Vice-President Nominating	393-0886	
Mark Moore	Treasurer	393-6473	mt@megsinet.net
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Becky Christiansen	Newsletter	393-4946	becky@cyberoak.com
Steve Hodges	to be announced	393-7761	

River Oaks Chronicles: Part 2 - War Is Declared

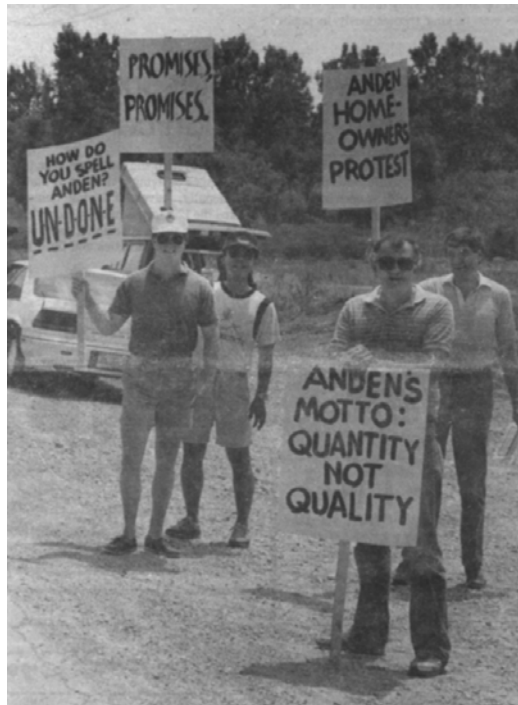
Around May of 1988, River Oaks subdivision appeared well on its way to being finished. Or so it appeared. But as the summer neared, the residents discovered that the work that was required to finish their homes was not being done. The work crews had disappeared. Summer was here and many houses had no screens in the windows. Carpentry was left undone, finish work was not being completed, and many basic repairs that were required for official completion status were ignored.

When repeated calls to Anden and their ever-changing management staff were ignored, residents of River Oaks decided to take action. On Saturday, June 11, a group of River Oaks protestors started picketing Anden's development project in Streamwood, the Surrey Woods subdivision, about 15 miles north of River Oaks on Rt. 59. They were joined in their protest by some Surrey Woods residents who were having similar problems.

The protest was definitely noted by Anden. On the following Thursday, an action committee was formed to handle the official notification of Anden of the work necessary to complete River Oaks houses. Homeowners were encouraged to produce lists of items that needed to be completed to present to Anden. The idea was that once a time schedule was produced to complete these repairs, the picketing would stop. The list was duly presented and Anden promised that all repairs would be completed in thirty days.

This did not stop the picketing at the Streamwood site, however. Many homeowners had heard similar promises from Anden before that repairs would be done which never were. On the next Saturday, June 18, once again the pickets were at Surrey Woods.

Anden hit back on the following Thursday, June 23, when it filed a temporary restraining order against picketers in the Circuit Court of Cook County. The suit named 19 homeowners and other individuals as defendants, and requested that picketing be forced to stop because work to correct the problems was being made. A second count in the same suit asked for \$23 million in damages that were "a direct and proximate result of defendants'



actions and defamatory statements" that they claimed were causing lost sales, cancellations, lowering in house values, and lost advertising expenses. This was put on hold the next day, with Anden saying that if the homeowners agreed to give them the requested 30 days for repairs, there would be no lawsuit. The homeowners warily agreed.

Thus began a series of regular meetings between Anden's representative and the action committee to discuss the progress on the work needed to complete the subdivision. The committee met with Anden throughout the summer to keep on top of the needed repairs. Most of the work was being completed.

In an attempt to generate better relations with River Oaks, Anden gave the homeowners association \$200 to be used towards a River Oaks picnic. And so began the tradition of the annual block party. The first one took place in the lower Common Area, with grilled hamburgers and side dishes provided (to some extent) by Anden.

It is interesting to note that as recently as four years ago, a house was sold here in River Oaks which still had the remnants of this lawsuit attached. It was a clerical error, but was rather startling to the new buyers

We continue to chronicle the story of the first 12 years of River Oaks. We hope that you'll enjoy reading about the history in this 'River Oaks Chronicles'. We are always looking for interesting pictures of events, etc., that took place here. Please contact Becky Christiansen if you have any interesting pictures you'd like to share with your neighbors.