

From The Archives  
CandleRidge Early History  
Twenty and Thirty Years Ago

Excerpts from the CandleRidge Newsletter about June 1978 (undated):

As many of you are aware, we have organized the Candleridge Homeowners Association to provide community home owners with an effective organization to establish and protect our mutual interests and investments.

In early March, the founding directors of the Association met to establish a common purpose and determine the direction the organization should take. As a result, we filed and became a non-profit corporation of the State of Texas and are convinced an organized effort can more efficiently and effectively accomplish our mutual objectives through open and direct communication.

Excerpts from the Star-Telegram, January 30, 1989, section called Focus on Distinctive Neighborhoods, article by Deborah Crowe, Neighbor Group Gets Results (printed here with permission of the Star-Telegram):

When CandleRidge homeowners talk, city officials listen.

Observers say CandleRidge has set the standard for organized, calm, and reasonable citizen advocacy since it rose up in the late 1970's and early 1980's to inquire of city officials: Where were the street lights they were promised? What about getting some mail delivery and garbage pickup out here? How about that neighborhood park, three years after the bond money was approved?

Today they're still regarded by past and present city officials as one of the most effective neighborhood groups, in part because they're not afraid to get their hands dirty.

"They were the first group to say that if the city would plant the trees, they would water them." Said Kathy Wetherby Laymance, who was city councilwoman for that area between 1982 and 1986."

"I think that CandleRidge has always been somewhat unique in Fort Worth, because they go to such great extent to help themselves." said Steve Thompson, the city's interim assistant director of park planning and one of several staffers who worked with the group to design its park 10 years ago."

"Neighborhood associations up till that time tended to form around one issue and when that went away, they disbanded or went by the wayside." Laymance said "This group has carried a lot of clout, because they were well informed, well-organized, and they would come up with their own proposals instead of just saying, "What are you going to do about it?"

Comments by Glen Estes, current President of CHA:

The current residents of CandleRidge have inherited a great legacy created by the vision, hard work, and well organized efforts of many who came before us. I will periodically post additional articles of this nature to help you appreciate how CandleRidge ultimately became the great place that it is today.