



The Corner Post

FALL 2006

Volume III • Issue 4

A quarterly publication of
The Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.

1236 NW 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118-5604



*Working to create
safe, attractive and healthy
neighborhoods throughout
Central OklahomaSM*



Edgemere Park celebrated National Night Out with theme parties.

National Night Out a Big Success!

Even though National Night Out was held on August 1, we all had such a good time that we can't stop talking about it! A record number of 70 different events were held in the Oklahoma City area this year. Ward 2 had the most events in a single ward, and Douglas- Edgemere had the most events in a single neighborhood.

As usual, Medical Community started early and held their annual street party on the Saturday night before National Night Out. Over 300 people came out and danced to the live DJ, ate hot dogs and cheese dip and visited with their neighbors. Edgemere Park held three different parties within their neighborhood, each one with a different theme... Paradise on the Parkway had tropical food and fun, Hill Street Blues had BBQ and blues while Paris on 34th had distinctive treats. Sequoyah Neighborhood Association had so much fun playing Bingo that they were still in the park playing by flashlight well after the sun went down!

It was very hot this year and we worried about the heat. Mesta Park Neighborhood Association and Remington HOA both solved that problem by having the Fire Department spray the kids (and some adults!) with the cool water from the fire hoses. Target Stores helped tremendously this year (see thank you on page 9) by providing volunteers at some of the events and sending workers around to visit others. City Council members, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, OCPD division majors, uniformed officers, Neighborhood Alliance Board Members, State Senators, State Representatives, County Commissioners and even a Corporation Commissioner were seen enjoying themselves at different events.

We are already looking forward to next year!

We would like to know what you think! We recently sent out questionnaires to neighborhoods who participated in National Night Out. Please send it back in so we can make next year's celebration even better! If you have misplaced your questionnaire, give Ben a call at 528-6322 and he will mail one out to you.

Georgie's Corner

I continue to be amazed at the amount of work that is being done through volunteers on the neighborhood level. Zora Brown, member of Creston Hills South, recently shared with me a quote she heard, "Remember, the Titanic was built by professionals and the Ark was built by volunteers!" Volunteers are the backbone of this and every great community.

Volunteers from 14 different OKC neighborhood associations recently submitted Neighborhood Partnership Grants requesting funds to help build their "Ark." Those submitting grants were Central Park, Cleveland, Creston Hills South, Douglas-Edgemere, Garden Neighborhood Council, Hilldale, Jefferson Park, Las Vegas, North Highland/Estes Park, Putnam Heights Preservation, Riverpark, Silvertree, and Western Village.

Their projects range from ornamental lighting to the development of crime patrol units. They put a lot of work into their grant applications and are now anxiously waiting to hear if their application scored well enough to be funded. An independent team of reviewers score each grant and then rank them. Those who score a minimum of 75% are recommended to the City Council for funding. The anxious grant writers should hear by the middle of October if they were successful.

These 14 neighborhoods are practicing my favorite adage: Living in a safe and beautiful neighborhood is a responsibility, not a right.

Remember, February 13 is the next deadline for your neighborhood to submit a grant application. Call me today and let's get started on your "Ark" project!

Keep up the good work!

Georgie Rasco
Executive Director
Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.

What is a "No-Kill" Animal Shelter and Why Should I Care?

Are you aware that Oklahoma City euthanizes upwards of 15,000 unwanted pets a year? Do you see stray dogs in your neighborhood and wish we had a system that would discourage unwanted pets? You are not alone. The citizens of Oklahoma City have joined to do something about these problems.

Neighborhood Alliance is partnering with the Citizens Action Committee, City of OKC Animal Welfare Division, No More Homeless Pets and the Kirkpatrick Family Fund to help create a plan that will create a "No-Kill" animal shelter in Oklahoma City by the year 2010. The group hired Possibilities, Inc. to lead over 50 different animal rescue organizations, animal welfare groups, community leaders and concerned citizens through this process.

Does "no-kill" mean warehousing pets at the animal shelter until they die of old age? No. The term "no-kill shelter" means no adoptable pets are euthanized... however, vicious, dangerous, ill, or seriously injured dogs will be humanely put down. If we are to succeed in our unified vision of better treatment toward animals, every citizen in Oklahoma City will have to do their part. Spaying and neutering your pets and encouraging others to do the same is a BIG part of the solution. Creating affordable spay and neuter options is a must. Volunteering your time with local rescue groups and the Animal Welfare Division is another.

Together we can create a system that is animal friendly. Watch for more news on how you and your neighborhood group can help in this lofty goal that will once again put Oklahoma City on the map.

Consider adopting a pet during the City of Oklahoma City Animal Welfare's Howl-o-ween adoption event from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, October 21-22 at Petsmart, 2140 W. Memorial Road. A variety of cuddly dogs will be in costume, trick-or-treating for new homes. Adoption fees are \$25. Call 552-6018 for information.

National Night Out 2006

Over 70 neighborhoods celebrated this year, turning lights on to deter crime and throwing parties to encourage community pride!



Medical Community tots enjoy some delicious cotton candy.



Remington NA kept things cool with snow cones.



Clowning around in the Redlands neighborhood.

"We're big fans of National Night Out. It's a great proactive opportunity for neighbors to reconnect and demonstrate unity. As the old saying goes, 'None of us are as strong as all of us.' When neighbors bond together and develop a common front against crime, it helps send a clear message to the criminal element. Oklahoma City Police encourage residents to interact with their neighbors and participate in National Night Out activities."

Bill Citty, Chief of Police, Oklahoma City Police Department



Neighbors from across the city and many Target volunteers came to City Hall to celebrate National Night Out 2006 with a group picture.

**NATIONAL
NIGHT
OUT**
America's Night Out Against Crime

Legal Issues for Homeowners' Associations

At an upcoming workshop, Attorney Matthew Winton will be presenting numerous topics of concern to homeowners' associations including:

The difference between by-laws and covenants, how to change covenants

How to work with the developer in the change-over process

How to assess special fees, i.e. lighting, pond maintenance, etc.

Collection of dues, how to handle non-payment of dues

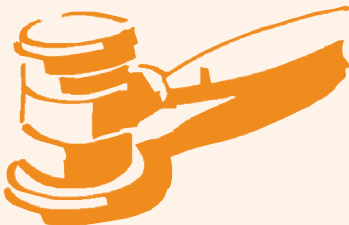
Management companies, why you might want one and how to choose

How to handle conflict among members

Matthew is always a popular speaker so call 528-6322 to reserve your spot today.

Light supper will be served.

Tuesday, October 17
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
First Christian Church
3700 N. Walker



Crime Free Multi Housing

The Crime Free Multi Housing program began in Mesa, Arizona in response to the need for a crime prevention program that addressed some of the unique needs of rental properties. The program was brought to Oklahoma City in 2004 and is administered by Sgt. Greg Clouse of the Oklahoma City Police Department.

Crime Free Multi Housing is a three-part program that hinges on the partnership between property owners/managers and police and a zero tolerance for crime. Phase one of the program is an eight hour training session for apartment managers, leasing agents and maintenance workers. The training is designed to help apartment personnel to recognize and mitigate situations that encourage criminal activity. A key component of this training is the introduction of a "crime-free lease addendum" that enables a landlord to outline activities that will not be tolerated. It gives the landlord the ability to evict tenants if any of the noted activities occur in their dwelling, but Clouse notes that the crime-free lease addendum is only effective if it is enforced universally.

Phase two of the Crime Free Multi Housing program involves an inspection of the property by OCPD personnel to assess the physical security and general appearance of the property. This is often the hardest phase of the program for apartment managers/owners to comply with as it often involves numerous changes to improve the safety and security of the property and to reduce the potential for crime. Referred to as "crime prevention through environmental design" this often involves improving the visibility in common areas and walkways to help deter crime.

In the final phase of the program, apartment managers are required to have a "safety fair" for the residents to introduce them to the Crime Free Multi Housing program and encourage them to be active participants in keeping their homes and neighborhood crime free. When all three phases of the program have been successfully completed, the apartment community is designated as crime-free and managers can use their certification as a selling point to attract quality tenants who wish to live in a safe and secure environment.

The Crime Free Multi Housing program is a voluntary program and relies on apartment owners/managers desire to participate and create a safe environment for their tenants and neighbors. Once a complex is certified as crime-free, it must complete an annual review to keep the certification. To date, there are four properties that are fully certified:

Potomac House (2800 SW 59th)

Chandelaque (5528 N. Portland)

Meridian Ridge (6300 N. Meridian)

Charles Atkins (1917 NE 20th Street)

To learn more about Crime Free Multi Housing or to participate in the program, contact Sgt. Greg Clouse at 316-5211.

Catholic HEART Workcamp Helps Riverpark Neighborhood

Each year, Catholic HEART Workcamps mobilize thousands of teens to make a positive impact on communities across the nation. This year Oklahoma City was chosen as one of the camp worksites. Joe and Cristy Welch, of St. John's Nepomuk Catholic Church, and St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma hosted over 270 teens. One of the communities they worked in was the Riverpark neighborhood. Jeanna Daniel of Riverpark (S. Portland/ S. Tulsa/ SW 29th/ SW 23rd) shared her workcamp experience.

"Joe Welch from St. Johns Nepomuk called me in June and told me that Neighborhood Alliance had passed my number along and that Catholic HEART Workcamp would like to do some volunteer work in our area. I was ecstatic because there were several elderly and disabled residents that I had been desperately trying to find help for. Coincidentally I am also a Catholic so faith-wise it meant a lot to me as well. Joe came to my home and I told him about 13 different projects I needed assistance with. Some were mighty big- tearing down a garage, completely doing a tear-out of drywall in a home to put in insulation and re-sheetrock, numerous interior and exterior paint jobs, and cleaning up a vacant field. I told Joe since all of the projects were in our neighborhood and were pretty close to my home that we would like to host them at lunch-time. We had no idea what to expect. What a pleasure!!!

The biggest charter bus you have ever seen and five or six panel vans drove up at 9:00 am that Monday morning and I didn't think that kids would ever stop pouring out! I think there were 102 involved (and I only have one restroom, yikes!!!). They were so organized! Their team leaders had everyone sorted out where they needed to go and we shuttled the kids to all of the worksites. The residents were thrilled to see them coming. They tackled all of these difficult jobs in 100 plus degree heat and never complained a bit. Their Catholic faith shone through in each one of them. They gathered and said a prayer each day at each site and asked each resident to join them if they liked, some did. Religion did not matter when it came to the homes that were selected or whether the resident was religious or not, these kids came with a job to do and they did it well! The team leaders were awesome!



Over 270 Catholic HEART Workcamp teens worked together to make improvements to 13 homes in the Riverpark neighborhood.

Many of the leaders and most of the kids had never done any of the kind of work we needed and what they were able to accomplish in four days was amazing. Donna Green, Kay Clarke, my husband Lee and I shuttled them back and forth at lunch and picked them up when it was time for the bus. They were able to relax and cool off at lunchtime and they never, ever complained about anything- even the dreaded poison ivy in the vacant field! Oh, and did I mention the snake? They dealt with everything like the champions they were!

We had several local companies and churches help us in a big way with paint, bottled water, ice, sheetrock and various other materials. Forest Lumber, Aaron Tatum Custom Homes, Ace Hardware, Westlake Ace Hardware, Home Depot, United Refrigeration, American Waste and Waste Management were just a few. It was a community wide project!

When that big bus pulled out for the last time on Thursday there wasn't a dry eye anywhere! There are angels out there, we met some!

The neighbors here are still talking about Catholic HEART Workcamp!"



The Catholic HEART Workcamp plans to return to the OKC area in the summer of 2007. For more information, please contact Joe Welch at js.welch@sbcglobal.net.

Home Security

If you were locked out of your house, would you still be able to get in? Maybe you keep an unlocked window in the back, or a hidden key in your mailbox or on top of a window ledge?

You may think this is a good idea, but guess what? If you can break in, so can a burglar!

One out of ten homes will be burglarized this year. For a small amount of time and money you can make your home more secure and reduce your chances of being a victim.

Check the locks- make sure all external doors have a sturdy, well-installed deadbolt lock. Secure sliding glass doors by installing locks or putting a broomstick in the track to jam the door. Instead of hiding a key, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.

Check the doors- all outside doors should be metal or solid wood. If your doors do not fit tightly in their frames, install weather-stripping around them. Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer so you do not have to open the door to see who is there. Door chains break easily and do not keep out intruders.

Check the outside- Thieves hate bright lights. Install outside lights and keep them on all night. Keep your yard clean by pruning back shrubs so they do not hide doors or windows. Use lighting timers when you are on vacation.

Neighborhood Kudos

The **Mesta Park NA** is supporting property improvements in their neighborhood by starting a neighborhood sidewalk replacement program. The association is reimbursing property owners for a portion of the cost of replacing sidewalks that run along streets. A special thank you goes to **Park Estates/ N. Cashions Wildewood**, who participated in the Litter Blitz- we are very sorry that we forgot to list them in the last newsletter! A big thank you goes to Neal Davis, Crime Patrol Captain for **Sequaoyah NA**. He is the longest running neighborhood patrol captain in Oklahoma City. He has been doing this for over 24 years! He often helps new neighborhoods get their patrols started and even has been known to lend them some of his equipment. A big congratulations goes out to **Country Hollow HOA, Warwick Estates HOA, and North Coronado Heights NA** as they were all recently sanctioned by Neighborhood Alliance and OCPD to begin Volunteer Neighborhood Patrol units in their neighborhoods. Congratulations to **Crestwood NA** for the completion of a neighborhood wide strategic plan. Great job to all of the neighborhoods that participated in National Night Out: **Briarcreek, Canyon North, Lakeview, North Coronado Heights, Rock Knoll, Rollingwood, Asian District, Camelot Estates, Central Park, Cleveland,**



Children from Camelot Estates enjoy the playground during their neighborhood's National Night Out party.

Douglas Edgemere, Edgemere Park, FBIR, Mayfair Heights, Penn Park, Putnam Heights, Sequoyah, Shepherd, Venice, Western Village, Greenvale, Hilldale, Musgrave Pennington, Riverpark, West Watch, Windsor Forrest, Windsor Hills, Cloverleaf, Oakcliff, South Walker, Taylor Park, Classen Glen, Crestwood, Gatewood, Mesta Park, Miller, Watchful Eyes, Westlawn Gardens, Youngs Englewood, Carverdale, Classen N. Highland Parked, South Creston Hills, Culbertson East Highland, Edwards Community Club, Garden Neighborhood, Medical Community, North Creston Hills, Northwood Neighbors, Park Estates North/Cashions Wildewood, Ravenswood, Rock Manor, Mimosa Heights, South Park Estates, Wildewood Hills, Bluff Creek, Country Hollow, Lakehurst, Redlands, Remington, Seminole Pointe, Summerfield, The Greens, Woody Bryant, and Parker Heights/Green Pastures. **Wildewood Hills/Heights NA** pulled together assistance from all over the city to repair a neighbor's home- way to go! Congratulations go to Paige, Taylor and Madison for having the best art in **Rollingwood's** "Light Up the Night" art contest. Kudos to the **South Park Estates** neighborhood for completion of Phase I of the Perry Park Renovation.

If you know of a neighborhood project you would like us to recognize or share, please call and tell us about it! You can reach either Georgie Rasco or Ben Davis at the Neighborhood Alliance, 528-6322.



“Neighborhood Leaders for Today” Now Enrolling

Have you ever wished there was a class that would teach you all you needed to know to be an effective neighborhood leader? One place where you could go to learn about team building, effective meetings, membership drives, crime prevention, newsletters, navigating City Hall and how to raise funds for much needed projects? Neighborhood Leaders for Today is just that class!

Limited to the first 30 persons who register, the seven week course meets every Thursday night from March 1 through April 12, 2007. It also meets Saturdays, March 17 and April 7. After the completion of the seven week course, there is a very nice graduation dinner to honor you and your commitment to this City. Last year’s dinner was held at The Oklahoma City Art Museum with Mayor Mick Cornett and all the City Council members on hand to wish the graduates well.

Over 30 guest speakers are brought in during the course of the class. It is fun, interactive and never boring! One night the class even meets at City Hall and learns first-hand how our City government works. Not only will you learn from all the experts in this field, but you will meet other citizens who care about their neighborhood the same way you care about yours.

Don’t miss out on this once a year opportunity. Recruit someone to represent your neighborhood in this year’s Neighborhood Leaders for Today. **Call 528-6322 to request an application form. This class fills up fast so don’t delay.** Call today for your packet.

NEIGHBORHOOD
Leaders
For Today!

Now Available!

The Oklahoma Community Association Handbook: A Guide to Oklahoma Condominiums, Homeowners Associations, and Neighborhood Associations

By Matthew L. Winton, Esq.

Cost: \$64.95 plus S&H

The Handbook is your invaluable resource for Oklahoma community association law, information, facts, and forms. The newly revised Second Edition provides over 400 pages on topics such as: covenants, bylaws, developer transition, insurance, dispute resolution, dues, and more.

Call (405) 478-4818 or e-mail mlw@vaughnandwinton.com to order your copies of the Handbook. View the Handbook table of contents at www.vaughnandwinton.com/handbook.html

Matthew L. Winton is an attorney who devotes his legal practice to community association law and issues. Additionally, he writes for the lawblog www.okhoa.blogs.com. He may be contacted at (405) 478-4818 or mlw@vaughnandwinton.com



Does Your Neighborhood Want A Grant?

If your neighborhood is in a low to moderate income area you may qualify for the Neighborhood Partnership Grant from The City of Oklahoma City. The next deadline for applications is February 13 and you can apply for up to \$10,000 to do a beautification or safety project in your area. October and November are good months to begin work on this process. If you are interested, or just want more information on the grant, please contact Neighborhood Alliance at 528-6322.



Signs, Signs... Everywhere There Are Signs!

In the past month you may have noticed a decrease in temporary signs along the roadways- a result of the City of Oklahoma City's City Council decision to strictly enforce signage ordinances. While some people feel the signs are necessary, others feel they are unsightly. Regardless of how you feel about the signs, it is important to know what the law says about them. Keeping the following guidelines in mind will help you to stay on the right side of the law.

Sign placement

Signs, unless permitted by the City, cannot be erected on or over streets and sidewalks. **Using city streets and parks for political, social, civic, or charitable advertising in the full view of those traveling on the public right-of-way is prohibited, unless the signs are governmental public information or neighborhood identification signs.** It is also illegal to post, paint, scatter, or spread signs, bills, or other advertising materials along streets and sidewalks. This prohibition includes posting advertisements of any kind on light or utility poles. Remember, six feet from the curb is usually easement, or public right-of-way. No yard signs can be legally placed in this space.

Garage Sales

Signs are permitted for garage sales but there are several rules to follow. There may be one sign of no more than 12 square feet that may be placed at the property where the sale is taking place. Two off-site signs of no more than 12 square feet are permitted as long as permission is obtained from the property owner where the sign is being placed. Garage sale signs are not allowed on any public property or on any light or utility poles. Signs can be placed 12 hours before the date and time of the sale and must be removed after the sale is completed.

Doorstep advertising, circulars and newsletters

The city has also specified some guidelines for handbills, which include advertisements, doorhangers and newsletters. No handbills or other advertisements can be posted on utility poles, light poles, street signs, fences, trees or houses without consent of the owner. Handbills and newsletters cannot be distributed on private property if the owner has requested not to receive such items, or if there is a sign posted noting that advertisements are not allowed. Any handbills left on properties must be done so in a way that they will not blow onto other properties or on the public streets and sidewalks. It is prohibited to leave handbills and newsletters on vacant properties.

So remember, when you are out distributing newsletters, attach them in a way that they will not blow away and do not distribute them to unoccupied homes. Your neighbors will thank you!

Fall Fun Events

Heritage Hills Home and Garden Tour

October 14th & 15th. The 40th Annual Heritage Hills Historic Homes & Gardens Tour celebrates “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” by showcasing six private residences, two gardens and one landmark site. Hours are 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$14 on the tour days. For more information contact Sandra Kirk at 602-0205.



Plaza District Fall Festival

Saturday, October 14th, 3:00pm – 9:30 pm. This year’s festival starts with a grand entrance at NW 16th and Indiana at 3:00 pm. Festivities will include good food, entertainment, an antique car show, children’s games, artist booths and clowns. For more information, contact Janet Seefeldt at 525-9441 or Susan Hogan at 605-3191.



Trolley Track Run

The Trolley Track Coalition is hosting the 11th Annual Trolley Track Run on October 21, 2006. The one mile run is at 8:00am and the 5k/10k runs are at 8:30. All proceeds benefit the Trolley Track Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, enhancement and beautification of OKC’s Old Trolley District.

Gatewood Historic District Home and Garden Tour

October 28th, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm and October 29th, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. This year will mark the 10th anniversary event. Tickets are \$10. For more information, contact Nita Cheatham at 524-1119 or Cheryl Davis at 524-1928.

Helm Farm Fall Fest

Saturday, October 28th, 5:00pm – 9:00pm. Fun time with food, live music and activities for the kids. Event will be held at Horace Mann Elementary, located on the 4500 block of Military.



Linwood Place Home Tour

Sunday, October 29th, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. This year’s tour will include five homes in this historic neighborhood. Tickets can be purchased at the N.W. 23rd Street Antique Mall.

A Big Thank You to Target!

Kelly Woods, a Target employee, was instrumental in bringing Target on board as a local sponsor for this year’s National Night Out.

Many Target employees volunteered at various neighborhood events, while other Target employees drove around and visited even more events. Target even offered numerous gift cards as prizes. Mrs. Helen Franklin, Garden Community Club, won the drawing for a \$50 gift card at the “Picture With the Mayor”. Riverpark NA won the \$100 drawing for the neighborhood with the most in attendance at the “Picture with the Mayor”.

Listed below are the neighborhood events that were honored this year with a \$50 gift card from Target. Winners were judged on creativity, attendance, first-time event, friendliness and spirit. Congrats to the winners and thanks to Kelly and all of her Target team members who helped make this year a success!

Winners are: Lakeview, North Coronado Heights, Douglas – Edgemere, Edgemere Park, Shepherd, Mesta Park, Youngs-Englewood, Creston Hills South, Musgrave Pennington, Riverpark, West Watch, Oakcliff, Redlands, Remington, Medical Community and Ravenswood.



TARGET

Sprayground Coming to a Park Near You!

An exciting new addition is coming to several parks across Oklahoma City- spraygrounds! A sprayground is an unsupervised, unfenced water activity area designed for children ages 12 and under. City Council recently approved a request for bids for the construction of nine new spraygrounds. In addition to being fun, spraygrounds are economical. "Spraygrounds don't impound water and, as a result, don't require lifeguards – saving the City thousands of dollars," Parks and Recreation Department Director Wendel Whisenhunt said. "Spraygrounds are less expensive to build and maintain than swimming pools," added Whisenhunt, "with that in mind, we're beginning construction soon on nine new spraygrounds that will open in 2007." The City of Oklahoma City opened its first sprayground in 2004 at Lippert Park, 5500 S. Shartel.



For more information, contact the Parks Department at 297-3882.

Spraygrounds opening in summer 2007

Douglass Park, NE 10th & Frederick Douglass Ave. **E.B. Jeffrey Park**, NW 16th & Meridian
Macklanburg Park, NW 117th & Stratford **McKinley Park**, NW 12th & McKinley
Melrose Park, 7800 Melrose Lane **Memorial Park**, NW 35th & Classen
Sellers Park, SW 82nd & Villa **Wiley Post Park**, SW 17th & Robinson
Youngs Park, 4510 S. Youngs

Not Web Savvy? NeighborhoodLink Makes It Easy!

Thanks to a sponsorship from OG&E, every neighborhood in Oklahoma City has been provided with a FREE, easy way to have their own website. A neighborhood website is a convenient way to distribute important information quickly to residents. NeighborhoodLink makes it simple for neighborhoods to set up and maintain their website. All the association needs is internet access.

To get started, visit www.neighborhoodlink.com. On the opening page, click on "Activate your neighborhood website" and follow the instructions. For more information, contact Ben at Neighborhood Alliance: 528-6322.

Watch What You Heat: Prevent Cooking Fires

Cooking is the top cause of destructive fires in Oklahoma City. Nobody likes to burn a meal, but burning your home, or yourself, is even worse.

- Don't leave cooking unattended- grease fires almost always start when no one is watching the skillet. Turn off all burners if you have to leave, or as a last resort take something from the kitchen with you, (such as a pot holder or wooden spoon), to remind you that something is still cooking.

- Turn all pot and skillet handles toward the back of the stove.

- Wear close-fitting or short sleeves when you cook. Use a wristband or a rubber band to hold loose sleeves up and away from the burners.

- Keep flammable objects away from the stove.

- Extinguishing kitchen fires- use a fire extinguisher, baking soda, or a lid that covers the pan completely. Do **not** use water or flour.

- Trying to carry a burning pan out of the house can spread the fire throughout your home, and can also catch your clothing on fire. Leave the pan where it is.

- Ovens are made to hold high heat. If you have a fire in the oven, leave the door closed. Turn off the oven and let the fire extinguish itself as it uses up the oxygen.

- Call 911 immediately and let the Fire Department make sure the fire is out.

A house fire is a very serious thing. When in doubt always contact your local fire department, they are there to assist and provide you with service. If you would like more information on how to prevent fires, contact your local fire department at or look online at www.nfpa.org. The Oklahoma City Fire Department can be found at www.okc.gov/fire/index.html.

*Fire Prevention Week is
October 8 - 14, 2006.*



Hello & Goodbye!



We would like to introduce Ben Davis as our new Programs Coordinator. Ben is replacing Deborah Baker who has taken a position as the Collections Assistant at the International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum.

Ben comes to us from the City of Oklahoma City where he was the Volunteer Coordinator in the Solid Waste Management Division. Many of you may have met Ben at numerous clean-up events throughout the neighborhoods this past spring or when he spoke at our Code Enforcement 411 workshop.

Ben comes to us with considerable experience and a passion for neighborhood projects and community service. He will be a great addition to our staff and we are confident that you will enjoy getting to know and work with him.

A note to all my neighborhood friends:

I would like to say a big thank you to all of the great people that I have had the honor to meet and work with in the past year and a half during my tenure at Neighborhood Alliance. I have truly enjoyed getting to know each of you and your neighborhoods. I applaud your commitment to your community and making Oklahoma City a wonderful place to live. While I may be leaving Neighborhood Alliance, I will still be here and hopefully working to improve life in Oklahoma City. If you are visiting the Omniplex, be sure to stop in at the International Photography Hall of Fame and say hello!



Deborah

www.nacok.org is here!
Come visit anytime you're online.

Crime Stats and more online!

Did you know that you can find crime statistics, neighborhood information and events on the Neighborhood Alliance website? That's right, www.nacok.org is the site to visit to find out what is going on in the community. Each week, crime statistics and events are updated. You will also find helpful information on organizing neighborhood associations, crime prevention, writing newsletters and much more.

Visit
www.nacok.org
today!

If you have a community event you would like to include on our website or if you have suggestions on information you would like to see on the website, please contact Ben at Neighborhood Alliance, 528-6322.



Camp Possibilities 7

Each year, Camp Possibilities helps people build the skills and confidence needed to connect to others and to work together to revitalize their own communities. The camp is actually a year-long series of activities that begins with an opening retreat and ends with a graduation celebration. In between, participants, called “campers”, attend classes to learn about topics such as conflict resolution and how to conduct inclusive, fun meetings. The campers then team up in groups to work on various community projects. Projects range from promoting animal welfare to starting a neighborhood crime patrol. “Last year through Camp Possibilities projects, Campers impacted more than 10,000 people and leveraged more than \$30,000 for community improvements.” Lisa Reed, Possibilities Executive Director said. “This year, we have more Campers, more diversity, and more creativity than ever. I can’t wait to see what this group can accomplish together!”

Campers for Camp Possibilities 7 include: Anthanetta Smith, John Smith, Jr., Ellie Davila, and Shirley Ruth of Westlawn Gardens; Betty Clifton of the Lakehurst HOA; Jerry Cable, Patrizia Montenegro and Ben Davis of Medical Community; Timothy, Joshua, Jasmine, Samaria and Mrs. Thomas of Putnam City Community Connection; Kathy, Shawn and Robert Bacon of Plymouth House Apartments; Sally Blevins of Aurora; Charlotte Froh of Garden Oaks; Helen Pete of Culbertson- East Highland; Etta Thomas of Quail Creek; Kathy Conn of May-Penn NA; Lisa Fry of Rainbow Fleet/ Paseo; Cleo Baccus and Joel Bradford of Carverdale; Lyn Adams of the Oklahoma Children’s Theatre; Robert Berg of Paseo; LuLu May Stephens of Heritage Hills East; Marilyn Long of North Cashions- Wildewood; Gayle Shropshire and Sherman Carthen of Wildewood Hill Heights; Mary Sosa of Lee Elementary/ Capitol Hill; Sonja Ware of Ridgeview; Stephen Klapp of Rambling Acres; Willa Johnson of North Highland; Wesley Crump of the City of Forest Park and Opal Cade of Possibilities.

For more information on how you too can attend Camp Possibilities, call Possibilities at 525-3131.

Neighborhood Alliance and Possibilities, Inc. were proud to host Tom Everson, the founder of the Drive 25: Keep Kids Alive program. He has some great information on his website. Go to www.keepkidsalive.com for more information on his great program.

Funding the Dream- Beautification Station

This year's beautification and funding workshop was a great success! Over 60 people came to hear experts on community beautification. Neighborhood Alliance thanks our co-hosts, OKC Beautiful and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. We also thank Panera Bread for donating the delicious refreshments. Of course the workshop could not have been possible without the expertise of our vendors and speakers. Below you will find contact information for the organizations that spoke or had information tables at the workshop.

Brookhaven NA, David Sapper, 843-1249, dcsapper@sbcglobal.net, topic: neighborhood beautification

City of OKC Parks and Recreation, Wendel Whisenhunt, 297-3882, wendel.whisenhunt@okc.gov, topic: city's role in beautification

Edgemere Park Preservation, Inc., Jann Hook, 530-8880, jphook@swbell.net, topic: private/public partnership in park renovation

Neighborhood Alliance, Georgie Rasco, 528-6322, georgie@nacok.org, topic: City of OKC Partnership Grant Program

OK Dept. of Agriculture, Forestry Division, Mark Bays, 522-6158, mark.bays@okc.gov, topic: urban forestry grant opportunities

OKC Beautiful, Shana Keith-Ward, 525-8822, shana@okcbeautiful.com, Litter Blitz and Adopt-a-Park

Oklahoma City Community Foundation, Brian Dougherty, 235-5603, brian.dougherty@occf.org, topic: Margaret Annis-Boys Trust grant opportunities

OK Dept. of Transportation, Beautification Division, Marylee Jones, 521-4037, tree and wildflower grants for highway beautification

OSU County Extension, Ray Ridlen, 713-1125, landscaping opportunities

Possibilities, Minne Vickers and Opal Cade, 525-3131, teamwork and volunteerism

Signworks, Brian Ellis, 236-1010, gateways and original wood signs

Tree Bank Foundation, Mary Caffrey, 330-4701, trees for public spaces

Westlawn Gardens Neighborhood, Martha Hulsey and Vanita Muzny, 943-1800, topic: renovation of park through their neighborhood association



Kirkpatrick Family Fund Awards Grant

The Kirkpatrick Family Fund very generously gave \$5,000 to Neighborhood Alliance to use toward general operating expenses. Elizabeth Eickman, Executive Director of the Family Fund, sent notice earlier this summer of the award.

The Kirkpatrick Family Fund is an affiliated fund of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The programs and grants reflect the interests of the Kirkpatrick family, who established the fund and serve on its governing Board of Trustees.

This grant shows the citizens of Oklahoma City how committed the Kirkpatrick Family Fund is to the work that is being done at the neighborhood level. We appreciate their support of our mission and look forward to working with them on many more projects in the future.

No Need to Stockpile

If you are like most people, you have a chemical stockpile in your garage or basement. That's right, old paint, pesticides, lawn chemicals and used oil can pile up and become a hazard for your family and the environment. The City of Oklahoma City has a great way to get rid of all your old hazardous items- the Household Hazardous Waste Center! You can just drive through and drop off your items.

Here is a short list of the items they accept:

Kerosene, Gasoline, De-greaser, Lubricants, Rust Remover, Weed Killers, Pesticides, Furniture Polish, Batteries/ Car Batteries, Used Oil and Filters, Brake and Transmission Fluid, Drain Cleaner, Oven Cleaner, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Fertilizer, Pool Chemicals, Paint and Solvent, Craft and Hobby Supplies

They do not accept:
Tires

Biomedical Waste, Radioactive Waste, Appliances, Refrigerant and Compressed Gas Containers, Business Waste, and Trash

Materials must be in their original containers. If original containers have been damaged, put them in a box lined with garbage bags.

The waste center is located at 3738 SW 15th Street (SW 15th and Portland). Collection hours are 9:30 am - 6:00 pm, Tuesday through Friday and 8:30 am - 11:30 am on Saturday. Call 682-7038 for more information.

Crime Prevention Tax Breaks Available

The State of Oklahoma recently passed legislation that will greatly benefit Neighborhood Associations. Authored by Rep. Kevin Calvey, (R/Del City) neighborhoods that have crime prevention or neighborhood safety as part of their mission are now eligible for a sales tax exemption. To qualify, the Neighborhood must be a not-for-profit corporation in the state of Oklahoma and have been created to "help prevent criminal activity through community involvement and interaction with local law enforcement."

The exemption is for the first \$2,000 of each calendar year's purchases or sales made for the benefit of your qualifying Neighborhood Association. Crime patrol equipment, National Night Out supplies, printing, meeting supplies, etc. can all be sales tax free! The \$2,000 limit begins again at the first of each calendar year.

To qualify the sales tax exemption, the Association needs to send a letter of application to the Taxpayer Assistance Division of the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC). The letter should state:

- The legal name of the Association and current mailing address.
- The Association's federal employer's identification number.
- Articles of incorporation, by-laws or any other documents that list your Association's mission. Part of your mission must be to "prevent criminal activity through community involvement and interaction with local law enforcement."
- You must include documentation showing that the Association is working directly with the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction in your area. This can include minutes of your meetings or a letter from your Police Community Relations Officer.
- The boundaries of the area in which the Association is located.
- The name and address of the person representing the organization to whom the exemption card will be mailed and who will be responsible for tracking the Association's use of the tax exemption up to the limit of \$2,000 annually.

When an Association is approved to receive the sales tax exemption, an exemption card will be sent to the Association's representative for use when selling or purchasing goods and services. It is up to individual vendors if they wish to honor the sales tax exemption card. If the vendor will not accept the card, you may apply to OTC for a refund of the taxes paid.

Only 2000 Neighborhood Watch Associations can receive this sales tax exemption so get your information together and send in your letter of application to the Oklahoma Tax Commission today.

**Taxpayer Assistance Division
Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC)
2501 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73194
Or call OTC: Sandy Johnson at 522-0869**

Sure Ways To Kill A Group

Contributed by Edith Silva, member of Sequoyah NA

1. Don't attend meetings. If you do go, arrive late. Criticize the work of the officers and members.
2. Never hold an office, as it is easier to find fault with others than to get involved.
3. Get upset if you're not appointed to a committee. If you are appointed, never attend committee meetings.
4. When asked for your opinion say you have nothing to say. After the meeting, complain and say it all.
5. Don't do anything unless it is absolutely necessary. When others attempt to get things done, complain the organization is controlled by a clique.
6. Don't attempt to get new members – let someone else do it.
7. When an event is planned, complain loudly that the organization is wasting money.
8. When nothing is planned, complain loudly that the organization lacks life.
9. If asked to sit at the head table, refuse. If not asked, resign.
10. Don't pay your dues, or at least hold back paying for as long as possible. Don't pay until you are asked a second time. If you are sent a reminder even though you have paid, resign, or at least complain that the Treasurer is misusing funds.
11. Don't let the organization know how it can help you, but if it doesn't, resign.
12. If you can get some benefits without officially joining, don't join.
13. If your organization doesn't correct abuses in other's business, complain nothing is being done. If it calls attention to abuses in your own business, resign.
14. Keep looking for something wrong in the organization. When you find it, resign.
15. At every opportunity, threaten to resign. Get your friends to resign too.
16. When you do go to a meeting, vote to do something and then go home and do the opposite.
17. Delay replying to communications from the organization, or better yet, don't reply at all.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Do you have people like this in your neighborhood association? You bet you do. Every organization does.

*If you see yourself on this list – make the choice to be a better neighbor.
Your neighborhood needs you.*

When New Leadership Is Elected

New officers, including officers of your Executive Committee, Leadership Committee or Board of Directors need to make sure the following things are done:

- Contact Neighborhood Alliance, Inc. at (405) 528-6322 and let the Alliance know the names of the new officers. This is a vital step for our records and to make sure you will be getting all the up-to-date information you need to be successful.
- Call a meeting of the New Leadership to read and review the organization's by-laws. Prepare any changes that the new committee would like to make and put it on the next meeting agenda for a membership vote.
- Change Signature Card information at the Bank. You do not want to leave any room for delaying business.
- Change Officer information on the Articles of Incorporation at the Secretary of State's Office, if applicable.
- Audit the Financial Account and make sure the Officers are aware of how the organization's money can and cannot be used. This should be done even if you trust the former Treasurer with your life. It helps the leadership know what money is coming in, going out and what the organization's money is used for. It will also help the leadership understand when money is needed for what events.
- Oversee that all records are turned over to the new or appropriate officers.
- Meet and chose goals or a project for the Association to accomplish for the year.
- Contact Neighborhood Alliance at (405) 528-6322 and schedule a New Officers Orientation training. This can be done on a weekday evening and is scheduled on an as needed basis.

2006 - 2007

Board of Directors

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

JENNIFER SEAL
President

ROD DAVIDSON
Vice President

J.B. SCHUELEIN
Treasurer

TODD PAULEY
Secretary

CORY WILLIAMS
HARRY MEISTER
PATRICK GAINES
RICK CHAMBERLAIN

STAFF

GEORGIE RASCO
Executive Director

BEN DAVIS
Programs Coordinator

EVELYN MOONEY
AARP Senior Employment Program

**www.nacok.org
is here!**

Log on today!

**The Neighborhood Alliance
is located at 1236 NW 36th
Street (the southeast corner
of 36th and NW Classen).**



1236 NW 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Oklahoma City,
OK
Permit No. 858

Upcoming Events

Legal Issues for Homeowners Associations

*Tuesday, October 17
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
First Christian Church*
Attorney Matthew Winton will be presenting numerous topics of concern to homeowners' associations. Call 528-6322 to reserve your seat. Light supper will be served.

Crime Patroller's Training

*Tuesday, October 24
7:00 pm
Hefner Station
3924 NW 122nd Street*
This training is for neighborhoods with established patrols only. If you need a refresher training, or have a few new members to add to your patrol, then you will want to attend. Call 316-4416 for more information.

NLT Alumni Meeting

*Tuesday, October 24
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Neighborhood Alliance
1236 NW 36th Street*
We will be discussing plans for the next "Neighborhood Leaders for Today" class and graduation dinner. Light supper will be served. Call 528-6322 to RSVP.

Semi-annual Crime Patroller's Meeting

*Tuesday, November 7
6:00 pm
Neighborhood Alliance
1236 NW 36th Street*
All neighborhood volunteer patrols are invited to come share, visit and talk about their programs. Light supper will be served.