

## THE MONTHLY UPDATE

*This mailing includes your neighborhood crime reports (for OCPD neighborhoods) and information that we think will be of interest to OKC metro area residents. Please forward this information to your neighborhood newsletter editor and/or webmaster so that they can share it with the neighborhood. Everything in this insert is free for you to re-use!*



**Thank you for partnering with us in 2015!**

At Neighborhood Alliance, we believe living in a safe and beautiful neighborhood is a responsibility...not a right.

Our mission is to create safe, attractive and healthy neighborhoods for all and for over 35 years, Neighborhood Alliance has positively affected thousands of citizens' lives by teaching them how to create their own sustainable change.

We look forward to continuing in 2016 to ensure this mission is a reality for over 400 neighborhood associations and 80,000 volunteers throughout these neighborhoods.

***From our Families to yours, our Board and Staff Wish You Happy Holidays!***



Working to create safe,  
attractive and healthy neighborhoods  
throughout Central Oklahoma  
[www.nacok.org](http://www.nacok.org)



1236 NW 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
Phone: (405) 528-6322  
[info@nacok.org](mailto:info@nacok.org)

## Upcoming Workshops with Neighborhood Alliance

### Organizing & Officer Training

- Monday, January 11, 6pm (for Voluntary Neighborhood Associations)
- Tuesday, January 12, 6pm (for Homeowner Associations with Mandatory Dues)

These informal sessions are open to anyone who wants to find out how to get their neighborhood or HOA organized and/or learn more about being a neighborhood officer. **If you've just been elected, you don't want to miss it!**

Please note that there are now two different sessions: on the first Monday of each month we'll meet with voluntary neighborhood associations and on the first Tuesday with HOAs that have mandatory dues. A light dinner is served. The workshop is free but seats are limited. Reserve online at [nacok.org/events/](http://nacok.org/events/) or call 528-6322.

### Neighborhood Leaders for Today!

Have you ever wished there was a class that could 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, and more? **Neighborhood Leaders for Today** is just that class!

Applications are now being accepted on our website (under the "Events" tab). Apply today for this FREE eight-week class that meets from 6-9pm on Thursday evenings, April 7 through May 26, plus two Saturdays. The class size is limited to 30 to allow for a more personal experience. You will be notified of your acceptance into the program shortly after the application deadline of February 28, 2016!

**Apply Today! [www.nacok.org](http://www.nacok.org)**



## HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

**Saturday,  
December 12  
2 - 4PM**

**Windsor Hills  
Shopping Center**

**Meet Santa! Enjoy great music and lots of holiday cheer. FREE gifts, arts & crafts, and food! Learn about Christmas, Dwali, Hanukkah, Kwanza and much more!**

## Free Landfill Day for Ice Storm Debris

Here's an option for getting rid of storm debris without waiting for a collection crew.

The City of Oklahoma City is offering a special storm debris Free Landfill Day. The landfills will accept storm debris – downed trees and limbs only – at no charge to residential customers. The special Free Landfill Day will be held from **7 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 12.**

This option is for residential customers only who receive Oklahoma City trash collection services. Bring a copy of a current City of OKC utility bill and a drivers' license or other form of ID to prove OKC residency.

Participating landfills are:

- East Oak Landfill – 3201 Mosley Road  
(On the south side of NE 36 east of Sooner Road)
- Oklahoma City Landfill – 7001 S Bryant Ave.
- Oklahoma Landfill – 7600 SW 15
- Northeast Landfill – 2601 N Midwest Boulevard in Spencer

Each residential household may drop off one load using one passenger vehicle or truck up to 1-ton and one trailer up to 16-feet long.

The special Free Landfill Day is not available to businesses or commercial waste haulers, including contracted debris removal crews.

For more information about the Free Landfill Day, call Utility Customer Services at 297-2833.

### *A word from one of our Police Community Relations Officers:* **MSgt. Steven Brackeen, Santa Fe Patrol Division PCR**

#### **10 Tips For Personal Safety During The Holidays**

If you are carrying a wallet while shopping, keep it in your front pocket. If you are carrying a purse, keep it in front of you and not on your side. Only carry enough cash to buy what you need, and only the credit cards you are planning to use.

2. Be sure to park in well lit parking lots if shopping after dark. When possible, take someone shopping with you. You are less likely to become a victim if you have someone else with you.
3. If walking on a sidewalk or street, walk facing traffic to avoid being surprised by someone in a vehicle.
4. If someone is walking behind you or approaching you and you are unsure of their intent, make direct eye contact as they pass you. This allows the person to know that you see them and that you can describe them to the Police if necessary.
5. If you think you are being followed, abruptly switch directions or go into a business or public place and call 911.
6. Program 911 into your cell phone, this could save you time when time is not on your side.
7. Remember that talking on your cell phone or listening to music on your phone while you are shopping makes you an easy target. Pay attention to your surroundings.
8. When approaching your vehicle, never fumble in your pocket or purse for your keys. Have them in your hand prior to reaching your vehicle.
9. When approaching your vehicle, look and make sure no one is hiding in or around your vehicle, especially in the back seat.
10. Never carry so many packages that you can't see everything going on around you. It is better to make several trips to your vehicle with small loads and be safe than to become a victim because your view is blocked from danger.

This is just a short list. Always remember: If you think something is wrong, it probably IS.

**WATERING IN FREEZING TEMPERATURES DANGEROUS & COSTLY** Just because it's cold outside doesn't mean it's OK to forget about water conservation. Water conservation enforcers are still out and about writing fines. In fact, the water conservation enforcement team will issue citations to those who water on days the thermometer reads 32 degrees or below. The winter months are also a good time to tackle indoor projects to make your home more water efficient. Consider installing low-flow fixtures and appliances or fixing leaky faucets and toilets. For water conservation information go to SqueezeEveryDrop.com. Oklahoma City is under mandatory, year round odd-even watering schedule. Citizens whose address numbers end in an even number may water their yards on even-numbered days and citizens whose house numbers end in an odd number may water on odd-numbered days. All customers are asked to minimize the potential for overspray onto city streets. Communities that use Oklahoma City water are required to abide by all conservation requirements in the program. First offense: \$202 (\$119 plus \$83 court costs) Second offense: \$352 (\$269 plus \$83 court costs) Third offense: \$602 (\$519 plus \$83 court costs)

**PROTECT YOUR PLANTS: INSTALL A RAIN/FREEZE SENSOR** Two things can happen when you water your landscape during freezing temperatures:

- Your trees and shrubs become lovely ice sculptures. Most plants go dormant in the winter and only need occasional watering during dry conditions.
- Sidewalks and roadways become very slick and hazardous. That's why watering in freezing temperatures is an enforceable violation. To avoid those situations, consider installing a rain/ freeze sensor. If you have an automatic irrigation system, a rain/freeze sensor can prevent needless or dangerous irrigation and help you save money while conserving OKC's water supply. Visit SqueezeEveryDrop.com for more winter tips.



The City of  
**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



## Holiday Scams - Be on the Lookout!

- **Online Scams:** This time of year, online scams use a variety of lures to get unsuspecting buyers to click on links or open attachments. Bad guys build complete copies of well-known sites, send emails promoting great deals, sell products and take credit card information – but never deliver the goods. Sites that seem to have incredible discounts should be a red flag. Remember that when a "special offer" is too good to be true, it usually is. For instance, never click on links in emails or popups with very deep discount offers for watches, phones or tablets. Go to the website yourself through your browser and check if that offer is legit.
- **Complimentary Vouchers or Gift Cards:** A popular holiday scam is big discounts on gift cards. Don't fall for offers from retailers or social media posts that offer phony vouchers or (Starbucks) gift cards paired with special promotions or contests. Some posts or emails even appear to be shared by a friend (who may have been hacked). Develop a healthy dose of skepticism and "Think Before You Click" on offers or attachments with any gift cards or vouchers!
- **Bogus Shipping Notices From UPS and FedEx:** You are going to see emails supposedly from UPS and FedEx in your inbox that claim your package has a problem and/or could not be delivered. Many of these are phishing attacks that try to make you click on a link or open an attachment. However, what happens when you do that is that your computer gets infected with a virus or even ransomware which holds all your files hostage until you pay 500 dollars in ransom.
- **Holiday Refund Scams:** These emails seem to come from retail chains or e-commerce companies such as Amazon or eBay claiming there's a "wrong transaction" and prompt you to click the refund link. However, when you do that and are asked to fill out a form, the personal information you give out will be sold to cyber criminals who use it against you. Oh, and never, never, never pay online with a debit card, only use credit cards. Why? if the debit card gets compromised, the bad guys can empty your bank account quickly.
- **Phishing on the Dark Side:** A new phishing email has begun circulating that tricks people into thinking they could win movie tickets for the highly-anticipated film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," due out on Dec. 18. However, the email is a phishing attack. Leading up to the film's release, and shortly after, you need to watch out for this social engineering attack and not fall for the scam. Stay safe online!

**BONUS TIP:** Never use an insecure public Wi-Fi to shop with your credit card. Only shop with a secure connection at home.