

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!

Upcoming Workshops with Neighborhood Alliance

Organizing & Officer Training

- Monday, March 2, 6pm (for Voluntary Neighborhood Associations)
- Tuesday, March 3, 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/ or call 528-6322.

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP OKLAHOMA

Through the generosity of OGE Energy Corp, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful is able to offer communities and organizations cash grants to help kick-start their Great American Cleanup™ activities.

Grant recipients are expected to leverage this grant into more local sponsorships, publicity and volunteers.

Visit <http://www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com/oqe-cash-grants> for more information!



The City of Oklahoma City has been developing the first new comprehensive plan since 1977, planokc. A comprehensive plan is a policy document used by city leaders, developers, business owners and citizens to make decisions about future growth and development.

You are invited to review and comment on the draft of planokc. Please visit <http://okc.opencomment.us>, create a login, and get started. The comment period will run through the middle of March.

Oklahoma City has a lot of land, relatively uncongested roads and, compared to the U.S. average, a low cost of living. This has enabled development to spread out at low densities across our 621 square miles. The challenge the City faces is making sure they can provide quality public services like fire and police protection, water, sewer, trash, roads and parks to a growing area without much adjustment in revenue. The City funds day-to-day operations through sales tax revenues. That funding is spread thin when there is infrastructure being extended to far-reaching areas of the city, while existing infrastructure in the core of the city is often underutilized.

Working to create safe,
attractive and healthy neighborhoods
throughout Central Oklahoma
www.nacok.org



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info@nacok.org



Join OKC Beautiful in the Fight Against Litter

Looking for a way to get your neighborhood association, service organization, church, or school involved in the community?

Join OKC Beautiful in April as they begin a month-long campaign to reduce the litter problem in our city. You get to choose the day, time and location of your clean up, so it's a very convenient way to volunteer in your community.

Not sure of a location to clean? OKC Beautiful can suggest local parks and other areas in need of a litter pick up. Each group receives trash bags, gloves, safety tips and other informational material to conduct a safe and thorough cleanup.

To sign up for LitterBlitz visit the OKC Beautiful website or call 405-525-8822.



Applications Due Thursday, Feb. 26

Ever wished there was a class that could teach you all you needed to know to be an effective neighborhood leader? One class 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 seven-week class that meets from 6-9pm on Thursday evenings, March 26 through May 14, plus two Saturdays, April 11 and another TBD, from 9am until 3pm. Class size is limited to 30 to allow for a personal experience.

[Sign up Today! nacok.org](http://nacok.org)

Congratulations to Beth Crouse, Manager of the City of Oklahoma City Action Center

On February 3rd, Beth was recognized by Oklahoma City Council and Mayor Mick Cornett for her work and named the City of Oklahoma City Employee of the Month. Beth makes sure the Action Center responds to all the needs of OKC's neighborhoods and citizens. You can congratulate her by sending an email to Beth.Crouse@okc.gov or mail a note to the Action Center, c/o Beth Crouse, 200 N. Walker, Oklahoma City, OK, 73102. She is and has been a strong advocate for neighborhoods!

A word from one of our Police Community Relations Officers:

MSgt. Robert Skalla, Hefner Division PCR

Will changing the environment also change criminal behavior?

Absolutely yes! We the people have the ability to directly influence and mitigate the risk of crime in our neighborhoods, parks, schools, commercial areas, parking lots and surrounding areas.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) encompasses 4 basic principles that have proven to displace and mitigate criminal activity when implemented properly.

So what is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design? The proper design and effective use of the built environment; leading to a reduction in the incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.

The basic principles of CPTED are (1) natural surveillance, (2) natural access control, (3) territorial reinforcement and (4) a maintenance plan.

Author Jane Jacobs wrote the book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* emphasizing the concept of "Eyes on the Street" which is the ability to increase observant behavior and impart upon the criminal (abnormal user) the feeling of always being watched.

Want to learn more about CPTED? I will soon be offering Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design presentations at the Hefner briefing station that will be open to all residents.

Together we will succeed!



SAVE THE DATE:
 Placemaking Conference 2015
 Monday, March 23
 The University of Oklahoma

Interested in learning about community development, Walkability, urban planning and transportation? Then mark your calendars for this March 23rd conference in Norman. Speakers to be announced soon!

Stay tuned to IQC.ou.edu/Conference for updates!

Crime Prevention Training

Neighborhood Alliance offers a free crime prevention program that covers how to use 911, safety protocols for your home and neighborhood, getting to know the houses around you and how to get Crime Watch signage for your neighborhood.



To schedule the 45-minute presentation for your neighborhood, contact Ana Herrera (Ana@nacok.org), Barbie Smalley (Barbie@nacok.org) or call 528-6322.

CITY OF OKC OFFERS RAIN BARREL DISCOUNT

The City of Oklahoma City and the Central Oklahoma Storm Water Alliance (COSWA) are partnering to encourage residents to conserve water and reduce pollution through the use of rain barrels.

The organizations are offering a discounted rain barrels online at upcycle-products.com starting \$61 plus \$2.50 online handling fee. Residents should click on "order forms" on right side of web page and choose "Oklahoma City." The deadline to order is March 15.

"Rain barrels collect water that drains from your home's gutter system," Environmental Protection Manager Raymond Melton said. "Watering with rain water is better for your plants and it's free."

The City's urban agriculture ordinance allows a maximum of two 85-gallon rain barrels in the front yard. Any number of rain barrels can be placed on the side or back of property as long as they are not visible from the street. The containers must be securely covered and any openings must be covered with a screen that prevents the infestation of insects and other pests.

Rain barrels ordered online can be picked up between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on March 20 or between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on March 21 from the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 1621 S. Portland.

For more information about this special event contact Raymond Melton, Environmental Protection Manager, at 297-2179 or raymond.melton@okc.gov.

Attorney-Led Legal Issues for HOAs Workshops Offered This Month



This month, Neighborhood Alliance is happy to host two workshops for mandatory homeowners associations (HOAs). These evening workshops will be conducted by attorney Matthew Winton, a specialist in HOA law. Mr. Winton will provide an overview of legal issues at each workshop and allow for a generous question and answer session.

There is a \$20 cost to attend each workshop. You can register online at NACOK.org. The workshops will take place at the Oklahoma City Community College Family and Community Education Center at 6500 South Land Avenue. A light dinner will be provided.

Thursday, February 19
 Basic Legal Issues for HOAs
 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 26
 Basic Legal Issues for HOAs
 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Space is limited so be sure and register at your earliest convenience.

Does Your Neighborhood Need a Volunteer Project?

UCO Big Event

Phone: (405) 974-2621

Email: bigevent@uco.edu

Website: www.uco.edu/bigevent

UCO hosts a Big Event day where 1,000 students perform community service jobs in Edmond and OKC.

Jobsite Application Deadline: You may sign up by visiting the website and clicking on the "Request a Work Site" tab on the left.

Jobs are accepted on a first come first serve basis.

Jobsite Application Deadline: 03/06/2015

Volunteer Schedule: 03/28/2015

League of United Latin American Citizens

Contact: Miguel Soto

Phone: (405) 684-6288

Email: msoto@eagleridgeok.org

Description: During the year members of LULAC youth group volunteer in community projects in the Greater OKC area.

Jobsite Application Deadline: Year-round

Volunteer Schedule: Year-round

SHINE

Start Helping Impacted Neighborhoods Everywhere

Contact: Brandi Johnson

Phone: (405) 713-2380

Email: brandi@okcounty.org

Website: oklahomacounty.org/district2

Description: The SHINE crew provides volunteers for litter control, beautification projects and graffiti removal on public land only.

Jobsite Application Deadline: Year-round

Volunteer Schedule: Monday through Friday, 7am- 4pm

Oklahoma Christian University

Contact: Gary Jones

Phone: (405) 425-5904

Email: gary.jones@oc.edu

Website: www.oc.edu

Description: During the school year, smaller group of students carry out community improvement projects in the Greater OKC area.

Jobsite Application Deadline: Call for more info

Volunteer Schedule: Throughout the School Year

Oklahoma City Council Elections March 3

Oklahoma City residents will head to the polls on March 3 to elect council representation for wards 2, 6 and 8. The general election, if needed will be April 7. Those elected will be sworn in on April 14.

Ward 5 councilman David Greenwell was automatically re-elected because he drew no opposition in his ward. The following candidates have filed with the Oklahoma County Election Board and the City Clerk's Office:

Ward 2: James Cooper, Major L. Jemison, John Riley, Ed Shadid (incumbent)

Ward 6: Dario Alvarado, Meg Salyer (incumbent), Bob Waldrop

Ward 8: Steve Curry, John Alan Ederer, Mark Stonecipher

Council members serve four-year terms with an annual salary of \$12,000.

The qualifications for City Council are as follows:

- Must be a United States citizen
- Must be at least 21 years old
- Must be a three-year resident of Oklahoma City
- Must be a six-month resident of the ward filing in
- Must be a qualified voter in Oklahoma City

Visit OKC.gov to see the ward boundary map. For more information contact the Oklahoma County Election Board at 713-1515 or at OklahomaCounty.org/ElectionBoard.