

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!

Congratulations to Military Park Neighborhood for their recent completion of two wonderful neighborhood projects!

Military Park (between NW 36th and NW 30th and Western and Penn) was the first neighborhood to be approved for the Street Marker Sign Topper program recently approved by the City. Soon, these sign toppers will be seen atop street signs throughout their neighborhood.



For more information about how to start your neighborhood or district Sign Topper project, see page 2 of this newsletter!

They also recently completed installation of beautiful benches in the neighborhood median. Drive through Military Park soon and see how they are increasing visibility and pride in their neighborhood!



Both of these projects were completed with funds awarded by the **Create Great Neighborhoods Program**, sponsored by Neighborhood Alliance and OG&E!

If you would like more information about neighborhood projects like these, contact Neighborhood Alliance today!

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



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Upcoming Neighborhood Organizing & Officer Training

- **Monday, March 7, 6pm (for Voluntary Neighborhood Associations)**
- **Tuesday, March 8, 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.

Neighborhood/District Identification Street Marker Sign Topper Program

On December 22, City Council approved an ordinance allowing neighborhood identification sign toppers to be mounted on the top of street signs (stop signs, street name signs, etc.)

The neighborhood or district is responsible for the cost of the signs, and they pay the City of Oklahoma City a \$50 permit fee and \$10 per pole for installation.

Please contact Neighborhood Alliance for more information about this exciting new ordinance. and the application process!



NLT 2016!



Neighborhood Leaders for Today - Application Deadline Approaching!

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



ATTENTION GARDENERS!



Oklahoma County Master Gardeners (OCMGA) presents **Wednesdays @ Will Rogers Gardens**. This is the **first in a series of "How To" garden workshops and will be presented on Wednesday, March 9th, 2016 and will discuss New Plants for 2016.**

The workshop is **free to the public** and is held at the Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center, located at 3400 N.W. 36th Street, from 6:00pm-7:30pm. You may call **405 713-1125** for more information on this workshop.

OCMGA and County Extension offices are located on the Wellness Campus at 2500 NE 63rd, Oklahoma City, OK, 73111.

"Like" the Oklahoma County Master Gardeners Association/Public on Facebook, and follow us @OKCOMGA on Twitter. For more information, contact an Oklahoma County Master Gardener at (405) 713-1125 or okmganswers@gmail.com and visit our website at okcmg.org.

A word from one of our Police Community Relations Officers:
MSgt. Robert Skalla, Hefner Patrol Division PCR

The Use of LED Lighting for Security

LED (Light Emitting Diodes) are the latest and most exciting technological advancement in the lighting industry. LEDs are solid-state lighting devices that utilize semiconductor material instead of a filament or neon gas.

An LED light is a tiny chip encapsulated in an epoxy resin enclosure, which makes LEDs far sturdier than traditional incandescent light bulbs or fluorescent tubes. Because LEDs do not use fragile components such as glass and filaments, LEDs are able to withstand shock, vibration and extreme temperature.

LEDs have an exceptionally long life span (up to 60,000 hours), lower energy use (90% more efficient), reduced maintenance costs and greater safety.

Benefits of LED Lighting

Energy savings : LED lights allow a 60%-90% reduction in energy used.

Long life: LED lights can last up to 10 years or more.

Better color rendition: nearly produces white light and criminals do not like this.

More directional: LED lights can be directed to a specific area where light is needed and avoiding "light pollution" in unwanted areas.

Friendly to the environment: LED lights contain no toxic materials.

LEDs require less frequent maintenance and replacement, reducing light outages and maintaining the integrity of security.

The Police Community Relations officers at all 4 divisions continue to emphasize residents to turn their porch lights on at night and now we encourage you all to use the LED lights when those old bulbs burn out. When you drive around at nighttime, look at the car dealerships. They are all lit up with white LED lighting that brings out the colors on those nice new cars. What fellowship does light have with darkness? NONE! OKC residents, it's time to go to LED!

OKCPD Launches Offender Watch

On Wednesday, February 3rd, the Oklahoma City Police Department officially launched its new sex and violent offender registration and public notification website called OffenderWatch®. The Oklahoma City Police Department will now be part of a nationwide network of over 5,000 law enforcement agencies which enter and share sex offender information to inform the public via the internet.

This new service is a user-friendly, easy-to-use website, enabling the public to search for registered offenders (sex or violent offenders) who may be in close proximity to their homes, places of business, schools, churches and daycare centers. The information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is updated in real-time by the Oklahoma City Police Department's Offender Registration Unit, as offender information changes and is reported.

As part of this new and innovative service, members of the public may enter any address of interest to them, and see a map listing of all offenders within a *user defined radius* (from ¼ of mile to 2 miles) of the entered address. Additionally, interested persons can register their address and receive an email alerting them if/when an offender should register an address within their specified radius. Members of the public may register as many addresses as they like, at no cost to them.

Chief of Police Bill Citty said ***"This information is public record under state law and could potentially help families stay safe. Police departments using OffenderWatch® have the most up-to-date information on all offenders registered in the state and we are happy to be able to provide that information to them."***

The overall purpose of the program is to lessen the anxiety of citizens by proactively alerting them should a registered offender move within proximity to them, and to provide the highest level of security and safety to all persons in Oklahoma City. The program also helps police verify offender addresses, and enforce safety buffers that may be implemented around protected institutions in the city, such as schools, daycares and parks. The website will assist police schedule compliance checks for verifying information provided by offenders.

Citizens can access the OffenderWatch® registry at the Oklahoma City Police Department registered offender search page at: http://www.communitynotification.com/cap_main.php?office=55546

Save the Date! And support NE OKC

Celebrate the rich heritage and bright future of
Northeast Oklahoma City

Inaugural oNE OKC event
April 30, 2016 - 11am-4pm
Douglass High School

Featuring local food trucks, pop up shops, entertainment and activities for the whole family. The event will showcase exciting new developments coming to Northeast Oklahoma City. More information coming soon. If you are interested in participating as a vendor, sponsor or volunteer, email nestakeholder@gmail.com.

Organics OKC Garden Supply Hosts Free Hydroponics Class

Organics OKC Garden Supply will host a free Hydroponics class from 11 am to 4 pm, Sunday, February 20th. Participants will learn about this innovative process of growing plants without soil.

Instead of using soil, a hydroponic garden provides plants with a complete nutrient formula and an inert growing medium to anchor the roots, giving them easier access to food and water. Hydrofarm, which is sold at the store, has adapted the proven techniques of commercial hydroponics for use in home gardening systems. They company has incorporated high-performance technology and professional-grade materials into a full range of systems for personal use.

Location: 2800 N. Pennsylvania Ave., OKC. For more information, call 405-528-4769 or visit www.organicsokc.com