

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

Neighborhood Communications Workshop

Learn how your neighborhood can improve communications and about some of the tools available. This workshop will provide an overview on communicating within your neighborhood and with external stakeholders.

Thursday, January 28th, 2016
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

The First Tree of Metropolitan Oklahoma City
600 North Martin Luther King Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Register now at www.nacok.org

Legal Issues for HOAs: Sponsored by Mutual of Omaha Bank

Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 - Basic

Tuesday, February 16, 6:30 - Advanced



This workshop for mandatory Homeowner Associations will help you with various questions that affect many HOAs. Attorney and Community Association Law specialist, Matthew Winton, presents the basics, including covenants, bylaws and amendment procedures. The advanced workshop delves deeper into HOA law, legal procedures and other advanced topics. The workshop always finishes up with a generous Q&A session.

Advance Registration is required
Dinner will be provided
Register at www.nacok.org

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



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

Upcoming Neighborhood Organizing & Officer Training

- **Monday, February 1, 6pm (for Voluntary Neighborhood Associations)**
- **Tuesday, February 2, 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

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

OKC Council adopts new localized tornado siren policy

Oklahoma City's new tornado siren policy makes it more important than ever to immediately take shelter and get more information when you hear a siren.

The important new policy change, adopted by the City Council, divides OKC into zones. When the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a tornado warning, only the sirens in zones covered by the warning will sound. Residents and visitors don't need to know what zone they're in, only to immediately take shelter and get more information if they hear a siren.

In previous years, OKC sounded all of its sirens within a county affected by an NWS tornado warning. For example, if the NWS issued a tornado warning in Cleveland County, OKC sounded all of its Cleveland County sirens. As a result, people could hear sirens far away from tornado threats.

Now, sirens will sound in smaller areas. That means anyone who hears a siren is more likely to be close to a potentially deadly storm.

The NWS and other emergency management officials collaborated with the City to recommend the policy improvement. They concluded people are ignoring sirens as changing technology provides better information more quickly. It's dangerous when people stop associating sirens with an imminent threat.

Officials still have discretion to activate sirens across a wider area when necessary.

A word from one of our Police Community Relations Officers:
Sgt. Erick Huff, Springlake Patrol Division PCR

Beware of "Porch Pirates"

I'm sure most of you, like many other Americans across the U.S., have done some shopping in the traditional brick and mortar stores and some online shopping as well. If you expect packages to be delivered to your home or the home of loved ones, just know there are some dishonest people out there poised to take them right off the porch as soon as they're delivered.

Over 23million Americans have fallen victim to these porch pirates. Often times these individuals follow the delivery trucks around, and when a package is left on the porch, they usually steal it when the delivery driver is out of sight. There are things that can be done to help prevent this from happening.

Consider an alternate destination. When you order something online, send it to neighbor you know is home during the day to accept the package, or have it sent to your workplace.

Send it to your nearest FedEx/UPS office location. You can have packages delivered to the nearest FedEx/UPS location where they will hold them for you to pick up.

Request a signature. If you're shipping something that has a high value, or just don't want to leave your package unattended, you can require a signature for the package to be released. Either you or the shipper can make that request.

Redirect your packages even when they're already on the way. If you know you won't be home and want to send the delivery somewhere else, just redirect it to where you'll be, or another secure location.

Ask for a ring. You can always have the driver ring your doorbell or knock on the door when a package is left at your home or if it's left at the neighbors.

Request a vacation hold. If you plan to be on vacation you can request a hold for up to 14 days.

Depending on who ships your package you can also change the date and times of your deliveries. If you actually do have a package stolen, as always call 911 to report it. You may also want to contact the delivery company, and the shipper to get a replacement item shipped.

OKC Council approves ordinance banning smoking in parks and on other City property

The Oklahoma City Council voted in December to approve a new ordinance that bans smoking in OKC parks and other City property, much like smoking is already prohibited inside City-owned buildings.



The ban includes all City-owned or operated property indoors and outdoors with exceptions for streets, alleys, sidewalks, City golf courses and land or facilities licensed by the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission on City-owned property.

The ordinance also prohibits smoking on sidewalks inside parks, on trails and in the area immediately surrounding City-owned and operated buildings.

The state legislature allowed cities to regulate smoking in such areas two years ago. The ordinance was introduced during the Nov. 24 Council meeting, with a public hearing Dec. 8.

Council approves changes to human rights ordinance

The Council also voted in December to approve several changes to the City ordinance related to human rights, including adding familial status, disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity to the classes explicitly protected from housing discrimination. The ordinance now reflects federal and state laws including familial status, disability and age as explicitly protected classes, which they were not when OKC's ordinance was last updated. An amendment approved Tuesday adds sexual orientation and gender identity as explicitly protected classes, reinforcing case law affirming their protected status.

New nonprofit will benefit OKC Animal Shelter

OKC Animal Welfare and a newly formed nonprofit group have formed a partnership to work on shared goals to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of pets and people in our community.

Patrons of the OKC Animal Shelter, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, will help raise funds and do other critical work to help OKC Animal Welfare achieve goals beyond the scope of what its current budget allows. The City Council voted Tuesday to approve an agreement for a public-private partnership to work on the shared goals together.

"Oklahoma City Animal Welfare has done an outstanding job of protecting our animals in OKC, but there is still work that needs to be done," said Alex Yaffe, president of Patrons of the OKC Animal Shelter. "We're thrilled to be able to partner to raise funds and awareness to continue their life-saving work."

The group and the OKC Animal Shelter will work on pet adoption programs, behavioral testing, enhanced lost and found services, transfer programs, medical services, vaccinations, spay/neuter programs, outreach, marketing, public education, pet owner services, volunteer programs and fundraising.

"This new relationship shows the power of government working with community organizations to make a difference," OKC Animal Welfare Superintendent Julie Bank said. "Everything we do together will benefit pets and their owners in OKC."

Send an email to PatronsOKC@gmail.com for more information or to ask about making a donation. Donations can be mailed to Patrons for the OKC Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 14430, Oklahoma City, OK, 73113.