

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

- Tuesday, April 1, 6pm (For Homeowner Associations with Mandatory Dues)
- Monday, April 7, 6pm (For Voluntary Neighborhood Associations)

Held at the Neighborhood Alliance office, this informal session is 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 to reserve a seat.

Code Enforcement 101

Thursday April 17, 6:00 PM to 8:30PM, Civic Center Hall of Mirrors

Tall Grass and Weeds? Yard Parking? Unsafe Structures? Inoperable Vehicle? Graffiti? What can citizens do to keep their neighborhood free from such eyesores and hazards? Attend this workshop to find out!

You'll hear an overview of the city's Action Center from Manager Beth Crouse, learn how to effectively identify and report code violations and how to follow up. Then, in speed-dating format, you'll have the opportunity for face-to-face discussion with city department heads to ask questions, make suggestions and get answers.

The Action Center is a key tool in your campaign to clean up your neighborhood and keep it safe, beautiful and healthy. Learn how to put it to the best use! Sandwiches served. The workshop is free but seats must be reserved online at nacok.org/events/.



Bothered by illegal roadside signs?

The City of Oklahoma City contracts with Neighborhood Associations to train its members/residents to be qualified to remove signs within the boundaries of their neighborhood. The City will provide training to identify which signs are illegally placed and provide individuals with a card authorizing them to remove these signs. Anyone interested in this program can contact **Chris Moses at 297-3004** or send an email to chris.moses@okc.gov. The City is contracting with Neighborhoods now making this the perfect time

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

Sign up now for LitterBlitz

Looking for a way to get your business, neighborhood association, service organization, church, or school involved in the community? Join OKC Beautiful in the fight against litter by signing up for **LitterBlitz**.

Each April OKC Beautiful begins a month-long campaign to reduce the litter problem in our community. 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 okcbeautiful.com/programs/litterblitz/ or call **OKC Beautiful 525-8822**.

Neighborhood Patrol Training

If you have an authorized volunteer patrol in your neighborhood and need to train additional volunteers, please note that training sessions will be held at **the Hefner Police Station, 3924 NW 122** on the following dates: March 25th, April 22nd, May 27th and June 24th.

To enroll or for more information, contact MSgt. Robert Skalla at robert.skalla@okc.gov or call 316-4416. To learn how to start a patrol in your neighborhood, contact Neighborhood Alliance at 528-6322.

Report potholes to the pothole hotline 631-1111

Citizens are asked to help crews out by reporting potholes to the City's pothole hotline, 631-1111. Crews will need an accurate address, or closest intersection, to respond efficiently.

Potholes are formed when water seeps into cracks in the asphalt then down into the roadbed. The repeated freezing and thawing of water then expands to create larger gaps and cracks in the asphalt. As traffic drives over the weakened asphalt, the road surface comes apart.

Street crews fill thousands of potholes each year. It costs the City approximately \$15 to patch each pothole.

Need advertisers for your Neighborhood Newsletter?

Neighborhood Alliance often hears from local businesses looking to advertise their services. While we do not share our neighborhood contact list as a whole, we will sometimes pass along a few names that we think make a good fit between advertiser and audience. If you'd like to be on that list, please send your information to jennifer@nacok.org.

A word from one of our PCR officers:

MSgt Michael Loruse, Will Rogers Division

Prepare for Disasters: Have a Bug-Out Bag in your Home or Car

When a disaster strikes, eventually help will come but you, your family and neighbors could be on your own for up to three days. If you're away from home and your vehicle is disabled, having an emergency Bug-Out Bag with emergency essentials can save your life or at least make you more comfortable.

If you don't like "do it yourself projects" and have the resources, you can buy ready-made Bug-Out Bags over the internet. Just put "Bug-Out Bag" in your search engine. You can find low cost bags from The American Red Cross and Amazon. If you buy a ready-made Bug-Out Bag, you will have to add your personal medicines and clothing to it.

If possible, all family members should have their own bag. What goes into a Bug-Out Bag is a very personal choice and depends on the person's needs and experience. First, a Bug-out bag starts with the bag that will contain your emergency essentials. Any bag of your choice can be used. Some use a back pack, a shoulder bag, canvas tool bag or other. You are only limited by your imagination. Whatever your choice on a bag, I recommend you choose a neutral color. You don't want to draw bad guys' attention to yourself.

Items to include: Water/purification gear, emergency food, fire making equipment, emergency camping items, first aid or medical supplies, personal hygiene items, emergency lighting: extra clothing, tools, maps, compass, necessary documents (copy of health insurance card, driver license or id card, a copy of your prescriptions), photos of family members for reunification purposes, emergency contact phone numbers, cash in small denominations, breathing mask, portable radio, Self-defense tools, Dog/cat food if needed.

Natural or man-made disasters happen across our country far too often. Trying to fight the crowds to prepare just before or during an emergency-disaster is no way to protect yourself or your family.



UPTOWN UNCORKED

April 17, 2014, in the newly renovated TEEMCO historic **Gold Dome** in the heart of the Uptown 23rd District.

The food and beverage-tasting fundraiser will feature local restaurants and merchants promoting the continued renaissance of one of Oklahoma City's premiere corridors. The monies raised from the event will support the beautification of medians and public spaces along NW 23rd Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Broadway Avenue, helping to improve the appearance and livability of OKC's urban core.

Find more information and buy your tickets online at uptown23rd.com/uptown-uncorked

SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH, 2014



From 12PM to 4PM on Sunday, March 30th, 2014, Open Streets OKC will turn a corridor of NW 23rd Street into a car-free space for biking, walking and playing to showcase an engaged, active and connected community.

Saturday Morning Sweeps Neighborhoods and homeowner's associations can clean up litter, illegal dumping, trees and brush from common areas, greenbelts and medians by scheduling a Saturday Morning Sweep. The City delivers a commercial dumpster, and your neighborhood provides the volunteers. The City will haul off the dumpster and pay disposal fees. Call 297-2464 for details.

Oklahoma City celebrates the Earth with eco-friendly activities

Oklahoma City is honoring the planet with eco-friendly events as Earth Day, April 22, draws near. The public is invited to participate in all of these Earth-conscious activities in March and April:

April 5 – Recycle your tires, ammo, computers and pharmaceuticals Rid your home of unwanted tires, ammo, computers and pharmaceuticals during our special household hazardous waste collection day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 5 at the State Fairgrounds. The collection is open to Oklahoma City residents only. Bring your current water bill stub to prove residency. The event takes place on the south side of the fairgrounds, east of the arena. Sorry, televisions, tires with rims and off-road tires not accepted.

April 12 – Earth Fest The Earth takes center stage during our free annual eco-celebration from 1 – 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 12 at Martin Park Nature Center, 5000 West Memorial Road. We're bringing together loads of eco-friendly talks and demos on invasive species, bees, aquaponics and rain barrels. Visit with Cycler the Robot and Mother Earth and take part in nature inspired kids activities. Call 755-0676 for details.

April 12 – Free Shred Day Shred and recycle your personal documents during Waste Management Recycle America and the Utilities Department's free Shred Day from 7 a.m. to noon, April 12 at 5519 NW 4th.

April 12 – Lake Overholser and Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge Cleanup Join the Friends of Lake Overholser and the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge in cleaning up trash and recyclables on Saturday, April 12 as part of OKC Beautiful's LitterBlitz. Wear sturdy shoes, a hat, work gloves, insect repellent and sunscreen. Email FriendsOfLakeOverholser@Cox.net or call 702-8192 to register.