

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

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.

Every Neighbor Needs a Mrs. Kravitz

Mrs. Kravitz, the persistently nosy neighbor on the hit 60's TV show *Bewitched*, has been characterized as TV's most meddlesome neighbor. Although she could never prove something out of the ordinary was occurring, Mrs. Kravitz continued with her pesky snooping into the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Stephens. At times, Mrs. Kravitz would even contact the police and local officials to report sneaking or suspicious activity in and around her neighbors' home.



Every neighbor needs a Mrs. Kravitz. Of course, Mrs. Kravitz is an extreme example.

But truly, **NEIGHBORS ARE YOUR FIRST DEFENSE AGAINST CRIME**; and having neighbors that are aware of their surroundings can be a great asset to your neighborhood.

One of my top three tips for creating a safe neighborhood is **"GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS."** Knowing your neighbors gives you the confidence to report suspicious activity occurring around their home when they are away. Of course, it is impossible to know everyone in your area, so we just ask that you get to know the three houses in front of you and the ones on either side of you. If everyone dedicates themselves to do this, I promise you'll have a safer neighborhood in no time. And next time you see your Mrs. Kravitz, don't shoe them away- hug them. They just might stop a thief one day.

By Ashley Dickson, Neighborhood Capacity Builder

September is EMSAcare month!

September is EMSAcare month in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City residents have till September 30, 2014 to change their participation in the EMSAcare program. The program is \$3.65 per month and can be added to resident's utility bill. Those who want to make a change can call Oklahoma City's Utility Customer Service at 297-2833 or log on to www.okc.gov/emsacare.

Program details are available on the City's Website, www.okc.gov/emsacare.

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: **September 15th & October 20th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**

To enroll or for more information, contact MSgt. Robert Skalla at robert.skalla@okc.gov.

To learn how to start a patrol in your neighborhood, contact Neighborhood Alliance at 528-6322.

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



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Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Phone: (405) 528-6322
info@nacok.org

Save the Date

NOVEMBER 6th 2014

The Eighth Annual
GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS
Banquet

INVITATION & DETAILS TO FOLLOW

 Neighborhood Alliance
Look for more info at nacok.org
405.528.6322/info@nacok.org

Red Cross and Oklahoma City announce storm shelter rebate program

Oklahoma City homeowners have a chance to receive up to a \$2,500 rebate on the purchase and installation of a new storm shelter thanks to a \$2.075 million grant funded by the American Red Cross of Central Oklahoma. Homeowners who live in the Oklahoma City limits can apply now through September 30 online at www.okc.gov to participate in the program. A total of 830 rebates will be available to addresses chosen by an electronic lottery. A maximum reimbursement of \$2,500 is available per home selected. Industry experts estimate shelters range anywhere from \$2,000 to \$8,000.

Free Landfill Day Saturday, September 13 Oklahoma City residents can get rid of big junk at no cost and without waiting for Bulk Waste Day. Free Landfill Day is from 7am to 3pm at participating landfills:

- East Oak Landfill – 3201 Mosley Rd. (N.E. 36, east of Sooner Road, south side of street)
- Oklahoma City Landfill – 7001 S. Bryant
- Oklahoma Landfill – 7600 SW 15
- Northeast Landfill – 2601 N. Midwest Boulevard, Spencer, Okla. (construction / demolition materials only)

Each residential household may drop off one load using a passenger vehicle or truck up to a 1-ton and one trailer up to 16-foot long. Please, no commercial waste haulers.

Myriad Botanical Gardens Launches Online Fall Plant and Bulb Sale



Fall bedding plants and bulbs are available to metro gardeners in a new, convenient way. The Myriad Botanical Gardens for the second year in a row has launched online plant sale just in time for adding some fall color to your flower beds! It's easy to use. Visit [The Garden Store](http://TheGardenStore), where you'll select and pay for your plants online, then pick them up at the Gardens on Oct. 10 and 11. Easy as pie. Orders must be placed by this Wednesday, Sept. 17. More info at myriadgardens.org/.



Annual Mesta Festa fundraiser set for Saturday, September 20 2014

Festival offers afternoon filled with beer and wine tastings, live music, family activities and more!!
The 19th annual Mesta Festa takes place Saturday, Sept. 20 from noon to 6 p.m. at Perle Mesta Park, located at NW 18th and Shartel Ave. Started in 1995, Mesta Festa is one of two public events held annually to raise funds for the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association. More info at mestapark.org

The University of Central Oklahoma Volunteer and Service Learning Center and the Big Event student group are excited to announce an upcoming campus-wide day of service!



The event is called "**Little Event**." The goal is to have 700-1000 students sign up to serve community agencies in the OKC Metro area. The Little Event will be held on **Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 10am-2pm.**

More information about the Little Event can be found at www.uco.edu/bigevent.

A word from one of our PCR Officers: *MSgt Erick Huff, Santa Fe Division*

I know many people are concerned about the threat of rising crime in their communities. There are several ways to help protect your home as well as your neighborhood. From simple things like keeping your doors locked to starting a neighborhood watch program. So in the spirit of National Night Out here are a few tips to keep your neighborhood safe.



- Stay in touch with Neighborhood Alliance - make sure all of your new neighborhood officers go through officer training.
- Work with the local Police. The Police are a source of information and training.
- Hold regular meetings to help residents get to know each other and come up with strategies to improve your area.
- Canvass door-to-door to recruit members.
- Ask neighbors to look out for and report unusual activity in the neighborhood.
- Translate newsletters into Spanish or other languages needed by non-English speakers in your community. If necessary have translators at your meetings.
- Gather facts about crime in your neighborhood. Learn residents perception of crime. Often residents perceptions are not supported by fact, and accurate information can reduce the fear of crime. The monthly crime stats can help you communicate the facts to your neighbors.
- Sponsor cleanups, encourage residents to beautify the area. Physical conditions like abandoned cars or overgrown vacant lots contribute to crime - these should be reported to the Action Center 297-2535.
- Work with businesses to repair rundown storefronts, and clean up littered streets.
- Emphasize the importance of a Neighborhood Watch program. Also emphasize that Watch groups are not vigilantes and should not assume the role of Police. Their duty is to as neighbors to be alert, observant, and caring, and to report suspicious activity or crimes immediately to the Police. Call Neighborhood Alliance to schedule your neighborhood watch training!

DO YOU HAVE DREAMS FOR CHANGE?
POSSIBILITIES can help.

**EXPERIENCE POSSIBILITIES
INNOVATION PROGRAM**
Engaging and Transforming Communities From Within



Possibilities Innovation Program (PIP) is a one of a kind, yearlong training program for anyone who wants to make a difference in our communities. PIP combines training, hands-on experience, coaching and project support for people to gain the skills needed to make their dreams for community a reality. Through PIP, you gain leadership skills, personal growth and strengthen your ability to impact your community.

If you would like to learn more, please contact us:

Phone: [405-525-3131](tel:405-525-3131)

Email: opal@possibilitiesinc.org

Website: www.possibilitiesinc.org – You can apply online!

Possibilities PEOPLES NETWORK DINNER

If you would like to experience Possibilities and meet Community Innovators and staff, please join us for our free "People's Network" dinner gathering on the 2nd Monday of each month, 6-7:30 PM at First Baptist Church at 1201 N. Robinson.



FAIRY BALL

Are you feeling a distinct lack of "cute" in your everyday life? Could you benefit from a good dose of make-believe? You're in luck! Fairy Ball is only a few weeks away, and we're looking for volunteers!

Theatre Upon a Star Dance Swan's Fairy Ball on Paseo is a dress-up event where anyone who is young at heart is encouraged to come dressed as a character from an enchanted garden. This eagerly awaited evening is a favorite with children who begin making their costumes at home and add finishing touches at the Fairy Ball.

Fairy Ball needs volunteers to help set-up for this event, as well as to help children make crowns, wings, and other finishing costume touches. No arts background or experience necessary, just a healthy imagination!

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014

Event location: The "Fairy Green" at the corner of Dewey and 28th St. in the Paseo

Event times: Fairy Ball starts at 7pm and ends around 8:30pm

Volunteer times: * Set-up volunteers: Arrive as early as 10:00am * Event volunteers: Please arrive by 5:30pm

Volunteer check-in: Paseo Art Space, 3022 Paseo

[CLICK HERE TO BECOME A FAIRY BALL VOLUNTEER!](#)

Or call 405-525-2688