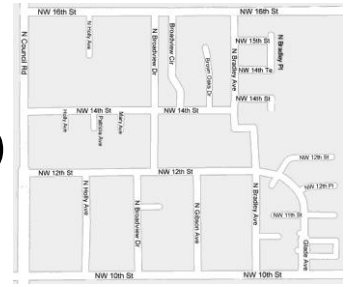




Logo created by James Greiner

# COUNCIL OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



*Coming soon — our website and Facebook page. Stay tuned!*

## **President**

Dianna Ewing  
789-3963, 919-5073

## **Vice President**

Mechelle Martin  
789-8937, 474-7156

## **VP Back-up**

Katie Greiner  
570-3738

## **Secretary**

Albert Hernandez  
414-2120

## **Treasurer**

Kathy Rauh  
787-3689, 990-5305

## **Newsletter**

Kathy Anderson  
203-7060  
Kathy Rauh  
787-3689, 990-5305

## **Web & Facebook**

Mechelle Martin  
789-8937, 474-7156

## **OKC Code Enforcement**

Elaine Nelson-Lewis  
297-3129

## **Comm. Action Center**

297-2535

## **Pothole Hotline**

631-1111

## **Animal Control (pickup)**

297-2255

## **Councilman, Ward 1**

Gary Marrs, 297-2404  
ward1@okc.gov

## **Police Liaison**

Charles Epperly,  
Hefner Division  
316-4416

**Next CONA Neighborhood Association Meeting:**  
**Thursday May 19, 2011, 6:30-8 pm**  
**Reaching Our City (ROC), 7710 NW 10<sup>th</sup>**

## **Welcome to Council Oaks Neighborhood!**

We're excited to share the news — now there's a neighborhood association for our area! It's called Council Oaks Neighborhood Association (CONA for short), and it includes the homes and businesses between the south side of NW 16<sup>th</sup> and the north side of NW 10<sup>th</sup>, and between the east side of Council and Glade Ave./Bradley Ave. and their feeder streets.

So whether you are a homeowner, renter, or business owner within these boundaries, CONA is here for you.

Why was CONA formed? Some of your neighbors felt the need to create a stronger community spirit in our area. Get neighbors talking to each other and looking out for one another. Clean up litter. Access the resources Oklahoma City makes available to neighborhood associations, such as Crime Watch and Crime Patrol. Plan and coordinate block parties and other fun, family-oriented community activities. Speak with a unified voice to city government about our neighborhood needs. And brainstorm/take suggestions for other ideas the membership votes to pursue on behalf of the community.

Membership is not mandatory. But if you want to join, it is just \$10.00 a year. (Dues are not tax deductible.) Meetings are open to all, but only members can vote and decide how any money raised is spent.

Our first priority is to install CONA/Crime Watch signs at the entrances to our neighborhood. Each sign costs \$100.00 to print and erect (they have to meet certain code requirements), and we'd like to place 10 of them. If you or your business want to make a donation (it would be tax deductible), contact our President or Treasurer.

Yes, we are an official Crime Watch Neighborhood. PDF files will be posted on our website and Facebook pages. We urge you to read the material then network with your "five" homes. Find out more inside.



## A Visit with Gary Marrs, Ward 1 Councilman

At the March CONA meeting, the guest speaker was Gary Marrs, our Ward 1 Councilman. He updated the group about a variety of projects in the works then took questions from the floor. Here's a brief recap.

The Tenth Street Streetscape Project is a part of the 2007 bond issue. It will stretch from Pennsylvania Avenue to Morgan Road. No date is set for it to start, but the 23<sup>rd</sup> Streetscape Project will have to be completed first. Improvements should include street resurfacing, curbs and gutters, drainage, sidewalks, and new street lights. There is a possibility there might be new traffic signal lights. Land beautification is less likely to be a part of the Project due to more money having to go toward making things handicap accessible and other "hard" costs.

The City of OKC is well aware of the problems posed by the vacant apartment complexes on the south side of Tenth. They are pursuing legal avenues, but they take time and can ultimately create a huge financial problem should the owner just walk away, due to the high cost of demolition, tax liens, etc.

He urged the association to energize the neighborhood. Organize work days. Beautify yards. Erect entrance signs. Start neighborhood patrols and keep them going. Watch out for your neighbors. Take advantage of the wide variety of Neighborhood Alliance Programs. And then, get outside and have fun! — like an ice-cream social or watermelon feed.

Questions from the audience ranged in topics from whether there will be sidewalks on Council (to link the community to schools — he wasn't sure) to probing deeper into what can be done about the apartment complexes on the south side of Tenth.

***Are you a renter? If you'll provide us with your landlord's contact information, we'll make sure they receive the newsletter too.***

## Just what does it mean to be a Crime Watch Neighborhood?

The heart of Crime Watch is getting to know your neighbors. In particular, network with the ones on each side of your house, and the three across the street.



Essentially, you make a commitment with your five neighbors to be reporting buddies. Swap basic info on index cards, like home, work, and emergency phone numbers, email addresses, what cars should be there, names of the people living there and the names of their pets, etc. Obviously, if you feel you can't trust your neighbor, don't swap that info.

Make a pledge or commitment to each neighbor that you will call the police on any and every suspicious activity, and ask the neighbors do the same for you.

Then, if you see anything out of the ordinary, follow through — call the police. It's only by aggressive follow-through that suspicious activity can be investigated.

After all, you'd hate to watch two people removing items from a neighbor's house or backyard and not know if it is a theft, or if someone is picking up something for which they made a previous arrangement. By having contact info, you can find out. In the meantime, call the police and snap a picture of the car and the people, or write down the license plate number, car description, and what the people looked like. If it's a case of mistaken identity, with the contact info, everything can quickly be straightened out.

To learn more, read the Crime Watch training materials when they are posted to our upcoming website/Facebook page.

## What's the difference between Crime Watch and Crime Patrol?

In order to have a Crime Patrol, first you have to be a Crime Watch Neighborhood. Then at least 30 people must volunteer to undergo Crime Patrol training, which is put on the police department. Expenses include purchasing an amber light, magnetic signs, clipboards, etc.

The police look at the neighborhood crime stats and determine the best hours to have patrols. Patrols last two hours and are always undertaken with a partner. The route should vary, so no routine is established.

Neighborhoods that have active, on-going patrols have found them to be extraordinarily effective. Interested in forming a Patrol? Contact our President.



### WANT TO KNOW THE LATEST CRIME STATS?

The Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma posts weekly reports from the police department. They do acknowledge there are some software bugs that don't always list a report. But at least it gives you some idea.

Go to [www.nacok.org](http://www.nacok.org). On the left-hand menu, click on Crime Reports. This will take you to a list of weekly pdf files. Click on a week and it will open a separate window with the pdf file. Be patient, as the files can be over 8 mb in size. Once the file is open, scroll down to Summit Heights — about 278-280 pages in. That's the name our neighborhood has been called in the past. Eventually (we're not sure when) our new name will appear. When it does, look around page 54.

As a Crime Watch Neighborhood, we are urged to report anything and everything — even if it is just a stolen lawn ornament!



## And now, a few words from our President!

Hello to all. I look forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you. As president, I felt it was my duty to first address our crime issues. We have actually come a very long ways in that area, and I commit to each of you that we will make even bigger strides. However, now it is time to have some fun with our neighbors!

I would love to see us have a neighborhood-wide get-together at the end of June or the first part of July. I am looking into blockading streets for a parade, food, and music! This will take a lot of work and effort, and I need volunteers for this. I would also like to see us have committees like a Benevolence Committee and a committee that is on standby for any of our military families in our association. Both committees would have access to names and phone numbers. If any of us were to have a tragedy in our family, the Benevolence Committee would be available to call on us to help with food. I would like to know where all of our military families live, and when someone is deployed, we can help look after their family.

Committees are made up of a minimum of three people. We need to get these started as soon as possible. Please feel free to step up and volunteer — just give me a call.

We have a beautiful and wonderful neighborhood — let's enhance it with pride. I would love to see a waiting list of people wanting to move into our neighborhood because we care. And let's send vandals and criminals a message that they are Not Welcome here.

Dianna Ewing, President

.....  
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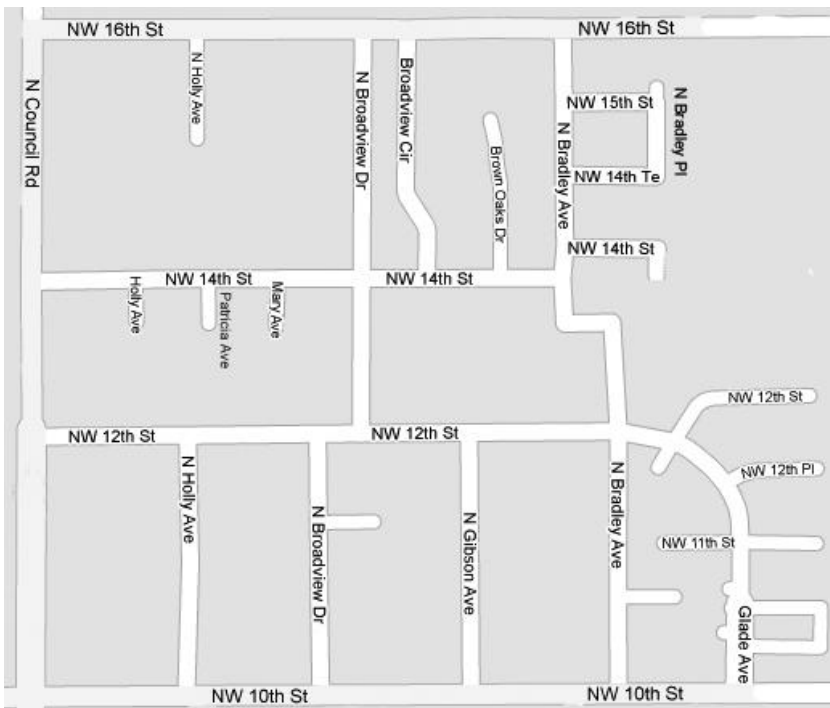
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Contact either of the newsletter coordinators Kathy or Kathey.

## HERE'S A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!



**COUNCIL OAKS**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION