



COUNCIL OAKS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Logo created by James Greiner

COUNCIL OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Website: www.neighborhoodlink.com/Council_Oaks. Facebook: log in; search for Council Oaks Neighborhood Association, Oklahoma City.

President

Dianna Ewing
789-3963, 919-5073

Vice President

Katie Greiner
570-3738

Secretary

Kathey Rauh
787-3689, 990-5305

Treasurer

Wendy Wilkinson
641-6969

Newsletter

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

Web & Facebook

Wyn-Erin Self
503-0071

OKC Code Enforcement

Elaine Nelson-Lewis
297-3129

Comm. Action Center

232-0199

OKC Action Center

297-2535

Pothole Hotline

631-1111

Graffiti Removal through SHINE program of Oklahoma County

713-2380

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 April 4, 2013, 6:30-8 pm
Reaching Our City (ROC), 7710 NW 10th
We will be talking about neighborhood security.

Meetings are open to all, but only members can vote.

**Remaining 2013 meeting dates: June 6, August 8, October 10,
and December 5.**

ALERT! We still have **thieves targeting our mail boxes**. DO NOT put outgoing checks in your mail box. Take them to the post office — and to be doubly safe, actually drop them inside the building and not in an outer box. What the thieves are doing is wiping clean the name and amount, and inserting other information. As a result, a \$3.25 check ends up being cashed for over \$1000.00!

Our **April 2013 meeting** will be devoted to **neighborhood security**. We will talk about a neighborhood patrol and a neighborhood-wide camera monitoring system, among other thing. You will want to be there!

Our neighborhood is not the only one with mail thieves and burglars. As this is a trend happening all over the city, simply moving won't change things. Ward 1 Councilman Gary Marrs said it best at the recent CONA-sponsored debate for those running for Ward 1: Oklahoma City will never have enough police officers to match what a strong neighborhood can do.

It is up to us to stand together, be proactive, and take control. Volunteer for the neighborhood patrol!

Our **Litter Blitz** is **April 13** — please help! And our **neighborhood garage sale** is **April 20**. Read more inside, then contact our President.

The **Council Oaks area is our neighborhood**. It is within our power to make this lovely area even better. That's why **CONA** was formed. We are **YOUR neighborhood association**. And we need as many people as possible to get involved. So please consider joining. Dues are only 10.00 a year. Our meetings are open to all. And whether you are a member or not, or homeowner or renter, get to know your neighbors!



A Visit with Three Candidates For Ward 1, Oklahoma City

On February 7th, CONA sponsored a debate between the three candidates running for Ward 1, Oklahoma City

Council: Gary Marrs (incumbent, Republican), James Greiner (Republican), and Carolyn Sims (Democrat). Well over 40 people turned out from all over Ward 1. The event started at 6:30 and broke up around 8:15.

First, the candidates had five minutes apiece to talk about themselves and what their priorities would be if elected. Then questions were taken from the floor.

Due to the limited space in the newsletter, we'll just try to hit some highlights — sorted by candidate. All the candidates expressed their desire to be accessible and engage in dialog.

Carolyn Sims is currently a realtor with Keller-Williams, but has worked in a variety of jobs and fields including oil/natural gas and the Myriad Gardens Botanical Foundation. She wants to restore the balance between investment downtown and investment in our neighborhoods. Carolyn wants more police officers to help cut violent crime but realizes that money will need to be found to pay for them. She will work for better streets and sidewalks, and she indicated that local realtors are working with the OKC Planning Commission to come up with ways to deal with abandoned buildings. Carolyn realizes public transportation is not the best and would like to see that improved. As to what makes for a great neighborhood she indicated community involvement, nice trees, fences, and lights, a willingness to invest in properties and projects, and volunteerism at local schools. Carolyn also wants to encourage grant writing to find matching funds and more public/private partnerships.

James Greiner is a graphic designer and works at Hobby Lobby. He is a Christian conservative who believes in the free-market system and limiting the reach of government. He believes the two primary roles of city government are infrastructure and public safety, and he will support improvements of these services

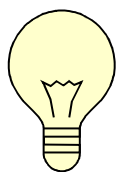
whenever they are needed. He wants to shift the focus to neighborhood development since the downtown core is now in good shape. He says that beyond any deterioration of apartment complexes, there is a general decay in society and he would work to improve that. He would like to support business expansion for more job availability, but also believes the city should not offer tax or monetary incentive packages to get businesses to relocate, as it can lead to a culture of corruption. Instead, the city should focus on making it an attractive place to move to. He would like to see more police in the outskirts/wards as sometimes areas are without a patrol for two hours. He wants taxpayer dollars to be spent wisely and spent on what the taxpayers need and want. He would not apply for federal dollars to fix Oklahoma City problems — the city should take care of itself.

Gary Marrs is our current Ward 1 Councilman. Many residents will remember him as Fire Chief. He wants to grow the area by bringing in new people who will add their tax dollars to the pool while still taking care of current residents, and says that currently the city adds 1000 new people every month. Oklahoma City has 640 square miles, which creates a real challenge for any project the city undertakes — whether police, fire, streets, etc. It costs 2 million dollars to add 40 police officers, and without adding more tax dollars to offset the growing cost of doing business as a government, something has to give. He acknowledges decaying apartment complexes are a problem all over the city. But when they are privately owned, all the city can do are ordinance-violation and police sweeps. The city does not have the authority to condemn, own, then resell private property — that authority must be granted by the state. MAPS funds are for special building projects downtown, not for maintenance or neighborhoods. Gary says he would help businesses interested in starting or growing in the Ward 1 area. He also said the public transportation system is being re-evaluated by outside consultants and admits it is not the

best — primarily due to the 640 square miles OKC has. He is a strong believer in home ownership, neighborhood associations and neighborhood patrols. Gary says he does the best he can for Ward 1 given the limited resources, and wants to continue to implement projects the voters have passed while ensuring efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

SOME SECURITY TIPS

- Light up the area! If you and your neighbors would like more city lighting, there is a petition you can fill out. Our president will have a sample at our April meeting for you to view.
- Lock any doors that open outward.
- Doors that open inward: add more deadbolts at the top and/or bottom. Improve security of existing doors by installing extra-long 3.5-inch and 4-inch screws in the door jams to which the doors and deadbolts close within and attach to the door frame.
- Lock your windows; lock your car and don't leave valuables in it.
- Make it difficult for criminals to scale or gain access to your back yard.



Shedding Light on the New Bulbs: Part 2

As you know, shopping for light bulbs has gotten a lot more confusing. They are now labeled in lumens (brightness) as opposed to watts (energy used). The new bulb packaging still references watts to make it easier during this transition period.

In addition, you have a choice of color temperature. Light is measured in Kelvins. A light around 2250 to 2700 kelvins is typical of the warm yellowish light the traditional tungsten bulbs give off. Bulbs labeled as Daylight give off around 6000 kelvins — more typical of outdoor light. For fluorescent lighting, warm lights are around

2,250 kelvins, while cool fluorescents are in the 3,750 kelvins range.

So make sure you choose the right lumen as well as the color temperature output.



And now, a few words from our President!

Our **next neighborhood Litter Blitz** is scheduled for **April 13**. Students from OU's Big Event Clean-up will help us. The students will have their own lunches, work gloves, and trash sacks, but we need to provide snack and dessert items that can be eaten using one hand. Cookies and cupcakes would be ideal.

As for the rest of us working, please bring your own lunch, work gloves, shovels (for scooping debris in the gutters — not for digging — so don't bring a pointy shovel), weed whackers, edgers, pick-up trucks, or open bed trailers. We will be able to provide trash sacks, water, and share in the desserts we provide. We'll gather at my place at 10 AM. Contact me if you can provide either dessert, tables, or labor!

The following Saturday, **April 20**, will be our **Neighborhood Garage Sale**. You are responsible for getting your own permit from the city and remitting any sales taxes. We will advertise the event in several places, including Craig's List. Time your sale to start by 8 AM and stay open to least till 2 PM.

By the way, graffiti removal is no longer handled by OKC. If you spot **graffiti**, **call SHINE** (Start Helping Impacted Neighborhoods Everywhere) at 713-2380. Call them right away. Experience has shown the longer graffiti stays out there, the worse things will get. SHINE should respond with 24-48 hours. You will need to give them the exact location. For example, if it is a stop sign, tell them which corner it is on — like NW corner stop sign at the intersection at NW 12th and Bradley.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Dianna Ewing, President



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Westoaks Barber Shop



1131 N. Rockwell

789-8981

**Tuesday-Friday
8:00-6:00**



**Saturday
8:00-4:00**



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7915 NW 10th Street

NEW OWNERS!

Sunday-Thursday: 7 AM to 10 PM
Friday-Saturday: 7 AM to 11 PM

This newsletter was printed free of charge,
thanks to Marvin Keele of Unique Printing:
215 West Wilshire Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
842-3966

"Thank you so much!"



MacArthur Blvd. Animal Clinic

1608 N. MacArthur. Okla. City, OK 73127

Office Opens 8:30 A.M. Mon - Sat

Morning: Walk-ins Welcome

Afternoons: By Appointment

Doctor off on Thursdays

A.G. SMITH, DVM

(405) 946-6751

If you live, work, or do business in our neighborhood, place your ad here!
A business-card sized ad only costs 10.00 an issue. Issue dates: March, June,
September, and December. Deadlines are the 15th of the preceding month.
Contact either the President or the newsletter coordinators for more information.