

COUNCIL OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Logo created by James Greiner

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

President

Dianna Ewing 789-3963, 919-5073

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Newsletter

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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

James Grenier, 297-2404 ward1@okc.gov

Police Liaison

TBA Hefner Division 316-4416 Next CONA Neighborhood Association Meeting: Thursday June 6, 2013, 6:30-8 pm Reaching Our City (ROC), 7710 NW 10th <u>James Greiner, our new councilman, will speak.</u> Meetings are open to all, but only members can vote.

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

ALERT! Some young men were spotted trying the doors of cars parked outside. Thanks to vigilant people in the neighborhood, the police were called and arrests were made. When parking outside, please exercise common sense. Roll up your windows, lock the doors, and take valuables inside. Also, near Lake Overholser, a man posing as a UPS driver was holding a package when he knocked on the door. The lady opened the door and he sprayed her and her child with pepper spray. Their dog attacked the intruder. Be aware before you open the door to anyone! UPS always delivers in their signature brown vehicles. If you ever see anything that doesn't seem right, call 911!

Our **CONA Neighborhood Patrol** is now up and running. But we need more volunteers. To be a part of the Patrol, you need to be a paid member of our Neighborhood Association, and you must attend a one-hour course taught by the Oklahoma City Police Department then fill out the required form to turn over to CONA so it can be kept on file. 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. Whether you are a renter or home owner, join CONA and then volunteer for the Neighborhood Patrol!

At our last meeting, we had several presentations about **home and neighborhood security**. Although implementing a neighborhood-wide camera system was appealing, the practicality of cost for installation and maintenance has made this unfeasible for us. However, the use of home security cameras is encouraged. Choose digital cameras with a line definition greater than 600 if you want to be able to see helpful details. Aim one or two toward the street at such an angle to pick up license tags.

Safety tip! Do you have a lot of shrubs for privacy? Thieves like privacy too! The more your entrances are exposed to street view, the less a burglar will be interested in your house. So consider trimming back that fairy-tale look. Or at least plant prickly things by the doors and windows.



A Visit with James Greiner Ward 1, Oklahoma City

Our new Ward 1 Councilman is James Greiner, who lives in our neighborhood. He is a graphic

designer and works for Hobby Lobby. James will be talking at our June meeting, but, at our request, has put together some thoughts on what he's seen so far as well as alert you to an important meeting you should consider attending.

First of all, thank you for electing me to represent you on the Oklahoma City Council. The campaign allowed me to meet many of you and get acquainted with almost every neighborhood in Ward 1, and this was a tremendous blessing to me. With that said, I am glad to be out of the campaign stage and into the work stage.

The most significant thing that has happened in the first few weeks is the attention that vacant and dilapidated properties have gotten, specifically the Lantana Apartments. The Oklahoman wrote an article about it a few weeks ago, which highlighted some of the issues involved with problem properties like Lantana.

This has obviously been an issue that we in this area have been aware of and discouraged about for a long time. Since the interview, I have been encouraged that these properties can be revitalized and become productive again. It will require quite a bit of risk, money, and labor to accomplish this but I think it can be done.

There were 12,106 vacant and abandoned buildings in Oklahoma City in 2012, so this is certainly not a small problem restricted to our area. It reaches into every part of the city and will take everyone being educated and engaged about the problem to fix it. The City of Oklahoma City will continue to explore possible solutions to fix this problem by working with private developers, non-profit organizations, and the state legislature.

The only major issue in our area that we have had to deal with so far is the MACO development of the senior living facility. I encourage everyone to come out and voice your opinion to the Neighborhood Conservation Committee on June 4th at 1:00 pm on the 10th floor in the conference room at 420 W. Main St. This committee, which I am on, is the last step that the Resolution of Local Support (RLS) must go through before it goes to the City Council for a vote. If it passes both of those steps it then goes on to the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency where it will compete for tax credits that would allow them to be able to develop their facility.

Other big issues that are going on in the city as a whole are water conservation and the MAPS 3 projects, specifically the modern streetcar and the convention center (along with its hotel). I would love to get your feedback on any of these issues at the CONA meeting on June 6th. If you can't make that meeting or the Neighborhood Conservation Committee meeting, you can contact my office at 297-2404 or email me at ward1 @okc.gov.

ODD/EVEN Watering in effect!

Despite the spring rain, odd/even watering is in effect for those using OKC water.

City Council has created several conservation measures, based on how full the lakes are.

We are at **Stage 1**, mandatory odd/even. **Stage 2** kicks in when lakes are 50 percent or less full: fixed 2-day a week watering. **Stage 3**, lakes 45 percent or less: fixed 1 day a week watering. **Stage 4**, lakes 40 percent or less: hand water gardens and flowers; only car washes with recycled water can operate. **Stage 5**, lakes at 35 percent or less: ban on all outdoor watering.

Read more at

http://www.okc.gov/watering. They also have lots of tips on how to conserve water and reduce usage.

NEWS FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL

Just who are we? We are your neighbors who want the very best for our neighborhood. We are volunteers using our own vehicles to cruise through all streets in CONA. When on patrol, our cars are marked with a flashing amber light on the roof and magnetic signs on the car doors.

What do we do? In addition to keeping an eye out for open garage doors at night, suspicious people, vehicles, and activity (and calling 911) and, we do a lot of waving and saying hello. Often people will beckon to us and express their thanks, as well as catch us up on things they've noticed on their street. And since there are at least two people patrolling together, we have a good time getting to know our patrol partners.

Most of us don't explore our neighborhood — we just head out to work or run errands and not spend time seeing what's around us. There's nothing like patrolling the whole neighborhood to realize what an interesting, pretty, even lovely area we live in. There's a wide variety of homes and landscaping styles — it's truly amazing. And the more we cruise around, the more protective we feel of the whole area.

So consider joining CONA and then the Neighborhood Patrol. Both home owners and renters are welcome. The more of us there are, the greater the positive impact on our neighborhood. But don't ever assume the Patrol replaces your personal watchfulness or responsibility. If you ever see anything going on that is suspicious, call 911!



And now, a few words from our President!

Just wanted to remind everyone that all board positions will be open in October. If

you are interested in running for a position, please let one of the current Board Members know.

James Greiner, Councilman for Ward 1, will be speaking at our June 6th meeting. James has already helped in bringing attention to the some of the growing needs that Ward 1 is experiencing. James does live in our neighborhood, and he and his wife, Katie, have been very active with CONA since its conception. He has also been working with other HOAs and neighborhood associations in his Ward that need his attention and support.

Thank you, James, for all your hard work and continued support for your neighborhood!

In April and May some of you attended meetings with Maco Development Co. L.L.C and The Carland Group. Both developers presented plans to build "Affordable Senior Housing" in our area. As a group, we were able to discourage The Carland Group. However, MACO is going to go ahead and try to get their project approved.

We would much rather see this developer tear down an abandoned apt. complex and build something nice in its place. However, they are seeking tax credits (\$750,000.00 a year for 10 years) and do not want the extra expense of demolition. This project is estimated to cost \$7 million. They will receive \$7,500,000 in credits, plus whatever they generate in revenue. Any senior 62 and older that has a Section 8 voucher qualifies to live there. Do we really want more Section 8 apartments on Tenth Street? The City needs to help us clean it up, not heap more issues on us.

On June 4, 2013 at 1:00 pm The Neighborhood Conservation Committee will meet on the 10th Floor large conference room in the City office building located at 420 W Main St, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102. You may attend or mail a letter to the address I've just provided to state your opposition or support for this.

Dianna Ewing, President











Family Food Mart & Shamrock Station

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!"



Join our Neighborhood Association — renters & home owners welcome!

Dues are just 10.00 a year.

Our meetings are open to all, but only members can vote and join the Patrol.

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.