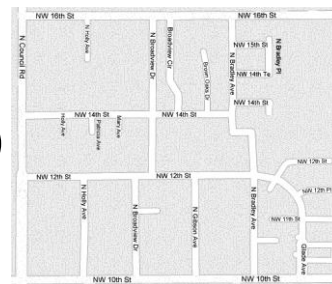




Logo created by James Greiner

COUNCIL OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

December 2014 Issue



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

Wendy Wilkinson
641-6969

Treasurer

Sheila Ray
831-4588

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, SHINE
Program, OK County**

713-2380

Animal Control (pickup)

297-2255

Councilman, Ward 1

James Grenier, 297-2404
ward1@okc.gov

Police Liaison, Hefner Div.

Sergeant Bob Skalla
639-8869

**Next CONA Neighborhood Association Meeting:
February 5, 2015, 6:30-8 pm
Tentative location:
Reaching Our City (ROC), 7710 NW 10th**

Due to renovations at ROC, our meeting may move to another location.

Check our Facebook page for the latest information.

***Next meeting date in 2015:
April 2.***

At our last meeting we elected new officers. So be sure to note who is in which position on our contact list to the left.

Watch your water usage!

In past issues, we've talked about the need to conserve water and how the City of OKC has us in a permanent odd/even watering system and a plan in place to restrict usage further based on the levels of the lakes that feed our water system. But did you know there's now another reason to conserve? The City has approved new water rates!

These new rates are already phasing in. So this past October, the base water rate and base wastewater/sewage rate increased an average of 2.88 a month, based on a monthly Tier 1 usage of 7,000 gallons of water and 5,000 gallons of wastewater. In October 2015, it will go up another 2.87 a month, and in October 2016, it will increase an additional 2.94 a month. Those who use more will be charged significantly more.

In case you didn't know, the winter months are when the City calculates your wastewater usage for the entire year (note the Winter Average information on your water bill). So you've a real opportunity right now to help minimize the rate increase to that particular year-long charge by aggressively conserving now.

For more information on ways to save water, visit
www.squeezeeverydrop.com



A Visit with Frank Barnes, Manager, OKC Emergency Management, and Mike Love, Public Works Liaison, City of OKC.

At our October meeting, Frank Barnes and Mike Love were our guest speakers.

Frank Barnes, in the last 7 years, has been involved in response and recovery from 10 major incidents, and is coordinating the recovery from the May 2013 storms and tornadoes. He is a certified emergency manager through the International and Oklahoma Emergency Management Associations. **Mike Love** has 28 years of experience in emergency operations and management. He coordinated public works personnel during the OKC bombing, and debris recovery in our recent windstorms. He maintains and updates the OKC snow and ice plan, OKC dam plan, debris management, and OKC emergency fuel plan for responders.

It should probably tell you something about the impact emergencies have on our community that Frank's office is actually considered part of the Police Department, and he holds the rank of Police Lieutenant!

With the wide variety of emergencies that can happen, one might think there are distinct response plans developed by OKC for each kind: earthquake, flood, tornado, terrorist, etc. In reality, there are no individual city-wide plans! Time and time again, depending on the disaster, response becomes based on instinct, not well thought-out plans on paper. So what the City has developed is an All-Hazards Plan.

The All-Hazards Plan is based on creating responses to results, not to the cause of the emergency. And it is capabilities-based planning, working with what the City has on hand and what they don't have and need to get elsewhere.

There is a limit to what OKC can do on its own. And based on the size/impact of the incident, if outside help is needed, it takes time to marshal the resources and get them in here. So it is up to

each one of us to be prepared to tough it out on our own for up to 3 or 4 days. Not hours, days.

So it's important to create your own response plan. And it should be based on the kind of potential emergency: tornado, earthquake, flood, blizzard, fire, pipeline rupture, etc. Then figure out just what the consequences are of each kind of disaster, especially taking into account the time of year (for example, loss of power in the summer has a different effect than loss of power in the winter), and then plan accordingly.

Your plans should include how to reunite if your family members get separated. You might consider having an out-of-state person as the common contact. Often in emergencies it is easier to call out of state than in town.

Then you need to create an emergency kit. You don't have to do this all at once. Buy over time and build-up your kit. Whatever you buy in the way of food and water, cycle it out and use it as a part of your pantry so your supplies don't go out of date. And don't forget about meds and pet supplies! Many meds are available in 3-month quantities, as opposed to monthly, and are cheaper that way. So keep that in mind.

Two excellent websites for you to visit to help spur your thinking and create your plans are www.ready.gov (FEMA's website) and www.ok.gov/reddirtready (Oklahoma's Office of Homeland Security). This second site even has a way to sign up to be an emergency-response volunteer!

And don't forget the Red Cross has great tools too: www.redcross.org/prepare.

Mr. Barnes also talked about storm shelters. He said the OKC government does not have any: They have no buildings that meet modern specs. The best plan is to shelter wherever there are small overhead spans.

In Oklahoma, 95-98% of all tornadoes are EF3 or less. Most homes provide enough protection for these. The City does

recommend having individual shelters or safe rooms in the home where there are no travel or time issues. A tornado warning gives about 17 minutes of lead time. A car is the WORST place to be if there is a tornado. And most people wait until it is too late to take meaningful action and the result is gridlock. So sheltering in place is the best solution day or night.

Periodically rebate programs become available to OKC residents. Some are from block grants and are lottery based, others are first-come, first-served and are income qualified. So you might keep an eye on the city's website to see when a program becomes available.

Mike Love then spoke. He mentioned that in heavy downpours we need to watch out for bowls of water. As we know, 10th Street as well as Council are prone to flooding. In our area, water tends to run off to the west while it pools on the east side. The drain systems are 50 to 75 years old and were not built to handle flooding situations.

In designated wind and storm events, if you have downed limbs, the City will remove the debris for free. BUT, it is up to you to get that debris to the curb and in 6-foot lengths. If a downed branch is in the street, the city will chop it just to the curb. You are responsible for the rest. There are some faith-based groups that will cut trees in a disaster, plus the city can provide the numbers of some arborists you can call and pay to take care of your tree limbs.

DROP, COVER & HOLD ON!

Earthquakes can come at any time, so it is important to know what to do. Most injuries are from collapsing walls and toppling objects. So if you are indoors, drop to the ground and take cover under a sturdy table and hold on till the shaking stops. Stay away from windows, lights fixtures, hanging objects, mirrors and tall furniture. If in bed, stay there and protect your head. And if in

an office building, don't use elevators. Outdoors, move away from buildings, streetlights and utility wires. And if you are in your car, don't stop near or under buildings, trees, overpasses and utility wires. And watch out for road or bridge damage!



And now, a few words from our President!

Hello! Hope all is well with each of you.

We want to give a huge THANK YOU to Karen Williams for serving as president of CONA this past year. Karen, you did a great job and we really appreciate you. And Kathey Rauh, we want to thank you for the awesome job you have done for the past four years in various board positions! Kathey has stepped down and Wendy Wilkerson will now be our secretary. Katie Greiner will be our vice president and we want to welcome Sheila Ray as our new treasurer. Thank you to everyone! I will be serving as your new president once again.

Please note that it is time to renew your CONA memberships. The dues are only \$10.00 per household. If you would like to join, please contact one of our current board members and we will be happy to get together with you, collect your money, and issue you a receipt.

Keep in mind that our litter blitz is right around the corner. If you would like help with yard work, painting, etc. please email or call me. There will be a limit on how many houses we will be able to work with. You must provide all supplies. Anything requiring gas or electric powered tools will be prohibited. You must also attend the two meetings prior to the litter-blitz weekend, and you must be a current member of CONA.

I am looking forward to working with our neighborhood and awesome neighbors once again. This is your neighborhood. Take some ownership, be proud of our area, and let's see what we can accomplish in the next year!

Dianna Ewing, President



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(405) 359 9690 John Ewing

OLDE ORCHARD RESTAURANT

Amy Kay Franklin
Owner

7339 NW 23rd.
Bethany, Ok 73008

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akfranklin5@att.net

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Dam Freeman

Westoaks Barber Shop



1131 N. Rockwell

789-8981

Tuesday-Friday
8:00-6:00



Saturday
8:00-4:00



Ingrid's Pantry

Monday-Friday
7am-9pm

405-722-7593

2421 N. Council
Bethany, OK 73008

**FAMILY FOOD MART &
SHAMROCK STATION**

7915 NW 10th Street

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

Andrew J Self, MBA, CFS®
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Managing Partner
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& Associates**
Private wealth advisory practice of
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

3030 NW Expressway
Ste 1400
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-5433
Tel: 405.605.0224
Fax: 405.605.0231
andrew.2.self@ampf.com
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If you live, work, or do business in our
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Cost is only 10.00 an issue!

Contact our president or treasurer
for more information.

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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 Secretary for more information.