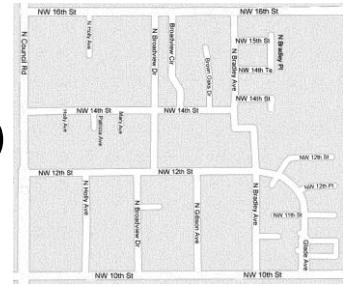


## September 2015 Issue



***President***

***Vice President***

**Secretary**

***Treasurer***

## Newsletter

## Web & Facebook

## OKC Code Enforcement

**Comm. Action Center**

**OKC Action Center**

## Pothole Hotline

**Graffiti Removal, SHINE  
Program, OK County**

***Animal Control (pickup)***

**Councilman, Ward 1**

**Police Liaison, Hefner Div.**  
Sergeant Bob Skalla  
297-1150

**JOIN US!** It's important to join CONA. We are a neighborhood and it's time to start taking part. Dues are only 15.00 a year. We use the money for neighborhood gatherings, Litter Blitz, signs, etc. Join now!



## A Visit with Chad Davidson, Chief Code Inspector, City of Oklahoma City

At our August meeting, those who attended were “deputized!” Not as in police officers, but rather, as being officially empowered to remove illegal signs in our neighborhood.

Most everyone agrees those small marketing signs on medians or utility poles are ugly. But did you know they are also illegal? So are signs within 10 feet of the curb in our yards. Oklahoma City removed nearly 61,000 of them last year alone. 90% were removed by 4 part-time inspectors. The rest were through neighborhood associations like our own that went through training.

The program is call Sign Sweep. And it sets out guidelines on what we can and cannot do. Here’s an overview.

The big takeaway is that the City owns from the curb to **10 feet** into your yard. As homeowners or renters, we are responsible for maintaining that 10-foot right-of-way strip, but the City owns it. **So any signs placed on that 10-foot strip are illegal.** This includes signs like: For Sale, For Rent, Garage Sale, XWZ Roof Repair, ABC Plumbing Company, Yard Treated by MNO, etc. That said, the City is lenient about Garage Sale signs since they should only be up the day of the sale. Yard spraying signs are certainly a good idea, but after a few days they need to come down. And regardless, all those can easily be placed deeper than 10 feet from the curb.

Let me reiterate. **NOTHING in that 10-foot strip!**

Signs on utility and lamp poles are illegal too. When removing one of those, wear gloves and be careful about all the staples and nails. If it is too high, call the Action Center and let them deal with it. I suspect lost pet signs will remain as no one wants to hinder the reunion of pet with owner. But if they get too tattered to read, they will come down.

Although this doesn’t apply to us, signs in any median are illegal too. Any of us can call the

Action Center at 297-2535 to report illegal signs, no deputizing necessary!

Now you know; you’ve been warned. So don’t be surprised if that sign in your yard disappears or is moved deeper into your property. It is the LAW!

Signs that have been removed are to be put in our Big Blues. They can also be placed in the monthly Big Junk pickup but need to be contained. Given the pickers that drive through the neighborhoods, this is probably a BAD IDEA. We want those signs destroyed.

For those of us that went through training, remember to have your signed card with you, be safe, and if a disgruntled citizen or sign owner confronts you, don’t remove the sign and don’t argue. Call the Action Center so they can deal with it. And remember to report how many you removed to our President so she can provide a quarterly report to Chad.

If you want to attend a training session so you too can be deputized, contact Chad at [chad.davidson@okc.gov](mailto:chad.davidson@okc.gov). Remember, you can only work our neighborhood boundaries.

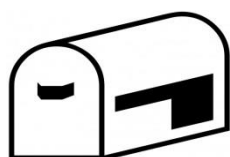
## Terrace Apartments— An Opportunity?

On September 8th at 6:30 p.m. @ DHS 7201 NW 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a community meeting held by the new owners of these apartments located at 6620 NW 10<sup>th</sup>. They need extensive work! It would be great if we could convince the new owners to not accept section 8! Regardless, we can show our support in letting them know that we are concerned and that this is a great opportunity to help improve 10th St. The new management company is seeking tax credits to substantially rehabilitate this property. This property has been a challenge for many concerned citizens and Law Enforcement over the past few decades. This is an opportunity to show overwhelming support to the new management company for EXTENSIVE renovations for the property. Hopefully our Safe OK grant initiative combined with massive community support

can convince the new management company to invest smartly and safely in order to provide a beacon of light and be a poster child for what a great apartment complex looks like in the area. Let's pack the place out!

## Christmas Party!

Our neighborhood party will be December 4th. Like last year, the location will be a secret, and only those who contact our President to attend will find out where it will be held.



## MAILBOXES & SURVEILLANCE

Our mailboxes are still being hit. If you see that someone's was gone through, or if yours was, contact our president. She needs to know anytime this happens, so hopefully a pattern can be established to help nab these thieves. She also needs to know if anyone has had checks/money stolen from their mailbox that has been cashed or changed to a different amount and then cashed. If you see someone going through mailboxes and you can safely get a tag number and description or picture, it would be helpful. Do not approach them, call 911 and stay safe.

If you caught anything on your surveillance camera, please let her know and she can then put you in touch with the postmaster.

Do not leave your mail in the mailbox overnight. If you are going out of town, stop your mail. Mail your items from a post office. It does not matter what neighborhood you live in, it is happening everywhere.

And consider installing surveillance cameras. There are all kinds of systems at a variety of price points and complexities. Thieves don't like the idea of being watched! If you are not physically able to get your mail, please tell our president.

## Community Events, hosted by Western Oaks Christian Church, 8100 NW 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Neighbors Night Out Parking Lot Party,**  
Tuesday, September 15, 2015 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Meet our local police officers and firefighters! Bring your own lawn chair.

**Health Fair,** Saturday, October 10, 2015  
10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.



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

I'm excited to try something different in our neighborhood. I am so sickened by all the horrible things that are happening in this day and age that I think it would be awesome if our neighborhood helped promote some kindness. I listen to a radio station that promotes "pimping joy" and I love this concept. However, we're going to call it "Kindling Kindness"—a random act of kindness that is done without recognition or any expectations in return. Do this to a neighbor you don't know, or one that could use some kindness in their life.

We are setting two weeks aside, Sept 27th - Oct 10th, for "Kindling Kindness." Some suggestions? Take out or bring in trash, mow a lawn, plant flowers, bake cookies, leave a "thank-you" note on their door regarding a nice lawn, etc. There are so many things we can do to bring a smile to a neighbor's face. Do this anonymously if possible, but since we want them to know that someone in the neighborhood is "kindling kindness," cut out the special logo on the back page and tape it to their door or place on the cookies, trash cans or wherever they can see it.

I'm anxious to see how many actually participate in this activity, and I want emails or calls from you if you receive a "Kindling Kindness" act!

Dianna Ewing, President

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## ADVERTISE HERE!

If you live, work, or do business in our neighborhood, your ad could be right here!

**Cost is only 10.00 an issue!**

Contact our president or treasurer  
for more information.

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**Tuesday-Friday**  
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**Saturday**  
**8:00-4:00**

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# Kindling Kindness



COUNCIL OAKS  
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# Kindling Kindness



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