

SPNA
SUGGS PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

February, 2006 Newsletter



~ YOUR SPNA TEAM ~

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SPNA BLOCK CAPTAINS

February Meeting will be held on Monday,
2-13-06 at 6:30PM – Monroe Elementary School
4810 N. Linn, Oklahoma City, OK

~ MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ~

FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER: Mrs. Vickie Johnson, Insurance Specialist in Health and Life Insurance with Physician's Mutual, etc, and former Exec. Director of South OKC Neighborhood Association - will speak about options for the new Medicare "D" supplement. She will assist in any individual insurance reviews to be sure you have appropriate coverage. Ms. Johnson will also share how to obtain medical-financial help for senior relatives. She is well recognized throughout the State of Oklahoma for her knowledge and professionalism.

MARCH SPEAKER: Mike Redpath – (owner) PSI Security Alarm Company. Many of us in the neighborhood currently have his service. He offers a wealth of information on safeguarding our properties! Please plan to attend.

MAY 8th - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! for the SPNA annual picnic at our beautiful SMITTY PARK. We provide the fried chicken and drinks. Just bring a side dish and a lawn chair.

~ NEW NEIGHBORS! *A warm welcome to our new neighbors:* John & Malva Ellis 2301 N. W. 48th St. Their Comments: "We love this neighborhood!"

(Block captains are asked and encouraged to knock on your door if you are new to the neighborhood and introduce our association. We would love to have your names and telephone numbers to add to our telephone list so that we can be of service and support.)

~ The SPNA directory needs your help. Please let us know if your contact information has changed so that we can correct it in the 2006 directory.

~ Re: Resurfacing of the 2400 block of NW 49 & NW 50 between May and Penn, both of these locations have been submitted to George Storm of Okla. City Paving- Engineering. He keeps track of the condition and ratings of all the streets. He indicates that both of these locations have a rating of '35', which certainly warrants resurfacing. (Funding is an issue at this time.) Our Ward Two councilman, Sam Bowman, also keeps his own list for future reference and both of these locations have been added to his list. We'll keep you posted as we get new information.

~ Suggs Park is in a good position right now to pay our portion for the beautiful new Smitty Park trees and also help the Monroe Elementary PTA with their track project.

~ An SPNA donation of \$100.00 is being sent to Neighborhood Alliance, Inc. Three members recently attended the "Membership Mania" on Jan. 24th where speakers from other NA's covered topics such as: Increasing membership and adding value to give our SPNA neighbors the most current and helpful information they can use for the safety, beauty and harmony of our ever evolving neighborhood association and its property owners.

In addition, two SPNA members will attend the Neighborhood Alliance 14th Annual "Neighborhood Leaders for Today!" from February 21 – March 28, 2006. This 7-week course (meets one night a week and one full Saturday). They will hear from experts and learn ways to revive neighborhoods and their associations. Such training topics include: Crime Prevention Tools for Neighborhoods, Grant Writing For Beautification Projects, Officer Roles and procedures and much more.

~ Our SPNA WEBSITE continues to grow. Take a look at it and let us know how we can do better, or if you have any submissions or questions. We are very appreciative to our webmaster – Shirley Bray! Thanks Shirley, you really are doing a wonderful job in providing our neighborhood with a wonderful new service. Here's the URL – address:
<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/okc/suggspark/>

~ We are attempting to change our monthly meetings to the second TUESDAY of every month, starting with the March meeting, to be held on March 14th^t. It will be announced in the next newsletter, so stay tuned and please join us at our meetings. They are relatively short and we warmly welcome you!

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was held at 6:30PM on January 9, 2006. association president, Mike Truel, brought the meeting to order and asked member evening guest speaker, Eric Smedlund, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Sixteen members signed in and Claudine Joyner and Peggy Davis won the door prizes.

The President reviewed the December meeting and recalled that since it was a holiday gathering there would be no minutes to report.

Handouts were given on OSU's "Green Growing Tech." and Medicare "D" brochures. Metal Neighborhood Watch signs were available to those who needed them.

A report from Monroe PTA is planned for possibly the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Truel introduced the evening's speaker, Mr. Eric Smedlund.

Mr. Smedlund explained the black and white WWII photograph of him and his buddies recently printed in the Daily Oklahoman. He was one of a group of Navy Signalmen from the major Pacific repair ship called the "Medusa." Ships of this magnitude were used for repair of battle injured or war torn ships at sea during WWII. These repair ships were named after Greek Goddesses. Mr. Smedlund explained that each Petty Officer in the picture was holding two flags, (Each responsible by the way for making, sewing and repairing their own flags.). They were forming letters of the English alphabet to spell out the name "AITAPE" for a newspaper reporter. This was to let people back home know where they were, hoping their family and loved ones would see and read that they were safe in Guinea, the town of Aitape.

Mr. Smedlund gave a colorful description about his WWII activities as a Signalman, beginning at the age of nineteen, having grown up in Chicago, Ill. He depicted interesting stories -such as the famous "Ladies of the War" of North Platt, Nebraska, who provided snacks and baked goods to the soldiers on the trains passing through their Midwestern town. He described how the Signalman's responsibilities played an important role in the code system of that day using International Morse Code to communicate with other ships, guiding them "silently" when to turn etc. on a caravan course. There were enough Radio/Signal men to fill three shifts using five-letter groups to depict a full sentence or paragraph.

Most interesting and worth mentioning was his depiction of the "Old Man's" (Captain of a ship who outranked all the other captains anchored in the San Pedro Bay) announcement at 2303 (11:03PM) on May 7, 1945. Mr. Smedlund, standing near the Old Man, witnessed a radioman running up to the bridge to hand the captain a message. The message was written in pencil on a small piece of paper and stated, "To all ships in harbor – Germans unconditionally surrender – no details." The captain handed Mr. Eric Smedlund that note, which he kept for many years and later donated to the famous WWII Naval Museum in Louisiana.

Eric's detailed description of how their ship used Globe lights to signal the news to all ships in the harbor was fascinating. At the end, because his ship, USS Medusa, was one of the largest and longest ships to serve in that area of the Pacific; the men had to sew and make the longest "homeward bound" (Naval Custom) flag in the Navy at that time. They attached air balloons to lift it high above the ship so it could be seen as they entered the Long

Beach harbor where they were received by many people and several tug and tow boat water sprays of honor.

We really appreciated hearing from one of our own and it was announced that we would like to warmly welcome any other WWII stories that neighbors might like to share.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken by:

K. VanBuren for Wendy Fox, Secretary

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: "Texas Caviar"

Dave Martin, 2306 NW 46th

Ingredients:

1/2 onion, chopped
1 bunch green onions, chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
2 jalapeno peppers, chopped
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
1 (8 ounce) bottle zesty Italian dressing
1 (15 ounce) can black beans, drained
1 (15 ounce) can black-eyed peas, drained
1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
1 bunch chopped fresh cilantro

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, mix together onion, green bell pepper, green onions, jalapeno peppers, garlic, cherry tomatoes, zesty Italian dressing, black beans, black-eyed peas and coriander. Cover and chill in the refrigerator approximately 2 hours. Toss with desired amount of fresh cilantro and serve with Tostitos scoops. Serves 64

GARDEN TIPS: Don't forget to water! Even though it's February, it's still important.

BE-AWARE: Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a killer that silences the hearts of nearly 4,000 Oklahomans each year. There is a Senior Class at OU Medical Center being offered where Cardiologist Robin Germany, MD, will speak about causes, risk factors and treatment options for SCA. Space is limited, so call: 405/271-5000 for reservations: Saturday, February 11, 2006...10 a.m. to Noon at the Center for Healthy Living at OU MEDICAL CENTER, 1000 N. Lincoln Blvd., Okla. City.

FREEBIES:



SINGER JUDY COLLINS to discuss her book "Sanity and Grace", at 7:30PM March 28, in the Henry J. Freede Wellness and Activity Center at Oklahoma City University. For more information call 208-4956 or go online to www.okcu.edu. (No charge.)

MORE FREE DAYS AT THE ZOO! Ok, no excuses to miss out on those walks with your family! Throughout February, there will be no gate charge. The zoo is located at 2101 N.E. 50th and open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with exhibit buildings closing at dusk.

FREE WATERCOLOR SHOW at the 20th annual Watercolor Oklahoma XX Traveling Exhibit. The free show continues through Feb. 18 at the Edmond Historical Society and Museum, 431 S. Boulevard, Edmond. The museum is open from 10 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Information: 340-0078



NEW!

SPNA PETS REGISTRY: SPNA welcomes you to register your loved pets with SPNA's new pet registry, so that we can put out an alert to all the block captains should they go missing. We would need a description, any special behavioral information, your name/address/telephone number and your vet's name and telephone number. Contact Kris Van Buren at 463-0405 or email krisvb@cox.net.

THERE'S NO BETTER ADVERTISING THAN WORD OF MOUTH"

If you are a person with a service or business and would like to advertise to the members of this association, please do let us know and bring some information or cards to the next meeting.

The SPNA Newsletter is published from September to May by the association with the help of volunteers. Please let us know if you have any questions or contributions to make to the newsletter by contacting us at: 405.463-0405, krisvb@cox.net

~ HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY ~



SPNA MEMBERSHIP

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SPNA would like to hear from you. Please let us know how we can serve you better as a Neighborhood Association. Please come to our meeting and tell us, or use this form below and mail it to SPNA c/o 2225 N.W. 45th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

How long have you lived in this area:

What are some of the most important issues to you and your property:

Would you be interested in volunteering and in what way:

**ANNUAL "SPNA" MEMBERSHIP:
\$10.00**

You may give your check to an officer at the monthly association meeting or,

**MAIL CHECKS TO:
BARRY WATSON, SPNA
TREASURER
2522 N.W. 46TH Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112**

(Please contact Barry Watson if you have questions about your dues.)