

The Neighborhood Newsletter

Bluff Creek Neighborhood Association, Inc. Newsletter
A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BLUFF CREEK

August/September 2008

NEIGHBORS ENJOY NNO TOGETHER

Bluff Creek neighbors turned out to observe the annual National Night Out event held August 5. Temperatures peaking in the 100's didn't deter the festive group on hand to meet and greet neighbors, support the neighborhood, and enjoy the hot dogs, chips, drinks, and give-aways. Although local firefighters were responding to a call and couldn't be there we got a great flyover "Hello" from the police in the O.C.P.D. helicopter.

Bluff Creek Neighborhood Association, Inc., was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for its participation in the NNO observation by Neighborhood Alliance and the City of Oklahoma City and won the drawing for a \$50 Target gift certificate. National Night Out is sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town Watch and Target and locally by Neighborhood Alliance. Our neighborhood also won a \$50 Target gift certificate in a drawing held by Neighborhood Alliance which will be used to purchase door prizes at the upcoming annual meeting.



BCNA President Dave Ward, (left) and BCNA Activities Chairperson Brenda Carroll (right) accept Certificate of Appreciation and gift certificate from Neighborhood Alliance Representative Scott Talley (center).

Annual Meeting October 21

WHEN: October 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Springcreek Baptist Church
11701 N. MacArthur

WHAT TO EXPECT: Guest speaker with news you can use
Election of BCNA officers for 2009
Open forum
DOOR PRIZES

WHO: All Bluff Creek Residents
(You and me)

Don't Miss It!!

7) Click the "Save" button.

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Elections 2008

Important date to remember:
General Election: November 4
Contact the Oklahoma County Election Board,
405-713-1515 for dates and times for early
voting and any questions regarding elections .



Neighbors Getting to Know Each Other

By Bailey F. Hanes

I am told on good authority there's over 500 homes in this Bluff Creek Addition. I am not sure how many acres or what the area of this addition is but considering the boundaries north to south and east to west, I am fairly certain it is unlikely I will ever know everyone who lives here. I have no idea how many people that might represent but I can't help wonder who they are. Even though I know I am not going to meet each person or get to know very much about their family, I do know I can meet and get to know those families who live within a two or three block area around my home.

There are many good reasons to get to know the people around you better. It strengthens community spirit, helps keep the neighborhood more secure and safe, lets us learn from each other, and share our interests and differences. It's good policy for our children to know and be known by the people who live nearby.

So let me give you an idea for an easy and enjoyable way to meet and get acquainted with those near you.

Living at the corner of Bluff Creek and Ann Arbor, my wife Mona and I had great opportunity to see lots of people driving by, pulling into driveways down the street, walking by, or working and playing in the yards around the corner. We frequently sat out front and often said hello to those walking by but we never really visited much with them. And then, one evening, Mona shared an idea with me.

She wanted to get to know some of the women who lived nearby and had been thinking of a way for more of our neighbors to get together on a somewhat regular

basis. Mona knew it is often the women in our homes who take the lead in such endeavors so she wanted to approach the wives to see if they would be interested in a monthly "Ladies Night." I encouraged her to talk to some of those living nearby to see what reaction she might receive.

Well, before I knew it, Mona had put some ideas on paper, and was walking around our block contacting in person or by phone the "ladies of the house". She told them she would like to host a casual get together at our home for the women to relax and visit with each other and hoped they would like to attend. Within no time a date was set, and volunteers stepped up to bring soft drinks or light snacks.

That first gathering was well attended. It was not a formal affair, not an expensive affair, not even a tightly planned affair but that first meeting proved to be a fertile place to plant the seeds of getting to know neighbors better. Mona reported to me that all seemed to enjoy the evening and she shared that several ladies approached her to comment on how they had met someone new and found someone they would like to know better in the future. They arranged a date for the next meeting. Others volunteered to host or help the host and Mona volunteered to keep contacting everyone about dates and location.

Over the next couple of years these meetings took on a life of their own. They are popular times for moms and wives to have a night out, meet the newcomer down the street, or discover something of interest about a neighbor's family. It didn't stop with the ladies, though. The men started introducing themselves to the "guy

down the street." The kids found and enjoyed new playmates.

When you stop and think about it, getting to know each other might seem like a difficult task or chore. By visiting with some of you, I have been told that "We would love to get to know our neighbors better, but we are not sure how to go about it." Or, "I would like to know the people down the street but I don't know how to approach them, or introduce myself."

I wanted to share my family's experience with you to encourage the notion that *it is possible* to get to know each other better without much work. The rewards to your family and mine and the contributions to our neighborhood are really worth the small effort.

With the heat of summer behind us, soon our yards, with their rich cool green grass that we've worked so hard to keep, will take on the yellow-green color of fall. We won't be out in our yards as often and we'll have fewer chances to see neighbors jogging or walking.. Or to see that couple a few houses down who always seem to be smiling and visiting with each other as they walk in front of the house. Do you know their names? Wouldn't you like to?

Thank you for spending a little time with me here.

Bailey F. Hanes

We welcome Bailey F. Hanes to the Newsletter Committee as Editor-at-Large. I hope you enjoy this and his future contributions to the Newsletter. If you want to comment, please call me.

Jackie Gorelick, 720-8885

Alarm Permit Fees Go Up

Noticed your fee renewing your burglar/fire alarm permit was higher than it used to be? That's because fees have increased as part of City-wide readjustment of fees.

The cost for a new alarm permit has increased from \$20 to \$27. The cost for renewing an alarm has increased from \$5 to \$17.

Other alarm fees have gone up as well. The fee for excessive false alarms, defined by City ordinance as more than three in one year, is now \$65 for police calls and \$107 for fire calls, again reflecting the City's costs for responding to those calls.

Fees for dozens of City services have been modified over the past few months to reflect the actual cost of providing the services, moving the cost of those services to those who actually use them and away from citizens.

Big Goings-on in Summerfield

*Saturday, September 20, 9am-5pm
NW 122nd & Meridian*

Summerfield Community Association is having its 6th annual arts and crafts show: **SUMMERFEST**, featuring live

City's Action Center Handles Citizen Complaints, Questions

The Action Center is the City's central source for requesting City services, information and referrals. The Action Center takes complaints and questions from citizens and directs them to other City departments and divisions so that your voice is heard. Code violations are reported to the Action Center and then sent to the proper department or division, including Police, Code Enforcement and Zoning Enforcement. Among code violations that can be reported are illegally parked cars, high grass and weeds, yard parking, barking dogs and inoperative vehicles. More code violations can be found on their website at www.okc.gov.

You can call the Action Center at 297-2535 to report problems in your neighborhood or get information about City services. Your call will be answered by an Action Center staff member Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After hours or on weekends, you can leave a message explaining your problem and they will handle your request the next working day. You can also report problems online using the online service request at www.okc.gov. They can also send you a letter to let you know the City is working on a solution. They track your request to make sure you get the help you need, and can explain what action has been taken on the issue.

The Action Center is a division of the Public Information and Marketing Office of The City of Oklahoma City.

Bluff Creek Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Officers

President—Dave Ward	721-0209
Vice Pres.—Vacant	
Treasurer—Andy Zguris	773-3668
Secretary—Sherry Meek	721-7771
Historian—Helen Skinner	728-2920
Parliamentarian—J. Gorelick	720-8885

Committees

Security—Tony Hill	720-1292
Activities—Brenda Carroll	722-3882
Newsletter—J. Gorelick	720-8885
Nominating—Sherry Meek	721-7771

The Bluff Creek Neighborhood Association, Inc., was formed and incorporated 28 years ago on July 18, 1980.

Your News

Want to tell something? Want to sell something? Direct items to the newsletter editor, Jackie Gorelick, 720-8885.

2008 Dues Still Being Accepted

If you haven't yet done so, please take a minute now to write a check for \$40 for neighborhood association dues for 2008, payable to Bluff Creek Neighborhood Association (or BCNA) and mail it to:

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c/o Andy Zguris
5800 NW 109th Street
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