

# The Corner Post

FALL 2005

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A quarterly publication of the  
Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.  
1236 NW 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118-5604



Working to create safe,  
attractive and healthy  
neighborhoods throughout  
Central Oklahoma<sup>SM</sup>

## Two Summer Programs Top the Success Charts!

Summer is always a busy time for everyone, and it's often hard to make time for "business" activities. But that was not the case for many OKC neighborhood associations this summer based on the success of two of our most recent programs -- *Neighbors Says Thanks* and *National Night Out*. Thanks to all who participated. Your involvement helps to make Oklahoma City a better place to live!

### Neighborhood Alliance Says Thanks

We appreciate all of you who came out for our June 23 *Neighbors Say Thanks* reception honoring the OKC Police Chief Bill City and OKC Fire Chief Keith Bryant.

More than 35 neighborhood associations were represented and we were able to talk with the chiefs as well as local police division officers. "This was a great opportunity to meet and talk with the citizens," said MSgt Charlie Epperly of the Hefner division. It was also a great opportunity for us to say thanks to the men and women who work to make our city safe.



### "Lights On Means Lights Out for Crime!"



The 22nd Annual *National Night Out* was a brilliant success with 56 neighborhoods holding events to encourage community awareness and discourage crime. The day started with a photo on the steps of city hall with Mayor Cornett and a proclamation was read at the City Council making August 2, 2005 "National Night Out" in Oklahoma City. Evening events throughout the city included: porch light vigils, flashlight walks, picnics, cookouts, watermelon and ice cream socials just to name a few.

*(continued on page 2)*

## National Night Out

*is a unique crime prevention event sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town Watch and locally by Neighborhood Alliance. "National Night Out promotes good relations between neighbors and local law enforcement," says Rick Chamberlain, President of the Board of Directors of Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma, "which ultimately increases property values and quality of life."*

*"We know that active neighborhoods have less reported crime," says Georgie Rasco, Executive Director of Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma. "Our mission is to help the citizens of Oklahoma County develop safe, attractive and healthy neighborhoods. National Night Out helps accomplish this goal by encouraging neighbors to get out of their house and meet their neighbors. Crime prevention can be fun!"*

## Putnam Heights

Historic Preservation district (NW 38/NW 35/Classen/Georgia) combined Neighbors Say Thanks and National Night Out activities in their "Gatorade Challenge." 38 cases of Gatorade were donated to the OKC Police Department - Will Rogers Division and OKC Fire Department Station 11 thanks to the generosity of the neighbors in Putnam Heights.

## National Night Out

(continued from cover)

Neighborhood Alliance would like to thank all of the neighborhoods who participated in this great event and encourage everyone to join us next year! As can be seen in these photos "Crime prevention can be fun!"





## OKC Fire Department Citizens Fire Academy Class X

Citizens Academy for adults is an eight-week program designed to increase fire and life safety awareness and encourage citizen interaction with the Oklahoma City Fire Department. Participants will get an insider's view of services that the OKC Fire Department provides, fire safety training for home and work, and hands on experience in emergency operations.

The next Citizens Academy begins on Thursday, September 8th. Class size is limited. If you are interested in attending, or for more information, contact Linda Rains at 297-3314 or [Linda.rains@okc.gov](mailto:Linda.rains@okc.gov).

## Back to School Safety

*Summer is drawing to a close and the kids are heading back to school. Here are some tips for keeping ourselves and our children safe this fall and throughout the school year.*

### All motorists:

- Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.
- Always stop for a school bus that has its red lights flashing and stop arm extended. These are indications that the bus is loading or unloading passengers.
- Watch for children. Be alert and ready to stop, especially in areas where children are likely to be and may dart out into the road.

### Parents:

- Teach your children safety rules for walking, bicycling or riding in a passenger car or bus.
- Supervise your children walking or biking to school or while they wait at the bus stop.
- Be a good role model! Follow the same traffic safety rules that you are teaching your kids.

### Kids:

- Always buckle up when riding in a car.
- Always wear a helmet and follow traffic safety rules when riding your bike.
- If you ride a bus, learn and practice the safety rules for waiting at the bus stop, getting on and off the bus, and riding the bus.
- Learn and practice the safety rules for pedestrians. Always cross at cross walks, obey all traffic signs, traffic lights and safety patrol instructions.

**For more information please visit:**

[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

The American Red Cross

[www.oksafekids.org](http://www.oksafekids.org)

Oklahoma Safe Kids Coalition



## ***Would your neighborhood like to apply for a grant?***

All neighborhoods can apply for grants from the Margaret Annis Boys Trust. Contact Brian Dougherty, Oklahoma City Community Foundation, 235-5603 for more information.

Low to Moderate income neighborhoods can qualify for the City of Oklahoma City's "Neighborhood Partnership Grant" program. Contact Kay Buzzell, City of Oklahoma City Neighborhood Services at 297-2655.

To learn more about both of these grant options, attend *Beautification Station* on September 29th. More information on page 13.

# **Preserving History – Gatewood NA's Interurban Park Project**

In the spring of 2004 the **Gatewood Neighborhood Association (NW 23/ NW 16/N Classen/Penn)** was awarded one of the first grants through the City of Oklahoma City's Neighborhood Matching Grant Program. Their "Interurban Park Project" located on the west side of Classen Blvd, between NW 17th and NW 18th was designed to beautify the median as well as commemorate the University Station trolley stop that had existed there. A unique and ambitious project, it also gained the support of the surrounding neighborhoods, local businesses and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation who approved a grant for the plantings through the Margaret Annis Boys trust. The completed Interurban Park will have two original sculptures, three new trees, and a small

plaza with plantings throughout the median to enhance the site. After more than a year of hard work, the project is nearing completion. We spoke with Janet Seefeldt, the president of Gatewood NA, in mid-July about the project and what they have learned along the way.



### **NA: How did you arrive at the concept for your project?**

**JS:** *I learned that the city was rolling out a new program called Neighborhood Matching Grants. I called Charles Cheatham, our neighborhood Vice President, and asked what he thought about applying for one. He replied, "Yes, let's develop the median."*

*It quickly became apparent that Charles had been thinking about developing the median for some time. As a neighborhood this median project appealed to us on many levels. We wanted the median to be attractive and beautify that stretch of Classen Blvd, bring*

*attention to the surrounding businesses, be historically significant and contribute to the centennial celebration in 2007.*

### **NA: Where are you now regarding the completion of the project?**

**JS:** *We have installed the granite monument that commemorates University Station, installed the water meter needed to maintain the*

plantings, removed the diseased trees and planted three new ones, and have prepared the site to lay the bricks and rails for the walkway.

The trolley sculpture has been completed and we are hoping to have it installed in the next few weeks. Once the trolley sculpture has been installed we will be able to finish the walkway and plaza and complete the plantings. We are hoping to have everything finished by fall 2005.

**NA: What have you learned through the process of completing this project?**

**JS:** We have learned about how grants work, how contractors work and getting permits. The idea developed so quickly that we never stopped to think about how uncommon it is to place artwork in a public space. We had to jump through some extra hoops and appear at the Oklahoma Arts Commission for approval to place the sculptures. We learned a lot about working with artists!

Mostly we learned to be more relaxed about our time table. There are so many aspects of the project to pull together and some things take more time than we anticipated. Keeping the communication open has been the key.

**NA: How much did the total project cost and how have you paid for it?**

**JS:** The project cost is \$25,000. We got a \$10,000 grant from the city and a \$2,000 grant from the Margaret Annis Boys Trust at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The rest came from cash and in-kind donations and lots of volunteer labor. We had great support from the local businesses, especially Classen View Veterinary Clinic and the Berry Law Building.

**NA: Would you do it again?**

**JS:** Absolutely! It was a lot of hard work but it has been really fun and has engendered a lot of volunteer spirit. We feel that this project benefits not just Gatewood but other neighborhoods and the public at large. For many people the trolley was primary transportation and really contributed to the development of the neighborhoods spreading out from downtown. We want this project to be a visual reminder that something was here that had an affect on us all.

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*The trolley sculpture, which was installed on August 5, 2005, was created by Colin Rosebrook.*

*The granite monument was created by Russell Pester and Fairview Monument Company.*



## Georgie's Greeting

Have you ever wondered why some neighborhoods just seem to feel a little more "homey" than others? It really has nothing to do with the size of the houses as much as it does the friendliness of the neighbors and the aesthetic details of the surroundings. Added features such as gateways, ornamental lights, landscaped medians and active parks all contribute to the feeling of home you get just driving through these areas of town. Miller Neighborhood, Musgrave-Pennington, Mesta Park, Prairie Queen, Quail Creek and Remington are just a few of the many local neighborhoods who evoke this special charm.

Have you ever wondered how these neighborhoods get this way? Does The City favor some neighborhoods over others? Do some neighborhoods just get all the breaks? NO! The one thing I see that these neighborhoods all have in common is an active neighborhood association that really cares about the residents. The aesthetic details are a by-product of this attitude: create a caring atmosphere for the people and they will contribute to the beauty of the surroundings.

When you attend the September 29th "Beautification Station" (more details on page 13) you will learn the trade secrets of these neighborhoods and much more. You can visit (free of charge) with over 30 vendors who will talk to you about neighborhood signage, ornamental lighting, code enforcement, animal control, landscaping, creating beautiful entrances, crime patrol programs and lots more. You will even learn about available grant money that might help your neighborhood achieve some of these dreams.

A safer and more beautiful neighborhood begins with you. Gather your neighbors and attend this free event. Sign up for the numerous door prizes to be given away and mingle with others who have the same goal in mind: improving Oklahoma City one neighborhood at a time.

Have a glorious fall and once again, go out and meet your neighbors, you will be forever glad that you did. For more information on "Beautification Station" or how Neighborhood Alliance can help your neighborhood, please call me at 528-6322.

Georgie Rasco  
Executive Director  
Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.



## Citizen Alert

The Oklahoma City Police Department has introduced Citizen Alert to keep people informed regarding crime and other public safety issues throughout the city. The new program is geographically defined and allows the OKC PD to send out periodic emails or text messages to citizens in the areas that are most affected by the alert. Citizen Alert is interactive as well, allowing subscribers to reply to the appropriate officers if they have any helpful information on a case.

Go to [www.okc.gov/citizenalert](http://www.okc.gov/citizenalert) to sign up. The service is free, but setting up an account requires an email address and a physical address. This information enables alerts to be targeted to a home or business address, neighborhood watch group, type of business or be sent to all subscribers.

Sign up now for Citizen Alert and keep up-to-date on public safety issues in your neighborhood.

Once you are enrolled, you can link to the new Citizen Alert system and the OKC police department through the Neighborhood Alliance website.

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**Access neighborhood  
crime reports online at  
[www.nacok.org](http://www.nacok.org)**

# Tax Credits Available for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings



Senate Bill 435, signed by Governor Henry in June of this year, contains many tax reduction and incentive programs, including an expansion of the tax credits available for the rehabilitation of historic buildings.

The new credits parallel the 20% federal tax credit available for structures that are “certified historic,” or in a district that is “certified historic,” or the 10% credit for older structures that are not “certified historic.”

“It can be a godsend to rural areas, suburban main streets and inner city shopping areas,” says Representative Debbie Blackburn.

“Oklahoma was one of the few states that didn’t parallel the federal tax credit....now there are numerous potential projects statewide which are viable, due to this little bit of tax help.”

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation office currently monitors the federal program and will monitor the state program as well. Tax payers who qualify for the federal tax credit will automatically qualify for the same amount of state tax credit without any additional paperwork or review. Consult your tax professional or the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office at 405-521-6249 for more information.

*The Oklahoma Historical Society State Historic Preservation office is holding a workshop, “Guidelines and Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings,” on December 7, 2005. This workshop is free and open to the public. Call 521-6249 for details.*



# Point of Order!

Have you ever wished your neighborhood meeting would stay focused and actually get something accomplished? Have you dreaded running for a neighborhood office because the meetings are run haphazardly? There are tools out there to help with this problem.

“Roberts Rules of Order has been the standard guide for running smooth and orderly meetings for more than a century,” states Rod Davidson, registered parliamentarian and member of Neighborhood Alliance Board of Directors. “While protecting the will of the majority, parliamentary procedure provides structure at meetings and enables the chairman to keep the deliberative process on track, prevents individual members from disrupting the meeting and allows all members to have an equal opportunity for their voice to be heard in full and free discussion.”

Parliamentary Procedure can seem daunting at first, but after a little bit of practice it begins to make total sense. First, you are encouraged to use an agenda at each meeting, even committee meetings. This takes out the confusion of what is going to be discussed. Write an agenda and stick to it! If somebody comes to your meeting with an issue that needs to be discussed but it was not on the agenda, either discuss it at the end of your meeting, under new business, or tell the resident you will be glad to put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Don't let these types of issues drag your meeting on way past time to go home.

Roberts Rules of Order also discusses the need to have adequate by-laws. Your by-laws are a very important document that is unique to your association. However, all by-laws must contain certain language: when to elect officers, who can vote, how to determine a quorum, how to remove ineffective officers, if dues are required and when you need to pay them are



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*“Where there is no law, but every man does what is right in his own eyes, there is the least of real liberty.”*

**-HENRY M. ROBERT**

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among some of the must-have language in effective neighborhood association by-laws.

Another form of running effective meetings is the “Participatory Meeting Method.” This style encourages everyone to participate and is a less formalized way of structuring your meeting. Again, every meeting has an agenda, and the participatory agenda generally consists of 6 steps: norms (group rules), expectations (brainstorm of ideas that need to be discussed at the meeting), ice breaker, discussion of issues, next steps and evaluation. Following this format gives everyone a chance to be heard and still gives you a process to keep your meeting manageable.

Most neighborhoods use either Roberts Rules of Order or the Participatory Method, or a combination of both when running their association meetings. Possibilities, Inc. is a great teacher of the participatory method and by attending their Camp Possibilities (see page 14 for more details) you will learn how this method can greatly enhance your neighborhood meetings.

If you are looking for more information on how to strengthen your parliamentary procedure skills contact the Sooner Unit Parliamentarians, a local affiliate of the National Association of Parliamentarians, at 524-8953. Neighborhood Alliance just hosted our annual training on using Roberts Rules of Order in August of 2005, but attendees of the Neighborhood Leaders for Today (see page 15) will receive this valuable training as part of that institute.

If you are receiving this newsletter and wish to be removed from our mailing list please call 528-6322 or via email: [Deborah@nacok.org](mailto:Deborah@nacok.org)

[www.nacok.org](http://www.nacok.org) is here! Come visit anytime you're online.

# Get to Know the Neigh



**Rick Chamberlain**

*We'd like to introduce you to the wonderful people who volunteer on our Board of Directors. They are an invaluable resource to us and we appreciate their participation and input in all of our programs.*

**Rick Chamberlain** is serving a second term as our President. He is an attorney who has served on our board for about two and a half years. Rick resides in Edmond, though his office is in the **Wildwood Hills/Heights Neighborhood (NE 67/I-44 Svc. Rd./Canyon Dr./Santa Fe)**. Rick was recruited to join the Neighborhood Alliance board by a former board member. He is also active in his church.

Through Rick's leadership Neighborhood Alliance has grown to two paid employees, a host of regular volunteers, stricter financial accountability and a brighter future.



**Marilyn Long**

**Marilyn Long** is our Vice President, and has served on our board for one year. Marilyn was recommended to our board by Ward 7 Councilwoman Willa Johnson. She is self-employed and is president of the **Park Estates North/Cashions Wildewood Neighborhood (NE Grand/NE 50th/Terry/MLK)**. Marilyn and her neighborhood were instrumental in hosting last year's very successful "Northeast side information fair" which attracted over 300 attendees.

Marilyn is very involved in the community, "I have the love of helping others and am hungry for knowledge not only to help myself but to network with others and empower them also."



**Jennifer Seal**

**Jennifer Seal** is our Secretary and has been on our board for two and a half years. She resides in **Lakeview Neighborhood (NW Expressway/NW 63/Meridian/Ann Arbor Terrace)**. Jennifer joined the NA Board because she wanted to learn more about how government works in Oklahoma City and to be able to be a force in her own neighborhood by keeping the process alive at the grassroots level.

Jennifer is a high school history teacher and recently returned from Washington DC where she was awarded a 2005 Congressional Fellowship through the James Madison Memorial Foundation. "In my capacity as a board member I hope that people in the neighborhoods feel that they can call on me if they have a question or problem."

**J.B. Schuelein** is our Treasurer. He is the State Administrator for the Water Resources Board and has served on our board for six months. **J.B. is a resident of Mesta Park Neighborhood (NW 23/NW 16/N Walker (Except 22)/Western)** and he loves his neighborhood and is active on several committees including Parks, Home Tour & Budget.

"Neighbors make great neighborhoods. Neighborhoods make a great city. Building and strengthening our neighborhoods is vital to the future economic development of our city."



**J.B. Schuelein**

# Neighborhood Alliance Board

**Harry Meister** is the publisher/owner of The MidCity Advocate and has served on our board for one year. He is Vice President of **Mesta Park Neighborhood** and is involved in a number of community organizations including Bricktown Rotary, Western Avenue Association, and the Midtown Redevelopment Authority.

“My job keeps me involved with dozens of neighborhoods. I dearly love my neighborhood Mesta Park – but I feel like I am indirectly a part of all these other great neighborhoods and their excitement and progress. That is one of the best parts about owning the newspaper and also my work with Neighborhood Alliance.”

**Lyle Henry** is an entrepreneur and has served on our board for one year. He is the president of **Lakeridge Run Neighborhood (SW 104/SW 113/Lakeridge Run/May)** and was recruited to our board by Jennifer Seal. Lyle was instrumental in helping Neighborhood Alliance set up their new website and his technological expertise has helped strengthen our organization.

“I have a strong conviction that we are on this earth not only for our own enjoyment and gratification, but to be of service to others. We have been able to turn around our older neighborhood and make improvements that will put it on par with the new developments springing up all around us. You can do the same thing. All it takes is getting involved.”

**Cory Williams** is a law student who has served on our board for 6 months. He is president of **Venice Neighborhood (NW 36th/NW 30th/Villa/May)** and works with “the best crew of officers and neighborhood anyone could ask for.” Cory’s neighborhood was awarded a beautification grant last year and hosted a very successful home tour. Cory brings youth and vitality to both his neighborhood board and to Neighborhood Alliance.

“I am going to be a daddy soon!! It’s a tad bit off subject, but I am glad there are organizations like Neighborhood Alliance that will help assist and strengthen the metro’s neighborhoods so that my child will have the opportunity to grow up in a thriving community.”

**Rod Davidson** is our newest board member and a past graduate of *Neighborhood Leaders for Today*. He now teaches other NLT attendees how to effectively use Parliamentary Procedure. Rod resides in **Military Park (NW 36/NW 30/Blackwelder/Classen/Penn)** and is a computer programmer and Web developer at the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

“It was my involvement in a neighborhood association that led me to want to learn more about parliamentary procedure. I found the subject fascinating and began to study it in earnest and eventually became a Professional Registered Parliamentarian and member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, as well as a member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians.”



**Harry Meister**



**Lyle Henry**



**Cory Williams**



**Rod Davidson**

# Don't Dump! Protect Your Creek

"Curbs to Creeks" is a volunteer project to place markers on all OKC storm drains in an effort to educate the public regarding the effects of illegal dumping in storm drains.



OKC needs your help to implement this education project and heighten awareness throughout the community. If your neighborhood association, youth group, church group etc. would like to assist please contact Raymond Melton in the City of OKC Public Works Department at 297-1774.



Over 4,000 pages of information,  
[www.nacok.org](http://www.nacok.org)  
has something for everybody!

## Management Options... Which is Best for Your HOA?

Homeowner associations have a variety of options to consider when deciding how their association should be managed and by whom. HOA management falls into one of three categories: self-management by a volunteer board or by committees overseen by the board, hiring an Association-employed manager, or hiring a management company that has expertise in community association management and may represent many associations.

The question of whether it benefits an HOA to hire a manager or management company must be evaluated by each association individually but here are some things to consider:

Do you have the manpower to effectively run the association? Lawrence Benedict, President of **The Meadows at Surrey Hills HOA (Hefner/NW 103rd/Ashford/Hastings)** says "you will need to get to know everyone in the HOA and what their capabilities are to get them involved." In his volunteer run association there are numerous committees that have divided up the duties that are needed to manage it.

***The amount and types of community property that the association is responsible for is a big consideration in deciding between self or paid management.*** Associations with numerous common areas (pools, clubhouses, etc.) will have more daily maintenance issues to handle.

The size of the association doesn't necessarily dictate the need for paid management. Small associations may want a third party to handle daily issues to leave homeowners free to go on about their business. Large associations may have more community property but they also have a larger pool of residents to draw on when looking for people with the skills and desire to participate on the board or HOA committees.

**Cost.** For large HOAs with more assets, the cost of an association manager or management company may be nominal when compared with the potential return for the neighborhood. Respectively, the money that would be spent on paid management could be directed into other projects, if an HOA is self-managed.

Association managers can perform a wide range of services for an HOA. These can range from overseeing the maintenance of the landscape and community assets, billing and budget management, managing the homeowner database, enforcing covenants, and much more.

Roger Cox, HOA manager for Ideal Homes, manages 15 communities throughout the Oklahoma City area. He says, "The main thing I do is free up the time of the homeowners from managing the day to day business. I also take some of the pressure off of the president and the board when they need a bad guy to enforce the HOA's covenants and restrictions."

Whether an association is looking to hire a manager or do it themselves, Neighborhood Alliance can provide training for HOAs on officer roles, meeting management and conflict resolution.

## Heritage Hills

### Historic Home Tour

**Saturday & Sunday, September 24th & 25th • 12 – 5 PM**

(Heritage Hills NA - NW 23/NW14/Robinson/Western)

Heritage Hills 39th annual home tour will feature the Overholser Mansion and five neighborhood homes. Tickets will be \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of the tour. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the following businesses: Kamps, Brunos Home Furnishings, Full Circle Bookstore, Mockingbird Manor Antiques, Kathy's Traditional Clothing, Kathy's on Paseo, Craigs Emporium, Courtyard Antique Market, Cobblestone Gifts and Interiors, Howard Brothers Florist, Oklahoma Heritage Association, Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City Florist, and 23rd Street Antique Mall. For more information contact Lori Tyler, Publicity Chair at 831-5674.

### Mesta Festa

**Saturday, September 24th • 12:00 - 7:00 PM • Perle Mesta Park**

**18th Street between Shartel & Lee**  
(Mesta Park NA - NW23/NW16/N Walker - except 22nd/Western)

Mesta Park's 10th annual celebration to bring neighbors together and celebrate fall! All of Oklahoma City is invited to this neighborhood event. Activities will include: Live bands, handcrafted beer, wine from Oklahoma wineries, a chili cook-off, lots of food, a children's area and the Inaugural Mesta Cup Volleyball Tournament! A \$10 donation toward neighborhood beautification projects is appreciated.

Go to [www.mestaparkna.com](http://www.mestaparkna.com) for more info or call Harry 525-6375 to sign up for the Chili Cook-off or Volleyball tournament.

### *Does your neighborhood got game?*

The residents of Mesta Park are challenging their neighbors across the city to a day of sun and sand. Get your neighborhood team together and contact Harry or Dana at 525-6375 to enter the...

**Mesta Cup Volleyball Tournament @ Mesta Festa**  
Saturday, September 24th • Perle Mesta Park

## Don't know where you are?

Just enter your zip code on  
**[www.nacok.org](http://www.nacok.org)**  
and you can "Find Your Neighborhood"!

### SummerFest

**Saturday, October 1st • 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**  
**South of the main Summerfield Entrance, near 122nd & Meridian, north of Lake Hefner dam**

(Summerfield Community Association - NW122/Baxter Drive/Cantle Road/Banyan Lane/Hemlock Circle)

Summerfield addition's annual arts and crafts festival is in its third year. Berry Wheeler, show chairman, indicates that this year's show has the makings of another highly successful show with as many as 40 artists participating. Summerfield resident Jerry Russell will perform throughout the event. Food and drinks will be available.

Wheeler says, "hope to see you there and, if you are an artist, contact me now...there's plenty of time!" Phone 748-4087 or via email: [wheejo@aol.com](mailto:wheejo@aol.com)

### Venice Neighborhood Home Tour

**Sunday, October 2nd • 12:00 – 5:00 PM**  
(Venice NA - NW36/NW30/Villa/May)

Five Venice Neighbors have committed their unique homes to this year's tour. Tickets will be available at the homes on tour – proceeds will go toward neighborhood projects. For more information go to: [www.veniceneighborhood.com](http://www.veniceneighborhood.com) or you can contact Cory Williams at 942-3192 or David Thach at 946-0346.

### Lakeview NA Annual Garage Sale

**Friday – Sunday, October 7th – 9th**  
(Lakeview NA - NW Expressway/NW 63/Meridian/Ann Arbor Terrace)

Garage sales will be held neighborhood-wide. Last year's sale had over 50 homes participating for a highly successful sale! Maps to the other sales will be available at each home. For more information contact Suzann Grimes at 722-7375.



# Fall Neighborhood Events

**Clip & save this calendar of events**

For a listing of these and other neighborhood events, please visit [www.nacok.org](http://www.nacok.org)



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## 2005 Plaza District Festival

**Saturday, October 15th • 3:00 – 9:00 PM**  
(Plaza District - NW16/N Penn/N Classen)

The 2005 Plaza District Festival will take place on NW 16th Street between Indiana and Blackwelder Avenues. The Festival will open with a grand parade that will proceed from NW 16th and Classen to the Festival Stage to launch the festivities!

Afternoon activities include Clown College, children's games, activities, craft booths, a chance to explore a real fire truck, art displays, items for sale from local artists, an antique car show, and live entertainment. The evening will include great food, cold refreshments, outdoor seating and entertainment by local bands. Please join us for a great day of fun! For information please call Susan Hogan at 605-3191.

## Trolley Track Run

**October 23, 2004**  
**1 mile run begins at 8:30AM**  
**5K & 10K events begin at 9:00 AM**

Hosted by the Trolley Track Coalition, the 10th annual TROLLEY TRACK RUN is a 5K, 10K, 1 mile run/walk event following the old Linwood trolley line. Runners will have a chance to see a variety of restoration projects and experience the charm of some of the older neighborhoods of Oklahoma City. Registration is \$15 prior to race day or \$20 at the race. Register on-line at [www.trolleytrackrun](http://www.trolleytrackrun) or contact Sarah Penn at 525-5717.

## Linwood Neighborhood Home Tour

**Saturday, October 23rd • 1:00 – 5:00 PM**  
(Linwood Place - NW23/NW16/Drexel/I-44)

This beautiful neighborhood is full of historic homes and is a hidden treasure in OKC. Tickets will be available at the NW 23rd Street Antique Mall or at the homes on the day of the event. Contact Tim Weaver for more information: 949-1939.

## Gatewood Neighborhood Home Tour

**Saturday, October 29th • 1 – 7 PM;**  
**Sunday, October 30th • 2 – 6 PM**  
(Gatewood NA - NW23/NW16/Classen/Penn)

It's spooky out in Gatewood Neighborhood and they are opening their doors for their annual Halloween

Home Tour. There will be approximately eight homes and two neighborhood businesses on the tour. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at each location. Proceeds go toward neighborhood projects including Gatewood's Interurban Park Project (see page 4). Contact: Cheryl Davis 524-1928 for more information.

## Mesta Park

### Holiday Home Tour

**Saturday & Sunday, December 3rd & 4th • Saturday will be an evening candlelight tour, Sunday tours will be in the afternoon**  
(Mesta Park NA - NW23/NW16/N Walker - except 22nd/Western)

This year's home tour will include several historic homes all dressed-up for the holidays and two units of OKC's newest high-rise condominium community, the Classen Tower. There will be a trolley to shuttle attendees around the neighborhood. Tickets will be \$10 in advance and \$12 on the day of the event. For more information contact Jennifer at 226-0991 or [www.mestaparkna.com](http://www.mestaparkna.com).

## "Love Thy Neighborhood"

Attorneys Matthew Winton and Ray Vaughn host a weekly radio show for listeners to call in and get answers to their legal questions.

Topics will vary but generally include Homeowner Association issues, Estate Planning, and conflict resolution techniques – to name a few.

Listen to this program on KTOK 1000 AM Sundays from 2:00 - 3:00 PM. Call in your questions: 848-1000 or by cellular phone \*1000

CLIP & SAVE

# Your Whole Neighborhood is Invited to Beautification Station!

*This free come-and-go event is a one-stop shop for neighborhood beautification and safety projects. Over 30 vendors will be available to show you how they and their companies can help you improve the quality, safety and appearance of your neighborhood. Whether you are looking for information on writing grants, starting crime watch, organizing your neighborhood, starting a beautification project, or all of the above, this event will give you lots of ideas and show you that there is help available to make your dreams a reality. Plan to join us on Thursday, September 29th at the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center, see below for more details...*



...A Tool Kit for Building Better Neighborhoods

## Event Sponsors:



OKC Beautiful



THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Calling all neighborhood organizations and anyone who wants to learn ways to improve their community!

A fun and informative one-stop-shop for neighborhood beautification, improvement, safety projects, and local resources. Featuring informative guest speakers, over 30 vendors, door prizes and much more!

**Thursday, September 29th**

**5:30 to 8:30 PM**

**Will Rogers Garden Exhibit Center  
Will Rogers Park**

**SW Corner of Grand Boulevard & NW 36**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## In-Kind Sponsors

AgriLawn

Daffodil Hill Gardens & Gallery

George Geissler, Forester, Oklahoma Forestry Service

TLC Florist & Greenhouses

Wilshire Garden Market

Cindy Mason, Graphic Artist

D. Brian Ward, Graphic Artist

For more information call OKC Beautiful at 525-8822 or Neighborhood Alliance at 528-6322

*Made possible through a grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation*

# Possibilities

A word that holds so many options, so much promise. Our community is ripe with possibilities and filled with people with unknown talents and abilities. There is a myriad of resources that could be pooled to bring the community together to accomplish anything. Creating community and encouraging participation is the key to unlocking the possibilities of our neighborhoods, schools and business districts.



***How do we tap into these resources?  
That is where Camp Possibilities comes in.***

Camp Possibilities is a nine month program that brings together diverse groups of people and provides them with training, mentoring and technical assistance to accomplish projects that the participants feel are needed in their communities. As a training program, Camp Possibilities creates an environment that encourages new ideas, the opportunity to implement those ideas and the technical support to insure the success of the projects. After Camp, Possibilities Inc. continues to offer mentoring to graduates who take what they have learned and put it into action in their own communities.

Anyone interested in working with people to make changes in their community, including neighborhood or home owner association officers, would benefit from this unique training. They will learn how to use the "Participatory Method" of group management,

an effective tool in leading neighborhood meetings. Sessions will provide tools for brainstorming, encouraging everyone to participate, moving from ideas to action and dealing with conflict in groups all taught in a hands-on, fun environment. You will also gain practical experience in working with groups, planning in groups and completing community projects.

Camp Possibilities is hosted by Possibilities Inc., a non-profit organization that began in Oklahoma City in 1996 with the mission "to strengthen the ability of people to work together for community change." Since its inception, Possibilities Inc. has worked with citizens in neighborhoods, schools and business districts throughout the Oklahoma City area, encouraging and assisting them in their efforts to get people working together and affect positive change in their communities.



Neighborhood Alliance and Possibilities Inc. work closely with each other, sharing ideas and helping neighborhoods to become the best that they can be. Many neighborhood people attend both Camp Possibilities and the *Neighborhood Leaders for Today* training offered by Neighborhood Alliance. These training programs compliment each other and serve to expand and enhance the meeting and organizing skills of all participants.

***Possibilities Camp VI will begin on September 30th. If you would like to learn more about Camp Possibilities contact Shannon at 417-8814 or join past campers and Possibilities staff at their free People's Network dinner held on the third Monday of each month, 6-7:30 pm at 621 NW 20th Street.***

# OSU-OKC Upward Bound

My name is LaPorchea Sanders. I am a seventeen year old high school student. I have been in Upward Bound for two years and it's a wonderful experience for someone my age. Upward Bound is part of the Trio Program, which is an Educational Opportunity for Low- Income and Disabled Americans and it's for all races and all ethnic backgrounds.



*LaPorchea Sanders (left) and Jasmine Gordon, Upward Bound Summer 2005 Interns at Neighborhood Alliance.*

Upward Bound has offered me an intern job for the summer at Neighborhood Alliance and this is my second summer working there. I do all types of things around the office: I answer phones and type documents and I have fun meeting new people and hearing about new things about neighborhoods.

*If you would like to know more about Upward Bound, or how to enroll, you can contact Mr. Benny Boykin (director of the program) at 405-945-3243 or you can contact Mrs. Mitzi Berousek (office manager) at 405-945-8623.*

## There's Always A Need for Help!

Looking for a little bit more to do? Then look no further! If you would like to volunteer at the Neighborhood Alliance office, please contact Deborah at 528-6322.

Helping with mailings, lawn care, filing, copying and answering phones are just a few of the many tasks for which we need help.



This seven week course is a comprehensive training program that equips neighborhood leaders with the tools to create productive organizations and will be held in March 2006.

Training topics include:

- Organizing a Neighborhood Association
- Accessing City Hall
- Crime Prevention Tools for Neighborhoods
- Grant Writing and Beautification Projects
- Officer Roles, Parliamentary Procedure
- Membership Drives
- And much more

Each neighborhood is encouraged to send a representative through this unique leadership institute.

It's not too early – so select your representative now. Call Neighborhood Alliance at 528-6322 for an enrollment packet.



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## 2005 - 2006 Board of Directors

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[www.nacok.org](http://www.nacok.org)  
is here!  
Log on today!

The Neighborhood Alliance  
is located at 1236 NW 36th  
Street (the southeast corner  
of 36th and NW Classen).



1236 NW 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

## Upcoming Events

### Beautification Station

Thursday, September 29, 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Will Rogers Exhibition Center, Will Rogers Park • SW corner of Grand Blvd. & NW 36th St.

This come-and-go event is co-sponsored by Neighborhood Alliance, OKC Beautiful, Oklahoma City Community Foundation and the City of OKC. A one-stop shop for neighborhood beautification and safety projects, there will be over 30 vendors, guest lecturers, free goodies and lots more packed into this informative evening. Invite the whole neighborhood! See page 13 for more details, or call 528-6322.

### All About Newsletters

Tuesday October 18th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

First Christian Church • 3700 N Walker • NE corner of N Walker and NW 36th

Join us for an evening filled with information on creating and distributing newsletters. Neighborhoods with successful newsletters will share their insight and experience. Topics covered will include ideas for content, design and using your newsletter as a fundraising tool. Also: how to print your newsletter for free and how to use Neighborhood Alliance's bulk mail account to reduce your mailing costs.

Call 528-6322 to reserve your spot today!