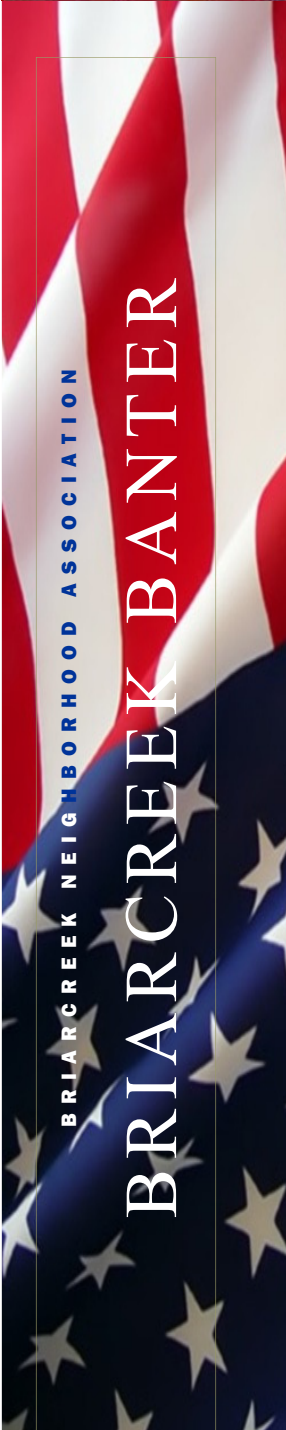


Message from the President



Dan Orza • BNA President

I'm bursting with pride at the fantastic job done by the BNA Board members, Landscape Committee members and all the dedicated neighborhood volunteers who worked on the Briar-creek Beautification Project. By now I'm sure you've all noticed that our neighborhood perimeter wall along Rockwell has crepe myrtles, shrubs and pampas grasses planted to beautify our neighborhood. As residents of Briar-creek we can all say "thank you" to everyone who worked so hard on this project over the past year or two.

To Carolyn Sims and the landscape committee members who did the paperwork and worked hard to get the grant, to Susan Brown who worked with the city and the various utilities to get permits and permission to plant and to those who are now volunteering their time to water - to keep these plants alive. Each step of this project is critical.

You would think it was an easy job - to just get stuff planted. Well I'm here to tell you that it was not easy because the right-of-way along Rockwell hosts some major distribution main lines: ONG has a major gas distribution main, Oklahoma City has a water distribution mainline as well as AT&T telephone lines, Cox fiber-optic cables and other utilities that all required special permission.

We need volunteers to help water until the new plantings get established.

Lots of neighborhoods are in contention to get these grant funds so getting the money for our neighborhood was a huge accomplishment. Then getting permission from ONG and the City to plant, once we obtained the funds, was a major undertaking.

So again, thank you to everyone who worked so hard. I'm a very proud President to have such fantastic and dedicated committee members.

But, we are not finished yet.

The new plantings must be watered every 4-5 days. They will be hardy and heat tolerant once they are established. But right now we have to water them to ensure their survival. **We need your help.** We are asking for volunteers to help water until the new plantings become established. Each plant has a 15 gallon GATOR-BAG that is filled weekly. The GATOR-BAG drips water around the plant, giving a deep watering at the roots of the plants and keeping the soil moist.

We greatly appreciate our neighbors on Rockwell Terrace who are watering and/or pushing their hoses under the fence so that we can fill gator-bags. These great neighbors are:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Mathai, Rod and Mary Eskridge, Mr. and Mrs. Culberson and their son, Quinton, *(who has been a great help)*.

Right now our watering

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Message from the President (continued...)

teams consist of Susie and Gary Brown, Dan and Bert Orza and Rod Eskridge.

With record heat this summer we need teams of volunteers to help water. With sufficient volunteers we can fill all the bags in a little more than an hour. **If you can help with the watering. Please contact me. If we all work together, it will not be such a burden on any one person - so please contact me and volunteer to help.**

May 16th, we had our annual neighborhood clean-up day as part of the OKC's Saturday Morning Sweeps project. I rode throughout the neighborhood in my four-wheeler helping folks out by picking up yard trimmings. We had volunteer teams that worked in the entrance beds and a team that mowed, edged, trimmed shrubs neglected/vacant homes (*so they wouldn't drag down the look of the neighborhood*). With all this work, it was no surprise that we filled a huge city dumpster!

Working together is how we keep our neighborhood beautiful.

In that spirit, I say thank you to ...

- Sheila Moore and OKC Waste Management for their help and their dumpster;
- The mowing team: Chris Hulen, Keegan and Zachary Moore, Mike Yardley and Joyce Heidelberg;
- The entrance bed team: Susie and Gary Brown, Gabrielle and Ali Moore, Ed and Wanda Reynolds, Jana and Robert Ross, and Cliff Walton;
- The residents who used this opportunity to clean up their yards; and
- to **CREST FOODS & ALL AMERICAN PIZZA** for feeding us all day.

We are blessed with good neighbors and local businesses who care.

Check out all the pictures from the May cleanup day on page four and on the Briarcreek website.

Also, on page four are pictures of Yard of the Month winners for May and June. It is **VERY** difficult selecting a winner. But, isn't that a great tribute to our neighborhood!

A special thank you to neighbor, Susan Grandle, for her generous donation to the neighborhood. We need funding for lighting the entrance signs and to install a meter and water hydrant on Rockwell to make watering the new landscape easier.

We are grateful that she thought of the neighborhood and how she could help. Our neighborhood dues are a meager \$50 as year, which barely covers our mowing and maintenance costs. We definitely appreciate any additional funds.

Briarcreek is a beautiful place to live. Let's all try to keep it that way by driving slowly, keeping our yards neat and pretty, watching out for suspicious activities in the neighborhood, and reaching out to help a neighbor if needed.



Please remember to ...

- *Stash your Big Blue trash cans out of sight.*
- *Don't let them sit by the curb for days - remove them from the curb as soon as possible on Monday.*
- *Don't park them curbside before Sunday evening.*
- *Also - please remember to store them out of sight - behind a gate or fence, in the garage or in the back yard;*

2009 BNA Board

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Committee Chairs

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Looking for a volunteer...

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COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Joyce Heidelberg • 603-4349
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NEWSLETTER

Susie Brown • 728-1084
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News from the Neighborhood

**By Kelli Moore •
Welcoming Committee Chair**

We welcome back to the neighborhood, John Crafton. John and his beautiful, two-year old daughter, Eden, have just moved in to the house at 9609 Briarcreek Drive. John's parents live on Rockwell Terrace and some of you may remember him. He mowed lawns with his trusty companion - Bismark (*a beautiful Boxer*). He lost Bismark last year, but has a new puppy Boxer named Bella. John graduated from Bethany High School where he played baseball and was the high school quarterback. He is currently the Director of Transportation for Putnam City Schools.

John is excited to finally get a house in Briarcreek - which has always been his neighborhood of choice.

~

Welcome home to the Crafton's youngest son, Kyle, who has returned from Saudi Arabia. He is now in training at Altus Air Force Base to become an instructor in the Air Guard.

~

Welcome new neighbors, Mark and Rebecca Amrs and their four children. They recently purchased the house at 7028 Basswood Canyon Road. Mark is a web site developer and Rebecca is home schooling their four children.

~

Our deepest condolences to Peggy

(and Cliff) Walton at the passing of Peggy's father.

~

Congratulations, mixed with prayers, for Jana and Robert Ross and their new grandbaby, Robert Andrew Ross. Robert decided to make a dramatic entrance a few weeks early, on June 28th. He weighs 2 lbs, 12 ozs. He is a fighter, but is having a tough time right now. Our prayers are that he is out of the neonatal intensive care unit and home soon.

~

If you have any information for the neighborhood news section of the newsletter, please call or email me.

News from the Compliance Committee

**By Joyce Heidelberger •
Compliance Committee Chair**

The compliance committee has been busy working on many issues in the neighborhood - one is basic home care. May was very wet and rainy and June was hot and steamy. Many people had a hard time finding a dry weekend to mow in May and a cool morning to mow in June. We try to understand special circumstances, but give a gentle nudge when necessary to remind everyone to keep their property looking nice and maintained.

Some may wonder if this issue of tidy homes, nice lawns, and a well maintained neighborhood is a compliance committee - that there are bigger issues than mowing.

However, it IS important for each of us to keep our homes and surroundings maintained. Studies in the **Journal Science** support the theory that signs of disorder (litter, homes in

disrepair, unkempt yards), increase vandalism and crime rates. Visitors to those neighborhoods are more likely to throw out trash and damage property. It can create a domino affect with homes near them also falling into disrepair - affecting property values for the entire neighborhood.

During the annual spring cleanup day in May, the compliance committee and volunteers focused on vacant homes. We had tried taking action against the banks and owners of these vacated and overgrown properties - working through the city's action line and other entities, but could not get timely results. So with a team of neighborhood volunteers, we trimmed shrubs, removed dead trees and mowed overgrown lawns.

A big **Thank You** to Chris Hulen, Zachary and Keegan Moore, Mike Yardley, Cliff Walton, Dan Orza,



and all the volunteers who helped clean up these properties!

We all need to work together to keep our properties up and to keep vacant homes in decent shape until the banks can get them

processed and re-sold. If you live next to one of these properties, please mow when you mow your own lawn.

We have a beautiful neighborhood with wonderful, caring neighbors and most of the homes are well-maintained.

Many times a health issue or personal injury may cause a neighbor to be unable to take care of their property. If you are experiencing those problems, please let me know. We have a team of volunteers who may be able to help until you can get back on your feet again.

Pictures from the Neighborhood Cleanup Day



Robert Ross, Chris Hulen, Keegan-Zachary Moore & Dan Orza hauling debris to dumpster.



Lunch break. (pictured: Jana Ross, Ed Reynolds, Ali Moore, Joyce Heidelberger, Gabrielle Moore, Sheila (OKC), Kelli Moore, Zachary Moore, Keegan Moore, Mike Yardley, Bert Orza, Susie Brown



Ed Reynolds, Jana Ross & Wanda Reynolds - entrance bed clean-up.



Susie Brown, Cliff Walton, Renaté Fairweather, Ali & Gabrielle Moore – entrance bed clean-up.



Chris Hulen smashing down the last load of debris.

Yard of the Month Winners for May and June

These are the winners of Yard of the Month for May and June. The runner-up photos are on the Briar-creek web-site.

If you would like to submit a yard for this award, call or email Dan Orza.



Chesley & Joy Thomas ~ 9700 Lakeland Terrace



KARL & CAROLYN SCHAEFER ~ 6601 NW 95th

We're on the web!
<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/okc/briarcreek>