

The Park News

Volume 4, Issue 1

February 2012

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The Park News would like to thank our February sponsor:

GreenLeaf Lawn, LLC

Gardening Tips for Spring

If you are considering planting a vegetable garden this spring, here are a few tips from the OSU "Oklahoma Garden Planning Guide."

The key to a successful vegetable garden is planning. Choose a area that gets full or near full sun all day and has well drained, fertile soil. If you don't have an area with good soil, consider a raised vegetable bed.

Prevent common gardening problems by following these tips:

- Sample soil and have it tested every three to four years.
- Apply fertilizers in the recommended manner and amount.
- Make use of organic materials such as compost where available.
- Use recommended varieties.

- Thin plants when small.
- Use mulches to conserve moisture, control weeds, and reduce fruit rots.
- Avoid excessive walking and working in the garden when foliage and soil are wet.
- Examine the garden often to keep ahead of potential problems.
- Keep the garden free of weeds, insects, and diseases.
- Wash and clean tools and sprayers after use.
- Rotate specific crop family locations each year to avoid insect and disease buildup.
- When possible, harvest vegetables during the cool hours of the day.

To help ensure gardening success this spring and summer, avoid these common mistakes.

- Planting too closely, which prevents walking or working in the garden.

- Placing fertilizer directly in contact with plant roots or seeds.
- Cultivating deeply, resulting in injury to plant roots.
- Depending on varieties not recommended for your area; however, do try new releases.
- Watering frequently or excessively so that the soil is always wet and soggy.
- Allowing weeds to grow large before elimination.
- Applying chemicals or pesticides in a haphazard manner without reading label directions or proper mixing.
- Using chemicals not specifically recommended for garden crops.
- Storing leftover diluted spray.

For more helpful fact sheets visit the OSU Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service website at <http://osufacts.okstate.edu>.



GREENLEAF LAWN LLC

918.640.6405

GreenLeafTulsa.com

Weekly Lawn Maintenance \$25 per week
Weed Control and Fertilization Treatments, \$35 per treatment (6 per year)

For Larger and Corner Lots
Weekly Lawn Maintenance \$35 per week
Weed Control and Fertilization Treatments, \$45 per treatment (6 per year)

Weekly Lawn Maintenance includes mowing, edging, weedeating and blowing off sidewalks and patios.

Additional Services:

- hedge trimming
- leaf removal
- snow removal
- christmas light installation & removal
- sod installation
- aerating & overseeding
- seasonal flowerbeds & bed work

Message from the Board

The new HOA board members had our first meeting of the year on January 23rd and things are getting off to a good start. We enjoyed getting to know each other and working with the new management company.

The annual homeowners meeting will be held on Monday, March 26th, 2012. The HOA by-laws can be modified as of 2013 (ten years after they were enacted). At the meeting we would like to open the discussion on possible amendments to our by-laws and we would like the homeowners to give us suggestions. All homeowners are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held at Oliver Middle School at 7:00 pm.

The date for the annual Spring Garage Sale has been set for Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 8:00 am. To participate in the garage sale, just have your items ready and open your garage at 8:00 am on the day of the sale. We will post a banner to advertise the sale at the park entrance the week before the sale. There tends to be quiet a bit of traffic and shoppers on garage sale days. About 25 homes participated in the last sale and it was definitely a success.

Our Annual HOA Picnic this year it will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012. The location is still to be determined. Watch the newsletter and our Facebook page for updates.

Remember as warmer weather approaches more children will be playing outside. Please drive safely and slowly through the neighborhood and watch out for children playing near the street or riding their bikes, scooters and skateboards.

Board Officers

President: Georgianna Iversen

Vice President: Bud Heck

Secretary: Camille Diaz

Treasurer: Marianna Moore

Annual Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2012

Oliver Middle School

7:00 pm

Next Board Meeting

Open to All Residents

Monday, April 9, 2012

4511 S. Narcissus Avenue

Broken Arrow, OK 74011

6:00 pm

Welcome New Neighbors

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Park on Florence neighbors:

Thomas & Lisa Towry	W. Vicksburg Street
Mathan Ingram	S. Narcissus Avenue
Maurice L. & Judith Neese	W. Vicksburg Street
Johnny Squires	W. Charleston Place
Walter & Rebecca Dinkins	W. Durham Court
Stephanie Pinkerton	S. Narcissus Avenue

We are glad to have you!

The Park Kitchen: Stuffed Mushrooms

After having stuffed mushrooms at a friend's house our editor just had to figure out how to make more. By tweaking a recipe from Allrecipes.com she came up with these gems.

- 12 whole fresh mushrooms
- 2 strips bacon, cooked and chopped
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray a baking sheet (with an edge) with cooking spray. Clean mushrooms. Carefully break off stems. Chop stems extremely fine, discarding tough end of stems.

Heat butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and chopped mushroom stems. Fry until any moisture has disappeared, taking care not to burn garlic. Set aside to cool.

In a large bowl mix cream cheese, Parmesan cheese, onion powder, black pepper, and cayenne pepper. Mixture should be very thick. When garlic and mushroom mixture is no longer hot, add it and the bacon to the cream cheese mixture. Using a little spoon, fill each mushroom cap with a generous amount of stuffing. Arrange the mushroom caps on the baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes or until the mushrooms are hot and liquid starts to form under caps.

Spring Garage Sale

The Park on Florence will have its semi-annual neighborhood garage sale on Saturday, April 14th 2011 at 8:00 am. The "Garage Sale" banner will be put up on 111th the Monday before to help advertise. There is no central meeting place for the garage sale. Each homeowner hosts their own sale at their own garage. If you would like to participate just have your items ready and open your garage at 8:00 am. If you have any questions please email board@theparkonflorence.org.

Park on Florence
Spring Garage Sale
Saturday, April 14th
8:00 am

Pets of the Month: Belle and Obie



Judy Neese's dogs, Belle and Obie.

This month we have two Pets of the Month, Belle and Obie. Park on Florence homeowner Judy Neese wrote in to tell us about her adorable dogs...

"Belle, 7 and Obie, 6, are Bichon Frises. Belle was purchased through a breeder after my 11 yr search for just the right dog. As it has turned out, it was a great choice. Obie was born a month after his mother was rescued by

Small Paws Rescue from a puppy mill. We got each dog when they were 10 weeks old.

"Belle was named because of her little dance she did when I first saw her. It reminded me of the Belle of the Ball. So she was named Belle. Obie was named Beau but he never responded to the name. I affectionately called him my Okie Beau since he was born in Oklahoma. The O and B from each name was taken and he was called Obie and when he finally came when called the name stuck.

"Belle and Obie are certified therapy dogs through Therapy Dogs International and have been visiting institutions for 6 and 5 years respectively. I was going to physical therapy when we got Belle. The therapists would 'steal' Belle away to visit other patients. She was a natural so the training began. When she was 14 mo old, she got her certification. Obie followed suit about a year later even though he is nervous around people he doesn't know who aren't sick or infirm.

"Belle works very hard as a therapy dog but 2 years ago she also became my medical alert dog. She had been alerting to my migraines and asthma at home but I had no need to take her out into public until after the third time I had blocked traffic due to my severe migraines. A visit to the doctor, and I was told not to drive without a licensed driver with me. Arrangements were made to a service dog trainer She worked with Belle and let me know that because of all Belle's previous training and her socialization as a therapy dog, she was ready to go as my medical alert dog. Now I can have her with me and not have to rely on a human in the car with me. She and I were very bonded before but now we are nearly inseparable.

"After moving to Broken Arrow, Belle and Obie are stepping back from their weekly visits to the hospital and nursing home. We will now focus on a Reading Dog Program in the schools or library. We look forward to meeting many of you on our not so frequent walks."

Thank you Walmart!

The family of each "Pet of the Month" is awarded a \$10.00 Walmart gift card from our neighborhood Walmart. If you would like your pet to be considered for next month's "Pet of the Month" contact us at newsletter@theparkonflorence.org.

"My Walmart, My Pet Shop, My Pet"

BAPS News: Progress All Around

This winter Broken Arrow Public Schools have experienced success on many fronts including construction, energy efficiency and art. Here are some of the highlights.

*Dates to Remember
No School*

*- February 20
President's Day*

*- March 19-23
Spring Break*

Four Broken Arrow Schools Achieve Great Expectations Model School Status

Four Broken Arrow elementary schools recently achieved the prestigious honor of being named a Great Expectations Model School. Each school's principal, faculty, and staff worked diligently to accomplish this impressive goal, and their hard work has paid off as Arrowhead, Country Lane Primary, Country Lane Intermediate, and Liberty Elementary have been named 2011-2012 Great Expectations Model Schools.

BAPS Rewarded for Energy Efficiency

Broken Arrow Public Schools (BAPS) received an incentive check for \$16,835.33 from Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) for participation in PSO's Smart Schools Program.

Broken Arrow Public Schools earned its incentive for energy efficient lighting retrofits at two schools: Leisure Park Elementary and Spring Creek Elementary. The new lighting will conserve an estimated 133,597 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year and is expected to reduce Broken Arrow School's annual electric bill by approximately \$8,000.

Rachel's Challenge Picking Up Speed Across the District

Just months after her story was first told within the district, the impact of Rachel Scott can be seen at school sites throughout Broken Arrow.

During the week of February 6th, Broken Arrow's middle school, intermediate, Margaret Hudson Program, Alternative Academy, and senior high school FOR (Friends of Rachel) Clubs will collaborate to produce Rachel's Challenge inspired activities for the elementary students. The theme for the week is "Speak with Kindness: Pass it On!" It will be a fun-filled week of exciting assem-

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Moms & Tots Gym Time and Community Programs

During cold, dreary winter days – moms are invited to bring kids indoors for a place to run, ride & play.

The City of Broken Arrow's Central Park Community Center will be hosting an indoor play day for moms and tots. Ages 18 months to 4 yrs can bring their Big Wheels, trykes, or other plastic riding toys and push toys and enjoy the warmth inside where an entire gymnasium will be set aside for just them.

Don't let the weather keep the kids from getting some exercise and expending energy.

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:30 – 11:30 am a gym will be set aside for exclusive use by the kids.

Each parent/adult will need to register for a Broken Arrow Parks ID card to use the facility. There is no charge for the card and it can be issued when you arrive to play.

Sorry, but scooters, skate boards, shoes with wheels or other 'wheeled' items that are made of hard wheels are not allowed on the wooden gym floors. Staff will be determine what is appropriate for use on the gym floor.

To register call or come by the Central Park Community Center between 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, Monday – Friday. Program will begin Tuesday January 24 and continue until March 15, 2012.

OTHER PROGRAMS AT CENTRAL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER:

- Line Dancing – Mondays @ 1:30 pm – NO FEE – geared for over 55 but everyone is welcome.
- Women's volleyball league – Wednesday @ 9 am – 15.00 per session – next session starts Feb 29th.
- Open Volleyball Play – Wednesday @ 6:00 pm, NO FEE
- Open Basketball Play – Wednesday @ 6:00 pm, NO FEE
- Zumba Fitness – Tuesday – Thursday @ 6:00 pm - \$5.00 drop in - \$30 for 8 classes.
- Yoga – morning and evening classes – call for more information
- Boot Camp – morning and evening classes – call for more information.

CONTACT CENTRAL PARK COMMUNITY CENTER: 918-259-8437 – www.brokenarrowok.gov/parks

Construction on Elm through August 2012

The City will begin a street widening project on Elm Pl. from Kenosha to Houston beginning Tuesday, January 3rd. Contractors with Tri-Star Construction will begin construction to widen the roadway from four to five lanes that will include a designated left turn lane, curbs and storm drainage improvements.

This project will result in the reduction of current travel lanes from four to only one lane per direction including a designated left turn lane. There will be a speed reduction of 25 mph in the construction zone. There may be turning restrictions imposed in the construction area as well as temporary road closures throughout the duration of construction that should be completed in late August of 2012.

As one of Broken Arrow's major arterial streets, Elm Pl. carries a high volume of traffic at more than 25,000 vehicles per day on this section of road. Due to the large amount of traffic on Elm Pl., particularly during peak periods of travel, drivers are warned to expect additional congestion and delays. Motorists are urged to use alternate routes to avoid Elm Pl. during this construction. All drivers should plan on additional time for their travels due to expected delays not only on Elm Pl., but on other arterials in Broken Arrow due to anticipated increase in traffic volume on alternate streets.

Contact information for the contractor will be available through PD Communications.

Sergeant Ed Ferguson
Broken Arrow Traffic Specialist Unit
2302 South First Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 451-8200 ext 8772
(918) 451-0979 FAX

February 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Superbowl Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Leap Day			

March 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Read Across America Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19 Spring Break Begins	20 First Day of Spring	21	22	23	24
25	26 7:00 pm HOA Annual Meeting	27	28	29	30	31

(Continued from page 3)

blies and traveling puppet shows, all designed to teach the youngest BA students to speak with kindness.

Broken Arrow Schools Hosts Traveling Art Exhibits

Over the next two months, eight Broken Arrow schools will display two Teacher's Discovery Traveling Exhibits. These traveling exhibits will introduce students to several influential pieces of international art they might not otherwise have the chance to view.

The first exhibit celebrates French art, language, culture and history as depicted in the fascinating paintings of Georges Seurat. The second exhibit features several of the spectacular murals of Diego Rivera - pieces considered to be one of Mexico's national treasures.

For more visit the BAPS website at www.baschools.org.

Casino Updates

For updates on the proposed Red Clay Casino visit the City of Broken Arrow website at www.brokenarrowok.gov and click on "Casino Update" on the right hand side.

To sign the petition against the casino or get involved with the opposition, visit www.nocasinoba.com.

HOA Dues are Due

As of January 1, 2012 homeowners dues were due. The amount is \$100 and checks should be made payable to Park on Florence HOA. Dues are considered late after February 29, 2012, so if you haven't sent in your dues send them now to avoid a 10% late fee.

Mailing Address:

Park on Florence HOA
PO Box 702
Broken Arrow, OK 74013-0702

Contact Information

If you would like to place an ad, sponsor an issue, submit an article or suggestion please contact the Editor, Camille Diaz at newsletter@theparkonflorence.org.

If you live in the Park on Florence and you have a baby announcement or upcoming event for your school, club or other community organization email us and we'll announce it in the next newsletter free of charge (if space is available). Business ads are free for youth that live in the Park.

Contributors: Camille Diaz, Georgianna Iversen, Judy Neese, Bud Heck, Kathy Heck

Sponsor: GreenLeaf Lawn, LLC

April 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5	6 Good Friday No Trash Pick Up	7
8 Easter	9	10	11	12	13	14 8:00 am HOA Spring Garage Sale
15	16 Emancipation Day (Washington D.C.)	17 Tax Day	18	19	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					