



# Harvest Hills South Neighborhood News

May/June 2011



Our neighborhood garage sale dates are **Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21.**

We're (slowly) upgrading our neighborhood website! Visit us (URL is above the newsletter title) and tell us what you think!

## HHSNA Officers

### President

vacant

### First Vice-President

**Dave Allan**  
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### Second Vice-President

**Corky Bishop**  
[corky3@cox.net](mailto:corky3@cox.net)

### Secretary

**Dot Hensley**  
[dot\\_hensley@yahoo.com](mailto:dot_hensley@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

**Felicia Woolard**  
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### Block Captain Chair

**Sandy Payne**  
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### Newsletter Editor

**Linda Weston**  
[pindy@cox.net](mailto:pindy@cox.net)

### Welcoming Co-Chairs

**Linda Allan**  
[lalla0946@cox.net](mailto:lalla0946@cox.net)  
**Sue and Arlen Frederick**  
[ahfpaint@cox.net](mailto:ahfpaint@cox.net)

## This Issue: "Designed to Sell"

*Make the most of our neighborhood garage sale weekend*



It's that time of year again: time for the big Harvest Hills South neighborhood garage sale! This year's sale weekend is Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21.

Whether you plan to host a garage sale or shop through the neighborhood, this issue offers you tips to make the most of this event.

### Garage Sale Permit

The most important thing you must do is obtain a permit from the city.

You can hold two garage sales a year. The city no longer requires they be spaced at least six months apart, so it's not a problem if you've already had one this year and want to hold another during our neigh-

borhood garage sale weekend.

Garage sale permits are \$7. To obtain one:

- Visit the License Division, 420 West Main Street, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Download a permit application from [http://www.okc.gov/finance/finance\\_library/pdfs/GarageSalePermit.pdf](http://www.okc.gov/finance/finance_library/pdfs/GarageSalePermit.pdf), and mail it to the address on the form.
- Call the License Division at 297-2606 for a "paperless permit"—instead of a paper form, you get a permit number over the phone to post at your sale.

If your utility account is in

good standing, the city will just add the \$7 permit fee to your next bill.

A single permit is good for three consecutive days. The sale must be held at the address listed on it, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The maximum fine for conducting a sale without a license is \$200 plus costs.

### Advertising



The neighborhood association helps with advertising by:

- Hanging banners at our entrances
- Running ads Thursday and Friday with Craigs-list.org and with the Oklahoman

*(Continued on page 2)*



**Next neighborhood meeting:**

**Thursday, May 12, 2011**

**7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**Northridge Elementary School cafeteria**



In addition to regular business, we will elect a board president and block captain chairperson at this meeting. Our guest speaker will be Kelly Brookshire from TRIAD-Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department, who will share tips for protecting yourself and your identity.

# Neighborhood Garage Sale Weekend


(Continued from page 1)

- Announcing the sale on our website
- Oklahoma City's garage sale permit website, [http://www.okc.gov/services/garage\\_sale/GarageSalePermits/GarageSales.aspx](http://www.okc.gov/services/garage_sale/GarageSalePermits/GarageSales.aspx), allows people to search for garage sales, and has some great features that will make it easy for people to find you!

You may also choose to post signs of your own, but be sure to follow these important guidelines:

- Garage sale signs and other service signs are not allowed on utility poles, traffic sign poles, medians or any public right-of-way.
- You can put one sign, no larger than 12 square feet, in front of your house.

## What to Sell

 Garage sales are meant for selling personal property you no longer need or want. You are not permitted to sell:

- Motor vehicles
- New merchandise
- Consignment items
- Resale items

## Selling Tips



Here are some tips to make your garage sale successful and as stress-free as possible!

- A group sale is better than selling alone—more stuff draws more traffic—so consider having a sale together with your neighbors.
- Do as much preparation the night before as you can, so you don't have to rush around the morning of the sale.
- Plan your sale layout with customers in mind; use marketing tricks to make your sale items more appealing.
- Label things well.
- Price things carefully and clearly.
- Be willing to bargain, but be less flexible at the start.

- Have plenty of small bills and coins on hand to make change.
- Don't devalue your items by criticizing or bad-mouthing them.
- Keep a ledger. Jot down each item and its sale price.
- Have bags or boxes handy to help buyers haul away their goodies.
- Keep your money on you at all times—do not use a cash box unless someone will be attending it at all times.

## Buying Tips



To take best advantage of all the sales in our neighborhood, check out these ideas:

- Respect garage sale hours. Don't rush the sellers in the morning by arriving early and trying to initiate a pre-sale.
- Plan your route. You'll use less gasoline, and less time driving means more time to shop! (OKC's permit site or an

online mapping site are great resources.)

- Don't block mailboxes or other people's drive-ways when you park.
- Be a considerate browser. Unless it's a rummage bin, keep the displays neat by putting things back neatly.
- If you want to negotiate, make a reasonable offer.
- Carry plenty of small bills to make your purchases; please don't buy a \$.50 item with a \$20 bill!
- Don't criticize or bad-mouth a seller's items—it's rude, and it won't get you a better deal.
- Carry bags or boxes with you to haul away your goodies.

Nearby neighborhoods, such as Rambling Acres, are planning their neighborhood garage sales the same weekend, so we'll likely have lots of shoppers in the area. Whether you will be selling or shopping, we hope you have a fun and successful time!

Here is my 2011 annual membership payment of \$30.00 to the HHSNA. (Make checks payable to HHSNA.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_


Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL PAYMENTS TO:

Harvest Hills South Neighborhood Association  
 ATTN: Corky Bishop  
 P.O. Box 721804  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73172-1804

## Vandalism

 Unfortunately, we've had some vandalism in the neighborhood recently: two pickup trucks were put up on (stolen) blocks, their wheels stolen, and the window of one truck was broken.

We were informed that wheels were also stolen from Smicklas Chevrolet—at the front of the lot, under the floodlights. So we want to remind you to:

- Keep your vehicle(s) in the garage, if at all possible.
- If you must leave your vehicle in your driveway, lock all its doors!
- Remove valuables from your car. If you can't remove it, conceal it as best you can.
- Keep the entry door from the garage into your house locked.

Most important, call 911 to report any incidents or suspicious activity. The more information the police receive, the more able they are to identify patterns or suspects.

We need to be each other's eyes and ears. Let's look out for one another—help keep our property and each other safe!



Thank you to Ray Robins and Payne Exploration for printing our neighborhood association newsletter!


## Mowing



The HHSNA board awarded a mowing contract for this season to Azteca Lawns. Azteca will take care of mowing, weedeating, and edging the common property at our three entrances.

We have also requested bids for maintenance of the trees in the common property. These mature trees need to be both shaped and thinned.

Neither contract includes the easements along Wilshire Boulevard. If you live along Wilshire, you are responsible for mowing and tree trimming between your fence and the street.



**With "tornado season" upon us, don't forget to register your storm shelter with the city. Call the Action Center at 297-2535, or register online at <http://www.okc.gov/action/StormShelter/Welcome.aspx>.**

## Membership Drive Update



Thank you to all of you who went door-to-door during our neighborhood membership drive! And thank you to all of you who have joined the Association so far. We are up to 83 paid members as of 5/3—about 42% of our goal of 200.

If you haven't yet joined HHSNA, consider all it does:

- Strengthens our partnership with, and visibility to, city officials
- Keeps property values competitive
- Helps keep our neighborhood safer

Your \$30 annual dues—the equivalent of just \$2.50 per month!—helps HHSNA to:

- Beautify and maintain our three entrances (NW 82nd, Harvest Hills Rd, and McKee Blvd), including landscape, mowing, water, fertilizer and mulch, and Christmas decorations
- Cover administrative costs like printing, postage, signs, and supplies

- Host neighborhood-wide events (annual garage sale, National Night Out, and Santa Ride)
- Hold five neighborhood meetings a year, complete with guest speakers and refreshments
- Publish 6 newsletters a year (delivered to your door by volunteer block captains) to keep you informed
- Maintain a neighborhood website
- Send members e-mail alerts with important neighborhood info
- Plan for future improvements, especially electricity and sprinklers at our entrances

We hope you'll agree, HHSNA membership is a great value! So help make Harvest Hills South an even better place to live by joining HHSNA!



## Volunteer Opportunity: Temporary Host Family

CETUSA is looking for temporary host families for its Cultural and Language Enhancement Program, which runs July 9 through August 5. We'll have information available at our May neighborhood meeting; or, if you can't attend, contact newsletter editor Linda Weston (see board member info on page 1), who can put you in touch with CETUSA.



# Ongoing HHSNA Volunteer Opportunities

Like other volunteer activities, HHSNA duties don't take long, but most are recurring. We have a variety of needs, and hope that one or more will appeal to you!

## Board Membership



Many of the current board members and chairpersons have been serving in some capacity for several years. We welcome new faces and perspectives on the board! Board members serve 2-year terms.

## Supporting Roles



A large part of how the association com-

municates with you is by distributing newsletters and flyers door-to-door. Currently, we have only 14 **block captains** to cover our 395 residences, so several routes are rather large. We dream of having more block captains and shorter routes!

We put a lot of planning into our annual neighborhood garage sale, National Night Out (NNO), and Santa Ride. We'd love to have one or more **event coordinators** to focus on these activities.

Our **cookie volunteers** provide refreshments at bi-

monthly neighborhood meetings. Volunteers are on a rotating schedule.

## Caring for Our Entrances



We water our three entrances by hand, so **watering volunteers** take turns on a rotating schedule. We provide the equipment and teach you everything you need to know.

We also need **landscape volunteers** to help with the care and feeding of our plants, such as pre-emergent, fertilizer, mulch, and the occasional trimming.

## Other Opportunities



Even if you can't volunteer on a continuing basis, we can always use occasional help!

- Help with one event's planning, prep, or clean-up
- Take pictures and post them on our website
- Help with Christmas decorations at our entrances

Above all, be informed and involved, and let us know what's on your mind!



# Harvest Hills South Supporters

**Palms Oil and Lube Center**  
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 (405) 721-1441



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