
Venice Neighborhood Association

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Volume 1, Issue 4

Winter, 2004

This Old VNA House

VNA Neighbors,

I just finished replacing a couple of wooden windows on my 1949 vintage home on Winter Drive. It was easier than I thought it would be, and the hard part turned out to be finding someone to build the replacement windows. I just had to replace the rotted lower sash of the double hung window. Each sash was divided into 6 panes each. I called several places in town, including Forrest Lumber and none of them made or could order the wooden replacement windows. I was referred to Laverne Smith out in Mustang. Laverne custom built my windows for \$60 a piece for each sash that I replaced. Laverne can be reached at 376-2380 and it took him just a few days to build the replacements.

I very carefully removed the molding on the inside of the window frame that is a piece of door stop so I could reuse them. I opened the windows and pulled out the grooved weather strip that also held the windows in place. The lower sash was then essentially hanging loose from just the ropes of the counter weights. I pulled the windows out and cut through the weight ropes as close to the window sash as possible. It might be a good idea to have a helper for this. I tied a big knot in the weight rope and slowly let it pull back into the wall with the knot keeping the rope from falling completely into the hole. I had to replace the weather stripping that I destroyed pulling out the old window. I then attached the weight ropes to the new window. I painted the inside of the window at this point and let it dry for a couple of days and then put the doorstop molding back up on the window frame and was done. The new windows are a nearly perfect match to the rest of the windows in the house. The best way for Laverne to build a replacement is for you to take one out and take it to him to use as a pattern.

Storm windows not only save on energy bills, but they also make the wooden windows last much longer and keeps their paint looking good for many years. You need to make sure that storm windows are closed when it is raining. When left open, the storm window will retain water in the window frame that will rot out the window sill. Termites also love damp wood. Replacing a couple of those rotted sills is my next project.

Take care and have a great holiday season,

David Thach

VNA TO HAVE OFFICER ELECTIONS

On Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 in the evening at the Baptist Temple on NW 30th and Villa Ave., the Venice Neighborhood Association will hold officer elections. The positions of President, Vice President (2 persons), Treasurer, and Secretary and a new Newsletter Editor will be chosen. This is your opportunity to take an active role in what happens within the boundaries of the neighborhood and help develop your community to its maximum potential. There are many exciting events planned for the next year and the neighborhood needs your help in making them all a success. Remember, decisions are made by those who show up!

VNA TO HOST CHRISTMAS CONTEST

The Venice Neighborhood Association will host its Second Annual Christmas decoration contest. All you have to do to participate is decorate your house or lawn (or both) prior to the evening of December 19th. The prizes range from \$50 to \$25 and the winners will be chosen by an impartial panel of representatives from outside of the neighborhood. All officers and residents are invited to participate.

GRANT PROPOSAL TO BE PRESENTED

The Venice Neighborhood Association recently submitted a grant proposal to the OKC Matching Grants Board. With assistance from the Neighborhood Alliance, the executive body requested money from the grant pool to construct gateway markers at multiple entrances to Venice Neighborhood. The gateway makers were chosen from designs submitted this past summer. David Thach had the winning overall design but was also able to incorporate some themes from a design submitted by Dieter Edwards in the final version. We anticipate being informed of either having received or been declined for the grant within the next two months.

David Thach and Rick Weber are currently designing a landscape plan for the Venice boulevard medians and will be presenting a grant proposal for that project in January. The grant is available through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and is specifically designed for landscape projects that have long-term beautification impacts on the community.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

"It's the most wonderful time of the year." The holiday season is fully upon us and cheer abounds everywhere. In order to keep yourself and your family smiling throughout Christmas and the New Year, be sure to take a few precautions to thwart the thieves that might be lurking in the shadows.

1. Always lock your car, even if you are only running into the store, house, or office momentarily. It only takes a few seconds for thieves to either steal your possessions or your car—before you can even blink.
2. If you must leave presents unattended in your car, place them in the trunk out of sight. Do not give thieves any temptation to break in.
3. If leaving town for the weekend or holiday, alert the company that monitors your alarm that you will be gone, thus reducing the likelihood of a false alarm. Tell a neighbor you know and trust to keep an eye on your house—this includes gathering your mail and any newspapers that may accumulate.
4. Just like your car, it is not a good idea to leave gifts in open view of your windows in your house. Any temptation for thieves is just too much.
5. If you leave your house, be sure the heat is still 'on' to protect your pipes from freezing. Any unheated faucets in the garage should be left dripping.

The holidays are a marvelous time of the year. Be sure to perform a little basic 'due diligence' to protect you and your family from being the victims of unwanted theft or vandalism.

THE FIRST ANNUAL 'VENICE IN OCTOBER' HOME TOUR IS A SUCCESS!

The first annual 'Venice in October' home tour was a massive success. The project was organized and executed within two months through the committed service of Cecilia Massey, Kim Doty, David Thach, Gina LeBoufe, and Rick Weber. These individuals deserve a very large 'thank you' from the neighborhood. In the face of overwhelming time constraints they were able to assemble a gorgeous program detailing the event that was complete with tour home biographies and advertisements, approve the design and order large banners to advertise the event, coordinate a small army of dutiful volunteers, and write news releases to various media outlets. There were roughly 300-350 visitors to Venice Neighborhood on October 3rd and all of them left with a very positive impression of the neighborhood. For those that had never heard of Venice Neighborhood before, they were introduced to the charm and convenience of our little community. For those that knew of Venice Neighborhood, they were impressed by the interesting and varied architecture captured within the neighborhood boundaries.

A big thank you to all those who opened their homes (and garden) to the benefit of the majority. Thank you to all the volunteers that assisted in pulling off this wonderful event by proctoring in the homes, selling tickets, and handing out refreshments. Finally, thank you to the organizers for laying the groundwork for an even bigger and better "Second Annual Venice in October."

NEWSLETTER EDITOR DIANA WICKHAM RETIRES FROM SERVICE

The editor of the Venice Neighborhood Newsletter for the past three years, Diana Wickham, has left the service of the Association. Diana has done a wonderful job putting the newsletter together, getting it printed, and coordinating the volunteer deliverers. With the assistance of her husband, Ken, she has consistently brought the latest developments and news of the neighborhood to its residents.

We appreciate the effort and time that both Ken and Diana dedicated to improving our neighborhood. We wish them both the best in their future endeavors with their church and children. THANKS AGAIN, AND GOOD LUCK!!

PS—As a side note, the neighborhood is actively seeking a replacement newsletter editor. This individual will be responsible for collecting the contributions of other writers and assembling a newsletter that is distributed 6 times per year. Interested parties should either contact Cory Williams at 942-3192 or attend the Venice Neighborhood General Meeting on December 9th.

SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Annual dues for the Venice Neighborhood Association are only \$20. For that \$20 you get community updates via the Venice Neighborhood Newsletter, utilities paid on all the median planters, activities like the Venice Easter Egg Hunt and Neighborhood Night Out Against Crime, and a host of other tangible benefits. The first of the year is quickly approaching and we would ask that you either renew your membership or join the Venice Neighborhood Association so that you are a paid member for the year 2005. We have several exciting plans in the works and your support is imperative. Please write your check for \$20 and drop it in the mail to:

Venice Neighborhood Association
Attn: Membership Dues
3242 Winter Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73112



Gary Hicks

**Real Estate Consultant
Your Neighbor on Venice Blvd**

Please don't keep me a secret !!!

AT THE LAST GENERAL MEETING...

UP WITH TREES

The last general meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Association was back in October at the Baptist Temple. A career appraiser for the State of Oklahoma came to the meeting and led a discussion regarding antiquities, their value and some effective methods for getting the best deals. Each person in attendance was allowed to bring 2-3 items for appraisal as well as a brief history of as. While some found their treasured items to have more value than others, everyone enjoyed the presentation and we are looking forward to his return to another VNA meeting in the near future. Stay posted for further developments!!! A collection was taken to support Pets & People.

If you live on either Venice Blvd. or Winter Drive and are interested in planting a tree in your front yard at a subsidized cost, please contact Cory Williams (942-3192). We are interested in creating a tall story canopy drive on the boulevards that will look beautiful in the years to come. Venice Neighborhood Association, in conjunction with City Planning, have selected the best trees for the project and are interested in assisting residents to plant and maintain the trees until they are established.



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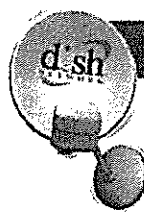
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Venice Neighborhood Christmas Decoration Contest

Decorate Your House & Yard To Win Fabulous
Prizes!!!!

“Tell ‘em what they’ll win, Bob!”

1st Place--\$50.00

2nd Place—4 Movie Passes to Penn Square Theatre

3rd Place—“Christmas Vacation” DVD or VHS

*****Judging to be held the evening of Sunday, December 19th*****

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS

September:

2632 NW 35th—Ken Miller

2713 Cashion Place—Craig Foster

2509 NW 32nd—Kathy Etherton

October:

2520 NW 31st

2520 Cashion Place

2807 NW 34th—Jamie Sewell

AWARD HOME WINNERS

September:

3201 Venice Blvd.—Bruce Stanton & David Meuser

3215 Winter Drive—Don & Lori Whitton

2544 NW 32nd

October:

2601 NW 33rd—Mr. & Mrs. Vince Velkham

3416 Venice Blvd—Katie Priest & Erica Arrocha

2733 NW 32nd—M.W. Ann

*A special thanks to Brian Henderson for his efforts in assembling this newsletter.

** Once again, a large “thank you” and a hearty “congratulations” to all those that made the first Venice Home Tour a success.