



# Eppilog

APRIL 2008

The Official Newsletter of Edgemere Park Preservation, Inc.

## Happenings in the 'Hood

by Jann Hook, [president@edgemerepark.org](mailto:president@edgemerepark.org)

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**Playground and Pavilion Installation** - The playground is nearly finished and seeing quite a bit of use already. Pavilion components should arrive in early April and be constructed by the end of the month. At least that's the latest word from the Parks and Recreation Department!

**36<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance Landscape Project** - The landscape committee finalized the plans and provided them to ODOT for approval and cost estimates. As part of the design, the landscape architect specified a large rock with "Edgemere Park" engraved on it to identify the neighborhood. We found the perfect rock at a quarry near Granite, OK and hope to have it transported to the site. The City Parks and Recreation Department will also have to approve the plan prior to installation. Some utility construction (water and electrical connections) could begin late spring or early summer.

**Strategic Planning** - After two productive sessions led by Georgie Rasco of Neighborhood Alliance, we have prioritized goals and the beginnings of action plans to see the goals become reality. At the next Board of Trustees meeting on April 14, we will finalize the action plans. All residents wishing to participate are welcome. The meeting will be at 6:30 pm at Iron Starr Urban Barbeque.

**Ice Storm Casualties** - The tree stumps in the park are a grim reminder of December's storm. The Parks and Recreation Department does plan to grind the stumps, but is faced with this problem city-wide so they are not able to project a date when they will get to our park. Basically, we will have to be patient and wait our turn.

**Get Moving OKC!** - Edgemere Park has been approved to participate in this Oklahoma City Community Foundation program. Not only will walkers get fit, we can earn up to \$2,500 for neighborhood projects. See article inside and contact Denise Waters (528.1097) to join in.

**Proposed Development on 36<sup>th</sup> Street** - The 36<sup>th</sup> Street Coalition (Crown Heights-Edgemere Heights and Edgemere Park representatives) continues to meet monthly. Currently, the developer, Humphreys Real Estate Investments, is working with a civil engineering firm to evaluate the feasibility of straightening the creek to provide more developable land. See related article inside on how to stay informed through the coalition's Yahoo group.

## Edgemere Resident Bill Bleakley Elected to Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame

*Oklahoma Gazette* founder and publisher Bill Bleakley will take his place among the highest honored state journalists after being named as a 2008 inductee to the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony takes place April 4 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

"I share this recognition with the many staff members whose efforts achieved the successes of our publications while adhering to the highest journalistic standards," Bleakley said.

Bleakley started the *Gazette* in 1979 and has built it into the largest general-circulation weekly in Oklahoma. More than 57,000 copies of the *Gazette* are distributed weekly throughout Central Oklahoma.

On Oct. 15, 1979, the first issue of the *Gazette* hit the racks. It started as a bimonthly publication with a circulation of about 2,000, billed as a "journal of contributions to Oklahoma's quality of life." In 1986, the *Gazette* became a weekly newspaper.

Besides the *Gazette*, Bleakley acquired a biweekly business newspaper, *OKCBusiness*, in 2003, and formed an umbrella company for all of his papers, Tierra Media Group, in 2007.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Bleakley served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and worked for *Guam Daily News* as night editor and a columnist. He went on to earn a law degree from OU. Bleakley both published the *Gazette* and practiced law until 2003, when he sold the law firm.





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**EDGEMERE PARK PRESERVATION, INC. MEETING NOTES**  
**Monday, 10 March 2008, 6:30 PM**  
**3600 Harvey Parkway**

**I. Welcome and Introductions.** Call to order by President Jann Hook at 6:35PM followed by self-introductions.

**II. Approval of Minutes.** Corrected minutes from 12 Nov 2007 and 19 Jan 2008 were approved unanimously.

**III. Treasurer's Report.** J. Jungman reviewed the Balance Sheet, Dec 07; Income Statements, Jan 08 and Feb 08, and Budget vs Actual Reports. Dues were mailed out to residents at the end of Feb 08. Trustees accepted by motion/carried to cover >\$350 expense for the website from unallocated funds. Jungman receives interest statements quarterly. The checking account currently receives no interest. Jungman will negotiate changes about interest. Membership approved her to make changes on our behalf.

**IV. President's Report**

- A. Oklahoma City University (OCU) grant opportunities.** Hook and Waters attended a program with representative of the OCU Library who subscribe to a foundation website. Members agreed to continue to explore opportunities from OCU website.
- B. Near Northwest Regional Alliance.** Hook. Russell Claus presented ways to work with the city to encourage the green walks program. [This program includes neighborhoods in the NW area of OKC to promote goals of a connecting system of walkways and other concepts of neighborhood unity].
- C. Neighborhood Alliance (NA).** The second meeting, chaired by Georgi Rascoe, was held in the former Lee Photography Studio in the Paseo District for representatives of nine of the historic districts plus Lincoln Terrace which functions under somewhat different guidelines. A list of priorities was developed by those present with an affirmation that this group could work together and with the city. Next meeting: 22 May 08. Contact phone: NA @ 528-6322.
- D. Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee.** A new group involved at a regional level with coordination of local government for bicycle and pedestrian activities such as trail networks, on-street bike routes and to make recommendations such as safety issues. Next meeting: 19 March 08 at 10 AM , location 21 E Main St in Bricktown. Contact: Ben. NA @ 528-6322.
- E. Traffic Calming 101.** Meeting to learn how other cities are coping with shifting traffic patterns in neighborhoods. Meeting scheduled: 25 Mar 08, 6-8 PM at the First Christian Church. Contact. NA @ 528-6322. The issues of interest: traffic on 36<sup>th</sup> St, Walker and for Crown Heights, Edgemere Heights and Edgemere Park. [Note: The 36<sup>th</sup> St Coalition group is discussing this issue in their meetings. This latter group's primary concern is the impact of changes in land use located at the NW corner of Broadway Extension and 36<sup>th</sup> St, the property currently owned by the First Christian Church. They have formed subcommittees such as environmental impact, traffic, public relations, etc., in common to the three neighborhoods.]
- F. Navigating City Hall.** A program will be presented on 27 Mar 08 from 6:30- 9PM at City Hall, 200 N. Walker for the purpose of hearing from the City Council and other government leaders about methods to help neighborhood work with the city. Open meeting.
- G. Lighting Problems.** A historic lamp located at 224 NW 32<sup>nd</sup> was damaged by a tree limb breaking during the ice storm. The damage will require a new light. Clopton and Hook will investigate this matter more fully and decision was deferred. EEPI should have an inventory of the location of the lamps to which reference can be made when problems occur. B. Cain suggested we discuss with our councilor Sam Bowman. Hook recommended a policy be written for this type of issue.
- H. EPPI Water Use Problems.** EPPI received a water bill >\$400 from the city for usage in the park. A leak occurred and Hook was successful in reversing the charge.
- I. Meeting schedule change.** The 12 May 08 meeting will not be changed and will be chaired by VP Clopton.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## 36<sup>th</sup> Street Coalition - Join our Yahoo! Group

The 36<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Coalition is currently comprised of neighbors from the Edgemere Park and Crown Heights-Edgemere Heights neighborhoods. The Coalition formed in response to the possible sale of land belonging to the First Christian Church at N.W. 36<sup>th</sup> and Walker to Humphreys Real Estate Investments for development. Chairpersons for the Coalition are **Suzanne Bockus (CH-EH)**, **Mark Clopton (EPPI)** and **Lea Morgan (CH-EH)**. The Coalition has formed five committees to research issues regarding possible development for the neighborhoods. Each committee and its chairperson are listed below:

Environmental - **Craig Stanley**

Traffic - **Betsy Brunsteter**

Design - **Bruce Bockus**

Property Use and Zoning Process - **George McQuistian**

Public Relations - **Lea Morgan**

Currently, the Coalition understands that Humphreys Real Estate Investments is investigating the possible shortening and straightening of the stream bed that runs north from N.W. 36<sup>th</sup> Street. Any construction in or on the nation's waterways requires a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. As of March 11, a permit application has not been filed with the Corps. The Environmental committee is monitoring this situation.

To facilitate communication and to foster neighbor input, the Coalition has set up a Yahoo! Group with help from CH-EH neighbor and webmaster, Bob Alfson. The group name is okcthirtysixth and can be found on the internet at:



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/okcthirtysixth/>

To subscribe to this Group, send an e-mail to:  
[okcthirtysixth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:okcthirtysixth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

The Coalition will post meeting notes on the Group site and conduct discussions or polls. Currently, the opinions and poll results from the November 27, 2007 combined neighborhood meeting can be found on the site.

The Coalition encourages all neighbors to join the Yahoo! Group so that you can read meeting notes at your leisure and join in discussions or polls. If you have any questions, please call Mark Clopton, coalition co-chair, at 524.9558.

## Get Moving OKC!



Residents from Edgemere Park have been accepted to participate in the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's GET MOVING OKC! walking challenge. Participants must walk or run 10 miles per week for 13 weeks and keep a log of their progress. For those completing the 13 week program they will raise \$100 per person up to 25 people or

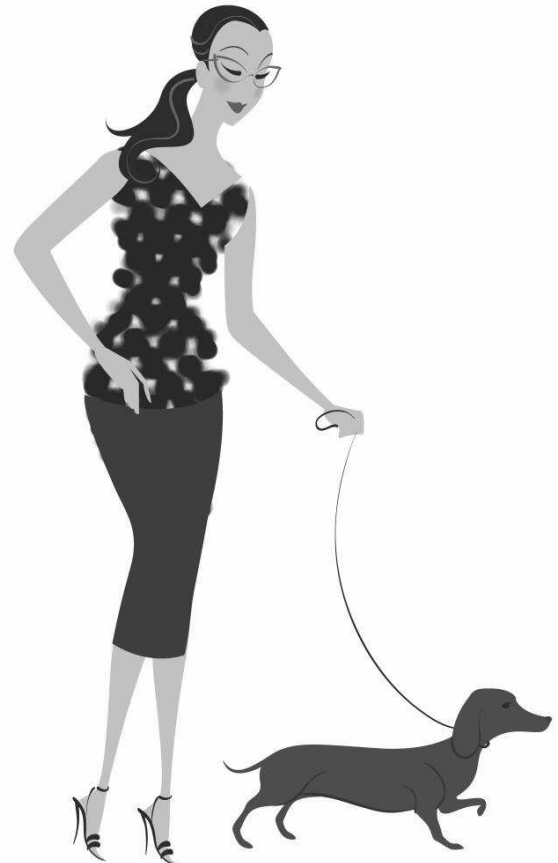
\$2500.00 for Edgemere Park. The money raised will go to planting new and existing flower beds in the park and refurbishing park signs.

Members of our team are invited to attend the official "Kickoff Event" scheduled for next Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation building at 10<sup>th</sup> & Broadway in downtown Oklahoma City. OKC Mayor Mick Cornett and OCCF's Executive Director Nancy Anthony will be on hand. We will walk the first two miles of the challenge, complete with police and fire truck escort!

Team members that want someone to walk with can meet at 10:00 am on Saturday mornings at the 35<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. We encourage everyone to get healthy.

Although they originally planned to limit the number of teams to 20, due to an overwhelming response they have accepted 71 teams. Edgemere Park now has 32 people signed up to participate in GET MOVING OKC! the name of our group is Walking On the Edge.

Good luck to those participating! They are: Joseph Arguello, Lydia Arguello, Dr. Bill Bondurant, Nicole Bondurant, Sherri Brandt, Justin Byrne, Rosa Byrne, Bernest Cain, Jenifer Cawley, Marian Clopton, Judy Cole, Stan Cole, Richard Harrison, Sandra Harrison, Gwen Henry, Jann Hook, Terry Hook, Nick Kaiser, Larry Kirk, Mary Monfort, Robin Nauman, Brian Pever, Lindsey Pever, Scott Plafker, Susan Savage, Dr. Leonard W. Slater, Lisa Slater, Mark Smith, Mary Surbeck, Denise Waters, George Waters and Terri Williamson.



## V. Committee Reports

- A. Communications.** A committee chair is needed. Trustees indicated they wish to continue both the *EPPILOG* (newsletter) and the website. Responsibilities for this group includes the newsletter, the website (R. Harrison) and the every two-year directory.
- B. Edgemere Elementary School.** M. Clopton reviewed the efforts of PTA school committee. In Nov 07, 3 parents, several teachers (including our resident Nancy Stalcup, one of the teachers), and seven additional residents attended. No parents attended the PTA meeting in Feb 08. Again teachers and Edgemere residents attended who listened to the perceived problems that the school is having. M. Clopton is facilitating discussions with other groups [Crown Heights, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake] who have or are willing to help with the school. Clopton to continue negotiations.
- C. Historic Preservation. S. Harrison.** Monthly meetings take place the Sunday prior to the scheduled review downtown. The group's work is centered on the Certificate of Appropriateness (CA) Requests and functions as a peer-review committee. Next meeting: 6 PM, 30 Mar 08, 3600 Harvey Parkway. Contact: S. Harrison @ 521-0730.
- D. Park & Public Improvements.** M. Surbeck. The Parks Department will grind the stumps in the park left over from tree cutting following the ice storm in Dec. The playground is schedule for completion in about six weeks. The installers are waiting for part of the pavilion to arrive. The park cleanup is scheduled for Sat, 5 Apr 08. About 30 OU students will assist. Surbeck indicated that the students will need supervision as to continuing tasks and a host of wheel barrows, rakes, brooms, and waders for the creek will be required. We will have labor assistance but the students will need direction, materials and equipment with which to work. L. Bullen will assist in delivering needed mulch. Place: Meet at the bridge on 35<sup>th</sup> St at 9:30AM on 5 April. J. Hook met with electricians for power to the pavilion under construction. The city, per Scott Copelin, will install a conduit and stone structure to mount the breaker box. EPPI is responsible for running power from the conduit to the breaker box and getting power from across the street. Estimates for the first portion are \$1,500 – \$2,000. Motion carried to spend \$2,500 as a start fee for electrification of the park pavilion.
- E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance Landscape & Marker Committee.** D. Waters & J. Hook. Landscape and irrigation plans are ready and water line is accessible from the east side of Robinson. Some members of the committee will travel to Granite, OK to study stone options for the marker. The cost will be covered by part of the \$40,000 that EPPI negotiated from OGE for landscaping. A Margaret Annis Boys Trust [OKC Foundation] is an option to assist with trees and shrubs.
- F. Security Committee.** M. Clopton negotiated a time delay with Wackenhut for increasing dues. Other options to highlight security visibility: yard signs in the yards of those homes who pay security fees, subscriber list on the website (blinded), Robert Lee to use welcome forms or packets, and an EPPI purchased cell phone that Lee can receive calls directly from residents rather than a central operator. M. Cao indicated that her one-on-one contact with R. Lee helped her to feel welcome in the neighborhood. B. Cain recommended that the security forms/data be placed in the newsletter.
- G. Social and Special Events.** L. Peaver. Scheduled is 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. A dedication for the new additions to the park, possibly in May, was suggested. Members present will defer to the Social Committee.

**VI. Resource Development Committee and Fundraising.** The committee formed would be responsible for searching and applying for grants. R. Harrison volunteered to assist. Hook explained the opportunities with the upcoming John Kirkpatrick Centennial. Motion carried that EPPI would participate in a \$5,000 matching grant to increase our endowment fund \$10,000. Another program, Get OKC Moving is a walking grant. D. Waters is chairing this event for up to 25 walkers in our neighborhood. The entrants names are due by Sat, 15 Mar 2008.

**VII. Strategic Plan.** This work was sponsored by a grant and facilitated by NA, G. Rascoe. She would like to hold one more meeting to add priority or goal-dates to the document developed by the Edgemere residents. M. Surbeck requested that committee chairs report back on these topics. Motion carried to move discussions

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to Apr or May.

**VIII. 36<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Coalition.** Addressed briefly above. Refer to J. Hook or M. Clopton for additional information.

**IX. Billboard Nuisance located at NW 23<sup>rd</sup> St and Robinson.** Litigation is progressing in the hopes of not permitting the erection of the billboard. The pretrial date is 16 Sep 08. Discovery has taken place. Our attorney of record plans to file for summary judgment in a few weeks.

**X. New Business.** Deferred.

**XI. Next Scheduled Meeting.** 14 April 08, 6:30 PM at Iron Starr. Please order meals by 6:30PM if you wish to eat.

**XII. Special News.** Our resident, Tom Weaver, has been ill and in the hospital. The mother of Nancy Stalcup is ill and in the hospital. We send our thoughts to these two families.

**XII. Adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Submitted,  
Rita Benischek, Secretary

## Help Keep Edgemere Park Safe!



Become a subscriber to Edgemere Park Security Corporation!

Edgemere Park Security Corporation pays for private patrol services in Edgemere Park! Every new subscriber means more security in our neighborhood!

Call Mark Clopton (524-9558) or Jann Hook (524-2226) to become a subscriber today!



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[www.AlanandHeatherDavis.com](http://www.AlanandHeatherDavis.com)



Source: OKC MLS 1/1/2000-5/23/2007. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

# Edgemere Park Events

## Saturday, April 5

Annual Park Cleanup  
Meet at the 35th Street Bridge  
9:00 am

## Tuesday, April 8

Social Committee Meeting  
Galileo Bar & Grill  
6:00 pm

## Monday, April 14

EPPI Board Meeting  
Iron Starr Urban Barbecue  
6:30 pm

## Sunday, May 4

HP Committee Meeting  
Sandra & Richard Harrison's  
3600 North Harvey Pkwy  
6:00 pm

## Monday, May 12

EPPI Board Meeting  
Iron Starr Urban Barbecue  
6:30 pm

## Sunday, June 1

HP Committee Meeting  
Sandra & Richard Harrison's  
3600 North Harvey Pkwy  
6:00 pm

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