



# Briarcreek Banter

## Message from the President

**Dan Orza • BNA President**

Happy New Year, Happy 2009! I hope you all had a Healthy and Happy Holiday and are ready for a wonderful new year.

I'm sure you have been eagerly awaiting the news of who won the Holiday Decorations competition, right? But, before the big announcement, I want to thank all who participated - by voting and by decorating.

We had votes sent in by email and in the ballot box on my front porch. I thought our neighborhood was beautiful this year and noticed a steady stream of cars with families driving through looking at all the lights and decorations. The Briarcreek Board Members drove around in my convertible to see the houses that everyone voted for and to get this picture of the winning house. *(Sorry, it's a bit blurry - it was cold and my hands were shaking.)*

It was a great competition this year and the votes

were spread between numerous houses. But the winner of the Briarcreek Holiday Decoration Competition (*drum roll please*), went to Jeff and Marsha Napoliello at 6515 NW 97th St. Their house is on the corner of Briarcreek Dr and 97th Street. They won a \$100.00 savings bond that was donated by MidFirst Bank.

For some of you, the yard of the month and the holiday decorations awards are silly. You may think there are bigger issues - and there are. We all deal with serious issues in our lives and in our world. We all have joy and sadness; frustration and happiness; setbacks and advances. But, for many of our neighbors, these little awards and good-natured competitions are a way to

forget the serious issues for a moment and to unite our little community in a positive way. To many who win, it is a moment they treasure. Plus, a little good-natured competition adds some fun to our lives.

Next year, we are thinking it would be nice if our neighborhood participated in a charity for the holidays. So, watch your newsletter in the fall as we will let you know what, when and how to participate.

February is a mixed bag of weather with some sunny days; but also snow, ice and sleet. Each sunny day reminds us that spring is coming, but until it gets here - stay warm and be safe!



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## Quarterly Meeting - February 9th

### Don't forget....

The Briarcreek Neighborhood Association's Quarterly Meeting will be held:

**When: February 9, 2009;**

**Where: Wiley Post Elementary (on Britton Road);**

**Time: 7:00 pm**

## News from the Treasurer

### By Robert Ross • Treasurer

Our receipt of BNA dues for fiscal year 2008/2009 is currently at 54%.

If you're unsure whether you've paid your dues or not, please contact me. My email address is jr4boys@cox.net and my phone

number is 470-1120. You can mail or drop your dues by my house:  
Robert Ross  
BNA Treasurer  
6604 NW 94th Street  
OKC 73162  
Please make checks payable to BNA.



I will have a treasurer's Report, detailing our neighborhood expenses and income, available at the BNA meeting on February 9th. Questions are always welcomed. Many thanks to those who consistently contribute to the care of our neighborhood.

## News from the Welcoming Committee

### By Kelli Moore • Welcoming Committee Chair

I just have my usual reminder to the block captains to please let me know of any new neighbors. The Welcom-

ing Committee has a wonderful goody basket we give to welcome them to Briarcreek.

Also, various organizations are having their yearly fundraisers (*school,*

*Girls Scout, Camp Fire Girls, Boys Scouts*). So be alert to kids going door-to-door in the neighborhood. Also, if you are craving girl scout cookies, I can help you out - my girls are Girl Scouts.



## 2009 BNA Board & Committee Chairs

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## News from the Landscape Committee

**By Renaté Fairweather • Landscape Committee Chair**

We are waiting for Spring...

The landscape committee will be meeting this month to discuss, coordi-

nate and update our members on the landscaping and to plan for the Spring Cleanup weekend in May. We are still on schedule to plant along Rockwell and to replace the bedding plants that were lost during the summer in the

entrance beds (*the west-facing beds on Rockwell were really affected*).

Our current planting projections are for March or April, depending on the weather.

## News from the Compliance Committee

**By Joyce Heidelberger • Compliance Committee Chair**

With the downward spiral in the economy and in the real estate market. The values in our addition, as with others, are being effected and will be effected more if we do not work together to keep our addition, homes and yards in good repair. I realize I have said this in the past three newsletters, but it is true now more than ever. All of us, as home owners or renters, can do our part to keep our values up and our community safe.

I get calls/complaints about these problems, so please remember:

**No** trailers parked in driveways or on the street. (Covenant & City Code)

**No** over-sized work trucks parked in driveways or on the street. (Covenant & City Code)

**No** city trash cans in front of homes. Please store them in back, garage or side of the house out of view. (Covenant & City Code)

**No** unsightly basketball goals left unattended or laying on the ground in bad condition. (*Basketball goals are actually not allowed according to the Briarcreek Covenants.*)

**No** cars parked on the street or in the yard. (City Code)

**No** motor homes parked in front of homes on street. (Covenants & City Code)

**No** yards un-mowed and bushes unkempt. (City Code)

**No** fences broken and/or falling down. (City Code)

**No** dogs running loose in the neighborhood. (City Code)

**No** automobiles with flats, untagged or being worked on in driveway for days. (City Code)

**No** furniture other than outdoor furniture on front porches or in yards. (City Code)

**No** commercial businesses being ran out of homes which brings heavy traffic. (City Code)

**No** race cars parked in driveways or on the street. (City Code)

**No** speeding. (license numbers are being taken down and reported to the police)

**No** boats in driveways or the street. (City Code)

To some, these items may seem small and petty - especially if you are the offender.

Take pride in where you choose to live, even those who rent. It takes all of us to keep our addition in the kind of shape it needs to be. The compliance committee cannot do it all by ourselves, we need your help.

Thank you to all who keep the rules, regulations and city codes that make this a better place to live.

For those of you who do not, you can be expecting a visit from the City Code Enforcer at your door.

My best regards and a Happy New Year to each and everyone of you.

## New Block Captain

We are happy to announce a new Briarcreek Block Captain. Her name is Sharon Fernbaugh. She will be delivering newsletters to the 9400-9600s of Briarcreek Drive. You may have seen Sharon as she walks her beautiful woolly-gray Keeshond, Teddy Bear.

We appreciate all of our block captains and all those who volunteer. You do a wonderful service to our neighborhood and we couldn't keep it running without you. If anyone else is



interested in volunteering we still need a block captain to deliver the newsletter to nine houses in the 6700 block of Basswood Canyon Road.

Do I see a show of hands??

## BRIARCREEK YOUNGSTER IN DC

*By Carolyn Leonard • Block Captain*

Seven year old Kilah Johnson, who lives on Newman Drive, was one of the 1.8 million people in Washington DC attending Barrack Obama's Presidential Inauguration on Tuesday, January 20.

"It was something I won't ever forget," Kilah said.

Kilah's mother, Crystal Johnson, was a chaperone on the chartered bus for Kilah's Girl Scout Troop #17, who raised funds to get to attend the Inauguration.

Crystal Johnson said 23 streets were blocked off around the Capitol for the special event, and the

Girl Scouts and their party were about halfway out. They were able to watch the ceremony on giant TV screens .

She said they toured the memorials, museums and beautiful buildings in the nation's Capitol before returning home on the 21st.

One of Kilah's favorite activities of the trip was when her Girl Scout troop marched in the MLK Parade in Baltimore the day before the inauguration, wearing special green and pink sweatshirts with matching pink berets.

"It was snowing, and we had a snowball fight," Kilah said.



*Kilah Johnson attended the Presidential Inauguration in the national Capitol, January 20, 2009.*

## Concern about Plastics

The US Toxicology Program, part of the National Institutes of Health, has raised concerns about the effects of BPA (*a chemical used to harden plastics*). They are concerned about the effect it has on all of us, but especially fetuses, infants and young children.

The reason for the concern arose when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found detectable levels of BPA in 93 percent of people.

The American Chemistry Council, which represents the chemical industry, counters that products made with the widely used plastic are safe, including for young children. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently agrees, but has set

up a task force to study reports on BPA. On the FDA website, the agency notes that "concerned consumers should know that several alternatives to polycarbonate baby bottles exist, including glass baby bottles."

Until the FDA rules, you might want to avoid BPA for babies and young children and use other alternatives.

Playtex has announced that it will stop using BPA in baby items. Wal-Mart has promised to remove all bottles made with BPA from its stores and ToysRUs will phase out any baby products containing BPA as well.

While there doesn't seem to be an unanimous conclusion about the safety of BPA, it makes good sense to limit exposure to it:

- Don't microwave food in polycarbonate plastic containers, some studies suggest that it may break down after repeated use at high temperatures;
- Avoid plastic containers with a number 7 on the bottom;
- When possible, opt for glass, porcelain or stainless steel, particularly for hot foods;
- Use baby bottles that are BPA-free and look for toys that are labeled BPA-free.



**We're on the web!**

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/okc/briarcreek>

