

Calendar

Dec. 20 – Putnam City Schools:
Christmas break begins

Dec. 21 – Winter Solstice

Dec. 25 – *No trash pickup!*

Dec. 27 – *Trash make-up day*

Jan. 1 – *No trash pickup!*

Jan. 3 – *Trash make-up day*

Jan. 4 – Putnam City Schools:
Classes resume

Jan. 15 – No School
& *No trash pickup!*

Jan. 17 – *Trash make-up day*



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THE BUYER'S EDGE

by Lee Marrs

Every week, most of us in Briarcreek receive the Buyer's Edge. Here's how the Oklahoman describes it:

"a free, weekly guide to saving you money, delivered to households in select areas of the Oklahoma City metro area."

Here's how I describe it:

an apparently legal program that throws litter on the streets of our lovely neighborhood.

If you subscribe to the Daily Oklahoman, the Buyer's Edge is delivered with your newspaper on Wednesdays. For those of us who don't, however, an agent of the Oklahoman throws it at the foot of our driveway, or in the street in front of our homes. I walk our dogs almost daily, and in the 2-3 blocks of our walk, I usually pick up 6-10 of these unwanted papers in the street.

If you value, read, and use the Buyer's Edge, that's great! If, however, you would like to have less trash in our streets, there is a solution! Call the polite and capable agents of the Oklahoman's Customer Service line at (405) 478-7171 and tell them that you no longer wish to receive the Buyer's Edge. That's all you do, and it really works!

Thank you for helping to keep Briarcreek the clean and attractive neighborhood we love.

DON'T LET YOUR DRAINS GOBBLE HOLIDAY "FOG"

With the holiday cooking season upon us, the Utilities Department wants to remind residents to avoid pouring cooking oils and grease down the drain. **F**ats, **O**ils and **G**rease, or **FOG**, can clog sewer lines and cause costly repairs to the homeowner and the City. More than two-thirds of wastewater line blockages in Oklahoma City are caused by FOG.

How should you dispose of FOG?

- ✓ Pour liquid FOG into an empty food can or container and place it in the freezer until it solidifies. Once the FOG is frozen, toss the container into the trash.
- ✓ When cleaning pots and pans, be sure to wipe out excess oil or grease with a paper towel before rinsing them in the sink or placing them in the dishwasher.

"Even small amounts of grease and oil poured down the drain can build up over time and cause significant problems," said Allen McDonald, the City's Line Maintenance Supervisor.

Throwing fats, oils and grease in the trash is an easy way for residents to avoid expensive plumbing visits and help prevent blockages in the City's wastewater system.

Enjoy your holiday cooking, but make sure to keep FOG where it belongs, in the can and not down the drain!





NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to the October Yard-of-the-Month winners:

1st place: Patty Hurley, 6912 Basswood Canyon Rd.

Runner-up: Nita Wilson, 6908 Basswood Canyon Rd.

The November Yard-of-the-Month winners have not yet been chosen, so watch our Facebook page for those!!

**Thank you Wanda Reynolds and Camille Glasshof for your time in choosing our winners each month!

Be watching for more information on our "Landscaping Britton Road" project in our next newsletter. The BNA Landscaping Committee has been working diligently with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation on this project, and we should have more news then! How exciting!

On a more personal note, I have found that life has become much busier with family commitments and with my son's school (he started preschool this year, so this is all new...I didn't anticipate how much I would feel compelled to help). Because of this, The Briarcreek Brief will likely become a bimonthly endeavor. I really hope to NOT move to quarterly, as I feel the more frequently we communicate on a consistent basis, the better! If anyone would like to help out with the newsletter, please let me know! Thank you! tarasnoah@yahoo.com

There are vacant positions within the Board, as well as Block Captain vacancies. If you are interested in serving our community, particularly on the Compliance Committee, please email Susie Brown at info@briarcreekonline.com.

DECEMBER GARDENING

- ❖ Stop! Step away from the tree trimmers!! Did you know? Fall is NOT the right time to trim! Trees, shrubs, and other plants that go dormant in Winter are preparing for the coming freezing temperatures. Cutting them creates wounds, which do not have time to heal before Winter, and causes serious stress that can potentially kill them. You may see lawn service companies advertise tree and shrub trimming services in the Fall, but their goal is supplementing their income as summer mowing ends. The experts all agree - NO Fall trimming. If you need trees trimmed, make sure you hire someone who has the education to do the job right. Many beautiful trees are topped and butchered by lawn guys whose only true claim to knowing how to trim is a chainsaw and a truck. Trees are a long-term investment in beautification that should last for generations. Trimming done wrong can damage the trees, weaken the branches, or worse. Would you let a friend perform surgery simply because they have a sharp knife and a table? Or perform dental work simply because they have a drill? Oh, sure it's a lot cheaper, but YIKES!! Learn more about your trees AND find a local arborist (tree professional) at: www.treesaregood.org
- ❖ Go easy on your yard work this Fall to help Winter birds! As the seasons change, it means big changes for our lawns and backyards, but most of us probably don't consider how those changes affect our wildlife. According to the National Audubon Society, avoiding keeping a perfectly manicured lawn in Fall and Winter is actually more beneficial for winter birds and bugs. Of course, we don't want messy yards, but consider leaving some leaf debris or mulched leaf debris for wildlife. Find out more about what you can do to keep your lawn a haven for wildlife in the winter at: www.audubon.org/news/to-help-birds-winter-go-easy-fall-yard-work
- ❖ Also, consider keeping your bird baths filled when temperatures are above freezing. I have noticed squirrels trying to get a drink out of our pool already this Fall, which reminded me I needed to fill our bird bath – a much safer place for them to drink without risking drowning. I have since seen them getting a drink, even when the water was sharing space with leaves.

