



Gatewood Newsletter

Gatewood Historic District - founded in 1974
 P.O. Box 60774 Oklahoma City, OK 73146
 Oklahoma State Historical District since 1979
 National Register for Historic Places since 2004
www.gatewoodokc.com

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VACANCY

The Board of Directors meetings are always held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Meerschaert House at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Any neighbor interested in attending is welcome!

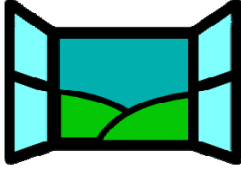
Welcome to Spring!

Keep your Home Secure


Ahhh, spring has finally arrived, the tantalizing warm breezes, eye-catching floral displays and the joy of being able to finally turn off the heater. Everyone is spending more time outdoors and we see more people out strolling with their children and their pets. It's a wonderful time of year but, unfortunately, along with all these pleasant benefits, we also typically see an increase in crime. In order to reduce the potential for thieves gaining access to your hard earned possessions, keep these tips in mind:



- ALWAYS turn your porch lights on at night - light is the best disinfectant to crime.
- ALWAYS lock your vehicle and NEVER leave valuables visible in your vehicle.
- If possible, park your vehicle in your garage (and lock the doors, too, as added theft prevention.)
- If you don't have a garage, park as far back in your driveway as possible and ALWAYS park near, or under, a bright light.

- Park where you can easily see your car from a window without being visible from outside.
- If you are working in your yard, don't leave your garage door open. Theft is often a crime of opportunity - don't provide one!
- Don't leave your front doors or windows unlocked while you are working in the back yard. 
- Carry your cell phone with you while working outside in case you do see something suspicious. Don't enter your home, even in daylight, if you suspect someone has broken in. CALL THE POLICE - 911!
- Don't leave bags, sacks, parcels, purses, etc. on the porch while you are carrying stuff back and forth from the car to your house. It might be more convenient, but it's also very tempting to a thief.
- Don't assume a thief can't get into an upstairs window if it's left unlocked, especially one that is on the back of the house or hidden from the view of your neighbors.
- Make sure that any outside entrance to your basement is secure and, if you have one, make sure any connecting doors between your basement and the interior of your home are also locked.
- Keep shrubs and trees trimmed away from your home so they don't provide hiding spaces for thieves.
- Try to vary your routine as much as possible. Don't leave your house at the same time every morning and don't take the same

routes. This makes it harder for a "lookout" to track you. When possible, come home unexpectedly during the day. Many break-ins occur during the morning between the time you leave for work and the noon hour.

- If possible, have a friend or trusted neighbor drop by during the day just to walk around the house or down your driveway. Thieves do not like dealing with the unexpected, they will usually move on to an easier target.
- DON'T EVER open your door to a stranger, even during the day. If someone is legitimate, they should have identification and be willing to wait while you call their office to check them out. Most service personnel wear uniforms and carry ID's. Keep your door locked and ask for an office phone number to call, their name, and their purpose for being at your home if you were not expecting them.
- If you don't already have one, consider adding a security system to your home. If you do have one, consider adding camera surveillance and make sure you post a notice alerting a would-be thief that your property is protected. Remember, you'd rather prevent a crime than catch it on tape.
- When you're going out of town, have someone retrieve your papers and mail rather than calling and having the service stopped. A thief might notice that the postal carrier isn't stopping or that your paper isn't arriving as 

usual, a sure sign that you're gone. Whatever you do, DON'T let the papers and mail pile up, that's a glaring give-a-way that you're not home!



- If possible, have someone come to your home to take care of your pets while you're gone rather than boarding them.

Not only will your pets likely be more comfortable, they'll also still be at home and on-the-job while you're away and you have the added benefit of someone coming and going. Have your pet-care provider alter his/her routine when coming to take care of your pets, too. Remember, thieves like predictability.

- Routinely walk around the outside of your house and inspect ALL potential entry points as though you are trying to break in. It's amazing what you can spot if you look with an eye towards getting in as well as an eye towards keeping thieves out.
- Be watchful of the circular/advertisement delivery people. Most of the day laborers are legitimate but sometimes potential thieves will sign up for this type of work so they can "case" a neighborhood.
- Lastly, watch out for your neighbors and ask them to do the same for you. Call the police if something just doesn't look right or you see someone you don't know hanging around. Make yourself visible, from a distance, but don't approach strangers or put yourself in an unsafe position.

Board of Directors Vacancy

If you or someone you know would like the chance to join our Gatewood neighborhood Board of Director's, please attend the next Board meeting on May 11th at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Meerschaert House at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

Gatewood Annual Garage Sale



Don't forget to call and sign up for the annual Gatewood Garage Sale on May 14th, 15th and 16th, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is a great event and always draws big garage sale crowds. The neighborhood will pay for an advertisement in the Daily Oklahoman which will show the neighborhood boundaries. The address of each household that signs up to hold a garage sale will receive 50 fliers listing each garage sale address. These fliers should be handed out to customers on the days of the sale. We will also place signs at neighborhood entryway points advertising the garage sale weekend. This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants or needs to have a garage sale! This is not a fundraiser for the neighborhood. It is a benefit to Gatewood neighborhood residents. All you need to do to participate is call Janet Seefeldt at 525-9441 and leave your name, address, phone number and the days of your sale.

You will also need to call the City of Oklahoma City Permit

Department at 297-2606 to get your garage sale permit number. The cost of the permit is \$7.00 and can be added to your water bill as long as your account is in good standing. They will give you a permit number which will be good for 3 consecutive days and this number should be displayed during your sale.



Miller in May

The Miller in May Home and Garden Tour will be held May 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year marks the 12th Anniversary of the Miller Home and Garden Tour.

There are 5 homes on the tour and 3 gardens. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance (children under 10 are free) or \$10.00 if purchased on May 15th at any of the tour homes or gardens. Tickets are available at the following locations: Garden Gate Antiques, 23rd Street Antique Mall, and Western Avenue Antiques.

Homes on the tour

Laura Morris
2500 NW 13th

Dusty Peck and Darrin Stockton
2719 NW 11th

Leslie Fisher
2605 NW 15th

Mary Teeter
2629 NW 14th

Jamey and Kellie Zaragoza
2626 NW 12th

Gardens on the tour

Mary Teeter
2629 NW 14th

Basil and Mary Hayes
2548 NW 12th

Jimmy Vaughn
2632 NW 12th

Free Coffee Monday

Free Coffee

Monday is Oklahoma City's premier morning coffee event happening every Monday from 7:00 to 9:30 am! The event is powered by Cafe Evoke Catering and hosted by area businesses excited about getting their word out and people together. Check out their website at <http://www.freecoffeemonday.com> for more information on where future Free Coffee Monday events will be held!



www.GatewoodOKC.com

Check out our great website for more information on any of these articles and much more. The Gatewood Calendar on this website is especially helpful for those looking for something fun to do in the community. We have included events taking place all over the metro area and if you have any suggestions for additions to this calendar please contact us at GatewoodEditor@yahoo.com.

Letter from the Editor

If you have a fun event planned and would like to invite the neighborhood or if you have a neighborhood story you would like to share, please let us know at GatewoodEditor@yahoo.com. Remember, we are still searching for ghostly neighborhood tales so send in your spooky stories too!