



North Coronado Heights Neighborhood Association

JANUARY 2025

Next Meeting

We will have our next meeting on Tuesday, **January 28 at 6:30 p.m.**

The first of the year is a great time to commit to becoming more active in our neighborhood association. Through NCHNA, you can stay better informed on city initiatives that affect our area, add your voice to those advocating for well maintained neighborhoods, make new friends, and participate in neighborhood events.

We meet at Messiah Lutheran Church on the southeast corner of N. Portland and N.W. Expressway. Join us!

Neighborhood Resident Completes Residents Fire Academy

North Coronado Heights resident Benny Gilbert attended the Oklahoma City Fire Department's twenty-fourth Residents Fire Academy from early September to late October. The training course, which meets one evening a week for eight weeks, offers city residents an in-depth look at the inner workings of the OCFD.

The curriculum includes some classroom time devoted to understanding the department's operational principles, vision, mission, and values. A great deal of time over the course's duration is spent on "hands-on" activities meant to raise awareness of the physical and technical skills necessary to be a firefighter — rappelling, use of aerial bucket equipment, deployment of emergency medical equipment, fast-water rope rescues, proper use of fire extinguishers, procedures in response to fire alarms, fire hose use, aerial ladder climbs, vehicle extrication, and use of thermal



Benny Gilbert, backed up by an Oklahoma City firefighter, learns a little about the massive, hard-to-control power of a fully engaged fire hose.

image cameras. Where practical, students are fitted with bunker gear and allowed to test their own skills. In the process, they develop a new appreciation for the challenging nature of firefighters' jobs.

"We also gained insight into how much initial and recurrent training our firefighters receive," said Gilbert. "We can be confident that ours is one of the top fire departments in America."

Did You Know? Residents who set bulky trash items at the curb more than three days early may be fined up to \$500. This rule is in place to help keep neighborhoods looking clean and attractive. Please do your part—put your big trash out no more than three days before your assigned set-out date, which will be printed on your water bill. If you accidentally miss a big-trash day, keep the items out of sight and wait for the following month's pickup.

Visit our web site: www.northcoronadoheights.org

**NCHNA
News in Brief**

◆ **Trash Pickup Delayed by Holiday.** The observance of Martin Luther King Day on January 20 will mean city trash service will not occur on that day. City offices will also be closed. Our neighborhood trash and recycling pickup during that week will be done on January 22.

◆ **Important Decisions Are on the Horizon.**

Each March, we elect officers to lead NCHNA, and we set goals and approve a budget for the coming year. If you have an idea for a project for NCHNA, let us know about it. If you think you might be interested in running for election for the position of president, treasurer, or secretary, we welcome your interest. The current officers will be glad to talk with you about the duties of the various offices and the approximate time commitment required for serving as an officer. Just email the board at northcoronado@gmail.com if you'd like to explore the possibilities.

NCHNA patrollers were honored at the OKC Police Department's annual Jingle and Mingle Christmas open house on December 7. Volunteers Darlene Michael, Sheryl Bacon, Benny Gilbert, and Greg Brunzman are shown here with Sgt. Michael Miller, the OKCPD's Southwest Division's community relations liaison.



■ **Your Feedback Will be Considered in GO Bond Planning**

Oklahoma City residents will go to the polls later this year to approve or disapprove the issuance of a General Obligation Bond to fund infrastructure improvements across the city. Residents have been asked to give their input on what is most needed in their neighborhoods.

At our November 26 meeting, we asked NCHNA members about their priorities. The items they felt were most important to fund for our neighborhood included:

- A sidewalk along Tulsa Avenue, a project

that has been a focus for NCHNA for a long time, and which has been approved but is still unfunded.

- Resurfacing of the very rough and patchy Tulsa Avenue.
- Replacement of a great deal of our aging water supply infrastructure, which has been experiencing frequent water line ruptures.
- More street lighting throughout our area's residential streets.

Our members' input will be forwarded to city leaders via our City Council

member, James Cooper, in mid-January. Project ideas and priorities from across the city will be evaluated and ranked as city leaders craft the bond proposal.

The mechanism of funding projects through General Obligation Bonds often means long waits between the time the bond proposal is approved, the bonds can be sold, and work on a project can begin. One of the suggestions offered in our meeting was for the city to endeavor to begin projects within two years of voter approval of the bond.