

# NEWSLETTER

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual homeowners' meeting is Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the South Broken Arrow Library, the corner of Chestnut and 101<sup>st</sup>. At this meeting we will discuss our financial status, projects we are working on, and plans for future work in The Commons. Please be in attendance.

## **GROUNDS**

Thank you to those of you who are respecting the rules, your neighbors and the law, by complying with the Broken Arrow City Ordinance and cleaning up after your pet(s); and also to those of you who are not setting your trash out prior to the evening before trash day. We have noticed a marked improvement – THANK YOU!!!

The contract with our yard service company states that yards littered with animal feces will not be mowed. Our contractor has been very patient with the board and homeowners/renters while we have been communicating the need to regularly clean up after one's pet(s) – whether this is in your own yard or while you are walking your pet(s).

There is a reason the city has an ordinance regarding the proper disposal of animal waste and why we have incorporated that into our rules. In 1991 the EPA deemed pet waste a “nonpoint source of pollution,” which put pet waste in the same category as oil and toxic chemicals. Pet waste is toxic to lawns, causing burns and discoloration. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pet waste can contribute to diseases animals pass to other animals and even to humans. When an infected dog's feces are deposited on the lawn, eggs of certain roundworms and other parasites can linger in the soil for years. Anyone who comes in contact with that soil – by gardening, walking barefoot, children playing, dogs walking – runs the risk of coming in contact with those eggs. This isn't even taking into consideration what the runoff of water that contains dog feces does to our waterways!

When our contractor mows over animal feces, the feces can be spread around and/or caught under the mower in the grass and carried to other parts of our grounds, and to other client's grounds. Not to mention the smell and the disgust of stepping in it!

Our yard service company is contracted to mow, edge, trim shrubs, clean up from that work, and remove fallen tree leaves from the yards. This is done on a year round basis. They are not contracted to pick up hoses, remove items from patios, and/or pick up trash or animal feces in order to complete their work. Homeowners/renters have had plenty of communication and opportunity to comply – therefore, we have instructed our yard service company to use their judgment on the amount of work they can do to a yard when confronted with litter and animal feces, etc. If your yard is skipped or partially cared for, the yard work will be completed on our contractor's next work day – if your yard is cleaned up.

Our scheduled yard service day is Wednesday. However, due to the unpredictability of the weather and The Commons not being the only client they have, we need to be flexible. There are 94 homeowners in The Commons - it is not possible for us to notify you in advance if the schedule changes.

### **COMMUNICATION WITH CONTRACTORS**

The Rules and Regulations state that if homeowners have issue with any of the work done by our contractors, they are to report it to the board - **NOT TO THE CONTRACTOR**. Our contractors have been instructed that if they are approached by a homeowner they are to inform them that they take direction from the board and the homeowner will need to email us or place a note in the box.

For safety reasons, please do not approach our contractors while they are working. This is distracting to the workers and dangerous if they are on a ladder, using a saw, or if there is flying debris from the mowers, edgers, and blowers. The worker has to stop until the person is out of the area and the job unnecessarily takes longer to complete. It was reported by the yard service company that recently an unsupervised, young child (who lives in the Commons) followed them around the property interfering with their work.

### **SPEAKING OF CHILDREN**

Some residents in The Commons have reported concerns regarding the behavior of some of the children living here. We realize our yards are small and right up against each other but that does not excuse the disrespect being shown to residents' property by some children in our neighborhood. Please do not allow them to play in other people's yards, without the homeowner's permission, shrub beds, and driveways. Reports have been received of items and buildings being damaged by children in yards other than their own. For the safety of the children and to make for good relations with your neighbors, please be a good and considerate neighbor and supervise your children's activities and whereabouts.

### **HOMEOWNERS MEETINGS**

Homeowners meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the South Broken Arrow Library, the corner of 101<sup>st</sup> E. Ave and Chestnut.

### **HOW TO CONTACT THE BOARD**

Our website address: [thecommonsatcanterbury.org](http://thecommonsatcanterbury.org).

To contact us via email:

Lawn, shrub, tree issues – [grounds@thecommonsatcanterbury.org](mailto:grounds@thecommonsatcanterbury.org)

Siding, wood, paint, gutter, roof issues – [theboard@thecommonsatcanterbury.org](mailto:theboard@thecommonsatcanterbury.org)

Dues/financial issues – [dues@thecommonsatcanterbury.org](mailto:dues@thecommonsatcanterbury.org)

Or our mailing address is: The Commons, 2408 W. Quantico St., BA, OK 74011