



# Nichols Hills E-News

August 2013

## CITY NEWS

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### Upcoming Meetings

- City Council Meeting  
September 10th  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of Municipal Authority  
September 10th  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Board of Adjustment  
September 18th  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health & Sustainability Committee  
September 25th  
8:30 am at City Hall

**City Hall and Public Works  
Will be Closed on  
Monday, September 2nd  
for Observance of  
LABOR DAY**

## Labor Day



**The Police and Fire Departments will be working and available for call.**

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

There is a movement in many states and at the federal level to require sprinkler systems in new home construction. As you would expect the primary force behind this issue comes from the fire service. Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters both have State and National Associations that study fire and other safety issues. When they believe an issue, such as home sprinkler systems, has the potential to save lives and/or property at a reasonable cost they will dedicate the time, effort, and expense it takes to push for legislation making it a requirement. Often the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) will join the cause and include it in their National Standards; they are often the initiators of such action. The NFPA Standards are recognized nationally as the premier standards covering every phase of fire fighting and fire safety. Local governments and fire departments are not required to abide by the standards unless the state legislature or the local government has adopted the NFPA Standards and neither the City of Nichols Hills nor the State of Oklahoma has adopted them.

What is a home sprinkler system? There are variations that can be used to customize a system but basically it's a system of water pipes that are hidden in the ceiling throughout the house. There are sprinkler heads attached to the pipes that drop through the ceiling and are exposed to the room below. There is water under pressure in the pipes at all times and when a sprinkler head is heated to a preset temperature the sprinkler head opens which lets water flow and hopefully extinguishes the fire while it's still small. Only the sprinkler heads that are heated open which prevents unnecessary water damage.

How much do they cost? I surveyed several sprinkler installation companies and the cost averaged approximately \$2.50 per square foot. To add a sprinkler system to a 3000 square foot house would cost approximately \$7500, for a 10,000 square foot house it would cost approximately \$25,000. These cost estimates are for new construction; retrofitting an existing home would add to the cost. New home construction cost is generally around \$100 per foot and usually much more than that for a Nichols Hills home so adding \$2.50 per foot for a sprinkler is not a significant amount.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The installation cost is offset by discounts on the home owners insurance. I spoke with several insurance agents including one representing Farmers and another representing State Farm and they all gave me the same information. Every agent I spoke to said his or her company offered a 10% per year discount if the home had a sprinkler system. All but one said the home had to be 100% covered by the sprinkler system which includes attics, closets, bathrooms, etc, to get the full 10% discount. One said coverage area was not specified and the others said you could get a 5% discount if the house was partially covered by a sprinkler system, i.e. only the living areas.

Sprinkler systems are relatively maintenance free and work great when operating properly. They definitely save property and can save lives. There is currently no pending legislation in Oklahoma concerning home sprinkler systems. If any is written in the future we will do our best to get that information to our residents so any that wish to can contact their legislators and voice their opinions.

Terry Hamilton  
Fire Chief



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Crime Alert update:

Recently I mentioned that officers of the Nichols Hills Police Department had thwarted the theft of two vehicles from Nichols Hills and recovered a third vehicle that had been stolen from Edmond. Due to the efforts of another Nichols Hills Officer approximately one week earlier, four male suspects known to be gang members from Lawton, had been identified when confronted in another stolen vehicle parked in the parking lot of All Souls Church. Felony charges have now been filed in Oklahoma County, naming all four suspects and warrants have been or soon will be issued for their arrest. One of the suspects was shot during a home invasion in Lawton while under investigation in Nichols Hills. We believe that these four individuals can be extremely dangerous and we believe that they were responsible for several other property crimes in Nichols Hills over the last few months.

Several years ago there were two home invasions in one night that occurred in Nichols Hills. In one incident, the victim's car had been left unlocked and the garage door opener was used to gain entry into the garage. The door between the kitchen and garage had been left unlocked. Four convicted felons, including one on parole for rape, came into the home while the family slept. They awakened a group of small children in the living room. The noise awakened the mother and father who tried to intervene. The father was pistol whipped and the mother was held around her throat. The family was threatened and robbed. Within ten days the four suspects were identified and taken into custody. They have since been convicted and sentenced to lengthy prison terms but not before one of them took a jail guard hostage and attempted an escape. He was severely injured during the re-arrest.

I remind you of that story in an attempt to warn you of the dangers of leaving your vehicles and homes unlocked. I suggest that if you have an alarm system use it and if you don't, install one. Have your alarm company notify the police department first before they try and notify you. There is no fine for false alarms until they become a nuisance. Just recently, Oklahoma City was rated one of the ten most violent cities in the nation. The City of Nichols Hills is surrounded by Oklahoma City. Remember, if you leave your car unlocked and the door between the house and garage unlocked, you are inviting disaster.

On another note, we continue to get complaints on solicitors and Restoration Church in particular. Remember, if you post your property with a sign that says

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

**“NO SOLICITING”**, all soliciting is prohibited and that means “ALL”. Once you make a donation to someone who comes to your door, they will most likely be back for as long as you donate. It is much safer to make your charitable donations in other ways and to organizations that have been determined to be legitimate. Soliciting door to door can easily be used as a way to case a residence to determine if the doors are unlocked and we have arrested solicitors in the past for burglary and theft.

The Nichols Hills Police Department will provide residents with **“NO SOLICITING”** stickers at no cost. They are available at the dispatch window, and can be picked up 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If it is difficult for you to get to the police department, just email Robin Murray at [rmurray@nicholshills.net](mailto:rmurray@nicholshills.net) and we will mail you one.

Please help us protect you and the entire community. Don't invite crime into your town.

Thank you,  
Chief Richard Mask



## ANIMAL RESCUE FRIENDS

If anyone wants to assist ARF in it's mission of saving unclaimed, impounded pets in Nichols Hills, they can donate time, old collars, leashes, crates, dog beds, food, treats, toys and, of course, money by mailing checks to Animal Rescue Friends, Inc of Nichols Hills, C/O Public Works, 1009 N.W. 75th Street, Nichols Hills, OK 73116 or by calling 843-4222 about donating items. ARF will respond by sending a 501 c 3 tax deduction letter (and offering a cat or a dog!). Any animal adopted through ARF comes with a 30 day money back guarantee.

### AUGUST'S FEATURED PET



Luke, is 65 pound, approximately 7 year old yellow lab/husky mix with one blue eye (+one brown) & a GREAT, affectionate personality

**OCTOBER 6TH  
POOCH PARADE  
SAVE THE DATE!**