



Nichols Hills E-News

December 2011

CITY COUNCIL

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Upcoming Meetings

- Planning Commission
January 3rd
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting
January 10th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of Municipal Authority
January 10th
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health & Sustainability Committee
January 25th
8:30 am at City Hall
- Board of Adjustment
January 18th
5:30 pm at City Hall

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Why Can't Nichols Hills Recycle The Way They Do It In The "Big City"?

I've had a couple of residents approach me recently about what to tell their visiting relatives who invariably say, "Why can't Nichols Hills do recycling the way we do it in _____?". Recycling in Oklahoma is a far more complicated proposition than it is in many bigger cities. There is no short snappy retort, but a rather long drawn out explanation that they may not sit still for!

We are all trying to be good citizens of the Earth, and that takes different forms in different areas. On the east coast, for instance, their lack of space for landfills means it is cost effective to load recycling on barges and drag it down to Louisiana. But does that really reduce the footprint easterners make on the environment? The Wall Street Journal recently revealed that many of the so-called plastic recycling plants in the US are actually shipping the plastic to China to be used in their manufacturing. In Oklahoma City, the plastic recycling is trucked to Dallas. Yes, it's technically "recycling" but does it protect the earth's resources?

In our zeal to be good citizens, we may be taxing the earth even further. It's important to look beyond the surface desire and explore what really happens when we recycle. Closer to home, in Nichols Hills, my family enjoys putting our newspapers in the yellow and green bin in the Church parking lot. The church receives a payment from that every time the bin is emptied. We give our cans to another church that sells them to provide funding for their mission work. We could also be putting our zeal to use by exploring ways to reduce excess packaging, and reusing the things we have. Recycling is really a last resort. Use Less Stuff!

Mayor Sody Clements

NICHOLS HILLS

LET'S Recycle BETTER!

IMPORTANT CHANGES COMING TO OUR
NICHOLS HILLS RECYCLING CENTER

located at our Public Works Department. 1009 NW 75th Street

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2012

**WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT**

**RECYCLING
CHANGES**

1. Good news! Our recycling center will now be staffed by a Public Works employee:

- To help with your recycled material.
- To eliminate contamination of the container.

PLEASE BRING YOUR PROOF as a Nichols Hills RESIDENT:

- Driver's license or current water bill.

2. New hours of operation:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1st Saturday each month: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

3. Cardboard will now be collected in a separate container.

4. Glass will no longer be collected:

- Unfortunately, there is no nearby market for our glass.

OUR RECYCLING CENTER ACCEPTS:

- Paper & Cardboard
- Aluminum Cans
- #1 & #2 Plastics
- Tin Cans

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

PUBLIC WORKS



You may have seen the new speed limit signs being installed around town. They are being installed as traffic calming devices and they do perform several other functions such as traffic counting, average speed, etc. Public Works is installing them as we have time and starting with the entry streets into Nichols Hills. We have installed eight and have twenty-five remaining. If you know of an area that would benefit from the installation of a new radar sign please contact us.

Our street contractors (Atlas Paving) have completed the 1700 and 1800 block Dorchester Place (with the exception of two street lights). Atlas will start replacing the 1600 block of Camden Way after the first of the year. You will be notified when that time gets closer. Blastco started painting the south water storage tank in the middle of December. They are moving very quickly and should be finished shortly after the first of the year.

There will be some changes to the Nichols Hills recycling center starting on January 4th. It will be located in the same place but it will have different hours and it will be staffed. The new hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and it will be open from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on the first Saturday of each month. Ted White will staff the recycling center and he will be there to assist in any way he can. Entrance to the center will require some kind of Nichols Hills identification (i.e. utility bill, drivers license).

The Nichols Hills codes department is working hard to maintain compliance with the EPA stormwater rules. The main objective is to keep mud, dirt and sand out of the street. Construction sites will need to have silt fencing in order, stock piled materials covered and vehicles to stay out of yards. If you see anything that might cause a problem, please call Public Works.

If you have any problems we can help with please call 843-5222.

Have Happy New Year.

Public Works

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Nichols Hills Fire Fighters want you to have a happy and safe Holiday Season. Christmas is a wonderful holiday but with the increased activity; shopping, decorating, planning family get-togethers, etc it does bring with it a significant amount of stress. Please don't let your busy schedule distract you from doing all you can to keep yourself and your family safe. Please read the following initiative and keep safety in mind to help this Holiday Season be a happy one.

Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

As we move closer to winter, and home fires begin to increase, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are reminding individuals and communities that fire safety awareness and efforts are especially important in the coming months. To support this effort, the USFA and NFPA are sponsoring a special initiative - *Put a Freeze on Winter Fires* – to help get the word out about home fire safety.

Each winter, an estimated 108,400 home fires occur in the United States, resulting in approximately 945 deaths and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Cooking is the leading cause of winter home fires, and holiday decorations and winter storms can cause people to turn to alternative heating sources, such as space heaters, which account for about one third of home heating fires and approximately 80 percent of home heating fire deaths.

Winter fires can be prevented! The following fire safety tips can help maintain a fire-safe home this winter season:

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking something on top of the stove or when grilling or broiling food.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from space heaters, woodstoves, etc.
- Replace damaged electrical or extension cords.
- Never use the oven or stovetop to heat a home; carbon monoxide gas can kill people and pets.
- Don't put a live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water.
- Avoid using lighted candles; try flameless candles instead.

For more information, visit the USFA Web site and the NFPA Web site.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Officer Stephen West, a decorated and seasoned veteran who was responsible for training new officers, has resigned. Even though we regret losing him, we would like to congratulate him on his new job with Chesapeake Energy Security. We would like to thank him for his years of service here, and we wish him the best in his new endeavor.