



Nichols Hills E-News

FEBRUARY 2008

FIRE DEPARTMENT



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Upcoming Meetings

- City Council meeting March 11th, 5:30 pm at City Hall
- Municipality Meeting, March 11th, 5:45 pm at City Hall
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Some of you may have heard that the Nichols Hills Fire Department (NHFD) has been raising funds to purchase a new Thermal Imaging camera. We are currently without a Thermal Imager because ours has been repaired twice in the last two years and needs another expensive overhaul. In addition to that parts are becoming obsolete for a model this old so the decision was made not to repair it again but to replace it.

For those of you who may not know a Thermal Imager is a camera that allows us to “see” instantly through dark black smoke, see flames or heat inside walls or attics, see an unconscious person lying in smoke or complete dark, or even see a

hot electrical wire in a wall or electrical fixture. They are amazing tools that allow us to do our jobs much more quickly, safely, and efficiently. They are very much worth the cost.

We have done a great deal of research and viewed demonstrations from several different manufacturers and chosen one that we think will best suit our needs. The purchase price will be close to \$15,000. To date we have raised around \$5000 towards this project. If you would like to contribute to this cause please send a tax deductible check made out to Nichols Hills Crime Prevention Inc., at 6407 Avondale Drive Nichols Hills, OK 73116. Just make a note that it is for the Thermal Imager Fund and thank you for your concern.

On a more positive note we have two new additions to our NHFD family. Fire Fighter Todd Mays and his wife Andrea are the proud parents of twins Molly and Luke who were born on February 15th.

Due to complications the babies had to be delivered eight weeks early and were very small. Molly weighed 2.5 pounds and Luke weighed only 2 pounds. Happily, both babies and both parents are doing well. Both babies were taken off the ventilator after only a couple of days, unfortunately Molly had to be placed back on it a day or two after being taken off but she and Luke are both getting stronger by the day.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT



There were eight larcenies reported this month. A majority of these larcenies involved holiday decorations being removed from residents' lawns after the Christmas holiday. Most of the decorations were recovered by police officers and returned to the rightful owners. The other larcenies involved unlocked automobiles. While each of the vehicle owners were lucky and had nothing of major value taken, we urge our residents to lock their vehicles, even if parked in their own driveway. This not only protects the property in the vehicle, it also protects the driver and passengers from intruders.

There were two arrests for DUI, and one arrest for possession of a controlled dangerous substance. Officers made five arrests for outstanding warrants. There was one missing person report filed, and the subject was located shortly after the original call. There were five traffic incidents reports this month. There were nine suspicion reports, two found property reports, one vandalism report, one soliciting without a permit report, one trespassing report, one credit card report, and two unattended death reports.

Officers were dispatched to 101 residential alarm calls, and 7 business alarm calls. The department responded to 43 suspicious vehicle calls, 14 suspicious subject calls, and 12 suspicious activity calls. Officers responded to 6 citizen assist calls and 15 motorist

assist calls. Officers performed 108 house checks this month. There were 466 traffic stops, and 294 citations written.

We have renewed the enforcement of the "No Left Turn" signs at Western and Huntington and Western and Larchmont. The sign for Larchmont had been taken down when Western was widened and never replaced. It has now been replaced. The no left turn ordinance is still on the books and still in effect. Enforcement has been increased after recent complaints by residents in the neighborhood. It has been suggested that the signs are no longer needed or justified and the City Council is set to discuss the issue at the February meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

Sewer Backups and Prevention

If it happens to you, what should you do?

If you experience a backup of the sewer or drains in your home, call us at 843-5222 and we will help determine where the blockage is.

Who is responsible?

A reliable infrastructure system is a priority for the Nichols Hills Public Works Department. However, a sewer is not a closed system and many things (tree roots, disposable diapers, vandalism, etc.) can clog the system. Since each situation has its own unique set of circumstances, the following information will help you understand responsibility and liability for damage from sewer backups:

If the stoppage is in the City main, we will fix it as soon as possible. (See the diagram.) In most cases, the City's cleaning equipment can be used to restore the flow without digging to the sewer line.

If the stoppage is in the private line connecting to the City main, we'll let you know so you can contact your plumber to fix it.

Sewer backups are not routinely covered by homeowners' insurance policies. Don't assume you are covered: **check your policy to make sure you are covered for damages due to sewer backups.** You may need a special option for coverage so talk to your insurance agent.



The City of Nichols Hills is only responsible for its own property, not your line or the connection to the main. According to the law, the City cannot work on private property and public funds can't be spent for private purposes. The City of Nichols Hills can only be liable for damage if the backup is in the City main and we had advance knowledge that there was a problem and we didn't respond in a reasonable manner and time.

PUBLIC WORKS

Steps to Avoid a Sewer Backup:

The best protection against sewer backups is a backflow valve or a check valve. **They are required by ordinance on all new and newly-repaired sewer lines. If your home does not have a backflow valve, you can have your plumber add one to your line.** The valve works by closing when water comes into from the wrong direction so it prevents sewage from backing up into your house. Once installed, clean the valve periodically to ensure it continues to work properly.

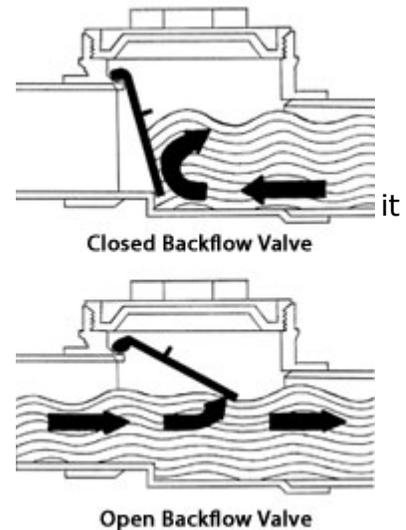
Plant trees and large shrubs a minimum of ten feet away from sewer lines. Roots grow toward breaks or cracks in the line. When roots get inside the pipe, they clog it.

Don't connect sump pumps, French drains, other flood control systems or roof gutters and downspouts to your sanitary sewer. The debris and silt will clog your line. These connections are illegal so you will want to contact your plumber to undo them.

Dispose of grease and fats with your trash, not down the drain.

If you see anyone tampering with sewer manholes, report it immediately. Vandals often throw debris down sewer manholes which stops up the sewer system and causes

If your drains are running slow, call us at 843-5222 at the first sign of a problem. We'll come and check the lines.



Public Notices & Announcements

New Ordinances

This section was added to the fence ordinance:

Sec.6-185 Appearance.

(a) Fences visible from churches, public streets and public parks shall be constructed with the better side facing the church, public street or public parks and all stringers, posts, and other supports upon which fence panels are mounted shall be located on the inside of the fence facing the interior of the property.

(b) Where a development is required by the City of Nichols Hills Zoning Code to provide sight proof screening for abutting property, the better sides shall face the abutting property.

Sec. 25-54. Demolition or removal of dwellings.

This section was removed:

B. Evidence of a redevelopment timetable, in the form of a building permit application which shall be approved prior to final approval of the demolition permit.

25-55.010. Accessory sign regulations for E-Estate and R-Residential districts.

Signs will now have a maximum height of 44 inches.

25-80.020. Building permit requirements. A building permit shall be required:

These two sections have been removed:

C. Whenever any required landscape area or landscape improvements are to be relocated or removed;

E. Whenever a structure or building is to be demolished and new construction is to take place on the existing site.

Resident Candi Bullard addressed the City Council concerning the no-left turn sign at Western and Huntington. After much discussion the Council asked the City Attorney to correct the Nichols Hills Ordinances to remove the no-left turn signs on Western at both Huntington and Larchmont. And to remove the no-left turn sign on Larchmont at Western. The no left turn sign on Huntington at Western will be left in place until an issue with the trees at that intersection can be resolved.