



Nichols Hills E-News

February 2009

PUBLIC WORKS

Inside this issue:

Public Works	1
Fire Department	4
Police Department	6
Animal Rescue Friends (ARF)	9

Upcoming Meetings

- Planning Commission Meeting March 3rd
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting March 10th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Board of Adjustment Meeting March 18th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Environment, Health, & Sustainability Committee March 25th
8:30 am

6407 Avondale Drive
Nichols Hills, OK 73116

Phone: 405-843-6637
Email: enews@nicholshills.net

Animal Control

Congratulations to Chris Jackson for being elected a board member of the Oklahoma Animal Control Executive Board. We would like to also say thanks to 'ARF' (Animal Rescue Friends) for all the hard work and time they spend placing animals.

Recycle Bins

The City of Nichols Hills has several recycle bins located behind City Hall. If at anytime you see one that needs to be emptied, please call 843-5222. While we are on this subject please help us with the cardboard bins. If the boxes are broken down before depositing them in the bins, we can accommodate more cardboard. Thank you for your help.

Remember to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Energy Conservation

Spring is around the corner and it would be a good time to consider planting trees on your property. In considering the locations for trees or shrubs, one might consider putting shade near the air conditioning units. This will help the units operating more efficiently. Trees placed on the north side of your home can help in breaking that cold north wind during the winter and trees placed on the south side can help cool your home in the summer.

PUBLIC WORKS

Sewer Line Maintenance

The Public Works Dept. just purchased a new Jett Rodding machine. This piece of equipment will help 'Line Maintenance Crews' service the city's sewer lines. One feature that will greatly assist city crews is the camera that was also purchased. The camera will help us determine any problems in the lines.



PUBLIC WORKS

Ground Storage Tank

The new 4,000,000 Gal. water storage tank is coming along. They are starting to wrap the outside with steel cable. The new tank can be seen from the 1000 block of Wilshire, or the 7600 block of Olie.



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.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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. I have seen fires that were extinguished or kept small by a properly designed and operating sprinkler system. 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
Deputy Fire Chief



POLICE DEPARTMENT



This month we are spotlighting Lieutenant Bruce Funderburk. He started as a patrol officer with the City of Nichols Hills on July 2, 1984. Lt. Funderburk was recently assigned to the position of Patrol Commander.

Lt. Funderburk said that things are very different in patrol today than they were in 1984. He said there were seventeen officers in 1984 and today we have fifteen officers. In 1984, there were no concerns about gang problems anywhere in the Midwest. Today there are gang problems throughout the region. Funderburk spoke about the increase in violent crime since 1984. But he added that advances in technology have helped the law enforcement effort. There have

been many changes in laws, including the domestic violence laws and even seat belt laws. He also believes that communication has dramatically increased with the community we serve.

The Patrol Commander is responsible for the uniformed division of the police department. Some of the responsibilities include the research, documentation, and scheduling

POLICE DEPARTMENT

of all police continuing education. He is responsible for the daily operations of the patrol division, and supervising twelve police officers. Lieutenant Funderburk is also the program supervisor for the Field Training Officer program.

Lieutenant Funderburk graduated from the F.B.I National Academy in December of 2007. He also holds an advanced law enforcement certification through CLEET (the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training). His philosophy for being a successful police officer is to treat everyone with respect, and always be professional. Lieutenant Funderburk believes that despite the recent increase in violent crime, Nichols Hills is still the safest place to live in the metro area. If you have any questions of Lt. Funderburk, or wish to congratulate him on his recent assignment, you can reach him at (405) 843-5672, or email him at bfunderburk@nicholhills.net.



Bruce Funderburk beginning his career with the Nichols Hills Police Department in 1984



Bruce Funderburk accepting his assignment with the detective division in 2003

POLICE DEPARTMENT

We would like to note the passing of two of our residents:



In addition to being a successful businessman, Ed Thomas was very active volunteering in his community. He was a strong supporter and participant in the city's RUOK program. He touched many lives in this community, and will be missed.



Edgar "Pete" Hoffman served as a member of the very first City Council of Nichols Hills, and later served as mayor. He was very active in his community, and a strong supporter of the city, the citizens, and the employees. He left a lasting legacy with this city, and he will be missed.

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!).

February's Featured Pet



Dusty is very sweet, a bit timid, and less than a year old who was found by the garbage cans by the OKC Golf & Country Club kitchen door - we thought he was anti social at first but it turns out he was just frightened. He must be an indoor kitty - but he seems very happy doing that right now. Of course he is neutered, fully vaccinated and tested negative for FIV and Feline Leukemia - he is much smaller than he looks in his photo - that is a very small litter box! He has really beautiful gold eyes that match his coat and he is very affectionate.