



Nichols Hills E-News

February 2010

CITY HALL

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Upcoming Meetings

- Community Awareness Meeting March 4th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting March 9th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of the Nichols Hills Municipal Authority March 9th
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health, & Sustainability Meeting March 24th
8:30 am at City Hall

An Overview of the 2nd Annual City of Nichols Hills Landscape Forum February 11, 2010

Inspired by the success of the original Landscape Forum after the devastating 2007 ice storm, the second Landscape Forum was offered with the idea of giving our citizens beautiful and cost effective residential landscaping ideas, and ways to reduce water consumption and minimize yard waste. An enthusiastic crowd of approximately 150 people gathered at All Souls' Episcopal Church Parish Hall on Thursday night to hear 3 top experts speak about Successful & Sustainable Residential Landscapes. Brian Dougherty with the OKC Community Foundation was the keynote speaker and gave an overview of how to practically think about residential landscapes. He was followed by Ray Ridlen with the OSU County Extension who spoke about the necessity of soil testing and proper watering. The final speaker was Mark Bays with the OK Department of Agriculture who offered tree selection ideas and proper tree planting and care.

Following the presentations, there was a question & answer period and then door prizes awarded to the lucky few from the 13 participating vendors. Donated prizes ranged from a tree to one-hour consultations. A "Landscaping Toolkit" handout was given to each attendee, which included helpful landscaping phone numbers and links and can be also be found on the NH website @ www.nicholshills.net.

It has been especially rewarding to help create these landscape forums, and I would like to thank all of those involved who worked so hard to make this event possible, especially chairman Nancy Herzel. The follow-

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ing are some highlights from the speakers to help you with your home landscape.

Peter Hoffman

Mayor Peter Hoffman

Successful & Sustainable Residential Landscapes:

A beautiful, sustainable landscape entails both the science of horticulture and the art of design. "A successful landscape should be at least 80% enjoyment and no more than 20% work."

I. Beautiful & Aesthetically Pleasing

Trees & Shrubs: choose according to mature size, spacing, location (not under power lines), &

seasonal variation including a mix of evergreen & deciduous

Lawns & Turf: consider maintenance for cool season & warm season

Flowerbeds: choose plants for maximum impact, lowest maintenance, and varied textures & colors

Hardscape: use to your advantage. Examples: patios, walks, pools, & arbors. Amount and proportionality are critical.

II. Functional Opportunities

A. Energy Conservation: sun & wind protection

B. Outdoor Living Space: year-round enjoyment

C. Elevated Planting Area: where possible for improved drainage, seating, & interest

Edible Gardens: herbs, vegetables, color, texture, & interest

III. Environmentally Responsible

Reduce Water Consumption: amount varies according to N S E W, use rain & freeze sensors

on your irrigation system, generally water less often but longer in duration each time you water

Incorporate Best Practices: aerate, mow grass higher (2 ½ to 3") to create a deeper & hardier

root system

Reduce Unnecessary Chemicals: have your soil tested (top 6"), be specific & accurate with application

Compost & Reduce Waste: use a mulching mower & shred leaves

IV. Cost Effective

A. Develop a Comprehensive Landscape Plan: include maintenance schedule

- B. Minimize Annual Beds: use ornamental shrubs, perennials, rocks, etc.
- Maximize Organic Additives & Mulch: best investment
- Optimize Water Conservation: monitor throughout the year to use less

V. Trees

- A. For best tree selection visit:

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

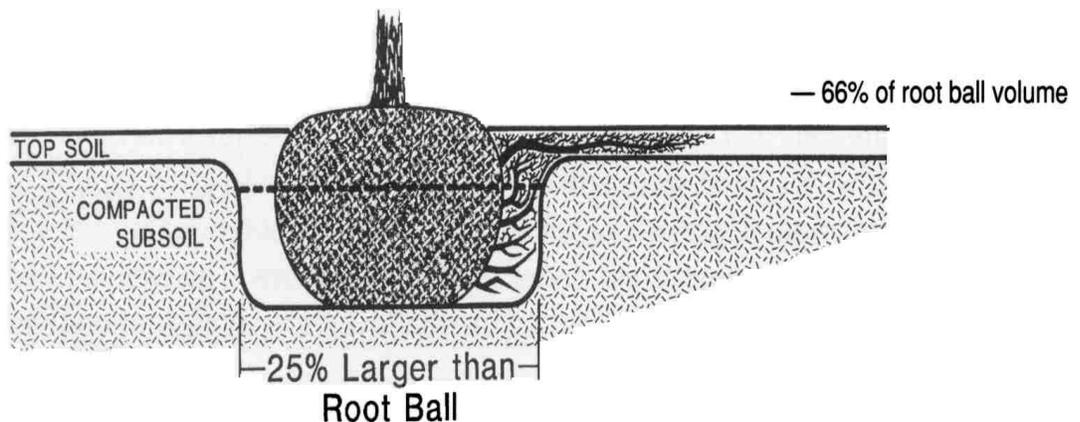
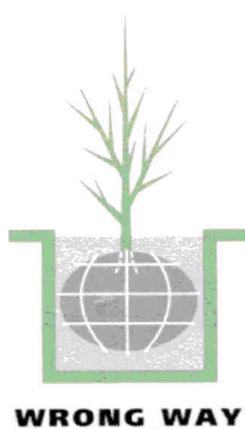
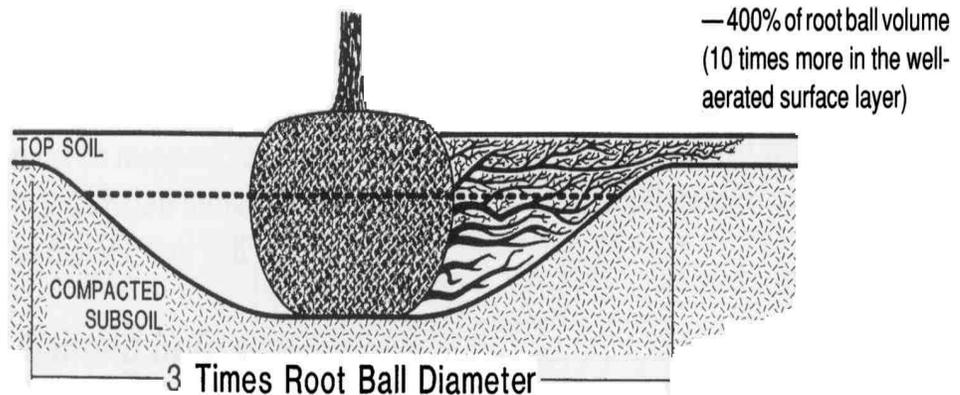
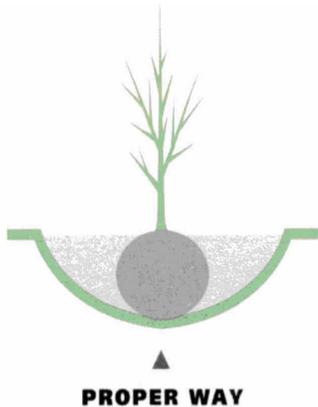
<http://okplanttrees.okstate.edu/resources/educational/pdr/>

Plant trees at ground level or slightly above. Do not loosen soil below bottom of root ball.

Remove all wire and wrapping.

The amount of water must match the tree's use based on weather, tree size, and species. Trees & lawns require different watering procedures.

VI. Proper Tree Planting



City of Nichols Hills
2nd Annual Landscape Forum
February 11, 2010

Helpful phone numbers & links
(Your landscaping toolkit)

CONTACTS:

OKLAHOMA COUNTY OSU EXTENSION SERVICE: Call or email gardening questions.

<http://www.oces.okstate.edu/oklahoma>

405.713.1125 or email: gale.goodner@okstate.edu

OKLAHOMA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS: Call with gardening questions.

<http://mastergardener.okstate.edu>

405.713.1125

OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: A statewide nonprofit organization for amateurs & professionals that recognizes and promotes excellence in gardening and horticulture.

<http://www.okhort.org/>

GENERAL INFORMATION:

OSU TOPICAL FACT SHEETS: Science-based information on lawn, yard, garden, & much more.

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/HomePage>

GARDENING:

OKLAHOMA GARDEN PLANNING GUIDE:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1092/HLA-6004web.pdf>

IRRIGATION:

SIP (Simple Irrigation Plan for Watering): Simple & advanced lawn watering needs.

<http://sip.mesonet.org/>

LAWN, SOIL, & GRASS:

LAWN MANAGEMENT IN OKLAHOMA:

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2299/F-6420web.pdf>

HOW TO GET A GOOD SOIL SAMPLE:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2762/PSS-2207web.pdf>

SELECTING A LAWN GRASS FOR OKLAHOMA:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-997/HLA-6418web.pdf>

MAINTENANCE, MONTHLY:

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE:

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1136/HLA-6408web.pdf>

PLANT SELECTION:

OKLAHOMA PROVEN: Superior plants recommended for Oklahoma.

<http://www.oklahomaproven.org/>

PERENNIAL FLOWERS FOR SPECIFIC USES IN OKLAHOMA:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1072/HLA-6410web%20color.pdf>

NOBLE FOUNDATION PLANT IMAGE GALLERY:

<http://www.noble.org/WebApps/PlantImageGallery/Index.aspx>

TREES & SHRUBS:

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

<http://okplanttrees.okstate.edu/resources/educational/pdr/>

PLANTING TREES & SHRUBS:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1120/HLA-6414web.pdf>

DECIDUOUS TREES FOR OKLAHOMA:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1056/NREM-5036web%20color.pdf>

FERTILIZING SHADE & ORNAMENTAL TREES & SHRUBS:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-3130/HLA-6412web.pdf>

PRUNING ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBS, & VINES:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1134/HLA-6409web.pdf>

SELECTING SHRUBS FOR THE LANDSCAPE:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5816/HLA-6439web.pdf>

VEGETABLE GARDEN:

VEGETABLE VARIETIES FOR THE HOME GARDEN IN OKLAHOMA: <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1386/HLA-6032web.pdf>

WEED, PEST, & DISEASE CONTROL:

CONTROLLING WEEDS IN HOME LAWNS:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1334/HLA-6421web.pdf>

ORNAMENTAL & LAWN PEST CONTROL:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2281/EPP-7306web%20color.pdf>

NON-CHEMICAL METHODS OF CONTROLLING DISEASES IN THE HOME LANDSCAPE & GARDEN:

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2309/EPP-7652web.pdf>

YARD WASTE:

“DON’T BAG IT:” RECYCLING YARD WASTE

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2867/L-253.pdf>

Some of my favorite Horticulture Publications: Brian Dougherty, FASLA

OK Gardener’s Guide Steve Dobbs–1999 & OK Gardener’s Guide Revised Edition Steve Dobbs–2004

Best Garden Plants for Oklahoma Steve Owens / Laura Peters–2007

Tough Plants for Southern Gardens Felder Rushing–2003

Rodale’s - Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gardening and Landscape Techniques Barbara W. Ellis, Editor–1990

Garden Smarts–A Bounty of Tips from North America’s Best Gardeners 2nd Edition / Shelley Goldbloom–1995

The Weather Resilient Garden Charles W G Smith–2004

New York Times 1000 Gardening Questions and Answers -2003

Know It & Grow It III, Guide to the Identification & Use of Landscape Plants Dr. Carl Whitcomb-1999

FIRE DEPARTMENT

As most people know city governments are bound by law to seek bids on any purchase over a minimum amount of money. That minimum amount varies from city to city. There are good reasons for this process but there are also potential perils to accepting the lowest bid. The Nichols Hills Fire Department is living with an example of a perilous purchase. In 1998 we accepted the low bid for a fire engine manufactured by E-One (EI). Written in the bid specifications was the phrase "lowest and best bid" meaning the best and most responsive bid for our needs may not be the lowest giving us the option of accepting a higher bid if we could justify it. Unfortunately the next closest bid was around \$30,000 more which we could not justify so we accepted the lowest bid from E-One.

From the beginning there were mechanical and electrical problems and although they were usually minor they never went away. When one problem was repaired another would take its place. Gradually the minor problems piled up and more serious problems would also appear. After the warranty expired we repaired many of the problems ourselves but many, particularly the major ones had to be done by a professional mechanic. We log all repairs in our record keeping data base and I could write a long list of the repairs done over the years but I will limit that to the latest repair bill. On October 19, 2009 we sent EI to a mechanic in Ninekah with a list 13 problems that needed repaired. Many of the repairs were electrical in nature requiring many hours of troubleshooting to isolate the exact cause of the problem. The mechanic we chose is very experienced and reliable and is professionally trained to work on E-One fire engines. We finally got EI back on February 19, 2010. The parts cost \$2864.95 and the labor was \$2100 for a total bill of \$4964.95. We considered this a bargain since we estimated the final bill would be a minimum of \$7000. Since taking possession of our EI in 1998 we have spent thousands of dollars in repairs. Factor in the many months EI has been out of service while being repaired and you get a picture of what I mean by the perils of taking the low bid.

Of course accepting the low bid is not always a mistake but when dealing with a specialized piece of equipment it is best to rely on the judgment of the people in that industry. We are currently working on specifications for a new fire engine which will go to bid later this year.

PUBLIC WORKS



Gary Springer

Feature Employee of the Month

Gary has been with the City of Nichols Hills for over a year and has been a great asset to the Public Works Department. Gary was born in Hanover, Pennsylvania and once he finished high school he entered the U.S. Air force. Gary met his wife Laureen while in the military service, and has been happily married for 34 years. Gary served 10 years in the Military. He then joined the Hertz Corporation for 22 years. Hobbies include gardening and in-scale rail-roading. Gary has a positive attitude and a willingness to take on any task.

PUBLIC WORKS

How to Deal With Main Breaks

On occasion the city of Nichols Hills will encounter a water main break. Majority of the main breaks are fixed without any problems. When the water is turned back on, there may be some very small debris in the water. The lines are flushed before putting them back on line, but sometimes there is some scale inside the lines that may come loose. The homeowners can prevent problems with their water lines by flushing the lines first. The first thing would be to run the outside faucets first to flush out any small scale that may have entered the line. In the interior of the home all aerators should be removed and the faucets allowed to run for a few minutes. The aerators are the small screens on the end of the faucet.

Sprinklers

Oklahoma has seen its share of freezing temperatures this winter. One item that homeowners can do to alleviate the ice that accumulates in the street in front of their home is to install freeze sensors on their sprinkler system. The Public Works Dept. receives several complaints on ice creating traffic hazards in the streets, due to sprinklers. Please, help us by turning your system off during these times or by installing a freeze sensor.

Streets

The ice and low temperatures have had their effect on our city streets. We are working at filling potholes at this time. The city is also looking at repairing other streets that are not on our bond schedule.

Animal Control

We had a great response to the animal registration that was sent out with the water bills. Several hundred tags were sold last month. If you have not registered your pet, please come by the Public Works Department (1009 N.W. 75th) to purchase an animal tag. Tags are \$5.00 each.

PUBLIC WORKS

Know Your City

The City of Nichols Hills Recycle Center accepts: _____, _____,
_____, _____, and _____.

The Nichols Hills Fire Chief is? _____

The Nichols Hills Police Chief is? _____

The Assistant Fire Chief is? _____

The Assistant Police Chief is? _____

The city park located at Belford and Trenton is now called?

Answers to last month's 'Know Your City':

1. Kite Park, Davis Park

2. Two

3. Clock

4. Sundays

5. No

6. No

POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Nichols Hills Police Department lost a dear friend and staunch supporter recently with the passing of Tom Dulaney. Tom was the chairman of the Nichols Hills Crime Prevention organization, and a founding member of the Nichols Hills Employee Scholarship Fund committee. Tom's wife Candy said Tom loved to throw parties to honor those who chose to further their education. Tom moved to Nichols Hills when he was a young child and truly loved this city.

We would like to express our deepest sympathies to Tom's family and friends. We will miss Tom, but his smile and his spirit will always be remembered. His generosity will live on through the many people he helped in his lifetime.