



Nichols Hills E-News

January 2009

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Upcoming Meetings

- Planning Commission Meeting February 3rd
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting February 10th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Board of Adjustment Meeting February 18th
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Environment, Health, & Sustainability Committee February 28th
8:30 am

In the last week, Nichols Hills has experienced thefts of merchandise from unlocked cars that were parked inside the garage. In both cases the side garage doors had been left unlocked. Even though only two incidents have occurred, I don't want a new trend to get started. You should always check to make sure the side door is locked and it doesn't hurt to lock the car even though it's in the garage. Also you should always remember to lock the door between the house and garage that normally leads into the kitchen. As an extra precaution, it's not a good idea to leave valuables inside the vehicle parked in the garage, especially purses and wallets.

On another note, we continue to experience an occasional theft of UPS or FEDEX packages that have been left on the porch. It is a good idea to have packages delivered to addresses where someone will be there to accept them when possible or perhaps arrange for a place where a package can be locked and secured when delivered, if you regularly receive packages.

The last of the two Lexus sedans stolen in February from a residence in Grand Circle have been recovered. Both cars had been left in the garage with the keys in the ignition while the residents were on a cruise. The garage door into the house was locked and the alarm was on, but the side door was not on the system. When our detectives searched the recovered Lexus for evidence, they found the suspect's wallet and Identification Card in the glove box and a stolen digital camera in the trunk. Photos were found in the camera of the suspect, a known gang member (rolling 60's Blood) who was recently released from prison.

6407 Avondale Drive
Nichols Hills, OK 73116

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The pictures were dated December 31st. 2008. In the photos the suspect was carrying a sawed off twelve gauge shotgun, (another good reason to lock your cars and doors and not leave valuables inside and to always set your alarms). We are in the process of filing charges and attempting to locate the suspect.

Always remember, the easier that we make it to come to Nichols Hills to commit crimes, the more often they will return and they will bring friends!

Thank you,
Richard L. Mask Sr.
Chief of Police

The Suspect the police are looking for is: **Reginald Waylon Powell** - Black Male, age 29 years old, 5'10" tall, weight 160.



Photos of Reginald Powell

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Our spotlight this month is on Officer Joe Land. Officer Land has been serving and protecting the citizens of Nichols Hills longer than any other police officer currently with the department.

Officer Land began his career with the Nichols Hills Police Department on March 29, 1982. This was the only time the city had hired four officers at one time. When asked about his early days with the department, Officer Land stated that many times he was the only officer on shift. He enjoyed his rookie days, but is grateful for the experience he has gained over the years.

He remembers 1982 as “a time we still used carbon paper to write tickets. There were no computers, and no hand held radios that functioned properly. Everyone shared flashlights. Vests were not issued. Now, everyone has these items issued to them as a rookie.” Back when he first started, Officer Land said that he drove a 1982 Crown Victoria police package. The color was powder blue. Maintenance was done at the city barn (truly a barn). Uniforms were solid black and everyone carried revolvers.

Officer Land remembers when the parks were not parks, but overgrown medians. Now, he states, all the parks are beautifully landscaped. “Not only have we landscaped our park areas, we have also grown a tremendous amount of stop signs. I remember when you could drive all the way down Avondale without stopping once. There were no streetlights. Traffic lights consisted of a single stoplight swinging on a wire at Wilshire and Penn, and at Western and Wilshire. There was no landscaping in parks, and the roads were pot-holed. The image of the city has improved since 1982, along with the image of our police department. We present a much more professional department than we did in 1982.”

Joe Land has been installing graphics on all the Nichols Hills patrol cars since 1982. He has no immediate plans for retirement. His philosophy is that inner city patrol is the best deterrent to crime.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



1982 Powder Blue Patrol Car



1982 Photo of Officer Joe Land

3 N • Thursday, June 3, 1982 OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES

Nichols Hills policeman first in academy class

NICHOLS HILLS — Recently recruited police officer Joe Land was graduated May 28 at the top of Oklahoma City Police Department's 30th Metropolitan Police Academy class, Chief Ed Smith has announced.

Three other Nichols Hills recruits, officers Martin Papp, Tony Gonzalez and David Eastep, also graduated from the eight-week, 320-hour course. Land earned 97.2 of 100 possible points to win the academy's academic trophy. Smith said it is the first time any Nichols Hills officer has won a training award.

"He worked hard," Smith said. "That's a very high grade point average. We're proud of him, and I think the citizens of Nichols Hills should be, too."

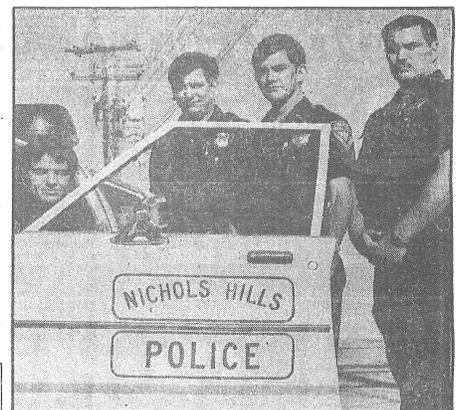
Before joining the Nichols Hills force in March, Land worked five years as a policeman for Oklahoma Children's Memorial Hospital here.

"If they had told me at the first of the school that I would have won the trophy, I wouldn't have believed them," Land said. "It was kind of nip-and-tuck at the end."

"Actually, it all hung on the test at the end. The only way I knew I was going to come out ahead was to ace it."

Land, Papp, Gonzalez and Eastep reported for duty Tuesday.

1982 Newspaper Article Celebrating Officer Joe Land Graduating At The Top Of His Police Academy



Recent police academy graduates are, from left, Tony Gonzalez, David Eastep, Joe Land and Martin Papp.

PUBLIC WORKS

City Projects

Stratford Drive

The Drainage improvements are nearly 35% complete. This project started at Britton Rd. and will continue south to Nichols Hills (Westminster). Once this project is complete another drainage project from Westminster to Stratford will start. Once the drainage projects are complete, the Stratford street project will commence.

Water Blending Tank

The four million gallon water blending tank is at 72% completion. This tank is located at 1009 N.W. 75th.

Sanitation

Christmas trees can be set at the curb for the Sanitation Crews to pick-up.

Animal Control

Please make sure your animals are properly tagged through the City of Nichols Hills. Tags can be purchased at 1009 N.W. 75th. The City of Nichols Hills **will not** receive stray animals at the Police Dept., City Hall, Fire Dept. or Public Works. If you find a stray animal please contact Animal Control at 843-5222. We will pick up the animal from your home (Nichols Hills Residents only).

Code Division

All Construction sites should have a trash container and Silt fencing around the construction site. If you observe a site that has trash or no silt fencing, please call the Code Division at 843-5222.

Recycling

The City of Nichols Hills has several recycle bins located behind City Hall. We have aluminum, plastics (1&2), steel cans, newspaper, and glass (clear, brown and green). When depositing the recycle material, please make sure the bins receive the appropriate recycle material. If other material is placed into the bins the whole load will be classified as 'contaminated' and will be taken to the dump instead of a Material Recycling Facility (MRF). That basically means that all the good that has been done by recycling was for nothing. So please put the appropriate items in the appropriate bins and keep all other trash out of the bins.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly gas that is difficult to detect because it is odorless and invisible. As a result, it is known as “the silent killer.” According to the CDC, 450 people die and nearly 21,000 CO exposures occur each year.

CO is produced by fuel-burning appliances and equipment in our homes. If you have heating, cooking or power equipment that uses fuels such as oil, natural gas, coal, wood, propane, gasoline, etc., then your home is at risk for potential CO poisoning. Homes with attached garages are also at risk, because vehicles left running in the garage can cause CO to seep into the home.

CO poisoning can be prevented by proper care and use of household equipment. CO alarms can provide early detection if CO leaks or accumulation occurs. Both are important for your safety.

- **If you suspect CO poisoning in your home, call the appropriate responding agency, usually your local fire department or 9-1-1. Keep all emergency response numbers posted by every telephone.**
- **CO alarms are different from smoke alarms, and have different functions. CO alarms do not provide early warning of a fire. Smoke alarms do not provide early warning of CO exposure. Your home needs both CO and smoke alarm protection.**

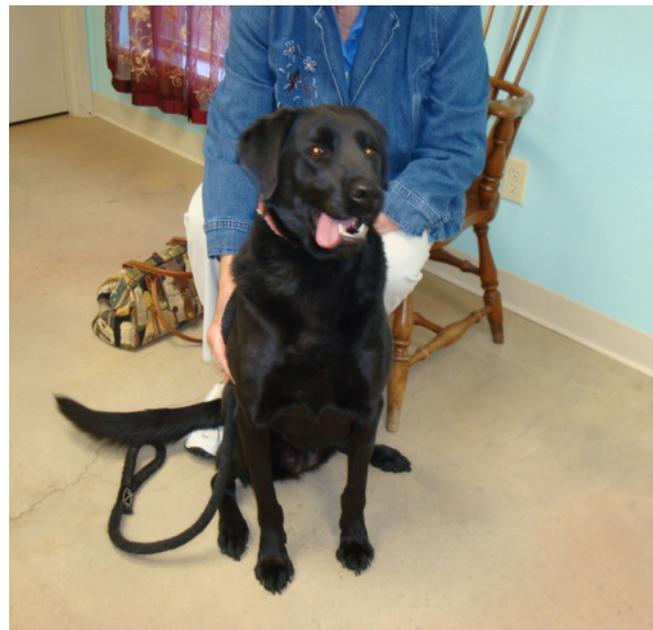
Symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to symptoms of the flu, and can include headache, dizziness, nausea and shortness of breath. To distinguish between symptoms of flu and CO poisoning - if you feel better after leaving home and then worse again when you return, it may be CO exposure causing the symptoms. If your CO alarm sounds check to see if it is plugged in properly, or if battery-powered, check the battery to be sure the device is operating. If you suspect that CO is leaking in your home get everybody out of the house and call 911. Most fire departments have CO detecting equipment and are trained to handle CO incidents

The article above is produced by the Home Safety Council. The last two lines were added by the Nichols Hills Fire Department. In the original article they suggest opening all windows and doors to air out the house. We suggest you leave them closed and stay out of the house until the source of the CO is found. By opening all windows and doors it makes the source of the poisoning much more difficult to find. Of course if you are unable to evacuate the house for any reason then you should open windows and doors to get fresh air into the house. The Nichols Hills Fire Department is equipped and trained to handle a CO incident. We will also call ONG if there is any natural gas service to the house and they will also check equipment for CO problems.

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!).

January's Featured Pet



"Trixie" #12686 weighs 65 pounds is about 3 1/2 years old, in great condition, was already spayed, now tested heartworm negative and fully vaccinated. She was impounded January 2, 2009 in the 2300 block of Grand.

ARF again needs 'foster care' which is a good way to see if you might want to go a step further and adopt an animal. Since 1999 ARF has rescued more than 600 dogs & cats who would have otherwise been euthanized. Please help ARF help the animals.