



Nichols Hills E-News

January 2010

A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

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Upcoming Meetings

- Community Awareness Meeting February 4th 5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting February 9th 5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of the Nichols Hills Municipal Authority Feb 9th 5:45 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health, & Sustainability Meeting February 17th 8:30 am at City Hall

Dear friends:

Happy New Year everyone! I hope this letter finds you in good spirits and good health. We are truly blessed to live in our wonderful community of Nichols Hills, and I thought I would take this time to highlight some of the many good works brought forth by the hardworking and committed individuals of our City during the recent past. Many thanks to all the employees of Nichols Hills, the Commissioners, the City Council, and numerous volunteers that work so diligently on behalf of our citizens.

I. HOMES

- Size & envelope ordinance changed to reduce maximum home size in R-1-60 R-1-75 residential zoning districts/Dec 2006
- Drainage/management ordinance of storm water & other surface water/May 2008
- Eliminated secondary buildings in R-1-60 & R-1-75/Aug 2008
- New residential landscape ordinance/Dec 2008
- Extensive review of Housing Ordinances by Architect Yowell & OU graduate students/Aug 2009
- Building Moratorium of Estate lots (E-lots) to study, review, & recommend changes to ensure appropriate future house size in E-lots/Dec 2009

II. PUBLIC SERVICES

POLICE

- Added patrol officer/2009

6407 Avondale Drive
Nichols Hills, OK 73116

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

- Community policing initiative to educate public about locking car and home doors, and activate home security systems to reduce crime
- Mobil Data Terminal (MDT) for additional citizen and officer safety
- Night vision goggles
- Protective vests & rifles donated

FIRE

- Apr 2009 Bond Issue funded \$750,000 for a new 75' ladder fire truck
- Infrared sensing devices for added firemen safety

III. TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC CALMING

- Apr 2009 Bond Issue funded \$100,000 for electronic speed indicator signs/2010
- Lowered speed limits around Kite, Davis, & Grand Blvd Parks to 20 mph/Sep 2009
- Continuing to study traffic calming & reduction issue

IV. SAFETY

- Updated 911 system
- Reverse 911 calling system (CityWatch) in place for resident alert notification
- Lowered speed limits around Kite, Davis, & Grand Blvd Parks to 20 mph/Sep 2009
- New citywide EMSA emergency services available to every resident/Oct 2009

V. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

CITY MANAGEMENT

- Citywide software system to facilitate interdepartmental communication
- Charter Revision Committee proposed 6 changes, passed in special election/Sep 2009
- Bond Oversight Committee members appointed /Oct 2008
- Investment Policy Committee members appointed for in-depth review of investment policy guidelines
- New City Clerk/Finance Director employed/Nov 2009

PUBLIC WORKS

- Apr 2009 Bond Issue funded \$1.6M for new complex/construction begins 2010/11

SOLID WASTE

- Two recycle bins added: Type 1 & 2 plastic & mixed paper to 4 original bins/Jan 2009
- Recycle center expanded and improved. Moved to PW/Feb 2009
- Private contractors approved for private home recycle pick-up/Apr 2009
- Recycle center open 7 days a week, 7AM to 7PM/May 2009

WATER

- Remote automated water meters installed at each resident for greater accuracy and speed of data acquisition
- Inclining water rate structure to promote water conservation & improved home use practices/Jun 2009
- Apr 2009 Bond Issue funded \$5,700,000 for the water system of the City
 - \$3,000,000 for additional water wells
 - \$1,700,000 for 20,000 linear feet of water lines
 - \$500,000 for 7,000 linear feet of water well collection lines
 - \$500,000 for other related & necessary improvements to water system
- State of the art water blending system for improved water quality/on-line spring 2010

- Installation of 4M-gallon water storage tank
- Addition of 4-complex booster system, ensuring more reliable continuous water supply, & conserving energy
- Variable speed water well pumps installed, improving constant water pressure
- Remote water well monitoring system for optimum well operation & reliable service
- Real time alarm & notification system of any major water problem
- Multiple water system remote generator units to ensure continuous water supply in event of power outage or disaster

STREETS

- Stratford Drive comprehensive drainage improvement, street widening, & re-paving/ begins Jul 2009
- Apr 2009 Bond Issue funded \$9.510M for resurfacing streets & repairs
 - \$2,060,000 for Penn Avenue from NW 63rd Street to Wilshire Blvd
 - \$3,450,000 for Wilshire Blvd from Western Avenue to Dorset Drive
 - \$2,450,000 for Grand Blvd from NW 63rd Street to Dorset Drive
 - \$550,000 for 1800 & 1900 blocks of Elmhurst Avenue
 - \$1,000,000 for other necessary street improvements
- Continuous accelerated street paving addressed on yearly basis
- Best paving surfaces continuously studied and analyzed

SEWER

- Apr 2009 Bond Issue funded \$1.140M for 11,000 feet of sewer lines
- Continuing sewer line replacement with 60-70% completed
- Addition of remote video scanner to monitor sewer lines
- Acquisition of jet rodder for sewer clean out

VI. ENERGY/FUEL

- Study City fleet conversion from gasoline to compressed natural gas

VII. PARKS & OPEN SPACES

PARKS

- New remote SCADA (Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition) irrigation system approved & budgeted for testing at 2 parks for better measuring and managing water/Fall 2009

KITE PARK

- \$800M total redevelopment of Kite Park completed that has increased park usage and citizen physical activity/May 2008
- \$100K Kite Park maintenance endowment secured

GRAND BOULEVARD PARKS

- Various renderings & conceptual ideas for total park improvement & redevelopment plan presented to the NH City Council/ Jun 2008

WESTERN AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION

- Various renderings & conceptual ideas for improved uniform landscaping & noise buffer along Western between Nichols Hills Plaza & Wilshire Blvd, completed & presented to the NH Planning Commission/Aug 2007

CYCLE TRAIL/ODOT GRANT

- ODOT grant application to connect Nichols Hills with OKC Trail System along Grand Blvd/resubmit May 2010

VIII. CUMBERLAND DRIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Ongoing multiple discussions with primary landowners regarding various conceptual ideas

IX. TOWN HALL RELOCATION

- Offer from Chesapeake to exchange current Town Hall property (less than 1 acre) for First Church Christian Science property (3+ acres) located at Sherwood & Grand/Jul 2007
- Town Hall Relocation Committee Study completed with Committee recommendation that Town Hall move to church site if City Council deems appropriate/May 2008
- Preliminary Town Hall complex conceptual architectural drawings & cost analysis completed/May 2008
- Continued improved Town Hall complex redesign by architect & engineers with ongoing project cost analysis/2009

X. NICHOLS HILLS PLAZA

- Town Center Overlay District modified to include NH Plaza as well as NH Manor, Sherwood Arms Condos, Grandmark, Out Parcel, NH Executive Building, & King's Court Condos. This provides an extra layer of development protection for the City, over & above the underlying zoning requirements/Jan 2009

XI. QUALITY OF LIFE

- New communication and television station for community updates and information
- All commercial construction & landscape related activity banned on Sunday
- Garage & estate sales banned on Sunday/Jan 2008
- Home office occupation restriction ordinance/May 2008
- Creation of EHSC/Aug 2008
- New automated utility billing system with capability of informational inserts/Oct 2009
- New citywide EMSA emergency services available to every resident/Oct 2009
- 2nd annual City of Nichols Hills Landscape Forum/Feb 2010
- 3rd annual Nichols Hills Earth Day/Apr 2010
- Annual Fourth of July Parade
- Annual Pooch Parade
- Annual Garden Tour by Parks, Inc.

So, that is what we have been doing on behalf of our residents, and now these are some of the key issues we are addressing as we go forward.

XII. LOOKING to the FUTURE

- Excellence & timeliness on implementing the 2009 \$18.8M Bond Issue projects
 - \$ 750,000-New 75' ladder fire truck
 - \$ 100,000-Traffic control system for electronic speed indicator signs
 - \$1,600,000-Public Works facility improvement
 - \$5,700,000-Water system of the City
 - \$9,510,000-Improve streets
 - \$1,140,000-Sanitary sewer system
- Further study & move forward with Town Hall relocation idea
- Grand Boulevard Park makeover
- Additional new water wells
- Study ways to increase City revenues
- ODOT Enhancement Grant proposal for Grand Blvd trails & sidewalks to link with OKC Trails System
- Support Nichols Hills Plaza retailers
- Western Avenue beautification for uniform landscaping, noise reduction, & attractive buffer
- Accelerate pace of street resurfacing
- Remote video cameras installed in water wells
- Continued analysis of value-added environmental technologies
- Further study regarding traffic calming and noise and traffic reduction
- Continued study of home related ordinances concentrating on home size, ensuring open space, & the continued pastoral quality of our community

In closing, let me again thank everyone for their continued hard work on behalf of the City of Nichols Hills. I am both grateful and honored to be part of this most excellent team, and I am looking forward to continuing to serve you in the future.

Your friend and Mayor,

Peter Hoffman

Peter Hoffman

Peter Hoffman

PUBLIC WORKS



Chi-Ella Dillingham

Chi started working for the Nichols Hills Public Works Dept. March 7th, 2007. Chi was born and raised in Oklahoma City. She graduated in 1993 from Northeast High School.

Chi is kept busy and entertained by her four girls, Chi-Nyechia, JaMariaun, Kianna and Blesseth, all of still live at home. She enjoys being with her children, working with children, crocheting, going to basketball games, and just doing anything that is adventurous. In addition to working and hanging out with her children, she is currently enrolled at OSU-OKC.

Chi has been as asset to the Public Works Department. She is fun to be around and is not afraid to tackle anything. She has become very proficient at operating a back hoe and other heavy equipment. Her work habits, enthusiasm, personality, and her wonderful smile make her the kind of employee one enjoys having around.

PUBLIC WORKS

Stratford Street and Drainage Project

The street project along Stratford is coming along, even with the bad weather that has hit the area lately. The project is in between Dorchester PL. and Guilford at this time. We appreciate your patience during this project.

Ground Water Storage Tank / Booster House

The water storage tank is in the last stages of being completed at this time. The booster house itself is basically being completed, with pumps, motors and other monitoring items that still need to be installed.

December 24th Blizzard

The extreme weather that has hit our area lately caused quite a few water lines (homeowner's) to freeze and burst. The City water mains only had two main breaks, one on Hillcrest and the other on Avondale. The city streets were impassable for several days afterwards, affecting the Sanitation Department and trash pick-up. This was also their largest pick-ups for the year, due to Christmas and New Years.

How to Save Time and Expedite Service

Home owners can call the Nichols Hills Public Works Dept. directly for faster service. If there are street, water, water meters, building, sanitation, sewer, animal or code complaints please call the Public Works Dept. directly at 843-5222.

Animal Control

The City of Nichols Hills has sent each homeowner a pet registration form, and many pet owners have responded. If you have pets please register with the City of Nichols Hills at 1009 N.W. 75th or use the form in the last month's water bill. Tags are five dollars.

Code Division

Do you have a city code question? You may be able to find the answer using the Nichols Hills Web site. Just type in www.nicholshills.net and look for 'Nichols Hills Municipal Code' Located at the bottom of the home page, once the municipal code comes up, type in your inquiry. For detailed building questions please Call Kelly Hurley at 843-5222.

PUBLIC WORKS

'Know Your City'

- 1). Which two parks have playground equipment? _____, _____
- 2). How many elevated water tower(s) are there in the City of Nichols Hills? _____
- 3). Take some time to see what is in the park, located at Avondale Dr. and Sherwood Lane, which other parks do not have? _____
- 4). No garage sales are allowed on _____?
- 5). Can 'Garage Sale' signs be located off the property having the sale? _____
- 6). Can items from other areas be brought in for sale at a garage sale? _____

Answers to last month's questions: 1. Tuesday 2. Tuesday 3. Plowman Park 4. Public Works located at 1009 N.W. 75th 5. None 6. Wednesday 7. Black 8. Environment, Health & Sustainability.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Do you know your address? Of course you do so let me ask another question; can you SEE your address? More importantly, can emergency responders like Police, the Fire Department, or an Ambulance see your address?

The Nichols Hills Fire Department responds to hundreds of calls for help every year and one third to one half of those calls are medical emergencies. If an empty house is on fire every second it takes us to get there is important but in an occupied house or in a medical emergency every second can be absolutely critical; life or death critical. Your house number needs to be clearly visible from all angles as seen from the street.

The Nichols Hills Fire Fighters and Police Officers know our streets very well. We know the shortest and quickest route to any street in Nichols Hills, the Village, and the parts of Oklahoma City that surround us but an individual house or business is a different and sometimes difficult challenge. In addition, EMSA, the ambulance service we contract with does not know our streets very well so individual addresses are an additional challenge for them. In their defense, the streets and street numbers in Nichols Hills are unique and do not correspond well, or in some cases at all with Oklahoma City streets and numbers. For example, in Oklahoma City the 1800 block of Pennsylvania is always on the East side of Penn but in Nichols Hills the 1700 and 1800 blocks are on the west side of Penn. To confuse the issue even more the 1700 and 1800 blocks are west of Penn only in parts of Nichols Hills. In the area adjacent to the OKC Golf & Country Club they are east of Penn.

The above is only one of several examples I could give but the point is locating a particular street is easy but a particular address can be difficult especially if the numbers are not clearly visible from the street. We recommend painting the numbers on the curb directly in front of your house. Using reflective paint also helps us see them at night.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The following Nichols Hills City Ordinance covers painting house numbers on curbs:

Sec. 20-9. Painting house numbers on public street curbs.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of painting house numbers on street curbs in the city, or to solicit for such business without carrying the permit required by subsection 14-7(b) of the Nichols Hills City Code while engaged in such activity.
 - (b) Specifications for house numbers on curbs shall be as follows:
 - (1) Curb markings shall be white paint with black numbering.
 - (2) The white background shall be a minimum of four inches in width and 12 inches in length and a maximum of seven inches in width and 17 inches in length.
 - (3) The numbering shall be a minimum of three inches in height and one and one-half inches in width and a maximum of four inches in height and two and one-half inches in width.
 - (4) All numbering shall be centered on the background.
 - (5) House numbers on curbs shall be neat in appearance, uniformly applied to the curb and shall be located in the curb radius at a driveway entrance or centered on the curb frontage of the lot or building site.
 - (c) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to paint, place or maintain or to cause to be painted, placed or maintained any logo or marking, except house numbers and utility markings, on any public street curb within the city.
 - (d) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be subject to the penalty provided for in section 1-8 of the Nichols Hills City Code.
- (Ord. No. 878, § 1, 8-9-05)

POLICE DEPARTMENT



We are pleased to introduce our newest police officer, Matthew Voyles.

Officer Voyles grew up in the Oklahoma City area, and graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in business management.

While attending the Council for Law Enforcement Education and Training program (the police academy), Officer Voyles served with distinction as a member of the Honor Guard.

Officer Voyles said he wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement since he was a child, and is very proud to have attained his goal.

If you see Officer Voyles while he is patrolling and protecting our city, please feel free to say hello and welcome him to the community.