



# Nichols Hills E-News

JANUARY 2011

## CITY COUNCIL

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### Upcoming Meetings

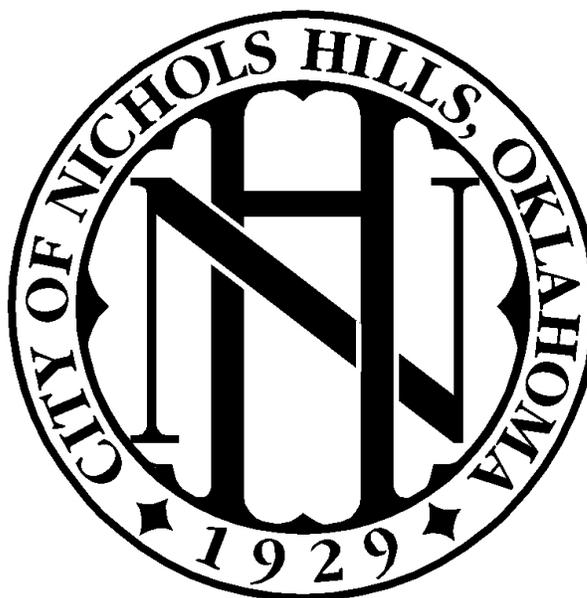
- Regular Planning Commission Meeting  
February 1st  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting  
February 8th  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of Municipal Authority  
February 8th  
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Board of Adjustment  
February 16th  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health & Sustainability Committee  
February 23rd  
8:30 am at City Hall

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## My Address Is Nichols Hills, OK

Changing your address to Nichols Hills not only shows your home town pride, you also assure that your home town receives all the sales and use tax possible. As you renew your drivers license, order on-line, or ask for delivery of merchandise, be sure you let them know "My Address is Nichols Hills, OK"! The Nichols Hills operating funds come from sales and use taxes only. Our excellent Fire, Police and Sanitation departments are all funded by sales tax. Shopping with our local merchants at Nichols Hills Plaza and Wilshire Village is one way to support the city. We also receive sales and use taxes in several other not so obvious ways, but only if you tell everybody **My Address Is Nichols Hills, OK!**



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

When you call or visit the police department, whether for an emergency or just a general question, your first point of contact will be with a communications officer. Communications officers, commonly known as dispatchers, are the first line of defense when you need help.

The Nichols Hills Police Department has four full time dispatchers, two part time dispatchers, and one communications supervisor. They man the comm center twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The dispatcher's primary focus is safety, whether it is citizen, officer or firefighter safety. The dispatchers work radio traffic for both police officers and firefighters. They process every 911 call and make sure response is sent promptly, or make sure the call is transferred to the correct agency. They handle all emergency phone calls and non-emergency phone calls. They are responsible for entering radio transmissions from both police and fire into the records management system. The dispatcher is the one who will greet you when you come into the police lobby, and who will assist you with your request.

Any calls for service to the police department are first handled by the dispatcher, who tries to determine exactly what kind of assistance the caller needs. This is accomplished by asking specific questions in a precise order (safety questions are always a priority). Nichols Hills dispatchers are trained to obtain the necessary information in the shortest amount of time, while still maintaining high levels of customer service.

When the caller has a non-emergency question, the dispatcher will try and answer the question, if possible. If it is not possible, the dispatcher will always try to provide a referral where the caller can find the answer. If the caller needs police or fire assistance, the dispatcher will quickly determine the type of assistance need and the location to send the response. I am very proud to say that the Nichols Hills Police Department has a response time of usually 1 to 3 minutes for emergency calls. The dispatcher will focus on doing everything they can to keep the caller safe until officers' arrival.

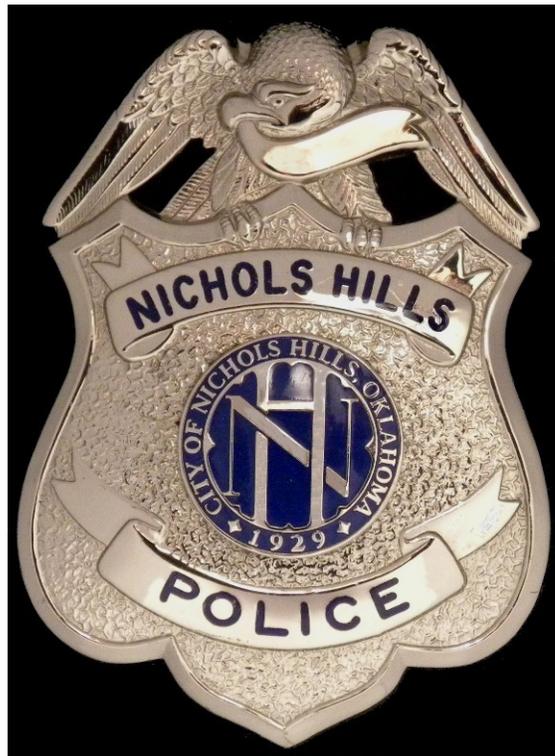
Many people have needed to call 911 from a cell phone. While cell phone technology has improved greatly, sometimes the call is directed to a neighboring 911 center (usually The Village or Oklahoma City). One of the most important pieces of information to obtain from a 911 caller is the location. If a dispatcher spends time taking information related to the emergency but later determines the response is necessary in another city, valuable time has been wasted. Nichols Hills dispatchers will always answer 911 with "**Nichols Hills 9-1-1.**" If you reach a different 911 center but you need Nichols Hills response,

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

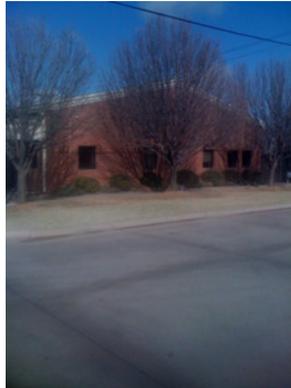
just asked to be switched to Nichols Hills. All 911 agencies in the Oklahoma City metro area have the ability to transfer your call with a click!

If you have any questions regarding 911 or any other part of the communications division, give us a call at 843-5672 and we will be happy to assist you. And please feel free to stop by and say hello next time you are in town hall. We really enjoy meeting the community we serve.

*Robin Murray*  
*Communications Supervisor*



## PUBLIC WORKS



### **Animal Control**

It is time once again to register your pets with the City of Nichols Hills. Tags may be purchased at 1009 N.W. 75<sup>th</sup>, Monday thru Friday. Office hours are 8:00 to 5:00. The cost of the tag is \$5.00. Please make sure your animals are registered and the tags are placed on the animal. This will help return the animal to its owner. Forms may be obtained from the Nichols Hills website.

### **City Projects**

The City of Nichols Hills will be replacing the streets located at 1700 and 1800 block of Coventry and the 1700 block of Guilford. Please take a different route if possible to avoid construction.

### **Water Division**

The City of Nichols Hills has replaced all the water meters with auto read meters. Please be careful when removing the lid so damage is not done to the wiring. When weed eating please be careful of the disc in the middle of the lid. If there are any questions or you need assistance please call the Water Dept. at 843-5222.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

With fire fighter fatalities and injuries recently on the rise throughout the country I thought I would use this article to give you a brief lesson in structural fire fighting tactics. Fire fighting tactics are based on many years of experience and on the physical laws of what heat and smoke do inside a structure. Smoke, which is always toxic to some degree in a structure fire, is the most frequent cause of death to fire fighters and civilians who are killed in a structure fire. **Ventilation**, which is the basic fire fighting tactic I will discuss in this article, is designed to remove smoke and heat from a structure to make fighting the fire safer.

In fire fighting textbooks the definition of ventilation is; *the systematic removal and replacement of heated air, smoke, and gases from a structure with cooler air.* There are several techniques that can be used to accomplish ventilation but I will focus on the two methods we use the most. One is called vertical ventilation and the second is referred to as positive pressure ventilation.

Heated air and smoke always rise whether in a structure or in open air. **Vertical ventilation** takes advantage of this physical law and lets the heated air and toxic smoke escape through a vertical opening in the structure. The difficult and often time-consuming part of this method is creating an opening for the heat and smoke to escape through. This is hard and dangerous work but sometimes it is the only option. To accomplish vertical ventilation fire fighters must place a ladder against the building and climb on the roof while carrying all the tools they will need. The tools are a chain saw, an axe, and a long pole (usually 10 feet) called a pike pole. They also take a shorter ladder that hooks over the ridge of the roof for them to work off of. This provides some support for the fire fighters and disperses their weight to a larger area which helps decrease the impact they are placing on an already weakened roof. The fire fighters will then use the chain saw to cut a hole at least four feet by four feet in the roof. Then they will use the axe or just their hands or the pike pole or all three to remove the section they just cut out. Last, if necessary they will use the pike pole to reach down through the hole and remove as much of the ceiling from the room below as possible. This creates a complete vertical opening for the heat and smoke to escape through. It is very hard physical work and it is very dangerous but as stated earlier sometimes it is the only option.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The second and most desirable option is **positive pressure ventilation (PPV)**. It can be accomplished with fewer fire fighters and is far safer to perform than vertical ventilation. PPV is accomplished by setting a small but very powerful fan in front of an opening in the structure, usually the front door. By placing the fan so the air current covers the entire opening, pressure is created inside the structure which is greater than the pressure outside the structure. As in vertical ventilation an opening must be made for the heat and smoke to escape through but unlike vertical ventilation this can be done at ground level. Most often a window in the room on fire is knocked out from outside the structure. This gives the heat and smoke being forced out of the structure by the positive pressure a place to go. The placing of the fan and the making of the opening must be well coordinated to prevent making the fire worse but this is not a problem for well trained fire fighters.

PPV is easier and faster to accomplish than vertical ventilation but they both take time to complete even by well trained, experienced fire fighters. Regardless of which method is chosen it is important to accomplish ventilation before fire fighters enter a structure. This makes the interior environment where they will be doing even more hard work much safer. However, if there are occupants trapped in the structure or if fire fighters are not sure if everybody is out of the structure they are going to go in immediately and perform search and rescue. This is why it is very important to let fire fighters know when they arrive if everybody is out of the structure or not. If there is any doubt fire fighters will risk entering a non-ventilated structure to search for anybody who may be inside.

This has been a very brief description of what it takes to ventilate a burning structure. If you would like more information feel free to contact the Nichols Hills Fire Department to ask any question you may have.

Terry Hamilton

Deputy Fire Chief

## 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 PETS



Cowboy #14187 – 40 pounds & 6 months old (he may have some Mastiff in there too)



Sparky #36560 - a 6 year old 14 pound neutered Jack Russell. Very sweet male!