



Nichols Hills E-News

January 2012

CITY COUNCIL

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Upcoming Meetings

- Planning Commission
February 7th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting
February 14th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of Municipal Authority
February 14th
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Board of Adjustment
February 15th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health & Sustainability Committee
February 22nd
8:30 am at City Hall

6407 Avondale Drive
Nichols Hills, OK 73116

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Selection, Care, & Maintenance of your TREES



Trees are a beautiful and important asset to our community and keeping them healthy is of primary importance. However, during the recent past, this has become more difficult as our trees have experienced damage from ice storms, disease, and extreme temperatures. So, going forward, it is now vital to properly maintain our trees on a continuous basis, or we could lose them.

Not to worry my friends, help is on the way!

Well-known tree specialist Mark Bays, with the Oklahoma Forestry Services, has recently provided the residents of Nichols Hills with the 2nd edition of PUTTING DOWN ROOTS. This guide, prepared by the Oklahoma City Planning Department, can assist with the selection, care, & maintenance of trees in central Oklahoma and includes watering, fertilizers, and an annual maintenance schedule. More information & access to this publication can be found @ www.okc.gov/roots.

I hope you find this information useful.

Peter

Peter Hoffman
Vice-Mayor

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dear Residents,

We, the employees of the City of Nichols Hills, would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who have supported the Nichols Hills Employee Scholarship Fund by your generous donations to Oklahoma State University Foundation.

Because of your generosity and support, over \$132,000 dollars has been raised, allowing more than fifty employees to obtain everything from a GED to a Master's Degree. The vast majority of these employees remain employed by The City of Nichols Hills.

We would like to offer a special thanks and recognition to the scholarship committee, who volunteered many hours of their personal time to fundraising, managing the scholarships and organizing special events to recognize the achievements of those who received diplomas and degrees. Our heartfelt thanks to Phyllis Stough, Vicki Gourley, Lela Sullivan, and the late Tom Dulaney Jr.

In a letter dated January 17th, 2012 from the university, we were informed that in recent years, donations to the scholarship fund have decreased substantially and the funds have been depleted. We will never forget your generosity. You have changed many lives for the better. Nichols Hills is a special place and a wonderful place to work.

My personal thanks,



Chief Richard Mask



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Nichols Hills community experienced the loss of a long-time business this month. The Nichols Hills Drug Store Fountain and Counter, which opened in 1963, closed it's doors on January 20th. The Drug Store was relocated to another space in the south plaza, but the fountain was closed. As the Drug Store Fountain and Counter has been a part of our community for almost 50 years, we would like to share these photos with you.



HAMBURGER	3.75	PLEASE PAY CASHIER <i>DrPepper</i> SALT DRINKS COLA CHATEAU SM 1.25 MED 1.50 LG 1.75 	BREAKFAST SERVED 9-10:30	
CHEESEBURGER	4.25		BREAKFAST SAND	4.25
HAM	3.75		1 EGG BACON OR HAM & TOAST	4.50
HAM&CHEESE	4.25		2 EGGS BACON OR HAM & TOAST	5.25
TURKEY	3.75		SIDES - 3 BACON STRIPS	3.75
TURKEY & CHEESE	4.25		1 HAM SLICE	3.25
CHICKEN SALAD	3.25		1 EGG	1.25
PIMENTO	3.25		2 TOAST	1.00
TUNA	3.25		JUICES & MILK	1.50
GRILLED CHEESE	3.00		BOTTLED WATER	1.50
TACO SALAD	3.00	SHAKE - MALT		
FRENCH FRIES - SM	1.50	SM	2.00	
LG	2.00	MED	3.00	
5.50	BL. CB	LG	4.00	



RISK MANAGER

You are driving down the highway when suddenly you have car trouble. The National Safety Council suggests the following measures when your car breaks down or has a flat tire on the highway.

At the first sign of car trouble, gently and smoothly take your foot off the accelerator. Do not brake hard or suddenly. Carefully work your vehicle toward the breakdown lane or the side of the road. If you are on an interstate, try to reach an exit. Signal your intentions to drivers behind you. If it is necessary to change lanes, watch your mirrors and the traffic around you closely.

Once off the road, make your car visible. Put reflectorized triangles behind your vehicle to alert other drivers; use your emergency flashers. If it is dark, turn on the interior dome light.

When you have a flat tire, be certain that you can change it safely without being close to traffic. If that is possible, change the tire as you normally would. Remember, safety must take precedence over your schedule or whatever other concerns you may have.

However, when the car is beyond repair, it is best to get professional help. Do not try to flag down other vehicles. Raise your hood and tie something white to the radio antenna or hang it out a window so police officers or tow truck operators will know help is needed. Don't stand behind or next to your vehicle. If the car is in the roadway, stand away from the vehicle and wait for help to arrive.

If your car is safely out of traffic, wait inside the vehicle with the doors locked. Use your cellular phone to call for help. If someone stops and offers to help, open the window slightly and ask them to call the police.

Watch for a uniformed police officer or other emergency personnel. All interstate highways and major roads are patrolled regularly. Also, some highways have special "call-for-help" phones.

It is inadvisable to walk on an interstate, especially during inclement weather. However, if you can reach a source of help on foot, without jeopardizing your physical or personal safety, try the direct approach by walking. Keep as far from traffic as possible and walk on the right side of the roadway. Never attempt to cross a multilane, high speed roadway.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Nichols Hills Fire Department responded to 550 calls for help in 2011. Over the last seven years NHFD has averaged 573 calls annually:

- ◆ 2005, 612 calls
- ◆ 2006, 615 calls
- ◆ 2007, 694 calls
- ◆ 2008, 520 calls
- ◆ 2009, 438 calls
- ◆ 2010, 585 calls
- ◆ 2011, 550 calls

The low number of calls in 2009 was a surprising anomaly with no obvious explanation. 2011 was a near average year in number of calls and the percentage of calls in each category. Below is a list of the six categories our calls are documented in and the percentage of the total call volume for that category over the same seven year period:

- ◆ Rescue/EMS, 32%
- ◆ False Alarms, 25%
- ◆ Service Calls, 24%
- ◆ Good Intent Calls, 7%
- ◆ Hazardous Condition Calls, 6%
- ◆ Fire Calls, 6%

In 2011 NHFD responded to 32 fires which was slightly under 6% of the total calls for the year. These included structure fires, wildland/grass fires, dumpster fires, vehicle fires, and outdoor equipment (mostly cooking) fires.

We have several projects that we repeat every year that are important for several reasons but the safety of our residents and visitors is reason number one. They are also done to comply with National Fire Protection Association standards, to receive maximum ISO points, and to determine if any maintenance or repairs are needed.

- ◆ The first project is an Official Fire Safety/Code Inspection of every business, church, and school in Nichols Hills.
- ◆ The second project is flow testing every fire hydrant in Nichols Hills.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- ◆ The third project is testing every fire hose we have at 200 PSI for five minutes.
- ◆ The fourth project is updating every Pre-Fire Plan (Pre Plans) we have. Pre Plans are documents we have created and carry on our apparatus that are specific to certain “target hazards” such as schools, churches, the Country Club, and every other building in Nichols Hills that has the potential for large loss of life or property. The Pre Plans instantly give the Incident Commander vital information such as the location of electrical panels, where the fire department connections for the sprinkler system are, if it has a sprinkler system or not, the locations of stairways or rooms that are not easily accessible, the presence of any unusual dangers such as flammable chemicals, the most beneficial place to spot the fire engine, contact information for owners/occupants, and more.
- ◆ The fifth project is doing fire safety presentations to all the students at Christ The King School during Fire Prevention Week. Fire Fighter Bennie Harris is our Public Education Officer and does a great job planning and coordinating this training with our department and the school and any other groups that would like safety training done.

Two thousand eleven was an unusually eventful year for NHFD. We purchased and put in service a new Quint. A Quint is essentially a fire engine with a ladder mounted on it, in our case a 75 foot aerial ladder. The process from start to finish for making that happen took a full year and involved detailed work on our part and support from many people including the City Manager, the City Council, and our residents for approving the Bond Issue.

The most significant event was the loss of Fire Chief Keith Bryan. After working for the City of Nichols Hills for 31 years his untimely death left us saddened and with several holes to fill and much work to do.

His departure led to three promotions and the hiring one new fire fighter. I was promoted to Fire Chief, Rick Rosecrans was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief, Kevin Boydston was promoted to Sergeant, and Tyler Phillips was hired and began his fire fighting career on 12/11/2011.

Because of the urgency created by the manner in which Chief Bryan's life was taken there was no time for orientation after I appointed Rick to the Deputy Chief position.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

I explained to Rick what needed to be done and told him what I wanted from him and he did everything I asked of him in a timely manner and got it right the first time. I asked Captain Brad Knol to take charge of the hiring process and with the help of several other fire fighters he did a fantastic job. They started with a list of more than 50 names and after approximately 30 days of interviews and reference checks provided me with the names of the top four candidates.

In closing I want to state how grateful I am to the City Council and the residents of Nichols Hills for the support they gave us during that difficult time. I also want to state how proud I am of my fire fighters for the way they responded to this unprecedented and difficult situation. Their dedication to the job and the professionalism with which they conducted themselves made my job much easier to do.

Terry Hamilton, Fire Chief
Nichols Hills Fire Department



PUBLIC WORKS

Altas Paving started replacing the 1600 block of Camden Way. If the weather is good it should not take long. We are hoping everything goes good for them so they can get Camden Way open again. The next scheduled for construction is Wilshire Ave. Wilshire will be replaced from Dorsett to Western.

Blastco finished painting the south water storage tank. They are filling it for disinfection and the city can put it back in service after all tests pass.

There are some changes to the Nichols Hills recycling center. It is located in the same place but the hours have changed and it will be staffed. The new hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and it will be open from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on the first Saturday of each month. Ted White will staff the recycling center and he will be there to assist in any way he can. Entrance to the center will require some kind of Nichols Hills identification. (ie utility bill, drivers license).

The Nichols Hills codes department is working hard to maintain compliance with the EPA stormwater rules. The main objective is to keep mud, dirt and sand out of the street. Construction sites will need to have silt fencing in order, stock piled materials covered and vehicles to stay out of yards. If you see anything that might cause a problem, please call Public Works.

Pet and lawn wastes are another part or of the Storm Water rule. It seems that fewer and fewer people are picking up after their pets and lawn wastes are blown into the street. These are item EPA looks for when they conduct their inspections.

If you have any problems we can help with please call 843-5222.



ANIMAL RESCUE FRIENDS

If anyone wants to assist ARF in its 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



Hound Dog (aka Elvis) is 18 months old. He weighs about 45 pounds. He is very sweet and needs love & a very tall fence.