



# Nichols Hills E-News

January 2013

## CITY NEWS

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### Upcoming Meetings

- City Council Meeting  
February 12th  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of Municipal Authority  
February 12th  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Board of Adjustment  
February 13th  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health & Sustainability Committee  
February 27th  
8:30 am at City Hall

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits. Our wonderful community of Nichols Hills has just completed another year, and I am pleased to report that our City continues to thrive. It is remarkable how many important good works have been accomplished by the hardworking and committed individuals of our City during these past months.

Regarding housing related actions, much continues to happen in this most important area. Setbacks continue to be addressed, as we try to encourage home remodels and new home construction, while also maintaining the historical Nichols Hills ambiance created by proper proportion and plentiful open space. The Glenbrook Park Project is now underway, offering fourteen beautiful new residential lots for development.

Concerning the issue of traffic and safety, the City is installing additional real time speed indicator signs. This traffic calming initiative is working well and we have received favorable feedback from many residents. We are also improving identification of intersection pedestrian crosswalks and have approved a handicap crossing at 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and NW Grand Boulevard.

Street paving continues to be a high priority. Dorchester Place and Camden Way have been completed, and we are now resurfacing Wil-

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Nichols Hills, OK 73116

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shire Boulevard. Recently we approved the repaving of Grand Boulevard, which will begin soon. Happily, our City also received its first ever ACOG and ODOT grants for a sidewalk trail connecting Nichols Hills to Lake Hefner and the Downtown Trail System. Our new trail will be installed during the Grand Boulevard repaving project.

Water is a most important issue and your City is working hard to insure long term sustainable water supplies. We just recompleted one well and are currently redrilling two additional ones. Also, we are in the process of permitting a new water well, which we plan to drill this year. Our new 4 million gallon water storage tank and pumping system are operational and proving to be a wise investment.

Revenue and financial stability are primary, and, in spite of today's challenges, our City continues to grow and prosper. City staff and management have done an outstanding job of balancing the budget and we continue to have an A plus rated balance sheet. This kind of municipal financial stability is rare in today's world and I hope everyone appreciates the excellent job being done by all City employees.

Increasing sales tax collections is vital if we are to keep our City fiscally sound and we continue to make progress in this area. Your City Council has authorized City staff to seek both professional and governmental assistance in collecting our rightfully earned sales tax. This potentially represents hundreds of thousands of dollars of additional revenue, made even more important by the high level of construction activity currently underway in Nichols Hills. Residents and business owners can help with this effort by making sure they use NICHOLS HILLS, not Oklahoma City, as their address.

One final comment regarding revenues, we were recently successful in refinancing our previously issued General Obligation Bonds, resulting in a greater than \$400,000 gain to the City of Nichols Hills. We are most grateful to our financial advisor and city attorney for making this happen. These excess funds will be used in accordance with those purposes authorized in the original bond issue, primarily road related.

Addressing our beautiful parks and the environment, we now prohibit use of tobacco products in all Nichols Hills parks.

## CITY NEWS

In closing, let me again thank all the City employees, Commissioners, Committee members, the City Council, and numerous volunteers for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the City of Nichols Hills. I am grateful for the support, encouragement, and kind words regarding the progress the City has made during this past year. It is an honor to be part of this most excellent team and I look forward to a great new year together.

Your friend and Mayor,  
Peter Hoffman



## CITY NEWS

### \*UPDATE\*

The Nichols Hills Recycling Center  
will **CLOSE** January 31, 2013.

### GOOD NEWS!!!

You can take your  
recyclables to 2 nearby

**Goodwill Industries** locations:

**7420 N May Avenue (May & Pembroke)**

Monday – Sunday 9am-7pm

Phone: 405-286-9836

**8301 N Western Avenue (82nd & Western)**

Monday – Sunday 9am-7pm

Phone: 405-286-9715

**OR**

Take your paper to 2 nearby

**Abitibi** paper bins:

**All Souls Episcopal Church parking lot**

6400 Pennsylvania Avenue

**Nichols Hills United Methodist Church parking lot**

1212 Bedford Drive

**OR**

Sign up for private  
house-side recycling at:

[www.RECYCLING the HILLS.com](http://www.RECYCLING the HILLS.com)

For more information go to [www.nicholshills.net](http://www.nicholshills.net)

# CITY NEWS

## 2013 Nichols Hills Directories Available

The 2013 Nichols Hills directories are in and available at Town Hall, 6407 Avondale Drive, between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

The "Nichols Hills Directory" is a private project operated by Nichols Hills Parks, Inc. Proceeds from the project are donated to the Nichols Hills Parks, Inc. to help maintain and enhance parks throughout the City.

The Board of Nichols Hills Parks, Inc. implemented a new policy in 2012. Under the new policy, 2013 directories were mailed to advertisers and donors to the Parks.

Individual directory prices are:

- Nichols Hills Parks Inc. 2012 donors: (One Free Directory\*)
- Nichols Hills Residents and Advertisers: \$ 25.00
- Non-Residents: \$ 50.00

\*All 2012 donors that mailed their donation checks to Nichols Hills Parks Inc. between December 15, 2012 and December 31, 2012 missed the directory mailing deadline. Donors can pick up their directory at Town Hall subject to their name being listed on the 2012 donors list.

Nichols Hills Parks, Inc. a 501(c)3 accepts your tax deductible donations year round.

2013  
**NICHOLS HILLS  
 DIRECTORY**  
 A Project of...  
 Nichols Hills Parks, Inc.

**ALL EMERGENCIES:**  
**AMBULANCE**  
**FIRE** **DIAL 9-1-1**  
**POLICE**

**NOTICE: All 911 calls in Nichols Hills are answered by the Nichols Hills Emergency Dispatcher**  
**BUSINESS CALLS**

**TOWN HALL** .....843-6637  
 6407 Avondale Drive  
 Nichols Hills, Oklahoma 73116  
 City Manager .....David Poole

**UTILITIES**

Water (Town Hall).....843-6637  
 Code Enforcement .....843-5315  
 (Nights-Holidays).....843-5672  
 Public Works .....843-5222  
 ONG (Leaks).....(800) 458-4251  
 ONG (Main).....(800) 664-5463  
 OG&E (Service & Billing).....272-9741  
 Power Outages.....272-9595  
 AT&T.....(800) 288-2020  
 Cox Communications.....600-8282

**MUNICIPAL COURT (TownHall)**.....843-3358

**FIRE (Business)**.....843-8526  
 Fire Emergency.....911  
 Fire Chief ..... Terry Hamilton

**POLICE (Business)**.....843-5672  
 Police Chief.....Richard Mask  
 TDD.....911  
 Animal Control .....843-5672

The Nichols Hills Directory is given to advertisers and donors as a thank you for supporting  
 THE PARKS by Nichols Hills Parks, Inc.  
 Additional Directories on sale at Town Hall

## PUBLIC WORKS

Every day is one day closer to spring! If we could get some rain to go with the mild temperatures it would be perfect. We are in the middle of the Wilshire street and drainage project. They are working on the drainage part at Wilshire and Waverly. That part of the project is a co-effort between OKC and Nichols Hills and is the hardest and slowest part of the project. Once the contractors get past Waverly the project should move quicker. We will be having a pre-construction meeting on the NW Grand project in the first week in February. That project will start at Dorsett and go across Penn to just east of Nichols Road and from Sherwood to 63<sup>rd</sup>. The remainder of Grand will be in the next phase of the project.

Public Works has two new employees. Michael Harris will be helping in the Parks. Steven Hanson will be working with the water department. With the experience the two bring with them they will be a welcome addition.

EPA is still big into our storm water program. Please be careful with your lawn and pet wastes.

If you notice anything that needs our attention please let us know at 843-5222.



## 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.

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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!). Any animal adopted through ARF comes with a 30 day money back guarantee.

### JANUARY'S FEATURED PET



Young adult male brindle & white Boston Terrier weighs about 18 pounds and is VERY sweet & housetrained & plays well with other dogs.

Will be available Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please consider a foster or trial adoption to help ARF help the animals.