



Nichols Hills E-News

JUNE 2010

CITY COUNCIL & MANAGEMENT

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Upcoming Meetings

- Regular Planning Commission Meeting
August 3rd
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting
August 10th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of Municipal Authority
August 10th
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Nichols Hills Band Outdoor Concert
August 19th
7:00 pm at Kite Park
- Environmental, Health, & Sustainability Meeting
August 25th
8:30 am at City Hall

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What Is Killing My Pine Tree?

Dear Fellow Residents:

There are several factors contributing to the rapid death of our neighborhood pine trees. The only way to be certain about what condition is killing or has already killed your pine is to check with a Certified Arborist. However, below is some information about the pine tree problem that has been provided by three highly respected tree experts: Mark Bays, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Ray Ridlen, OSU Cooperative Extension Service, and Ron Smith, Certified Arborist.

The **hail storm** on Sunday, May 16, 2010, severely wounded our local pine trees on their trunks and branches, making them susceptible to disease and any additional stress. These stressed pines have lost their vigor and are unable to heal their wounds and are most likely to die if other stress occurs, such as improper watering or disease.

One of the diseases killing the pines is **Diplodia tip blight** caused by the fungal pathogen *Diplodia pinea* (also known as *Sphaeropsis sapinea*.) Brown needles at the tips of pine branches are the first evidence of this disease. When only a few branches show symptoms of tip blight, a program of pruning, sanitation, and protective sprays may help partially minimize the disease. These pines should be evaluated later in the fall and the infection pruned out at that time if their damage is minimal.

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Also, many pines are dying from **Pine Wilt Disease**. This cycle begins with the pine sawyer beetle that is an insect vector for the pinewood nematode that causes this lethal disease. Pine Wilt typically kills a pine within a few weeks to a few months. The best management practice for this disease is to promptly cut down and remove the dead pine and grind the stump, to prevent spread of the disease. Avoid saving the firewood because beetles can continue to emerge from the logs.



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Regarding **removal** of dead and dying pine trees, it is important to take them down as soon as possible. If the trees are left standing, they are both unsightly and act as a host for insects and disease, which will then spread to other trees.

The **City of Nichols Hills has a dead tree ordinance** that requires that dead or diseased trees be removed within sixty (60) days of being notified by the City Tree Board. The City Council has authorized the City to proceed with a timely removal of dead pine trees on city property. Individual residents are encouraged to promptly remove their dead trees in order to prevent additional infestation and a recurrence of the disease next year.

REFERENCES:

Mark Bays, Urban Forestry Coordinator with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, recommended the following link; Common Diseases of Conifers in Oklahoma

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2313/EPP-7618web%20color.pdf>

Ray Ridlen, Educator with the OSU Cooperative Extension Service recommended the following link: Sustainable Urban Landscapes, Pine Wilt:

<http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/miscpubs/mx0858.pdf>

Ron Smith, Certified Arborist

For more information about Diplodia Tip Blight: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/pdf/3041.pdf>

THANK YOU!

Your City Council & City Management



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Daytime burglaries are on the rise again. We remind all residents to keep their doors locked and their alarms activated even if leaving the house for a short time. Since January, we have had sixteen larcenies on Westminster Place alone, and each one of those crimes involved an unlocked vehicle. Thieves have taken wallets, purses, laptops, cash, brief cases, and even passports from unlocked vehicles.

We believe the burglars have been checking residences for unlocked doors or open garages. If you see anything suspicious at a neighbor's house, please do not hesitate to call 9-1-1. Our response time is usually 1 to 4 minutes, and your call could help apprehend the suspects who are victimizing our city.

With all the roofing and construction going on, we would like to pass on a lesson we learned personally. If you have your roof replaced, make sure you check your driveway before pulling your car out. Sometimes when a roof is replaced, a few nails will be dropped. They can end up in your driveway, and then end up in your tire! It is an unpleasant way to start the morning.

We have an update to share with you on a high profile case. On December 8th, 2008, Nichols Hills Police arrested Jon Frederick Holstein after officers discovered his mother, Virginia Holstein, dead in the home the two shared. In June of this year, John Holstein pleaded no contest to first degree murder. He was sentenced to life in prison, and cannot be considered for parole until he completes 38 years of his term. Holstein was 60 years old at the time of sentencing.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

As you probably already know the Nichols Hills Fire Department (NHFD) responds to all kinds of calls including emergency medical calls (EMS). What you may not know is how the relationship between NHFD and our ambulance provider, EMSA, actually works. The City of Nichols Hills pays EMSA a modest annual subsidy to provide the emergency transport service for our residents. EMSA may also bill a customer for an amount commensurate with the type of service they provided (for example, a Priority One call or a scheduled non-emergency transport). EMSA also offers an annual subscription which is reasonably priced and covers any out-of-pocket expenses of a customer. EMSA is an Advanced Life Support service; NHFD provides Basic Life Support.

When we arrive on the scene of an EMS call we are often asked why we came instead of the ambulance when the caller specifically asked for an ambulance. The short answer is NHFD responds to all emergency calls in Nichols Hills because we are trained Emergency Medical Technicians and we can almost always arrive sooner than EMSA, sometimes several minutes sooner. The standard response time for EMSA is eight minutes or less for a Priority One, or life threatening emergency and 12 minutes or less for a Priority Two, or emergency but non-life threatening emergency call. NHFD's average response time is approximately three minutes. EMSA arrives sooner than the times stated above most of the time but on occasion they take longer if they are very busy or traffic is impeded.

When somebody in Nichols Hills calls 911 on a landline the call goes straight to our emergency call center located at the police department. If it's an EMS call our dispatcher notifies NHFD and gets us en route, then transfers the call to EMSA and an EMSA dispatcher notifies an ambulance. If a resident calls EMSA directly then EMSA dispatches an ambulance then notifies our Nichols Hills dispatcher who dispatches NHFD to the same call. It sounds confusing but the bottom line for residents of Nichols Hills is if you call 911 in need of emergency medical care you will get the fire department and an ambulance in a timely manner. There are occasions when very unusual circumstances are involved that delays one of us but this is rare.

Owning and administering an ambulance service is complicated and expensive so our contractual agreement with EMSA is actually a good and economical option for the city and our residents. We have found EMSA to be responsive to our requests and to the needs of our residents and their paramedics are well trained and professional.

PUBLIC WORKS

Parks

The City of Nichols Hills has completed the installation of two remote control sprinkler units. One is located in Wood's Park and the other in Kite Park. These new units will allow us to monitor and set times for the sprinklers, from the office. Over the next several years we hope to install these in other parks throughout the city.

The City of Nichols Hills is currently accepting bids for pine tree removal in several of the city parks. The pine trees have been invaded by several diseases and beetles. If you have a dead pine tree please remove it as soon as possible. These diseases and beetles can travel to other healthy pine trees.

Streets

The Public Works is currently fixing potholes throughout the city. A contractor will be working in various locations to replace certain bad sections throughout the city.

Code Division

Please help the Nichols Hills Code Division monitor signs in the city. There has been an increase in signs after the hail storm. Signs cannot be larger than 5 sq. ft. and closer than 10 ft. to back of curb. Only one contractor sign per property is allowed. If you have a contractor currently or will be working on your home, please advise them of the city ordinances.



ANIMAL RESCUE FRIENDS

If you have lost or found an animal INSIDE the Nichols Hills City limits:

1. Call the NH Police Department and report a full description of the animal, where it was lost or found & give your contact information. The communications officer who answers the call will guide you through the questions. The police department keeps a log of lost and found animals, and tries to assist re-uniting pets with their owners.
2. The rules are that a found animal must be picked up either where it was found (intersection, park, etc.) or at your home, and someone from Animal Control will come to you to pick it up and get all relevant information. **Animals can not be brought to the Police Department, City Hall, or Public Works.** Animal Control hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. If the animal is found when Animal Control is not open, call the police department and they will dispatch an officer to pick up the animal.
3. Found animals may be advertised on www.nicholshills.net. Make sure you check the website if you are missing a pet.
4. Animal Rescue Friends, Inc of Nichols Hills is a completely volunteer organization dedicated to rescuing unclaimed, impounded animals in the Nichols Hills City limits from being euthanized. They cannot accept animals found in Nichols Hills until at least the 4th day of impound. If the animal is not claimed after the fourth day, ARF will try to locate the owner of the animal or will prepare it for adoption (testing, vaccinating, spay or neutering and then boarding). As ARF is volunteer organization, we are in need of volunteers and donations. If you can help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nichols Hills Animal Control 843-5315
Nichols Hills Police Department 843-5672
ARF 843-4222

Continue to the next two pages to see some of the adorable animals ARF has up for adoption!

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!).

July's Featured Pets



RUSSIA is a 1 year old 57 pound GORGEOUS red Siberian Husky to be advertised on NH/ARF webpage. Now fully vetted & ready to go to a new home!

ANIMAL RESCUE FRIENDS

July's Featured Pets



All these kittens need a good, loving home. We have ten kittens and a mom. You can adopt one, or as many as you want! All the kittens are girls, except one long brown hair tabby. If you would like to adopt any of the animals you have seen in this newsletter, or are looking for an animal to adopt, give ARF a call at **843-4222**.