



Nichols Hills E-News

MARCH 2011

CITY COUNCIL

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Upcoming Meetings

- Regular Planning Commission Meeting
April 5th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting
April 12th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of Municipal Authority
April 12th
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Board of Adjustment
April 20th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health & Sustainability Committee
April 27th
8:30 am at City Hall

THANK YOU OG&E

The City of Nichols Hills would like to thank the fine people at OG&E for recently installing smart meters citywide. OG&E is committed to providing reliable, cost effective energy to their customers and smart meters are an important part of this goal. Smart meters are an integral part of the overall smart grid concept, which will provide residents with more information in order to help them better manage their energy use and ultimately save money.

Thank you OG&E ,
Mayor John Lippert, Vice-Mayor Sody Clements, & Councilman Peter Hoffman
Nichols Hills City Council

P.S. To learn more about your power use and cost, be sure to register at www.myOGEpowers.com.

6407 Avondale Drive
Nichols Hills, OK 73116

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

CITY COUNCIL

My Address is Nichols Hills, OK

Not so very many years ago, some people thought it was pretentious to list their address as Nichols Hills. There didn't seem to be any reason to do so except to show off a little! Well, those days are gone. Listing your address as Nichols Hills gets us all a little bit closer to receiving the sales tax we are due and that the City desperately needs for operations. When your computer automatically inserts "Oklahoma City" on your address, please take a moment to update to Nichols Hills. It's not showing off -- it's patriotic!



EHS

Environmental Guidelines for the City of Nichols Hills

The City of Nichols Hills, Oklahoma, recognizing the responsibility of governmental institutions to address issues of sustainability, environmental health, and economic well-being at a local level, and to fulfill its mission to protect, maintain, and improve the quality of life for all present and future residents, hereby adopts the following guidelines:

Water Conservation: We encourage the careful conservation and protection of our water supply. www.okc.gov/water/service/Forms/HouseHoldWaterUsage.aspx; www.epa.gov/watersense/quiz; www.nicholshills.net for NH Annual Drinking Water Quality Report & NH Water Conservation Plan

Energy: We endeavor to reduce all energy use through conservation and to utilize renewable energy sources when practical. www.energysavers.gov/tips/; www.energysavers.gov/renewable_energy/

Waste Management: We seek to encourage source Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling of materials at City facilities and among our residents. www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/rrr; www.deq.state.ok.us/recycle & www.nicholshills.net for What, Why, & Where to Recycle

Sustainable Building and Development: We encourage the preservation of open space and the construction of residential, commercial, and institutional structures that reduce their impact on the environment. www.nicholshills.net for Sustainable Construction (www.usgbc.org & www.sustainablebuild.co.uk)

Transportation: We encourage the use of alternative transportation modes and sustainable fuels, reduce or eliminate pollution from City-owned vehicles, and reduce idling of all motor vehicles.

EHS

Purchasing/Contracting: We seek to purchase goods or services at a local level and that reduce the use of energy and pollution in their manufacture, packaging, use, and disposal; have lower transportation costs; contain sustainable and/or bio-based ingredients; do not contain ingredients known to be harmful to humans; and that are shipped in biodegradable or recyclable packaging.

Land Management: We endeavor to manage our City-owned land so as to maximize the natural recycling of materials and minimize environmental pollution.

Green Cleaning: We endeavor to clean and maintain our City facilities with products that are free from known or suspected toxins.

Environmental Toxins: We endeavor to reduce exposure to environmental toxins through the proper disposal of hazardous materials and through additional measures as necessary. www.nicholshills.net for [Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste](#)

Communications: We seek to continually inform all residents of Nichols Hills of this and all other environmental policies and programs through written and electronic communications:

Source: How Green Is My Town as revised by the Nichols Hills Environmental Health, & Sustainability Commission, February 8, 2011

POLICE DEPARTMENT

March has been an unusually busy month for crime in Nichols Hills. There have been several burglaries of homes being remodeled or under construction. In the majority of cases the homes have been unoccupied. In one case several new built-in appliances were taken. There was another case where furniture was taken and in another case furniture and tools had been locked in a room so the thieves went through the attic and dropped down into the locked room, from the ceiling. In at least one case copper wiring was stripped from the walls. There were three things that the majority of burglaries had in common. First, the homes were unoccupied, second there was a sign in the front yard indicating that the home was for sale or being remodeled, and third the contractors power tools were stolen.

In addition there have been numerous vehicles that were left unlocked, and contained valuable merchandise. In one auto burglary, a passport, iPod and briefcase were taken. In other cases cars were entered but nothing was taken. All of the vehicles had been left unlocked.

We have recently experienced two 1st degree burglaries. A 1st degree burglary occurs when someone, the victim, is home when the suspect makes entry. In late February, a vehicle was stolen from a residence on Lancet Ct. The vehicle had been left unlocked with the keys inside. The vehicle was later recovered abandoned but the keys were missing. It is believed that the house key was on the missing key ring. Three weeks later, we believe that the same thief returned and either found an unlocked door to the residence or used the stolen house key to make entry to the home. Once inside, several items were taken including a second set of keys which fit a second vehicle in the drive way. The thieves took the second vehicle also and used it to haul away the items stolen from the house. The home had an alarm system but it was not set. The danger lies in the home owners being home at the time of the burglary. The chances of the victim being harmed increase significantly in a 1st degree burglary. We believe that the suspects returned a second time because they were so successful the first time. These burglaries occurred during early morning hours on weekends.

In an earlier incident, a residence in the same vicinity was entered through an unlocked door where the alarm had not been set. The wife and daughter were home alone and the husband was out of town. The burglar/burglars took several items including a laptop but fortunately did not harm the residents. A similar event recently occurred in the 8000 block of Glenwood.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

As I have said on numerous occasions in previous newsletters, the time has long since past where you can leave your doors unlocked, your alarms turned off and your car unlocked with the keys in the ignition. We believe that many of the burglars today are armed and capable of injuring and or killing someone if confronted. If you don't believe me just watch or read the news. Don't make it any easier than it already is.

In the week, five burglars have been arrested in Nichols Hills inside a residence and four out of five were convicted felons.

Please help us protect you by locking your doors to your cars and your homes. Always make sure that your alarm is turned on. Don't leave valuables in your cars, especially your keys. Invest in or use existing outside lighting. Do not open the door to strangers and don't invite strangers into your homes. Don't do business with door to door solicitors. Dial 911 if you hear or see anything suspicious As in the case last week, the thieves may come back next week with your house keys and rob you, or worse. If you are not concerned for your own safety, be concerned for your neighbors. When you make crime easy and profitable the bad guys will return in large numbers. Please send this to everyone you know.

Thank you,

Chief Richard Mask



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Can you see your home address from the street? 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)



PUBLIC WORKS

Sanitation

It's that time of the year for the yard cleaning and tree and bush trimming. Please make sure all limbs are bundled together and no longer than 4 ft. in length. The sanitation crew will not haul off any construction debris.

Thank you for your help and support!

Animal Control

Please make sure all pets are registered and tagged through the City of Nichols Hills. Tags may be purchased for \$5.00 at 1009 N.W. 75th. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

City Projects

Water line replacement is near completion on the 1700 and 1800 block of Coventry.

Street replacement has started on the 1700 block of Guilford and Coventry.
New booster house should be going on line shortly.

Have a complaint?

Be it a grass, sign or pothole complaint, please call 843-5222



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!).

MARCH'S FEATURED PET



TRAVIS

Travis is a 5 year old, 76 pound Golden/Lab mix who needs a safe, loving, indoor home.