



# Nichols Hills E-News

October 2009

## PUBLIC WORKS

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### Upcoming Meetings

- Planning Commission Meeting November 3rd  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting November 10th  
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of the Nichols Hills Municipal Authority Nov. 10th  
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Environment, Health, & Sustainability Committee November 18th  
8:30 am at City Hall



**T. Walter Gibson**

Walt has been employed with Nichols Hills for 8 yrs. He started with the line maintenance division and now works as 'Well Operator'. He has an extensive background in water and wastewater and has obtained his Class B water and wastewater certificate. Walt is a major asset to the well division and to the entire public works staff.

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## PUBLIC WORKS

### Code Division

The City of Nichols Hills is actively pursuing job sites without the appropriate silt fences. The City of Nichols Hills has a 'Storm Water Permit' from the State of Oklahoma. This permit requires the City to monitor and prevent discharge of mud into the storm drains. At this time City Inspectors are patrolling the area for violators. If you see a project and disturbed soil and there is no silt fence, please call the Code Division at 843-5222.



**The above photo shows a construction site with embedded silt fence and hay bales for support and filtering.**

### Senate Bill 306

Senate Bill 306 takes effect on November 1, 2009. This Bill basically requires local governments to check residential Building Contractors for \$50,000.00 general liability and for Workman's Compensation. The local governments are not liable for canceled policies or pursuing any claims. For more details contact Charles Hooper at 843-5222.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Home Heating Units

It is time to have your home heating units inspected and fireplaces examined.

### City Projects

#### Stratford

The drainage and street replacement between Westminster and Drakestone is coming along. The drainage tiles have been installed and they are preparing to install the street. They will then move just north of Dorchester Dr. and just south of Dorchester Pl.

#### Ground Storage Water Tank

The new four million gallon ground storage water tank is nearing completion at this time.

#### Booster House

The new booster pump house is in the ground stage at this time and is 28% finished.

### Getting To Know Your City

How well do you know the City of Nichols Hills?

1. Can you name the following?

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_, Vice Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, City Manager \_\_\_\_\_,

Municipal Judge \_\_\_\_\_.

2. City Council Meetings are held once a month on the second \_\_\_\_\_ of the month at 5:30 p.m.

3. The City of Nichols Hills has \_\_\_\_\_ parks.

4. Where is the Roy Devero Park located? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What statue is displayed in this park? \_\_\_\_\_

6. The speed limit was recently reduced along Grand Blvd., Kite Park and Margaret Davis Park to? \_\_\_\_\_ m.p.h.

7. The recycle center located at 1009 N.W. 75<sup>th</sup> is open daily from? \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. - \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

*Look for the answers in next month's newsletter.*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

It's nearing the holiday time of year when many people will be traveling to spend time with family and friends. Many of those travelers will be spending some time in hotels or motels. The following hotel/motel safety tips were taken from the [www.firesafety.gov](http://www.firesafety.gov). Please review them or print them and carry them with you when you travel. The odds of a fire occurring in the hotel/motel you are staying in on any given night are very small but it is a wise person who is prepared for the unexpected. Whether you are home or traveling please practice fire safety at all times.

The Nichols Hills Fire Department

### ***Hotel/Motel Fire Safety***



When traveling, it is important to become familiar with your surroundings. Please review the following safety tips to assist you in preparing for fire-safe traveling.

#### Plan Ahead

- When making your reservations, ask if the hotel or motel has smoke alarms and fire sprinklers.
- When traveling, take a flashlight with you.
- Read the fire evacuation plan carefully. If one is not posted in your room, request one from the front desk.
- Locate the two exits from your room.
- Count the number of doors between your room and the exits. This will assist you in the need of an emergency evacuation.
- Locate the fire alarms on your floor.
- Never smoke in bed.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Life Safety Steps

- If the fire is in your room, get out quickly. Close the door, sound the alarm and notify the front desk.
- Always use a stairwell, never an elevator. The elevator could stop at the floor of the fire.
- If the fire is not in your room, leave if it is safe to do so. Be sure to take your room key with you in case fire blocks your escape and you need to re-enter your room.
- To check the hallway for fire, touch the door with the back of your hand to test the temperature. If the door is cool, get low to the floor; brace your shoulder against the door and open it slowly. Be ready to close it quickly if there are flames on the other side. Crawl low in the smoke to the nearest exit; the freshest air is near the floor.

If your room door is hot, do not open it. Instead, seal the door with wet towels or sheets. Turn off the fans and air conditioners. Call the fire department to give your location. Signal from your window.

## Hotel and Motel Fire Safety List

The Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990 was passed into law by Congress to save lives and protect property by promoting fire and life safety in hotels, motels and other places of public accommodation. The law mandates that Federal employees on travel must stay in public accommodations that adhere to the life safety requirements in the legislation guidelines, those being:

- hard-wired, single-station smoke detectors in each guestroom in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard 72; and
- an automatic sprinkler system, with a sprinkler head in each guest room in compliance with NFPA standards 13 or 13R. Properties three stories or lower in height are exempt from the sprinkler requirement.

*The Hotel-Motel List isn't just for Federal employees!* USFA encourages the traveling public to use the list when making reservations for lodging accommodations, be they for business or pleasure.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

In May of this year, we were pleased to announce that the Nichols Hills Communications Department won an award from ACOG (Association of Central Oklahoma Governments) for an outstanding display of dedication to their work environment. One of the perks of this award was a catered meal cooked and served by the ACOG staff. This meal was served on October 23rd, and was enjoyed by all city employees.



**ACOG staff Wendi Marcy, Steve Willoughby, and Paulette Marshall prepare a delicious meal!**



**City employees enjoy the feast!**

# POLICE DEPARTMENT



## EHS

The City of Nichols Hills Environment, Health, and Sustainability Commission (EHSC) would like to involve the citizens of Nichols Hills in a series of dialogs scheduled every Thursday evening from 5:30-7:00 PM at your Town Hall. These meetings will address focus areas suggested to the Commission by citizens interested in the environment and in making their community a healthier and better place to live. The EHS Commission needs significant input from a broad resident base to accurately reflect citizen values.

### Focus area meeting dates through December 2009

#### **COMMUNITY AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

First Thursday of the Month:

November 5, December 3.

#### **HEALTH/LOCAL FOOD**

#### **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

#### **RECREATIONAL HARDSCAPE/BIKING AND WALKING**

Second Thursday of the Month:

November 12, December 10.

#### **RECYCLING/SOLID WASTE**

#### **WATER**

#### **LANDSCAPING**

Third Thursday of the month:

November 19, December 17.

#### **ENERGY/POWER**

#### **SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION**

#### **AIR QUALITY & NOISE POLLUTION**

Fourth Thursday of the month:

October 22, no dates for Nov or Dec because of the holidays

## EHS

### News from the Environmental, Health and Sustainability Commission of Nichols Hills:

Thanks to an effort spearheaded by Rahe Oldham, inner city youth will be picking up hay bales throughout Nichols Hills on November 8 and November 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9:am until Noon. Used primarily for Halloween and Thanksgiving decorations throughout our city, these hay bales will become mulch for an organic community garden located near NE 50<sup>th</sup> and Kelly. By learning basic gardening techniques, these kids are raising vegetables and ornamental plants for a Central Park neighborhood. For many of them, this is their only opportunity to experience first-hand the joy of gardening *and* community support. Rahe will drive his personal truck and supervise the youth who will pick up the intact hay bales (no loose hay, please) wherever they are located in the front yards – no need to move to curb. This service is available only by appointment, so please call Rahe Oldham for pick-up on these dates at 840-3734 or 525-8733, or email him at [orahe@msn.com](mailto:orahe@msn.com). Thanks to all our neighbors who are participating in this recycling effort!



## 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!).

### Remembering Joe



It was mid-November of 2002. A client didn't come for their therapy session, so I relaxed by reviewing some canine rescue websites. I clicked on the miscellaneous category on the Pets and People website and there he was, Joe Cocker, looking very handsome for a 12 year old cocker spaniel, blonde and beautiful, but with no sight or hearing. Someone dumped him in Nichols Hills, heartworm positive, emaciated and fully equipped!! They probably thought someone would take him in and they were right, except someone was actually something, Animal Rescue Friends of Nichols Hills. My first thought was, "Don't do anything crazy. You already have 4 dogs of your own not to mention the countless foster dogs, cats, puppies and kittens that come and go". This was followed by an immediate second thought, "The poor old guy won't have a family to be with for Thanksgiving". I put him out of my mind until about a week later. I was with my sister at Lucky Dog Lodge. Her friend was taking us on a tour of the facility where I had the pleasure of meeting Joe Cocker who was being boarded there. I spent some time with him, enough time for him to win my heart. I called ARF and we were able to work out a permanent foster agreement. Joe was with his new family for Thanksgiving and immediately fit right in. My pack was so used to visitors coming and going they welcomed Joe with open paws!! It was love at first sight for my human family members. Within a week, Joe had mapped out the living room, kitchen and large dining room leading out into a large backyard in his neurological grid. As long as I didn't move any furniture around, he was good to go!! He still ran into things, but it was for purposes of orientation only. His navigation system required that he bump this or that to get his bearings. Joe was the sweetest, most well mannered dog with a great disposition; tail always wagging. During the last year or

## ANIMAL RESCUE FRIENDS

so, on good days, his head was held high and he lifted his feet off the ground, sort of padding around the yard or the house. On not so good days, his head was held lower and his appetite was off; breathing somewhat labored and he slept more, but always got a good report from his doctor visits. I believe he had dementia, the main symptom being his forgetfulness about going outside to potty. He was perfectly housebroken until about 2 years ago, never incontinent. I believe there were times he just didn't remember where to go. I have a dog friendly house with tile and wood floors. We used piddle pads; occasional messes to clean up were not big deals.



Joe died in my yard last month at the age of 18 years, maybe 19 years. I have his ashes and a painting of him done by Dottie Lammerts on my bookshelf in the living room. Losing him broke my heart, but he filled it with so much love over the years, I'm healing quite nicely. His presence remains in my home. No matter where I was in the house or the yard, Joe could find me with his nose, always ready for a hug and a kiss. He was so perfectly smoochable! His teeth were perfect and had no bad breath.

I hope Joe's story helps you think about older dogs in a different way. They are so worth fostering or adopting. My relationship with Joe started out with my expectation of it being short. After all, "the old guy probably won't live much longer". We had 7 great years during which Joe taught me many life lessons. We understood each other, counted on each other and trusted each other. We both knew we were loved in every way that counted. Although I will miss him always, my gratitude outweighs my sorrow.

Open your home and your heart to a senior canine or feline. You will find a reciprocal relationship worthy of your effort.

**Leslie McKee, LPC, LMFT**