



Nichols Hills E-News

SEPTEMBER 2010

CITY HALL

Inside this issue:

City Hall	1
Police Dept.	3
City Council	4
Fire Department	5
ARF	7

Upcoming Meetings

- Regular Planning Commission Meeting
October 5th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- City Council Meeting
October 12th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of Municipal Authority
October 12th
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health, & Sustainability Meeting
October 27th
8:30 am at City Hall
- **Halloween Trick or Treat Night**
October 30th 6:00 pm

6407 Avondale Drive
Nichols Hills, OK 73116

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



Sarah Grissam has served the City of Nichols Hills for over ten years. She has been the utility contact for Nichols Hills residents. Many have depended on her gentle customer service and diligent effort to assist them. On October 1st, Sarah will be retiring. She admits she will truly miss the employees of Nichols Hills, and the residents whom she has served and gotten to know.

During her tenure she experienced the software conversion for calculating, preparing and mailing monthly utility bills, notices, etc. The change out process from manual to automatically meter readings was quite extensive. Sarah worked many extra hours during the transition time, all the while smiling as she worked.

CITY HALL

Since Nichols Hills is a smaller community with a small number of employees. Cross-training for other duties at City Hall is a necessity which Sarah excelled at. She was able to learn new duties while performing existing ones and still gracious and welcoming attitude. This proved to be a tremendous asset to the City of Nichols Hills. Sarah has passed on traveling opportunities over the past year and half, which is a testament to her dedication.

Looking forward to retirement, Sarah and husband Phil plan to become snow birds in the winter, traveling in their motor coach to warm climates such as Arizona, South Padre Island, Louisiana and Florida. They hope to take a cruise or two to destinations unknown. While home in Oklahoman they look forward to spending more time with their nine grandchildren and her three year old great grandson. As she shares about her grandchildren, she smiles talking about the Friday night lights ballgames and other family gatherings.

One of Sarah's favorite past time while home is tending to their water garden Koi pond. They begin this over seven years ago, when previous co-worker Margaret Peterson gave them a 60 gallon prefab pond. Sarah lovingly grins saying it looked like a postage stamp in their yard. Over the years, that 60 gallon pond has expanded to the 2000 gallon water garden pond holding 27 Koi fish, the longest of which is approximately 20 inches.

We will all miss Sarah and wish her all the best for this new chapter of her life. If you would like to thank Sarah or just say hello, call her at 843-6637.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Nichols Hills Police Department offers services to our residents that you may not be aware of. Below is a list of a few of the services provided:

House Checks – When you are away from your home, there is peace of mind that comes from knowing someone is watching your house. Your police department provides a service where your home will be checked daily while you are gone. Before you leave for vacation, call the police department at 843-5672 and tell the communications officer answering the phone you would like to place a house check on your home. You will be asked various questions to help the police insure your home is safe (i.e. – when you are leaving and returning, any vehicles left in the driveway at all times, emergency contact number). The answers to the questions you are asked are placed on our house check form. The form is then distributed to the police officers.

When an officer performs a house check, he walks the perimeter of your residence. The officer looks for any signs of disturbance. He checks doors and windows for any sign of forced entry. Any unusual finding is immediately investigated by the officer. If something out of the ordinary is observed, a call may be placed to the homeowner or responsible party. All information provided by the officer is noted in the police radio log. Even if the home checks undisturbed and with no activity, it is noted in the radio log that the residence checked secure. At any time while you are away, you can call the police department and check on the status of your home. The communications officer will bring up the house check log and advise you of the status.

S.T.O.P. Program – Special Traffic Operations Programs are designed to address specific traffic problems within the city of Nichols Hills. Many times, residents view traffic problems on their block, whether it is speeding, running stop signs, or other traffic complaints. If you observe traffic infractions that need attention, call the police department at 843-5672 and ask speak with a supervisor. Let the supervisor know you wish to request a S.T.O.P. program. You will be asked detailed information regarding the specific traffic complaint. The patrol division will be assigned to address the complaint. This might include radar surveillance, unmarked patrol, or other assignments deemed necessary.

In our last newsletter article we focused on the importance of having an updated alarm registration on file with the police department. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to update their information. If you haven't filled out an alarm registration yet, call us at 843-5672 and we will provide you with the form.

CITY COUNCIL

IMPORTANT REMINDER

As a follow up to the July E-Newsletter about the rapid death of our neighborhood pine trees from Diplodia tip blight and Pine Wilt disease, it is important to take these **dead and dying pine trees** 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-days (60) 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.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Are you a Risk Manager or a Risk Taker?

There are several inescapable certainties of life that affect each one of us. You know the two standards; “death & taxes”, one can eliminate the other and one has been said to cause the other but there are more certainties and one in particular that I want to discuss this month, *risk*.

You cannot live without risk; it's at work, at home, and most hobbies involve risk. Many cities and private companies hire Risk Managers who are tasked with dealing with risks to employees, equipment, and infrastructure and the risk city or business employees can pose to the public. Their most important task is reducing the financial impact that risk can have on city government and/or private business. If the affect of risk is significant enough for business and government to invest substantial amounts of money in, then I suggest to you its significant enough for individuals and families to invest some time and energy to.

You cannot eliminate all risk from your life but you can become a Risk Manager and formulate plans and procedures to reduce the risk that you and your families face every day. The first step is to recognize the high frequency/high risk activities you participate in each day; driving for example, then devise ways to reduce that risk such as; never exceed the speed limit and conversely not driving too slow in high speed traffic, avoid driving in rush hour traffic when possible, perhaps taking a longer route through low traffic areas can reduce some risk, and finally wearing your seatbelt can reduce the financial and physical affect of a vehicle wreck if you are in one. Other personal high frequency/high risk activities might be mowing & weed eating the lawn, child and adult sports, and there are too many occupational risks to mention here. Any activity that involves alcohol is definitely high risk and needs to be included in “risk management”.

Next I would suggest you examine the risk involved in the low frequency activities you participate in. Do you go snow skiing once a year? That's a low frequency/high risk activity. Make a list of the activities and associated risks involved and write a game plan for reducing or eliminating those risks if possible.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

My goal is not to take the fun out of life. Some risk is exhilarating but the physical and financial affect of a bad accident can be devastating. My goal is to get you to become a risk manager and begin making your life safer. Neither is it my goal to give you a “risk management list” but rather to get you and your friends or family to develop a personalized plan that addresses your lifestyle. Make Risk Management part of your lifestyle and prepare for it occasionally just like you prepare a budget or for a vacation. Include your children in the planning. Explain to them that there are risks in many of the things they enjoy doing but you want them to keep doing those things because they are healthy and fun. Ask your children to help you develop a list of the risks and possible outcomes associated with their activities and then ask them to help you think of ways to minimize that risk.

I know many of you already “think safety” because I see more and more children and adults wearing helmets when they ride bicycles and using child safety seats and so on. To you I say congratulations and thank you. Risk Management is a higher level of that type of thinking and a way to take control, or ownership if you prefer, of another part of your life. It’s not just obeying the safety laws but going beyond what the law says and managing the risks in your life that laws can’t touch.



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!).

September's Featured Pet



Ruff (#14036) is a handsome red & white male vizsla/boxer mix. He was impounded 9-9-10 in the 1600 block of Drury Lane. He is now neutered, fully vaccinated, tested heart-worm negative and aVERY sweet dog. He is about 10 months old and weighs almost 60 pounds.

The Pooch Parade will be held Sunday, October 31st on Grand Blvd – please help ARF help the animals!

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