



# NICHOLS HILLS E-NEWS

APRIL 6, 2007 ~ PAGE 1

## Monthly Meetings

- City Council Meeting  
Tuesday April 10, 2007  
at 5:30 pm at Town Hall
- The Redbud Classic  
April 13, 14 and 15,  
2007
- Board of Adjustment  
Meeting, Wednesday  
April 18, 2007 at 5:30  
pm at Town Hall
- Parks Inc., Meeting  
Tuesday April 24, 2007,  
at 5:00 pm at Town Hall
- Planning Commission  
Meeting Tuesday May 1,  
2007, at 5:30 pm at  
Town Hall

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## STEWART E. MEYERS, JR.

### Vice-Mayor of Nichols Hills

Longtime councilman Stewart E. Meyers, Jr., will act in his official capacity as Vice-Mayor for the City of Nichols Hills for the final time on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Stewart was first elected to the Nichols Hills City Council in 1993. Since that time, he has served on the council for fourteen years, serving as Mayor six years and Vice-Mayor five times. In 2004, Stewart was one of just a handful of statewide nominees for the prestigious "Mayor of the Year" award, sponsored by the Oklahoma Municipal League.

Shortly after being elected to office, Stewart made it his business to ride along with a garbage crew for a day and to ride along with a police officer for a shift. He wanted to know firsthand the conditions the employees were exposed to and what it might be like to work in their shoes. This earned him a great deal of respect by the employees and made



Stewart Meyers, Jr. ,

him a very empathetic elected official. After touring the city's public works facility, Stewart found the conditions at the city facility to be less than desirable. He spearheaded efforts to fund a new public works facility with general obligation bond funding, which was later approved by Nichols Hills residents. The facility was completed in 1997.

Stewart was instrumental in the development of an employee pay plan developed in 1993. The pay plan was structured so that a new market study is performed every year and the pay plan adjusted accordingly so that the plan remains

current. This pay plan allowed the city to recruit and retain top-notch employees. This plan continues to be the model in use today.

Stewart chaired the Cable Franchise Committee in 1995 and along with city staff and an attorney, completely rewrote the franchise agreement which has since served as a model agreement for many other communities.

Stewart spearheaded efforts to replace the street lights in Nichols Hills with new decorative street lights. The project was phased in over a five year period. Stewart also led efforts to replace the city's fire engine with a new model.

These are only a few of the accomplishments made during Stewart's fourteen years of service to Nichols Hills. Stewart has been considered a visionary and has consistently encouraged and led both the City Council and the management team to plan for the future.

**HE WILL BE MISSED!**

# HELP US



**Harold Liddell  
&  
Marcus Bradshaw**

Nichols Hill's sanitation crews set for themselves a high standard of productivity and a demanding work ethic. There are very few, if any, cities left that provide twice-a-week house side-pickup. Items you throw away could unintentionally create a safety hazard for our trash crews.

Please think about what you throw into your trash receptacles:

Diabetics need to properly dispose of syringes. Two sanitation workers have been stuck with used needles in the last eight years.

Containers with caustic and other hazardous chemicals should never be thrown into household waste. This includes car batteries, lawn chemicals/ insecticides, swimming pool/spa chlorine or muratic acid.

Heavy objects such as concrete, metal or stone can also cause serious sprains or stains.

Broken glass or other sharp objects can cause severe lacerations.

Loose limbs or wire creates a potential for eye injuries.

Dogs that are family friendly may not take to well to "strangers" and on occasion have sunk a tooth into an employee's leg.

Nichols Hills has eight full time sanitation carriers with a combined sixty years experience please help keep them safe on their job. Thank you for looking out for their safety.

Respectfully,  
Frank Finley  
Risk Manager

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



**Ron Benford,  
Chi-Ella Dillingham,  
Vern Benford**

The City of Nichols Hills Public Works Department would like to introduce 3 new members of our family.

Chi-Ella Dillingham is our new maintenance worker in the Parks Department. She graduated from North East High School in 1993.

Ron Benford is our new maintenance worker in the Street Department. He graduated from Northwest Classen.

Vern Farrar is our new maintenance worker in the Water/Sewer De-

partment Vern moved to Oklahoma City from California in 2006. Vern graduated from Santa Ynez High School.

You have probably noticed our new paint job on the north ground water storage tank; the gray color is just temporary. It will be repainted the same color as it is now once the contractors have the tank primed and ready to be painted.

Prepare for some traffic congestion along N.W. 63rd for the next couple of months, Oklahoma City is repaving NW 63rd from May to

Grand.

If you notice any street lights burning during the day or if you see any that are not lit at night please contact Public Works at 843-5222

Respectfully,  
Charles Hooper  
Public Works Director

Spring is in the air which means summer is just around the corner. This also means all of us will be spending more time outdoors. Each season brings with it dangers that can cause us grief if we are not careful. In the fire department section of the City of Nichols Hills website we have monthly safety tips. Please look them up and read them each month to help you avoid some of those pitfalls.

In the past you may have noticed the fire fighters in the city opening fire hydrants for no apparent reason. There is actually a very good reason for doing this. Each year we have several projects that fire fighters do for testing and maintenance reasons. One of those annual projects is testing our fire hydrants. As you may recall from a previous newsletter we have three shifts here at NHFD; Red shift, Blue shift, and Green shift. We have approximately 200 fire hydrants in the city which are divided up between the three shifts and each shift tests the hydrants they are assigned.

The testing process is simple but with the number of hydrants we have it is time consuming for our shift personnel. The first thing they do is check the actual location of the hydrant against the location listed in our map book to make sure they match. Next they make sure that any hydrant they see in their assigned district is in the map book. The City of Nichols Hills is continually upgrading our water system and this means fire hydrants are some-

times added, relocated, or removed altogether according to the latest plan. By doing this we know we can rely on the information in our map books which is very important in emergency situations.

The next step is to actually open the hydrant and flow water. Once water begins to flow the fire fighters use a device called a pitot tube to measure the pressure of the water flowing from the hydrant. They do this by inserting the tube into the middle of the water stream where the measurement is taken. The value they get from this measurement is in pounds per square inch. This value is plugged into a formula which gives us the gallons per minute that hydrant will flow.

This information is valuable to us for a number of reasons. The most important reason is we know about how much water we can count on if we have a fire and connect our water line to that hydrant. Another reason is it gives us an indication if there is a problem with the hydrant or water line. We test each hydrant and record the results every year so we have a running record of that hydrant's gallons per minute. If during a test the results are significantly off it indicates there is a problem and we notify the water department who check the hydrant and the water line. The water department has always been able to find and fix the problem.

This is a short and simple description of one of the many annual projects our fire fighters do in addition to all the training and

calls they make. If you have any questions about something you see the fire fighters doing feel free to stop and talk to them and they would be happy to explain it to you or call the fire station.

Respectfully,  
Terry Hamilton  
Assistant Fire Chief



**NICHOLS HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

# POLICE DEPARTMENT



Spring is here and it is time for a semi-annual reminder concerning Gypsy activity. First a little historical background. There are two classifications of gypsy, both of which have frequented Nichols Hills over the past forty years. The first classification is a group called "The Travelers "or sometimes referred to as "The Irish Travelers ". They are American born, mostly Caucasian, who travel across the U.S.A. committing mostly non-violent crimes, specifically insurance fraud, confidence or con games, home repair scams, personal injury claims and burglary. They are the ones who have fixed your roof or driveway. They have committed violent crimes including murder, on occasion, but so far, not in Nichols Hills. The violent crimes have been rare in the past but seem to be rapidly increasing. They are referred to as gypsies because of their adopted lifestyle and the fact that they travel almost continually. The second classification of Gypsy refers to the true Eastern European Gypsy, a pseudo nationality that by some estimates, have existed for a 1000 years. They are for the most part, of Romanian decent and have continued to immigrate to the U.S for many years. Most of the

major Gypsy enclaves exist on or around the east coast and their individual groups usually consist of family members, trained from birth in the art of criminal activity. They are the ones who have been known to walk into your living room unannounced if you have left your door unlocked. They are the ones who have gathered all of your jewelry, placed it in one of your pillow cases and left without ever having been seen. They are the ones who will rob your house while you work in the flower bed or when you have just gone to Crescent Market for a few minutes. They are the ones who will walk into your store and while one keeps you busy, the other steals your purse or wallet and you don't discover it until three hours later. We have arrested both classifications here in the past. They immediately bring in a lawyer usually from Dallas, post a cash bond, and are never seen again. They use a variety of names and are extremely difficult to trace. Information and a few precautions are your best line of defense.

Don't leave doors unlocked, even if you're in the backyard. Don't allow strangers into your home, regardless of the story or the uniform they might be wearing, (they

may be imposters). When in doubt call the police. Don't invite telephone solicitors into your home unless you know and trust them. Don't leave bicycles and yard equipment in the front yard, even for short periods. Don't hire strangers to work on your chimney, roof or driveway. Once again call the police and we can be there in two minutes. Keep jewelry and other valuables locked in a safe if possible. Report suspicious people and activity in your neighborhood. Remember the Orbachs, "1982", they were in an upper middleclass neighborhood, not far from Nichols Hills, killed during the day, with no forced entry, within sight of a major highway, and it was spring. No credible motive, suspects or evidence have ever been established other than robbery.

As a side note, the police department has recovered a mini motorcycle, and a relatively expensive bicycle from Kite Park. If you think that one or both of these items belong to you, please contact Detective Bruce Funderburk at 879-8878.

Thank you,  
Chief Richard Mask  
Chief of Police

