



Nichols Hills E-News

NOVEMBER 2007

Recycling – Protecting the Environment Now and for the Future

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By Kathy Walker Vice Mayor

The City of Nichols Hills is very interested in environmental stewardship and in providing a process for its residents to participate in the recycling of recyclable and hazardous materials. For many years the City has provided a site behind Town Hall where newspaper, glass, and aluminum recycle bins are available for drop off of materials. Since the beginning of the year, a citizens committee has been meeting to discuss and plan for recycling in Nichols Hills for the future.

The task force has been looking at all aspects of recycling sites from increasing drop-off site capacity to include plastic, aluminum, cardboard, paper and newspaper, and glass to perhaps providing curbside or house-side recycling service or possibly a combination of both. The committee has looked at both internal and external processes in addition to collaborations with existing services in other cities. Members are also visiting with the City's current solid waste

provider about house-side recycling. Grants are being researched, and a recycling section on the City of Nichols Hills website is currently being designed for easy access to information.

Of course the task force is interested in what our citizens want and need when it comes to recycling. Within the near future, several questions will be posed to you in a small survey such as would you be interested in mandatory or voluntary recycling, house-side or curbside or drop-off, or a combination of both? What about yard waste? Are residents aware that during certain times of the year yard waste accounts for more than 50% of the City's solid waste disposal? Are you interested in community compost? How much are you willing to pay for recycling services?

Education will be an important segment of the City's recycling program. Startling statistics point out that as much as 80% of our trash has the potential to be recycled. According to the Oklahoma Department of

Environmental Quality, this adds up to 67 trashcans per person every year. Do you know that when exposed to air it will take from 200 to 500 years for an aluminum can to decompose, 250 years for a plastic cup, and 100 years for a tin can?

Did you know that any hazardous waste product such as cans of paint, pesticides, fertilizers, solvents, mercury products, certain batteries, and other dangerously flammable household chemicals should be disposed of at COMEA (Central Oklahoma Metropolitan Environmental Association) by all Nichols Hills residents. Hazardous products should not be thrown in the trash. The City of Nichols Hills is a member of COMEA, and all disposals are free to our residents. Contact COMEA by calling 739.1352 for an appointment. COMEA is located at 2425 Douglas Boulevard in Midwest City.

Of course the task force is interested in what our citizens want and need when it comes to recycling.

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Recycling – Protecting the Environment Now and for the Future - Continued

E-Waste is another topic being discussed by the task force. Used computers, cell phones, printers, toner cartridges, monitors, electronic games, televisions, and audio visual equipment may all be disposed of at certain facilities around the metropolitan area. It could be that the City of Nichols Hills could sponsor a donation day at Town Hall.

Look for more information on ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World campaign in the next newsletter. Go to www.energystar.gov to find out about changing one light bulb at a time from an incandescent bulb to an ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulb (CFLs).

Oklahoma celebrates America Recycles Day on November 15, 2007. On that day you can buy more recycled-content products, increase your recycling efforts at home and/or work, drop off recyclable materials at the drop site behind Town Hall, call COMEA and dispose of hazardous materials, and refill a plastic drinking water bottle just once! If you would like to do some research on your own, try the websites www.recycleok.org, www.deq.state.ok.us/recycle/index.htm, www.epa.gov, www.metrecycle.com, www.planetpals.com (children), www.earth911.org, www.42explore.com/recycle.htm.

Residents serving on the task force include Marty Smith, Susan Robertson, Emily Ellison, John Curtis, Courtney Bisson, Nancy Herzel, Pam Taylor, Tiffany Fuller, Marilyn and Bill Arnold, and Vice-Mayor Kathy Walker. Staff members include City Manager David Poole, Director of Public Works Charles Hooper, and Deputy Director of Public Works Randy Smith.

Any ideas, comments, or questions may be emailed to kwalker@nicholshills.net, or you may contact any member of the task force.

Police Department

**By: Richard Mask
Chief of Police**

There was one burglary this month, and one attempted burglary. The attempted burglary involved a back door kick-in, which triggered the home alarm. The homeowner instructed the alarm company to cancel police response because he believed either his dog or his wife had tripped the alarm. We believe the suspect would have gained access to the residence if it were not for the dog.

There were seven larcenies this month. Six of the larcenies involved packages being taken from residents' porches. We are working with UPS, FedEx, and DHL to prevent these types of thefts from occurring, especially as the holiday season approaches. A crime alert email was

sent to Nichols Hills residents regarding this type of theft, urging residents to require a signature upon delivery or to leave the package with a neighbor.

There were four DUI arrests, one traffic arrest, and four arrests for outstanding warrants. There were four juveniles arrested for possession of marijuana. One person who was intoxicated in public was transported to the Public Detox Center.

In addition to reports on the above incidents, there were four fraud reports, one harassing phone call report, eight suspicion reports, one medical assist report, and five informational reports. There were seven traffic accident reports completed this month, three of which involved accidents with injury.

There were no vandalism reports this month. The department responded to 23 calls for suspicious vehicles, 30 calls for suspicious subjects, and 20 calls for suspicious activity. Officers were dispatched to 113 residential alarm calls and 9 business alarm calls. There were 285 citations written and 4 parking tickets.



Detective Bruce Funderburk

Police Department - Continued

Detective Bruce Funderburk is entering his fifty week in attendance of the FBI National Academy in Quantico Virginia. He will be graduating in December. We are looking forward to his return.

Sergeant Steven Cox graduated on November 9th from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation's Investigators Academy.



Sergeant Steven Cox

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and I would like to remind our residents to keep their doors locked and alarms set. In addition, you may call the police department and have your residence placed on the House Check list if you are leaving town. The police department will check your residence several times in a twenty-four hours period to make sure that it is secure.

Fire Department



Fire Fighter Justin Spence

We would like to take this opportunity to announce that Fire Fighter Justin Spence has resigned from the Nichols Hills Fire Department effective October 31st. Justin started with the Nichols Hills Fire Department in 1992 and has been a great fire fighter for the last 15 years. Many of our residents have been recipients of Justin's professional and compassionate treatment for many years. Justin will be starting work with the

Oklahoma City Fire Department on November 2nd. Because Oklahoma City is a much larger Fire Department they are able to offer opportunities that the Nichols Hills Fire Department will never be able to offer. We know that Justin will succeed at what ever he puts his hand to and we wish him the very best.

Good Luck Justin!!!

Public Works Department



The Public Works Department is currently locating all sanitary sewer manholes. When a manhole is located we leave a green mark along

the street curb. This will assist us in emergencies and at night. We are also inspecting the manholes for deterioration and blockages. If you know of a manhole in your yard and there is no green mark at the curb, please call the Public Works Department at 843-5222.

General Obligation Bond Projects.

- Waterline replacements along Lenox, Camden, and Huntington are in progress at this time.

- Street Repairs are complete on Dorset. Marlboro will be completed within a few days and Belford and Trenton are under construction.
- Avalon and Briarwood will be the next streets to be replaced.

Recycling

Thursday, November 15, 2007
Nichols Hills residents were encouraged to celebrate America Recycles Day. Thanks to all who participated.

Public Notices & Announcements



**All city offices will be closed on
November 22nd and 23rd for the
Thanksgiving Holiday!!!!**

NOTICE:

Within the next two weeks, AT&T work crews will be in Nichols Hills neighborhoods to begin installing new fiber-optic cable and equipment cabinets. This effort will improve service, but will also allow AT&T to begin offering new advanced services, such as U-verse TV, to the Nichols Hills area. Specific areas involved will be near:

- NW 63rd and Grand
- 1100-1300 Blocks of Bedford
- Trenton from Wilshire to Glenwood
- 7600-8100 Blocks of Pennsylvania

The location of new equipment cabinets have been marked with flags and paint to give local residents an idea of where the cabinets will be. For additional information please call Mike Harris at AT&T 291-1745 or Neil Gray at City Hall 843-6637.



SLEIGH RIDE SOCIAL

Bring your family & friends for a festive holiday SLEIGH RIDE through the neighborhood. Visit With SANTA! Thursday December 13, 2007 6:00-9:00 P.M. Nichols Hills Plaza (north side)

Reservations required for sleigh ride. Sleigh accommodates twenty passengers.
Contact: Gay Kirby @ 848-7627, 4 & older \$9.00 Children ages 0 - 3 FREE. Full sleighs only at \$200.00 per sleigh.