



CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 11



NEW UTILITIES RATES BEGIN JANUARY 1

Neighborhood leaders

Are you interested in improving your neighborhood and city? If so, the Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma offers a Leadership Academy focused on building strong community leaders. The nine-session academy presents information from experts in OKC to ensure you gain the skills to be an effective community leader. Leadership Academy fosters a sense of belonging, focuses on how the City is funded, and how to work with City staff as you advocate for your neighborhood's needs. If you're interested in participating, visit nacok.org.

OKC Civic Talk

The City recently launched a podcast called Civic Talk, where residents can hear more about City services and stay engaged with what's happening. In the most recent episode, we sat down with the OKC Utilities department to learn how adding an extra step while cleaning up after a meal could save you money in plumbing repairs. Listen to the entire series on Spotify.

Don't forget the water

In colder months, pets tend to drink less because the air is drier, and they don't feel as thirsty. This can lead to dehydration. If your pet spends time outdoors, their water bowls can freeze. Make sure they have multiple sources of fresh water.

OKC Animal Welfare February Events

Visit facebook.com/okcanimalwelfare for more.

- 5 Walk With Shelter Dogs
- 15 FurEver Love Adoption Event
- 19 Walk With Shelter Dogs
- 26 Walk With Shelter Dogs

A general election is set for Feb. 11 to decide who represents Wards 3 and 7 on the Council for the next four-year term starting in April. All voters in Wards 3 and 7 are eligible to cast a ballot. See a Ward map at okc.gov/WardMap. The councilmembers elected will serve part-time as the head of the City's Council-Manager form of government. Incumbent Ward 1 Councilman Bradley Carter and incumbent Ward 4 Councilman Todd Stone were unopposed.

Ward 3

- Katrina Bedell Avers
- Barbara Peck (*incumbent*)

Ward 7

- Masood A. Haqq
- Andrea Holman
- Camal Pennington
- John A. Pettis, Jr.

Oklahoma City Council approved a new five-year rate plan for the OKC Utilities Department, effective Jan. 1, 2025. The plan covers rates for water, wastewater and trash collection services. The new rate plan extends through 2028. To learn more and see the new rate plan, visit okc.gov/utilities.

How are rates developed?

The Utilities Department periodically conducts a cost-of-service study that helps determine revenues needed to complete planned infrastructure improvement projects focusing on system reliability and resiliency. The study also evaluates factors that impact the utility, including price increases to electricity, treatment chemicals, construction equipment and supplies, labor costs and interest rates on long-term and short-term debt financing.

Mental health calls

Mental health-related calls dispatched to OKC police officers dropped by over 57% from Oct. 2023 to Oct. 2024 — from 1,292 calls in Oct. 2023 to 549 calls in Oct. 2024. The reduction is attributed to increased mental health-related programs and partnerships with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and mental health service providers. During the same period, ODMHSAS saw a 79% increase in calls to the 988 Mental Health Lifeline. Visit okc.gov/government/mental-health-services to learn more about OKC's mental health programs and read the Transformational Progress report.

Route 66 boardwalk

The beloved boardwalk through Route 66 Park has reopened after being completely overhauled by OKC Parks and Recreation maintenance crews. The wetlands boardwalk is about 600 feet long and winds through the reedy marsh just west of Lake Overholser. It's the perfect place to spot waterfowl and other native birds, like scissor-tailed flycatchers and red-winged blackbirds. The renovation is ready just in time for the 100th anniversary of Route 66, which was established Nov. 11, 1926.

Battery safety & disposal

Lithium-ion batteries power countless devices, but improper use can lead to overheating, fires or explosions. Prevent hazards with the safety tips below. For more tips on lithium-ion battery safety, visit okc.gov/fire.

- Always use chargers recommended by the manufacturer and avoid overcharging.
- Avoid exposing batteries to extreme temperatures.
- Avoid puncturing, crushing or dropping batteries.
- Recycle or dispose of batteries at designated facilities - never throw them in the trash. OKC's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at 1921 S Portland Ave. accepts batteries. Visit call2recycle.org for a battery recycling drop-off near you.

Safe Routes to Schools

The City was awarded nearly \$2 million in Transportation Alternatives Program grants from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to fund pedestrian improvements near five elementary schools. The grants will, in part, fund sidewalks around the following OKC schools, which were marked as the highest priority for sidewalks in bikewalkokc.

- Bodine Elementary
Metrotech Bryant Campus
- Fisher Elementary School
- James L. Dennis Elementary
Putnam City North High School
- Rockwood Elementary School
Lorraine Thomas Park
- Rollingwood Elementary School

Oklahoma City Comets

Oklahoma City's Triple-A baseball team recently revealed its new name and brand, the Oklahoma City Comets. The name pays homage to Oklahoma baseball legend Mickey Mantle, whose nickname was "the Commerce Comet." The brand's light blue and red colors and logo, with a baseball shooting through the sky like a comet, honor the team's long-time affiliation with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Learn more at okccomets.com.

Rain barrels & composters

OKC is offering discounted rain barrels to encourage water conservation in partnership with the Central Oklahoma Storm Water Alliance. Starting at \$69.50, the upcycled 55-gallon rain barrels are available in multiple colors and include the necessary features to help get you started. Order by April 28 at okc.gov/rainbarrel. Composters and accessories available. Rain barrel pick-up is on May 3 or 10 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, 1621 S Portland Ave. Questions? Call Storm Water Quality at (405) 297-1797.

Zoo volunteers

Big or small, your group can make a difference at the Oklahoma City Zoo. At zoo events, people ages 16 or older can help with landscaping, gardening, cleaning, painting, crafting and more. Whether it's a gathering of friends and family, team building for colleagues, or a bonding opportunity for school groups, volunteering at the Zoo is a meaningful experience. Learn more and register your volunteer group at okczoo.org/groupvolunteers.

Clear your warrant

If you or someone you know has a warrant for unpaid tickets for a class "a" offense dated on or before Dec. 31, 2022, we have good news. If your citation is eligible and can be paid in full, you can reduce your penalty to a cost similar to a ticket paid on time. You won't be arrested or go to jail. For example, an overdue speeding ticket in warrant status could cost up to \$613 to resolve – \$420 for fines, costs and fees, plus a \$193 for a failure to appear charge. But it can be resolved for \$155 during the penalty reduction program. Call (405) 297-3898 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays to pay your ticket or request a hearing about financial difficulties.



FEBRUARY EVENTS

Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark

okccomets.com • (405) 218-1000

20, 22, 27 Oklahoma City Comets Job Fair

Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

4-5 Bad Blood*

7-16 Swan Lake, OKC Ballet

19 Glenn Miller Orchestra*

22 Symphonies East & West, OKCPHIL

*presented at Rose State College Hudiburg Center

OKC Convention Center

okcconventioncenter.com • (405) 768-4040

1-2 ASC Cheer

7-9 OKC Spring Remodel & Landscape Show

14-16 Brickfest Live

14-16 Nadia Comaneci International Invitational

15-16 Turn it UP Dance

OKC Fairgrounds

okcfairgrounds.com • (405) 948-6700

6-8 State Jr. High Wrestling Championship

7-8 Sedgwick Street Rodders Winter Swap Meet

15 Oklahoma's Largest Knife Show

21-23 Friends of the Library Book Sale

22-23 Oklahoma Region Volleyball Association
Rankings Tournament

22 American Bucking Bull Futurity

22 Girls Day Out

23 Forever Yours Bridal Show

27-1 OK State High School Wrestling Championships

28-2 Backwoods Hunting & Fishing Expo

Paycom Center

paycomcenter.com • (405) 602-8700

1 Thunder vs. Kings

3 Thunder vs. Bucks

5 Thunder vs. Suns

7 Thunder vs. Raptors

10 Thunder vs. Pelicans

12 Thunder vs. Heat

15-16 Monster Jam

21 Dwight Yoakam

24 Thunder vs. Timberwolves

Full calendar of events at visitokc.com