



# OKC NEWS

DECEMBER 2020

## JANUARY EVENTS

As the COVID-19 (new coronavirus) pandemic continues, check with venues and event organizers for schedule updates.

### Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 9 Beethoven's 250th Birthday Celebration
- 22-23 Ragtime and All That Jazz
- 30 River Deep, Royal High(ness)

### Myriad Botanical Gardens

myriadgardens.org • (405) 445-7080

- 30 Walking Tour

### OKC Fairgrounds

statefairparkokc.com • (405) 948-6700

- 2 High Performance Racing Auction, Trade Show & Swap Meet
- 10 Bridal Show
- 15-17 Gem, Jewelry & Bead Show
- 22-24 Home + Garden Show

Full calendar of events at [visitokc.com](http://visitokc.com)



## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON LOWER SCISSORTAIL PARK

Construction is under way on Scissortail Park's 30-acre Lower Park in the heart of Oklahoma City. The Upper Park opened in 2019, and the Lower Park is scheduled to open in 2022. The Lower Park will have more open and natural spaces, with a focus on space for athletic events and pickup sports. Paths and pavers will dot a promenade alongside whispering pines, native gardens, a hollow, an overlook hill and a plaza, with a play area for children. The 40-acre Upper Park extends south from Oklahoma City Boulevard to Interstate 40. The Skydance Bridge connects it to the Lower Park, which extends to SW 15th Street on the north shore of the Oklahoma River. The total project budget is \$132 million, funded debt-free by MAPS 3. Visit [okc.gov/maps3](http://okc.gov/maps3) or [scissortailpark.org](http://scissortailpark.org) for details.

## Council elections Feb. 9

Voters in Wards 1, 3, 4 and 7 will vote in a non-partisan primary election Feb. 9 to decide who represents them on the City Council for the next four-year term. Visit [okc.gov/WardMap](http://okc.gov/WardMap) for a Ward map. There's a runoff in April if no candidate gets a majority of the votes in their Ward during the primary. The City Council has nine members: the Mayor, who is elected citywide, and one member from each of Oklahoma City's eight Wards. Visit [ok.gov/elections](http://ok.gov/elections) for information on registering to vote, absentee voting, early voting and more.

## Winterize your pipes

Winter weather means it's time to weather-proof your water lines and irrigation system. Water expands when it freezes, which can cause breaks in your plumbing lines. Here are a few easy ways to keep your pipes safe throughout the winter.

- Check for leaks before temperatures drop.
- Keep cabinet doors open for kitchen or bathroom pipes along exterior walls.
- Never set your thermostat below 55 degrees, even when you leave the house.
- Turn off your irrigation system.
- Disconnect water hoses and insulate outdoor water spigots using a foam cover (found at hardware stores).
- Water lawns only during long dry periods when temperatures are above freezing.
- Use 2-4 inches of mulch to protect plants.

## Tree and limb debris

There are three ways to dispose of tree and limb debris from the ice storm: curbside collection, free landfill days and – for rural residents only – burn permits. Residential trash collection customers can cut the limbs into sections no longer than 10 feet and stack them on the curb, away from water meters and obstructions, and off the sidewalk and street. Contract crews will make one pickup pass by January, and a second by March. You can also take limbs to one of four participating landfills for free every Saturday through Jan. 2. And rural residents can get a permit from the Fire Marshal's Office to burn debris on certain days. It's illegal to dump debris in parks. Visit [okc.gov/ice](http://okc.gov/ice) for details.

## Shop local for holidays

Help strengthen our local economy and invest in your community by shopping online or in person at local Oklahoma City retailers. Shopping locally keeps your money in our local economy, supporting retailers who employ your neighbors. Many local and national retailers with locations in Oklahoma City offer online sales, curbside pickup and more. When shopping locally, your sales tax dollars also help pay for critical services, and shopping in other cities sends that money somewhere else. Police officers, firefighters, the Zoo and homeless pets at Animal Welfare all count on shoppers in Oklahoma City for funding. To learn more about sales tax in OKC, visit [okc.gov/tax](http://okc.gov/tax).

## Heat equipment safety

Home and apartment fires are more common during the winter because of improperly used heating equipment, fireplaces and candles. Be sure anything that can burn is at least three feet away from fireplaces or space heaters. Fireplaces should be inspected by a professional every year and cleaned when necessary, and make sure fires are fully extinguished before you go to bed. It's important your home has working smoke alarms and your family knows how to escape a fire safely.

## Work for the City of OKC

Looking to challenge yourself with an exciting new career in a supportive environment? Come work with us at the City of Oklahoma City. Visit [okc.gov/careers](http://okc.gov/careers) to see open positions, and sign up to get job alerts by email. You can choose from career categories in which you're interested, and you'll get automated emails with openings and links to apply. There are opportunities across a wide array of fields, including police and fire protection, parks, street maintenance, airports, traffic control, solid waste collection/disposal and more, plus other professional, technical and administrative positions in fields like forensic science, engineering, finance and human resources.

## New park amenities

Work has started on the new Willa D. Johnson Recreation Center at Frederick Douglass Park in northeast Oklahoma City, and the new Oklahoma Medal of Honor Memorial is open at Manuel Perez Park on the south side. The recreation center, named for former Ward 7 Councilwoman Willa Johnson, will replace the current community center built in 1926. The Medal of Honor Memorial honors all Oklahomans who earned the military's highest honor for valor, including OKC native Manuel Perez in 1943. For details visit [okc.gov/parks](http://okc.gov/parks).

## Charter amendments

OKC residents voted to approve all nine proposed amendments to the City Charter in November. The amendments modernized wording, addressed inconsistencies and resolved discrepancies with state law. There were no tax issues on the ballot. Visit [okc.gov/Nov3](http://okc.gov/Nov3) for details, including the full text of the amendments.



## Buying a home?

Eligible potential homebuyers may qualify for up to \$15,000 in assistance from Oklahoma City's HOME Down Payment Assistance (DPA) program. DPA is for income-qualified people and families looking to buy generally south of Britton Road, north of SW/SE 89th Street, west of Bryant Avenue and east of Meridian Avenue. You must qualify for lender financing. Income limits are based on taxable, not gross, household income, so contact the provider to see if you qualify (see below). Contact the Community Action Agency, (405) 232-0199 ext. 3202, or Neighborhood Housing Services at (405) 231-4663 for details.

- 1 person, \$41,650 • 3 people, \$53,550
- 2 people, \$47,600 • 4 people, \$59,500\*

\*Higher for larger households

## Christmas tree disposal

The City will pick up your Christmas tree on your monthly bulk waste collection day, not with your regular weekly trash or ice storm debris. Place the tree on your curb no more than three days before your bulk waste collection day. Keep your Christmas tree separate from your ice storm debris pile. Go to [okc.gov/mytrashday](http://okc.gov/mytrashday) to find out your bulk waste collection day. You can also recycle bare, live trees instead of sending them to the landfill. Pine needles make mulch for outdoor plants, and small branches can be shredded or added to a compost bin.

## COVID-19 updates

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting some City of OKC services. Emergency orders may also affect business operations, events and more. Visit [covid19.okc.gov](http://covid19.okc.gov) for the duration of the pandemic for the latest local news, guidance and City services updates.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### Near Year's Day: Friday, Jan. 1

- No trash or recycling pickup. Makeup day Saturday, Jan. 2.
- EMBARK bus and OKC Streetcar are free (buses on weekend schedule).
- Closed: City offices, Municipal Court pay window, Animal Shelter, Household Hazardous Waste.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, Jan. 18

- No trash or recycling pickup. Makeup day Wednesday, Jan. 20. Bulky waste pickup not affected.
- EMBARK bus and OKC Streetcar service are free, and on regular schedules.
- Closed: City offices, Municipal Court pay window, Animal Shelter, Household Hazardous Waste.

## PARKS EVENTS

Due to the COVID-19 (new coronavirus) pandemic, we recommend you visit [okc.gov/parks](http://okc.gov/parks) and [okc.gov/parksignup](http://okc.gov/parksignup) for the latest details on these events in case of changes.

### Will Rogers Senior Center Events (ages 50+)

3501 Pat Murphy Drive

**Painting:** Casual painting class in the medium of your choice with instructor tips.  
Wednesdays starting Jan. 6 • 1-3 p.m. • \$5/person  
[okc.gov/parksignup](http://okc.gov/parksignup) • keyword 34620

### Book Club:

Mondays starting Jan. 11 • 10:15-11:15 a.m. • Free  
[okc.gov/parksignup](http://okc.gov/parksignup) • keyword 34704

### Brown Bag Bingo:

Bring a lunch and play for prizes.

Jan. 11 • 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. • Free  
[okc.gov/parksignup](http://okc.gov/parksignup) • keyword 34741

### Tap & Jazz Dancing:

Mondays and Wednesdays starting Jan. 4 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
\$5/class (must provide own tap shoes)  
[okc.gov/parksignup](http://okc.gov/parksignup) • keyword 34777

### Coloring:

Studies show creative activities like coloring boost overall health and reduce medication needs in older adults.

Wednesdays starting Jan. 27 • Noon to 1 p.m. • Free  
[okc.gov/parksignup](http://okc.gov/parksignup) • keyword 34668

### Zumba Gold:

Dancing as exercise, modified for older adults.

Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Jan. 5 • 10-11 a.m. • \$3/class  
[okc.gov/parksignup](http://okc.gov/parksignup) • keyword 35067

### Seated Hula:

Hawaiian dance in a chair, or on your feet if you choose.

Wednesdays starting Jan. 5 • Noon to 1 p.m. • \$5/month  
[okc.gov/parksignup](http://okc.gov/parksignup) • keyword 35049

## Free EMBARK Fares

Take advantage of free EMBARK bus, OKC Streetcar and Zone 1 ADA Paratransit services on free fare days. The free fare days for January are New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Day. Visit [embarkok.com](http://embarkok.com) for more.