



OKC NEWS

JANUARY 2021

FEBRUARY EVENTS

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

Chesapeake Energy Arena

chesapeakearena.com • (405) 602-8500
Visit nba.com/thunder for Thunder schedule.

17 Michael Bublé

Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

12-14 The Firebird
19-20 Heartland: The Women of Country Music
27 A Burst of Energy

Myriad Botanical Gardens

myriadgardens.org • (405) 445-7080

27 Walking Tour

OKC Fairgrounds

statefairparkokc.com • (405) 948-6700

5-6 Sedgwick Street Rodders Winter Swap Meet

Full calendar of events at visitokc.com

Kiva Hub

The City is providing new support for small businesses through a partnership with Kiva U.S., an online crowdlending platform that strengthens financial access for small business. Progress OKC, a local community development corporation, will serve as Kiva's local hub. The program will facilitate crowdlending and provide professional management and marketing services that help small businesses survive economic hardships. The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber helped facilitate the City's participation via the National League of Cities' City Innovation Ecosystems program. Visit progressokc.org/kiva-okc for details.

Voters will choose among 18 candidates in the Feb. 9 primary election for the Oklahoma City Council seats in Wards 1, 3 and 4. The nonpartisan election will decide who represents those Wards on the Council for the next four-year term, which begins in April. Visit okc.gov/WardMap for a Ward map. Councilwoman Nikki Nice is unopposed in Ward 7, and re-elected by default. Visit oklahoma.gov/elections for voting information, including sample ballots, registering to vote, updating your registration, absentee (mail) voting, early voting and regular voting. EMBARK buses and the OKC Streetcar are free on Election Day. 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.



Snow routes

Find the City's snow routes at okc.gov/winter. Use the map to decide the safest route to where you're going if you have to be out when ice or snow affects our streets. You can also find tips on winter storm preparation from our Office of Emergency Management.

Neighborhood Threads

Neighborhood Threads, an OKC Innovation Lab project, is looking to thread individual memories from older OKC residents into a broader story of what it was like growing up across our community. We're looking to paint a vivid picture of everyday experiences, triumphs and struggles through their eyes. It helps educate people now, and preserve our shared history for the future. You can record a phone or video call, record a Zoom meeting or take notes from any interaction with an older adult in your life. They can also write it down on their own. Visit okc.gov/threads for details and online submission links, or mail the story to City of OKC Neighborhood Threads, 200 N Walker Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

Cellphone 911 calls

If you're calling 911 from a cellphone, you'll need to provide the address of where you need help so help arrives as soon as possible. Cellphones, unlike landlines, don't provide 911 call-takers with an exact address. Always call 911 if you need the police, even if you think it may not be an emergency.

Mayor on NLC board

Mayor David Holt has been elected by the nation's municipal leaders as a member of the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors. Mayor Holt was elected in November to a two-year term. The NLC is the nation's official organization for all municipal elected officials – councilmembers and mayors. Mayor Holt was also elected this year as a Trustee for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the highest level of leadership in that organization. At NLC, Mayor Holt served as a member of the 2020 Presidential Election Task Force and is co-chair of the Re-imagining Public Safety Task Force. The late Councilman Mark Schwartz served as President of NLC in 1997.

Apply for Youth Council

High school students interested in hands-on learning about public service may apply for the Oklahoma City Youth Council by March 12 (applications open Jan. 18). The Youth Council has 18 members each year, with two members from each of the City's eight Wards and two at-large members. Youth Council members will spend the 2021-22 school year learning about the challenges of municipal government, addressing issues affecting OKC's youth and more. Applicants for the Youth Council must have a GPA of at least 3.0, a letter of recommendation and a demonstrated interest in government and community service. Visit lokc.org/ylx to apply.

PARKS EVENTS

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

Will Rogers Gardens Events

3400 NW 36th Street

Winter herbs (ages 12-17, or 18+): Learn to start herbs from seed and pot some to take home. Sign up with keyword at okc.gov/parksignup.

Feb. 6 • \$25/person

Youth: 9-10:30 a.m. • keyword 35866

Adult: 10:30 a.m.-noon • keyword 35867

Valentine's wreath (ages 18+): Make a heart-shaped succulent wreath. Partners or families welcome.

Feb. 13 • 9-10:30 a.m. • \$40/wreath (supplies provided)

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 35868

Willow obelisk (ages 18+): Learn to weave and build a willow obelisk for your home or garden.

Feb. 20 • 8 a.m.-noon • \$50/person

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 35869

Greenhouses (ages 18+): Learn to select, locate, build, set up and operate a greenhouse from the Oklahoma Orchid Society.

Feb. 28 • 1-3 p.m. • \$50/person

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 35870

Dolese Youth Park Pond Fishing Events

5105 NW 50th Street

Hooked on Fishing (ages 5-15): Learn basic trout fishing skills with instruction. Rods, reels and bait provided.

Feb. 6 • 10 a.m.-noon • Free

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 35893

Beginners Fishing (ages 16+): Learn basic trout fishing skills with instruction. Rods, reels and bait provided.

Feb. 20 • 10 a.m.-noon • \$20

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 35896

Will Rogers Senior Center Events

(ages 50 +) 3501 Pat Murphy Drive

Woodcarving: Learn from artists and work on individual projects. Beginners welcome.

Tuesdays beginning Feb. 2 • 2-3 p.m. • Free

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 36052

Painting (all levels): Painting class with instructor tips in the medium of your choice.

Wednesdays beginning Feb. 3 • 1-3 p.m. • \$5/person

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 34653

Drawing: Learn to draw. Instructor provides supply list. Thursdays beginning Feb. 4 • 5:30-7 p.m. • \$10/person
okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 34498

Annual Variety Show (all ages): Dancing, comedy, singing and music with the Twilight Stars Dancers. \$7/show. Sign up with keyword at okc.gov/parksignup.
Feb. 19-20, 7-9 p.m. • keyword 34727
Feb. 21, 2-4 p.m. • keyword 34728

Martin Park Nature Center Events

5000 W Memorial Road

Birding hike (ages 18+): Led by retired Naturalist Neil Garrison.

Feb. 13 • 8-9:30 a.m. • Free

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 35862

Valentine's Day archery (ages 18+): Fire love arrows like Cupid with a partner, learning safety and technique.

Feb. 14 • 2-3:30 p.m. • \$5/person

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 35857

Other

OKC Dodgers Rookie Baseball (7-game season, ages 3-10): Learn skills in a safe, fun and noncompetitive environment. End-of-season event at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark. Includes hat, jersey and belt. Register by March 8.

Begins April 3 • \$55/player or \$500/team

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 35416

NFL Flag Football (7-game season, ages 5-12):

Energetic non-contact sport for girls and boys. Register by March 8. Jersey and flag belt provided.

Begins April 6 • \$75/player

okc.gov/parksignup • keyword 35265

Adult Pickleball League: Mondays at Johnnie L.

Williams Municipal Gym, 720 NW 8th Street, Tuesdays and Thursdays at Woodson Gym, 3403 S May Ave.

Sign up with keyword by Feb. 22 at okc.gov/parksignup.

Begins first week of March • \$35/player

Mondays:

Intermediate (3.5-4.0) • 6:15-7:45 p.m. • keyword 35366

Tuesdays:

Beginners (3.0) • 6:15-7:45 p.m. • keyword 35351

Intermediate (3.0-3.5) • 8-9:30 p.m. • keyword 35356

Thursdays:

Intermediate (3.5-4.0) • 6:15-7:45 p.m. • keyword 35358

Advanced (4.0+) • 8-9:30 p.m. • keyword 35364

Order a rain barrel

Conserve water and help your garden by ordering a rain barrel through the City of Oklahoma City and the Central Oklahoma Storm Water Alliance (COSWA). Visit upcycle-products.com/ok-programs/ok-city by April 30 to order one for \$63.50. Scroll down the page to choose your barrel, plus find upgrades, composters and more. The 55-gallon barrels come with screens to keep out mosquitoes and critters. Pickup is 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. May 8 or 15 at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, 1621 S Portland Ave. Call (405) 297-1797 or email brooke.vierck@okc.gov for details or a printed order form.

Blocked water meters

Be careful not to block your water meter with ice storm tree and limb debris or bulky waste. When water meters are covered, your water bill may be calculated with an estimate based on previous use. Avoid covering other obstructions like gas meters. Bagged leaves will also not be picked up with tree and limb debris, with bulky waste or next to trash carts. Place bagged leaves in trash carts, or try mulching or composting the leaves. That keeps organic waste out of the landfill and can provide your landscape with valuable nutrients. Visit SqueezeEveryDrop.com for more.

Valentine's cruise

Enjoy an Oklahoma River Cruise for Valentine's Day. Try a relaxing Cocktail Cruise or River Tour, experiencing unique views of the Boathouse District, Wheeler Ferris wheel and downtown skyline. Cruises depart from Regatta Park Landing, 701 S Lincoln Blvd., Friday to Sunday. Buy tickets at okrivercruises.com under the Specialty Cruise tab.

Adopt a dog or puppy

Celebrate the "Forever Love" Valentine's event at OKC Animal Welfare with half-price adoption specials for all dogs and puppies Feb. 14-20. Adoptions will be \$30 for the event, which is noon to 5:30 p.m. all week long. All adoptable pets from OKC Animal Welfare, 2811 SE 29th Street, are up-to-date on vaccinations, microchipped, treated for worms and spayed or neutered. Visit okc.gov/animalwelfare for details.