



# OKC NEWS

JANUARY 2022

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

### Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 5 American Gold
- 12 Shen Yun
- 18-20 Made in the U.S.A
- 25 The Music of Whitney Houston

### Hudiburg Chevrolet Center

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 3 Guerra De Chistes
- 10 Amanda Miguel Y Diego Verdaguier
- 17 An Evening with Bruce Dickinson

### OKC Fairgrounds

okcfairgrounds.com • (405) 948-6700

- 4-5 Sedgwick Street Rodders Winter Swap Meet
- 5-6 Buchanan's Vintage Flea Market
- 17-20 RV Show
- 19-20 International Dog Show
- 25-27 Friends of the Library Book Sale
- 25-27 Pool & Spa Show
- 26-27 Gun Show

### Oklahoma City Convention Center

okconventioncenter.com • (405) 768-4037

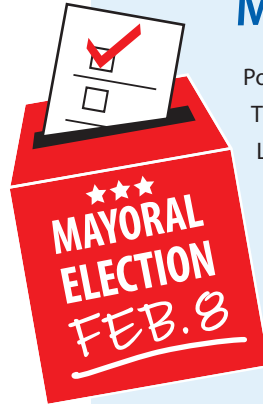
- 4 American Heart Association Heart Ball
- 17-19 Maple Brothers Auto Auction
- 19 Taste of OKC: Big Brothers & Big Sisters
- 25-27 Oklahoma Remodel & Landscape Show

### Paycom Center

paycomcenter.com • (405) 602-8700

- 1 JoJo Siwa
- 11-12 Professional Bull Riders
- 19-20 Monster Jam

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



## MAYORAL ELECTION

Polls open at 7 a.m. on Feb. 8 to vote in the City's mayoral election. The candidates are: Carol Hefner, David Holt (Incumbent), Jimmy Lawson and Frank Urbanic. If the winner of the Feb. 8 general election earns a majority of the votes, that candidate will be sworn in to a four-year term as Mayor in April. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates with the most votes will stand in a decisive runoff election April 5. All Oklahoma City voters are eligible to vote in the election. Visit [ok.gov/elections](http://ok.gov/elections) for details about registration, polling locations, absentee ballots, early voting, assistance for voters with disabilities and more.

The mayor is one of nine nonpartisan members of the Oklahoma City Council. The other members represent each of Oklahoma City's eight Wards. The mayor's annual salary is \$24,000.

## Route 66 signage

City crews recently installed 200 Route 66 signs so residents and visitors can retrace America's Mother Road and its many alignments through OKC. The alignments traverse five commercial districts including the Britton District, Western Avenue, NW 39th Street, the Asian District and Uptown 23. A map of the alignments can be found on [okc.gov/route66](http://okc.gov/route66). Iconic landmarks along Route 66 in OKC include: Tower Theatre, Will Rogers Theatre, Milk Bottle building, State Capitol, Gold Dome building, Owl Court Suites, the Phillips 66 station at Hudson and 23, Route 66 Bowl and the truss bridge over Lake Overholser. Oklahoma has more than 400 miles of the famed highway.

## New nonstop flights

Southwest Airlines is beginning nonstop service from Will Rogers World Airport to San Antonio International Airport and increasing flights from OKC to Houston to four times daily in April. Southwest flies nonstop from OKC to Atlanta, Chicago Midway, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Nashville, New Orleans, Orlando, Phoenix, St. Louis, San Antonio, Tampa and Ronald Reagan Washington National.

## MAPS 4 update

Fifty-four appointments were made to serve on six MAPS 4 Citizens Advisory Board subcommittees in November. The appointees will help guide the 16 projects included in MAPS 4. Of the volunteers, 52% are women, 41% are people of color and 26% of all appointments are Black. The subcommittees will make recommendations to the MAPS 4 Citizens Advisory Board and the Advisory Board makes recommendations to the City Council, which has final authority over MAPS 4. MAPS 4 is a debt-free public improvement program funded by a temporary penny sales tax that will raise a projected \$978 million over eight years. Log on to [www.okc.gov/maps4](http://www.okc.gov/maps4) to see a list of subcommittee members.

## City job fair March 3

We are hiring! Plan to attend our job fair on March 3 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, 100 Mick Cornett Drive. Details will be posted on [okc.gov/careers](http://okc.gov/careers). The City is a great place to work and offers competitive pay and benefits, as well as signing bonuses ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,500 for certain critical-fill positions. Join our team and make a difference in your community. Visit [okc.gov/careers](http://okc.gov/careers) for current job openings.

## PARKS EVENTS

### Senior Centers

EMBARK offers no cost, round trip rides to the City's senior centers for people age 60+. Schedule at 405-297-2583.

For a full calendar of City recreation events visit [okc.gov/parks](http://okc.gov/parks).

## Claim personal property

Backpacks, car bumpers, jewelry, cash and TVs are just a few of the thousands of unclaimed items in the Police Property Management Unit waiting to be reunited with their owners. If you believe you have unclaimed items, call (405) 297-1135.

## Homelessness

Oklahoma City is working on a strategic plan to reduce and prevent homelessness. Homelessness during infancy and toddlerhood has been linked to later child welfare involvement and early school failure. OKC addresses this using the Emergency Solutions Grant and the Supportive Housing Program. These programs help struggling families stay in their homes and provide services to re-house those who are homeless. For details, visit [okc.gov/homeokc](http://okc.gov/homeokc).

## Apply for Youth Council

High school students interested in learning about public service may apply for the Oklahoma City Youth Council by April 1 (applications open Jan. 10). 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 2022-23 school year learning about the challenges of municipal government, addressing issues affecting OKC's youth and more. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0, a letter of recommendation and a demonstrated interest in government and community service. Visit [lokc.org/ylx](http://lokc.org/ylx) to apply.

## Snow Routes

If you have to drive on City streets in the ice and snow, make sure to travel along the metro's snow routes. Visit [okc.gov/ice](http://okc.gov/ice) to see the snow route map.

## Care for pets in winter

If it's too cold outside for you, it's too cold for your pets. Keep them inside when possible, and ensure they have a warm, covered place to escape from rain and snow if they must be outside. Drinking water can freeze quickly so check it often. If you walk your dog in snow, wipe off its legs and stomach to make sure it doesn't ingest salt or antifreeze when bathing itself. Consider a sweater with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly for short-haired breeds. Never leave a pet alone in the car in winter. Visit [okc.gov/animalwelfare](http://okc.gov/animalwelfare) for more tips on responsible pet ownership.

## Lake Draper Trail

We are making OKC trails more enjoyable. With over 100 miles of multi-use trails, there's no better way to explore OKC. Be sure to check out Lake Stanley Draper Trail. This 13.5-mile trail is ideal for walkers, runners, and cyclists. Enjoy public art funded by the 1% for Art program such as the "Bee 52," "Booya Car," "360 Respite" and "Convergence." For more information, visit [okc.gov/parks](http://okc.gov/parks). Call (405) 297-3882 or email [okcparks@okc.gov](mailto:okcparks@okc.gov) if you have concerns about Parks.

## Prevent freezing pipes

- Remove garden hoses from faucets. Protect them with foam insulating covers.
- Cover exposed outdoor lines with insulating foam. You can also use the foam on lines in non-heated indoor areas such as basements or garages.
- Open cabinet doors to let warm air circulate.
- If you drip your faucets, allow a trickle at about the width of a pencil lead, or at a fast, steady drip. Beware that continuing a steady stream for long periods will add thousands of extra gallons of water usage and a higher water bill.

## Redistricting begins

The City's redistricting process starts soon. Redistricting is required by law and City Charter following the release of the U.S. Census every 10 years to ensure all wards have similar populations. Higher rates of growth on the north and west sides (wards 1, 3 and 8) spurred the need to rebalance the population in the City's eight wards. For details, visit [okc.gov/redistricting](http://okc.gov/redistricting).

### Criteria

Boundaries must:

- Be balanced to +/- 2 % of the average ward population.
- Be contiguous and compact as possible.
- Not unseat current council members.

### Recommended Criteria

- Not break up established neighborhoods and business districts
- Use highways, major roads and natural borders as ward boundaries.

### Population

The target population set for each ward based on the Census data is 85,132.

### Timeline

After public input is considered, City leaders will present a draft ward map to a vote of the City Council in spring 2022. It will be considered during a three-meeting process. New boundaries should take effect several months ahead of required deadline. Visit [okc.gov/redistricting](http://okc.gov/redistricting) for more.

