



# OKC NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022



## MARCH EVENTS

### Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 5 Mahler's 1st Symphony
- 11-12 Stomp
- 17 Marisela\*
- 18 Ballroom with a Twist
- 27 Duo Lumina

\*at Rose State College Hudiburg Chevrolet Center

### Myriad Botanical Gardens

myriadgardens.org • (405) 445-7080

- 12 Oklahoma Gardening School
- 14-18 Spring Break Pop-Ins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Celebration

### OKC Fairgrounds

okcfairgrounds.com • (405) 948-6700

- 3-12 High School Basketball Championships
- 4-6 Backwoods Hunting & Fishing Expo
- 5-6 Oklahoma Gun Show
- 12-13 Repticon Reptile & Exotic Animal Convention
- 12-13 R.K. Gun Show
- 19-20 Claude Hall's Gun Show
- 24-27 Shrine Circus
- 25-27 OKC Home + Outdoor Living Show
- 26-02 Just Between Friends Kids Consignment Sale

### Oklahoma City Convention Center

okconventioncenter.com • (405) 768-4037

- 12-13 Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention

### Paycom Center

paycomcenter.com • (405) 602-8700

- 5 Morgan Wallen
- 17 Journey with special guest Billy Idol
- 18 Kat Williams
- 25 Harlem Globetrotters
- 26 Winter Jam
- 27 New Edition with Charlie Wilson & Jodeci
- 31 KoЯn

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

Efforts to draw and adopt an updated City ward map are moving forward. Everyone is encouraged to visit [okc.gov/redistricting](http://okc.gov/redistricting) to get information and ask questions about the redistricting process. Redistricting is a requirement of both federal law and City Charter after the decennial census to ensure all eight wards have close to the same number of people. According to the 2020 Census, Oklahoma City's population grew from 579,999 in 2010 to 681,054 in 2020. Higher rates of growth on the north and west sides (wards 1, 3 & 8) spurred the need to rebalance the population. After public input is considered, City staff will bring a proposed ward map to a vote of the City Council. It is expected to be considered during a three-meeting process starting in late Feb. or early March.

## Mayoral election

The Feb. 8 general election for mayor has yet to take place when this newsletter was written. If none of the four candidates receive a majority of votes in the general election, the two candidates with the most votes will stand in a decisive runoff election on April 5. All OKC voters are eligible to vote in the election. The mayor is one of nine nonpartisan members of City Council. The other members represent each of OKC's eight wards. The mayor's salary is \$24,000 annually.

## HHW Special collection

The City is hosting a special collection for unwanted computers, tires, ammunition and prescription drugs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 2 at the OKC Fairgrounds. Enter from May Ave. at Gate 5 on Gordon Cooper Blvd. Bring a current City of OKC water bill to prove residency. Syringes, liquids, inhalers, tire rims, televisions and wheels won't be accepted. Businesses wanting to recycle hazardous waste should contact the state Department of Environmental Quality at (405) 702-5100. Visit [okc.gov/hhw](http://okc.gov/hhw) for details about the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

## Order a rain barrel

Conserve water and help your garden by ordering a rain barrel. Order one for \$66.50 at [upcycle-products.com/ok-programs/ok-city](http://upcycle-products.com/ok-programs/ok-city). Scroll down the page to choose your barrel, find upgrades, composters and more. The 55-gallon barrels come with screens to keep out mosquitoes and critters. Place your order by April 24. Pickup is 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. May 7 or 14 at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, 1621 S Portland Ave. Call (405) 297-1797 or email [brooke.vierck@okc.gov](mailto:brooke.vierck@okc.gov) for details or a printed order form.

## Work for OKC

The City is hiring the following positions: 911 dispatcher trainee; alternative fuels master mechanic; aquatics coordinator; building maintenance mechanic; civil engineer; collection & distribution trainee; concrete finisher, construction equipment operator; fuel systems tech, grounds maintenance operator; industrial electrician, irrigation tech; police report clerk; recreation program coordinator; skilled trades worker; survey aide; systems analyst; unit operations supervisor and utilities shift supervisor. Apply at [okc.gov/careers](http://okc.gov/careers). Competitive pay, benefits, and signing bonuses (\$2,500 - \$5,500) are offered for certain positions.

## Trash/recycling set out

**Weekly Big Blue trash:** household trash like bagged diapers and animal waste, bagged leaves and grass clippings, cutlery, ceramic pots and dishes and small appliances.

**Monthly bulky collection:** furniture, fence panels, carpeting, tree limbs (10-foot maximum length), mattresses, large appliances and DIY waste. Wrap glass in cardboard. Not for contractor waste. Appliances with refrigerants need a scheduled pick-up. Call (405) 297-2833. Up to 4 cubic yards can be set out per month before incurring excess charges.

- Place trash and recycle carts (at least 3 feet apart) on the curbside no later than 6 a.m. on your assigned pick-up date.
- Don't place carts in the street or on the sidewalk. Keep them at least 5 feet away from obstacles like mailboxes, trees, fire hydrants and vehicles.
- Don't cover your water meter or sidewalks.
- Don't park your car in the street on your designated pickup day.

For recycling tips, visit [okc.gov/recycle](http://okc.gov/recycle). Visit [okcutilities.com](http://okcutilities.com) or [okc.gov/mytrashday](http://okc.gov/mytrashday) to see your collection day.

## Volunteer for LitterBlitz

Help keep our City beautiful! Recruit your neighbors, coworkers, civic organizations, church groups, friends and family. Gather a team, pick a day, and choose a location to pick up litter. Sign up at [OKCBeautiful.com](http://OKCBeautiful.com) or call (405) 525-8822. Participants get free trash bags, gloves and basic safety and training tips.

### 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).

## Strong sales tax revenue

OKC's sales and use tax report for December shows general fund sales tax collections for December were about \$24.6 million. That's around \$3.2 million (15.1%) above the projection and \$4 million (19.7%) above the same month last year. General Fund sales tax revenue is about 12.8% (about \$17 million) above the fiscal year-to-date projection and 17.9% (about \$22.7 million) above this point last year.

The General Fund pays for the City's day-to-day operations. Sales tax is the General Fund's largest single source of revenue, and use tax is the second largest. Sales tax comes from retail sales in OKC. Use tax is charged at the same rate and comes from goods purchased elsewhere and shipped or brought to OKC, like online sales or equipment not available from Oklahoma suppliers. Learn more about municipal taxes in Oklahoma City at [okc.gov/tax](http://okc.gov/tax).

## OKC Convention Center

The new Oklahoma City Convention Center has helped shape the City's future in its inaugural year of operation, despite the pandemic. The Convention Center hosted 128 events with 111,000 attendees over the past year. The economic impact of those events is estimated at more than \$15.3 million.

## Employees raise \$525,900

City employees pledged to donate \$525,900 through the 2021 Heart of the City charitable giving campaign. The campaign benefits four federations: Allied Arts, Creating Healthier Communities, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and United Way of Central Oklahoma. Employees directed their giving to over 102 local nonprofit organizations that make up the federations. Of the City's 5,000 employees, 2,571 made pledges or donated cash and 351 employees pledged to give more than \$500. Money was raised through pledges, cash contributions, silent auctions, bake sales, raffles, rallies and other fundraisers.



## Help OKC Animal Welfare

OKC Animal Welfare has a goal of a 90% live release rate for animals in our care. Live release rate is the percent of animals entering the shelter that leave the shelter alive by reunification with their owner, adoption or transfer to a partner group like the OK Humane Society.

A 90% rate is considered a realistic goal for a large community like OKC, where many animals in our care have serious injuries, illness or uncorrectable behavior. A generation ago our live release rate was below 50% but is now more than 85%. Help us reach our 90% goal.

**ADOPT. DON'T SHOP:** Consider adopting a homeless animal from us. Every adoptable pet is up-to-date on vaccinations, microchipped, treated for worms and spayed or neutered.

**SPAY OR NEUTER:** Reduce overpopulation by spaying or neutering your pet. Spay and neutering are free for all OKC residents. Call (405) 313-1469 to make an appointment.

**VOLUNTEER:** From kennel-cleaning and dog-walking to tasks that need specialized training, we always need volunteers. Visit our volunteer page at [okc.gov/animalwelfare](http://okc.gov/animalwelfare).

**DONATE:** Supplies, medical funding and other important functions are met through donations. Visit [okc.gov/animalwelfare](http://okc.gov/animalwelfare) for details.

**FOSTER:** Temporary homes are needed for pets recovering from surgery or illness, to grow big enough for adoption, to work on behavior issues or take a break from stressful shelter life. Visit our foster page to learn more.

**OKC Animal Welfare • 2811 SE 29th Street  
Mon-Sun, 12 - 5:30 p.m. • Closed holidays**