



OKC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022

OCTOBER EVENTS

Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 7 World Ballet Series: Swan Lake Live
- 9 Felix Mendelssohn's Elijah
- 15 Mahler's Vienna
- 16 Marisela (at Rose State College)
- 20 Amy Grant (at Rose State College)
- 21-23 Val Caniparoli's Lady of the Camellias
- 25-30 Hadestown

Myriad Botanical Gardens

myriadgardens.org • (405) 445-7080

- 7-23 Pumpkinville
- 9 Full Moon Ride
- 14 Guided Garden Tours
- 29 Guided Garden Tours

OKC Fairgrounds

okcfairgrounds.com • (405) 948-6700

- 8-9 Claude Hall's Original OKC Gun Show
- 11 Oklahoman Career Fair
- 15-16 Buchanan's Vintage Flea Market
- 15-16 Oklahoma Gun Shows
- 21-23 Braum's An Affair of the Heart
- 28 Halloween Ball
- 29 Festival of Freaks
- 29-30 The Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Show


Paycom Center

paycomcenter.com • (405) 602-8700

- 1 Koe Wetzel
- 15 Reba
- 16 Ozuna
- 17 WWE Raw
- 28 Christian Nodal
- 29 Baby Shark Live!

Full calendar of local events at visitokc.com

SEPTEMBER IS



EMSA care MONTH



September is the month you can enroll or change your participation in the EMSAcare program. The program provides permanent members of your household with emergency ambulance rides in the EMSA service area at no out-of-pocket cost, even if you don't have medical insurance. You can opt in or out from Sept. 1-30 for the Oct. 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2023, time period. No action is required if you don't want to make a change. The membership fee is \$3.65 per month and is easily added to your monthly water bill. To change your participation, visit okcutilities.com or call Utilities Customer Service at (405) 297-2833. For details visit okc.gov/EMSAcare.

Go Paperless

Save time, paper and postage by creating an online account with okcutilities.com, the Utilities Department's online customer account portal and app. Manage your account, transfer or start new service, view your regular and bulky trash collection days, report missed trash and recycling, compare your water use to past months and pay your water bill all with the click of a button.

Download the app so account access is always at your fingertips. Visit the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for My OKC Utilities.

Business customers can manage multiple locations under a single account log-in, and families can add "guest" account users to help manage payments and issue service tickets for family members in need.

For details, visit okc.gov/utilities or call our customer service representatives: (405) 297-2833, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F.

Youth homelessness

Oklahoma City was recently selected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to participate in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), which awarded the City more than \$3 million in community funding. Sisu Youth Services and HOPE Community Services, Inc. will receive most of that funding for projects specifically focused to prevent or end youth homelessness in OKC.

Sisu was awarded \$990,000 annually through 2023 for youth-focus projects like a drop-in center, host homes program, transitional housing and rapid re-housing. HOPE will receive \$150,000 in 2022 and 2023 for diversion and family engagement support to serve unaccompanied youth with case management services. This project is one of the first of its kind within the Children and Youth Program at HOPE and in south OKC.

MAPS 4 input needed

Weigh in on future beautification projects you want to see implemented as a part of MAPS 4 by completing a survey at BeautifyOKC.com. Survey results will help consultants develop a master plan to determine where the City should prioritize beautification projects across the OKC. Consultants will also get input from OKC residents through focus groups, events and public meetings. The survey is available in English and Spanish. MAPS 4 is a debt-free public improvement program funded by a temporary penny sales tax that will raise a projected \$1.07 billion over eight years. Stay up to date on the MAPS 4 Beautification project at okc.gov/maps4.

Human Rights Commission

In July, Oklahoma City Council approved an ordinance re-establishing the City's Human Rights Commission after being repealed in 1996. Among other duties, the Commission will address alleged harm to people who have been discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, creed, sex, gender, national origin, age, familial status, genetic information, or disability related to employment, housing and public accommodations under the Oklahoma Anti-Discrimination Law.

Some commission responsibilities:

- Coordinate with the community, including public and private agencies, to promote human rights.
- Work with law enforcement agencies by referring violations or apparent violations of anti-discrimination laws to them.
- Mediate complaints alleging violations of the anti-discrimination law.
- Recommend studies or surveys that promote anti-discrimination policies.
- Produce an annual report of the commission's activities.
- Establish advisory committees to help the commission.
- Participate in at least one educational event annually that promotes human rights.

EMBARK survey results

EMBARK recently released findings from the 2021 Transit Rider Survey for its fixed-route bus and OKC Streetcar services. Over 1,400 responses yielded findings in rider frequency of use, satisfaction, preferences and demographic information.

Since 2016, satisfaction with EMBARK's fixed-route bus service has increased by 9%, with 78% of customers reporting to be satisfied or very satisfied with the service. OKC Streetcar customer satisfaction soared to 97%, a 17% increase since 2020.

Overall, EMBARK riders care most about on-time arrivals, availability of accessible bus stops and frequency of service. Full survey reports from 2007- current can be download from embarkok.com.

Zoning

The community is invited to attend open houses hosted by the OKC Planning Department. The come-and-go open houses provide an informal way to talk to staff about future updates to the City's Zoning and Development codes. If you can't attend the meeting, consider filling out a survey about residential development at okc.gov/codeupdate.

Oct. 1 • 10 a.m.-noon

Capitol Hill Library, 327 SW 27th St.

Oct. 1 • 1-5 p.m.

Fiestas De Las Americas, 319 SW 25th St.

Oct. 22 • 10 a.m.-noon

Southern Oaks Library, 6900 S Walker Ave.

Property cleanup grant

The City's Planning Department was awarded a \$3.9 million grant from the EPA to help clean up buildings and sites contaminated by petroleum, hazardous waste and asbestos. The grant is a part of the City's Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program. A few OKC properties that have benefited from Brownfields funding include the First National Building, Steelyard, Oklahoma City Community College's Capitol Hill campus and the Clara Luper Civil Rights Center. For details, email amanda.alewine@okc.gov.

Tree roots damage pipes

Tree roots are a common cause of broken pipes and sewer backups. When planting trees and shrubs this fall, plant them away from your property's lateral plumbing lines and avoid easements. Roots seek water, break into your pipelines and continue to grow, causing blockages and costly plumbing bills.

Text 911

Residents unable to make a call during emergency situations can text dispatchers at 911 for help. The text service does not replace calling 911, but the option is intended for:

- People with speech or hearing disabilities.
- Callers who need to remain silent or discreet.
- Medical emergencies that render the caller incapable of talking.

Texting 911 in an emergency is simple and quick. To request help via text, simply text 911 with the location of the emergency. The 911 dispatcher will reply with instructions or questions. Do not text photos, videos, emojis or slang as the service cannot receive them. Traditional voice calls to 911 are still the fastest and most efficient way to receive emergency help. Texting 911 should only be used when people are unable to call, so call if you can, text if you can't.

Haunt the River Cruises

Haunt the River with Oklahoma River Cruises on a decorated boat with haunted tunes, light snacks and a cash bar. Ages 21+. Advance \$35 ticket purchase required. Cruises board at 7:45 p.m. and depart at 8 p.m. on Oct. 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29 from Exchange Landing, 1503 Exchange Ave. Visit okcrivercruises.com or call (405) 702-7755 for tickets and details.

