



# OKC NEWS

DECEMBER 2022

## Utilities bill assistance

Need a helping hand? The City provides multiple ways for utility customers to get help with their water, sewer or trash bill.

**Bill pay assistance:** Oklahoma Human Services offers emergency and non-emergency bill-pay help through its Low Income Home Water Assistance Program. Applicants must meet guidelines for eligibility.

**Reduced trash rate:** Eligible customers who meet Federal poverty guidelines may enroll in a reduced trash rate for trash, recycling and bulky trash services that can help reduce your monthly trash bill by up to 50%. The program does not apply to water, wastewater services, EPA stormwater or voluntary EMSA fees.

**Help 2 Others (H2O):** This program is administered by The Salvation Army and provides one time bill-pay help to eligible customers. Customers wishing to help may round up their monthly utilities bill to the nearest dollar or add a designated amount.

For details about these and other bill-pay programs, including installment plans, visit [okc.gov/utilities](http://okc.gov/utilities) or call Utilities Customer Service at (405) 297-2833.

## Marine mammal habitat

Construction begins this spring on a new marine mammal habitat that will be home to the Zoo's California sea lions, harbor seals and potentially other species. The additional space will provide an expanded and enriched habitat for these coastal animals while creating an exciting opportunity for guests to enjoy them from a fresh perspective. This expansion will be in the eastern section of the park overlooking Zoo Lake and encompass 3.5 acres including existing sites for the Zoo's Noble Aquatic Center/Aquaticus, which has been closed to guests since 2017.



## MAPS 4 SEEKS INPUT FOR PARKS PROJECTS

Residents are invited to share their improvements ideas for 105 City parks as a part of MAPS 4 by completing the survey at [maps4parks.com](http://maps4parks.com). The survey is open through May 2023 and available in English and Spanish. Community input will guide consultants as they develop a master plan and assess current park conditions, accessibility, and potential expansion needs for neighborhood and community parks around OKC.

MAPS 4 includes \$69.6 million to upgrade every municipal neighborhood and community park outside of the central business district. Improvements will be based on on-site park assessments and current park standards, in addition to community feedback from the survey. Residents can stay up to date on the MAPS 4 Parks project at [okc.gov/maps4](http://okc.gov/maps4). Learn more about the MAPS 4 Parks public engagement process and take the survey at [maps4parks.com](http://maps4parks.com).



## OKC Golf app

Download our new "OKC Golf" app from your phone's app store. Features include GPS (course and driving range), tee times, live scoring, push notifications about weather, sales and much more!

## Council elections Feb. 14

City Council elections will be held on Feb. 14 for representation in Wards 2, 5, 6 and 8. The nonpartisan election and potential runoff will decide who represents those Wards on the Council for the next four-year term, which begins in April. Candidate filing was still underway when this newsletter was written.

The City Council has nine members: the Mayor, who is elected citywide, and one member from each of Oklahoma City's eight Wards. They serve part-time at the head of the City's Council-Manager form of government. The Mayor's annual salary is \$24,000, and each Council member's annual salary is \$12,000. Sign up to receive election news at [okc.gov](http://okc.gov).

## Help with court cases

Don't let a Municipal Court case cause anxiety. The Court's community relations coordinators are here to help resolve your case. You won't be arrested for coming to court to resolve your ticket. People who can't afford to pay fines can get a hearing and won't be sent to jail. Bilingual community relations coordinators can speak to your church, club or community group. Call (405) 297-3267.

## Zoo Safari Lights

OKC Zoo Safari Lights, presented by OG&E, are back for the holiday season – bigger and brighter with new lanterns! Zoo Safari Lights is a festive light event featuring over 60 larger-than-life light sculptures viewable on a driving tour through the zoo. Guests can also enjoy a walking experience featuring interactive light displays, photo ops and more. Open nightly through Jan. 1 from 5:30 - 11 p.m. (last check-in is 10 p.m.). Reservations required. No drive-up purchases. Visit [okczoo.org/safari-lights](http://okczoo.org/safari-lights). Tickets are limited and holiday dates will sell out so purchase early.

## JANUARY EVENTS

### Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 1 CATS
- 7 Nordic Soundscapes, OKCPHIL
- 13-15 The Book of Mormon
- 21 Shen Yun
- 27-28 Disney in Concert, OKCPHIL

### Myriad Botanical Gardens

myriadgardens.com • (405) 445-7080

- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the Gardens
- 21 Lunar New Year Celebration

### OKC Fairgrounds

okcfairgrounds.com • (405) 948-6700

- 11-13 Cattlemen's Congress
- 7 High Performance Racing Auction, Trade Show & Swap Meet
- 7-8 Redland Rendezvous
- 13-15 OKC Boat & RV Show
- 13-15 OKC Gem, Jewelry & Bead Show
- 20-22 OK Home + Garden Show
- 26-29 Annual RV Show
- 27-28 Triangle Winter Sale
- 28 OKWA Novice State Championships

### Oklahoma City Convention Center

okcconventioncenter.com • (405) 768-4037

- 1-23 Immersive VanGogh Experience
- 8 Oklahoma Bridal Show
- 7-8 Redland Rendezvous
- 13-15 OKC Boat & RV Show
- 13-15 OKC Gem, Jewelry & Bead Show
- 20-22 OK Home + Garden Show
- 26-29 Annual RV Show
- 27-28 Triangle Winter Sale
- 28 OKWA Novice State Championships

### Paycom Center

paycomcenter.com • (405) 602-8500

- 3 Thunder vs. Celtics
- 6 Thunder vs. Wizards
- 8 Thunder vs. Mavericks
- 18 Thunder vs. Pacers
- 25 Thunder vs. Hawks
- 27 Thunder vs. Cavaliers
- 30 Thunder vs. Warriors

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

## Resident survey results

OKC ranks higher than the national average in most areas when compared to other cities of the same size, according to results from the City's annual survey, administered by surveyor ETC Institute. View the report on [okc.gov](https://okc.gov).

Services provided by the Utilities Department stood head and shoulders above other cities the same size as OKC. Residents rated OKC's trash collection (90%), curbside recycling (83%), bulky waste pickup (82%) and wastewater services (79%). These results were anywhere from 21% to 35% above the national average. Services provided by police (72%) ranked 17% above the national average. Ratings for fire (91%), parks (63%), customer service (62%) and communication (51%) are also among the best in the nation.

The top areas of improvement for OKC include street maintenance, traffic flow, code enforcement and public transportation.

The purpose of the survey is to assess resident satisfaction with City services, gather input from residents to help set priorities and track OKC's performance against itself and with other similar-sized cities over time.

Improvements to streets, traffic flow, police and parks are being made through a 10-year, \$967 million bond package called Better Streets, Safer City, a permanent 1/4 cent sales tax to hire more police officers and firefighters and MAPS 4.

## Free Streetcar rides

Enjoy free rides on the OKC Streetcar Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Nov. 18 - Jan. 1. Take in all the destinations, events and attractions Downtown in December has to offer.

## 2023 free fishing days

OKC Parks is encouraging more people to explore fishing on City lakes by waiving the requirement for a City fishing permit on the first Saturday of each month. In 2023, a City permit is not needed at all City reservoirs, Close to Home fishing waters, the Oklahoma River and Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge on Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3-4, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.

## City pay starts at \$15.01

Gift yourself job security, great benefits and competitive pay this holiday season by applying with the City at [okc.gov/careers](https://okc.gov/careers). As of Nov. 11, the City's minimum hourly rate for active jobs is \$15.01. Stay up-to-date with City career opportunities by signing up for OKC Job Alerts. Go to [okc.gov/careers](https://okc.gov/careers) and click on "Job Alerts." Choose categories and subscribe. You'll receive new job listings in your email.



## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### Day before Christmas Eve (Friday, Dec. 23)

- Closed: City offices & Municipal Court (pay online at [okc.gov](https://okc.gov)).
- Trash and recycling collection as usual.

### Christmas Eve (Saturday, Dec. 24)

- Closed: OKC Animal Shelter
- EMBARK bus and OKC Streetcar on regular schedule.
- Customer Service: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Christmas Day (Sunday, Dec. 25)

- Closed: OKC Animal Shelter
- EMBARK bus on weekend schedule. Free fares. No Norman service. Customer Service closed. OKC Streetcar on reduced schedule from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free fares.

### Day after Christmas Day (Monday, Dec. 26)

- Closed: City offices & Municipal Court (pay online at [okc.gov](https://okc.gov)).
- No trash or recycling. Makeup day Wednesday, Dec. 28.

### New Year's Day (observed Monday, Jan. 2)

- Closed: City offices, Animal Shelter, Household Hazardous Waste & Municipal Court (pay online at [okc.gov](https://okc.gov)).
- No trash or recycling. Makeup day Wed., Jan 4.
- EMBARK bus and OKC Streetcar on regular schedule. Free fares.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday, Jan. 16)

- Closed: City offices, Animal Shelter, Household Hazardous Waste & Municipal Court (pay online at [okc.gov](https://okc.gov)).
- No trash or recycling. Makeup day Wednesday, Jan. 18.
- EMBARK bus and OKC Streetcar on regular schedule. Free fares.