



OKC NEWS

AUGUST 2023

SAFE HAVEN Baby Box



The Fire Department opened a new Safe Haven Baby Box at Fire Station 21 in July. The baby box provides a safe, anonymous option for parents who are unable or unwilling to care for their newborns. The box is a climate-controlled and fully monitored enclosure located in the NE corner of Fire Station 21, 3000 SW 29th St. It's equipped with motion sensors, and a silent alarm system immediately alerts emergency personnel upon an infant's placement. The program operates

under the state's Safe Haven laws, which allow parents to surrender infants up to 30 days old without fear of prosecution if the baby is unharmed. Upon retrieval of the infant, local social services agencies ensure the child is placed in a suitable, loving home, where their well-being is prioritized. The initiative is a part of the department's ongoing commitment to the safety and welfare of our community.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark
okcdodgers.com • (405) 218-1000

Visit okcdodgers.com for Dodgers schedule.

- 1-3 Dodgers v Round Rock
- 12-17 Dodgers v Tacoma Rainiers
- 26-28 PCL Championship Series

Civic Center Music Hall
okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 14 John Crist's Emotional Support Tour
- 21 Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse Live in Concert
- 26-1 Six
- 29-30 The Turn of the Screw

OKC Convention Center
okkconventioncenter.com • (405) 768-4040

- 2 Time Travelers Vintage Expo
- 9 Oklahoma Black Fashion Week
- 9-10 Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Championships
- 16-17 Brick Convention-Lego Fan Convention

Myriad Botanical Gardens
myriadgardens.org • (405) 445-7080

- 8 Busker Street Fair
- 23 Autumnal Equinox Sound Bath
- 29 Full Moon Bike Ride

OKC Fairgrounds
okcfairgrounds.com • (405) 948-6700

- 14-24 Oklahoma State Fair

Paycom Center
paycomcenter.com • (405) 602-8700

- 8-10 PBR Freedom Fest
- 19 Jelly Roll
- 30 Koe Wetzel

Full calendar of events at visitokc.com

EMSAcare month

You can enroll or change your participation each September in the EMSAcare program, which provides permanent members of your household with emergency ambulance rides in the EMSA service area with 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, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024, 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 added to your monthly water bill. To change your participation, call Utilities Customer Service at (405) 297-2833 or go to okc.gov/EMSAcare.

Neighbors Night Out

Neighborhoods are encouraged to participate in Neighbors Night Out (NNO) on Tuesday, Sept. 12. NNO is an extraordinary night of block parties designed to promote neighborhood connection and foster a strong sense of community. Neighborhoods will join forces with public safety officers to combat crime, gang and drug activity and build social connections within their communities. Neighborhoods interested in participating can sign up at nacok.org.

Action Center

Are you concerned about high grass and weeds, yard parking, abandoned homes and vehicles, or other issues causing problems in your neighborhood? Contact the Action Center. They route resident concerns to the proper department for investigation and enforcement.

Contact Us

- online** okc.gov, find the "report it" button
- email** action.center@okc.gov
- phone** (405) 297-2535, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., M-F
- text** (405) 252-1053
- twitter** @okcaction

OK!lahoma State Fair

Tickets are on sale now for the Oklahoma State Fair, Sept. 14-24. Buy yours before opening day to take advantage of discounted prices. Visit okstatefair.com for info on Disney On Ice presents Frozen & Encanto, free concerts each night on the Chickasaw Country Entertainment Stage, special events and more. Take advantage of new discount days like Pepsi Triple Shot Tuesday on Sept. 19 (\$3 admission), and College Day on Sept. 21 (\$5 admission with a valid college student ID).

Free landfill day

The City's free landfill day is Sept. 9, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. An original, current City water bill or a copy of an e-bill is required. Each household may bring one load using a passenger vehicle or truck (up to 1-ton) and one trailer (up to 16 feet). No commercial waste haulers. Participating landfills include:

- East Oak Landfill – 3201 Mosley Rd. (South side of NE 36th St. east of Sooner Rd.)
- Southeast Landfill – 7001 S Bryant Ave.
- Oklahoma City Landfill – 7600 SW 15th St.
- Northeast Landfill – 2601 N Midwest Blvd. in Spencer (construction and demolition materials only)

Bulk waste rules apply. Household hazardous waste, tires, oils, car batteries, propane tanks, pool chemicals, electronic waste and appliances containing Freon or other refrigerants are not accepted.

Odd-even watering

Help conserve water by remembering the permanent, odd-even watering schedule for residents and businesses. If your address ends with an odd number, irrigate or use sprinklers on odd-numbered calendar days. If your address ends with an even number, irrigate or use sprinklers on even-numbered days. Hand-watering and drip irrigation is OK every day. The odd-even watering program puts less strain on the City's water system during high-demand months. Learn more about how to save water at SqueezeEveryDrop.com. Report violations of the schedule to the Action Center at (405) 297-2535 or okc.gov/action.

Interested in IT?

The City offers a range of positions within its IT Department. Whether you specialize in software development, network administration, cyber security, database management or IT support, we have a position that likely suits your skills and interests. Help us drive innovation, enhance digital infrastructure and provide efficient technology services. As a City employee, you will also enjoy a work-life balance with 11 regular holidays, 96 hours of vacation leave and 130 hours of sick leave a year. Learn more at okc.gov/careers, and never miss a potential career opportunity by signing up for job alerts.

September on the River

Take a Cocktail Cruise with Oklahoma River Cruises. Relax and experience unique views of the Boathouse District and the Wheeler Ferris Wheel. All ages are welcome, but consider this is an adult environment cruise. People under 21 are not allowed in the bar area. The cruise departs from Regatta Landing on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. in September. Visit okrivercruises.com/specialty-cruises for tickets. The public ferry service operates Wednesday - Sunday in September. See ferry schedule at okrivercruises.com/schedule.

Be safe when it's hot

Be weather aware with warm August temperatures. If you must be outside, stay hydrated and reduce time in the sun. Heat can be life-threatening, especially if you aren't prepared. Heat-related illnesses, like heat exhaustion and heat stroke, are possible. Follow these outdoor safety tips:

- Drink more fluids, regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.
- Never leave kids or pets in the car, even for a minute.
- Wear loose, lightweight clothing while working outside.
- Avoid strenuous activity; postpone outdoor activities.
- Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- Seek air-conditioned buildings.
- Help the elderly, kids and pets stay cool.

A Better Way

A Better Way is an employment program that offers work to people who panhandle. Driving a van, staff from Mental Health Association of Oklahoma visit panhandling hotspots and offer people lunch and a \$65 daily wage for work like litter removal and beautification in parks and other public areas. Participants are assigned to a case manager who will connect them with services like mental health services, substance use treatment, healthcare, housing, transportation and most importantly, workforce training. Ongoing community support is key to the program's success. Potential employers, service providers or donors can visit okc.gov/abetterway for more information.

Leash your dogs

Dogs that run free are a threat to children, delivery people and utility workers. Help protect them from injury and protect yourself from fines and potential personal injury lawsuits by securely confining your dogs to an enclosure they cannot escape from. Keep your dog securely leashed and under control when they are outside of a secure enclosure. Dog bites can result in fines to the owner of up to \$500, plus \$365 or more for rabies quarantine. Additionally, bites can result in the loss of your dog if it is found to be dangerous. Be responsible and safe. Protect yourself and others by securely confining your dogs to your property.

Be careful in school zones

School starts this month. When entering a school zone, slow down and obey all traffic laws. Never text while driving in a school zone. Always stop for school buses that are loading or unloading children. Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals. Be aware of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, streets and school parking lots.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Labor Day: Monday, Sept. 4

- Closed: City offices, Household Hazardous Waste, Animal Shelter, Municipal Court (pay online at okc.gov. For details on posting bonds over the holiday, visit okc.gov/courts).
- EMBARK bus on weekend schedule. OKC Streetcar runs until midnight. Free fares for both. Customer service closed.
- No trash or recycling pickup. Makeup day Wednesday, Sept. 6. Bulky waste pickup not affected.