



# OKC NEWS

JULY 2023



## PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OPENS

OKC took another step towards being a more pedestrian and cycling-friendly community in June with the opening of a 121- foot pedestrian bridge over NW Expressway Boulevard near Wilshire Avenue. The bridge provides safe passage for walkers, cyclists and runners on the 7.8-mile Hefner – Overholser Trail, which runs from Britton Road at Lake Hefner Drive to NW 39th Street at Overholser Drive. The bridge’s design concept represents classic cars from the 40s, 50s and 60s and nearby airports, Wiley Post and Clarence E Page. The \$5.3 million project was funded by the 2007 Bond Program and the 2017 Better Streets, Safer City Bond Program.

## AUGUST EVENTS

### Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark

okcdodgers.com • (405) 218-1000

Visit okcdodgers.com for Dodgers schedule.

- 1-6 Dodgers vs. Round Rock
- 22-27 Dodgers vs. Albuquerque
- 29-31 Dodgers vs. Round Rock

### Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 15-20 Ain't Too Proud

### Myriad Botanical Gardens

myriadgardens.org • (405) 445-7080

- 4 Dancing in the Gardens (Salsa)
- 18 Dancing in the Gardens (Bollywood)
- 25 Your Song: An Elton John Tribute

### OKC Fairgrounds

okcfairgrounds.com • (405) 948-6700

- 4-6 OKC Renovation & Landscaping Show
- 18-20 Pool & Spa Show
- 19-26 Just Between Friends Kids Consignment Sale

### Paycom Center

paycomcenter.com • (405) 602-8700

- 17 Thomas Rhett
- 18 Santa Fe Klan

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



## What's in your water?

Curious what's in your drinking water? Read the City's latest Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. The report provides information related to testing and treatment of your drinking water. Public drinking water treatment is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality under the auspices of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. Last year, the City tested more than 250,000 samples from the City's water system to ensure our water continues to meet, or surpass, all state and federal requirements. Read the report at [okc.gov/ccr](http://okc.gov/ccr), or request a hard copy by calling (405) 297-2833.

## Conference of Mayors

Mayor Holt was elected to serve as the 2025-2026 President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Holt is the second Mayor of OKC to hold the position, joining Mick Cornett, who served as President from 2016-2017. A member of the Osage Nation, Mayor Holt will be the first Native American President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. During their year in office, the President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors speaks for the nation's mayors and their cities.



## OKC Golf app

Make tee time at the four City-owned golf courses more convenient by downloading our new "OKC Golf" app. The app features on-course GPS, live scoring, tee time reservations, food orders (Lincoln only), hot deals and more.

### Summer deals

*(All prices before tax. Restrictions apply):*

**Sunset fees:** \$9 (\$10 at Lincoln Park)  
Starts at 6:30 p.m. • play until dark

**Twilight promotion:** M-TH, June-Sept., 1-4 p.m.  
Save \$5 on fees and \$4 on cart rental.

To reserve your time, visit [okcgolf.com](http://okcgolf.com), the new golf app or call:

(405) 843-1565 Lake Hefner Golf Course  
(405) 691-1727 Earlywine Golf Course

## Budget approved

The Oklahoma City Council adopted the City Manager's 2024 budget on June 6. Visit [okc.gov/budget](http://okc.gov/budget) to see the budget book. The operating budget, which pays for the City's day-to-day operations, is \$904.3 million.  
(405) 424-1421 Lincoln Park Golf Course  
(405) 677-8874 Trosper Golf Course

## Fight mosquitoes

Mosquito-borne illnesses are a threat in OKC every spring and summer. Reduce your chances of getting bit by following these tips:

- Drain standing water around your house.
- Apply insect repellent to clothing and skin.
- Stay inside at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are around the most.
- Wear long sleeves and pants.

## 2023 homeless count

The community conducted its annual *Point in Time* Count of the homeless population on Jan. 26, and 1,436 people were counted. This is slightly up from 1,339 in 2022. Communities that receive funding from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development are required to conduct the survey at least once every two years, although OKC typically conducts the survey annually.

Continued limited availability of affordable housing and rising eviction rates are among the biggest challenges homeless service providers are facing. According to Legal Services Corporation's Eviction Tracker, 46.4% of residents in Oklahoma County are rent-burdened and nearly 16% live under the poverty level.

### Count Findings

9%	veterans
20%	families with children
36%	women
62%	men
1%	transgender
1%	non-conforming
48%	white
32%	black
7%	Native American
12%	multiple races
1%	native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
11%	youth under age 24
23%	have a mental illness
28%	"chronically" homeless
54%	were staying in a shelter
13%	in transitional housing
31%	unsheltered

## Prevent drowning deaths

The OKC Fire Department responded to ten drowning emergencies through May 31. Drowning is the leading cause of death in American children between 1- 4 years old. Help prevent drowning with these safety tips:

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards. Always swim with a buddy.
- Pay close and constant attention to children, even if a lifeguard is present, no matter how well the child can swim or how shallow the water. Avoid distractions like cell phones.
- Teach children to float on their backs as soon as possible.
- Young children and inexperienced swimmers should always wear a Coast Guard Certified Life Jacket.
- Never swim after drinking alcohol, eating or taking medications.
- Learn CPR.

## Spokies

The Spokies Bike Share program fleet now includes 113 bikes, with 53 electric-assist bikes (or E-bikes) and 60 pedal-only bikes. All bikes are smart bikes, allowing customers to choose a conveniently located bike and leave it at their destination within the Spokies service area, which stretches north-to-south from the Paseo Arts District to Capitol Hill and east-to-west from the Plaza District to The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. To use the bike share, download the app [spokiesokc.com](http://spokiesokc.com) or in the Apple or Google Play app store.

## MAPS 4 Parks survey

Parks are critical to great neighborhoods and a great city. MAPS 4 includes \$70.2 million to upgrade 105 neighborhood and community parks across OKC. Park improvements will be based on onsite park assessments and current park standards, in addition to community feedback from the survey and public meetings. Improvements potentially include bathrooms, playground equipment, shade structures, splashpads, furnishings, trees, paths, activity facilities and signage. Let us know what improvements you want to see by taking the survey or attending an upcoming public meeting. For more information visit [MAPS4Parks.com](http://MAPS4Parks.com).

## Become a police officer

The OKC Police Department is accepting applications for the January 2024 academy. Apply today at [JoinOKCPD.com](http://JoinOKCPD.com). Send inquiries to [ocpd.recruiting@okc.gov](mailto:ocpd.recruiting@okc.gov) or call (405) 297-1116. Follow them on social media @JoinOKCPD.

### General requirements:

- U.S. Citizen
- 21-45 years old on first day of the academy
- Valid driver's license (for at least 2 years)
- High School Diploma/GED
- Good moral & ethical character

## Extreme heat

Hot weather affects us all and there are steps you can take to protect yourself from health risks. Check the weather forecast and when temperatures are high, limit time outdoors when possible, drink plenty of fluids, take frequent breaks, shelter indoors when possible and find a cooling center by calling 211. Those most at risk include children, older adults, athletes, both indoor and outdoor workers, emergency responders, those in low-income areas, people of color, people with health conditions such as diabetes, obesity, poor blood circulation, mental illness, heart disease, lung conditions, and pregnancy. Learn more about extreme heat and what the Office of Sustainability is doing to address these issues at: [okc.gov/extremeheat](http://okc.gov/extremeheat).

## Outdoor watering tips

Summer heat means lots of outdoor water use. Reduce water waste with these tips. Visit [squeezeeverydrop.com](http://squeezeeverydrop.com) for more.

- Run sprinklers early in morning.
- Check for sprinkler system leaks and broken heads.
- Gauge your pressure. Too much or too little can keep your lawn from thriving.
- Let soil dry before the next watering. In the summer, most grass types don't need more than 1" of water weekly.
- Mow at a higher height. Mowing too low stresses turf grass, encourages weak growth and requires more frequent watering.
- Check your pool for leaks, including auto fill feature.
- Plant Oklahoma-tough plants.