



# OKC NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023

## RAPID NW

Oklahoma City's first Bus Rapid Transit line - *RAPID NW* – launches Sunday, Dec. 3, along with bus service changes affecting all EMBARK bus routes in OKC. Customers can find more information about *RAPID* and bus service changes at [embarkok.com/okcmoves](http://embarkok.com/okcmoves) or by calling 405-235-RIDE (7433). EMBARK is also celebrating the launch of *RAPID* with free community events, open to the public, along the northwest line on Saturday, Dec. 9. More details about these events will be shared closer to launch.

## Help 2 Others (H2O)

The H2O program provides funds to the Salvation Army to assist Oklahoma City Utilities Department customers needing help paying their bill. For assistance, call the Oklahoma Heartline at 211 or text 211OK to 898211.

Looking for a way to give back? Customers wishing to help through the H2O program may round up their monthly Utilities bill to the nearest dollar or make a one-time donation. Just visit the Billing section on [okcutilities.com](http://okcutilities.com) and click on the H2O Program tab on the left-hand side of the page. Contributions are tax-deductible.

## Devon Ice Rink

The Devon Ice Rink at Myriad Botanical Gardens returns Nov. 17! The season is brought to you by Downtown OKC, which presents Downtown in December. Learn more at [downtownindecember.com](http://downtownindecember.com).

**Hours:** MON-THU, 3-9 p.m. • FRI, 3-11 p.m. SAT, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. • SUN, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Entry:** \$14/person • \$9/person w/own skates \$9/military • \$10/Myriad Gardens member

*New*

## ARENA ELECTION DECEMBER 12



Oklahoma City Council called a citywide election for Dec. 12 to build a new, publicly owned downtown arena. City Council also approved a letter of intent with the Oklahoma City Thunder in September that potentially retains the team in OKC beyond 2050. The new arena is the primary condition for securing a commitment from the team.

The new arena is proposed to be funded in part by a 72-month, one-cent sales tax that will start when the MAPS 4 tax ends and will not increase the sales tax rate. In addition to the 72-month one-cent temporary sales tax, the arena will be paid for with \$70 million in MAPS 4 funding and \$50 million from the Oklahoma City Thunder ownership group. If passed, the new arena will be built downtown, but the exact location has not been determined. Learn more at [okc.gov/arena](http://okc.gov/arena).

## Candle safety

Candles are cozy this time of year but remember how to enjoy them safely.

- Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Avoid using candles in the bedroom.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Put candle holders on a stable, uncluttered surface.
- Keep hair and clothing away from the flame.
- Never use a candle if medical oxygen is used in the home.
- Never use candles during a power outage.
- Keep candles out of reach from pets.
- Consider flameless candles.

## Wellness Center opening

Everyone is invited to the ribbon cutting for OKC's newest MAPS 3 Health and Wellness Center, located at 3740 N Lincoln Blvd. The opening ceremony is Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. Tour the 45,000-square-foot center, operated by Community Health Centers of Oklahoma. The center features a heated lap and therapy pool, large fitness center, gym, game room, classroom space for art and programs, computer area, demonstration kitchen, gathering spaces and an elevated indoor walking/jogging track. The facility also includes space for a clinic. The \$12.4 million center was funded through MAPS 3 and is opening debt-free. For membership information, call (405) 427-3222.

## DECEMBER EVENTS

### Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 1-2 A Very Merry Pops with Take 6 & Sandi Patty, OKCPHIL
  - 1 A Drag Queen Christmas\*
  - 3 Handel's Messiah, Canterbury Voices
  - 5 A.J. Croce\*
  - 7 Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet\*
  - 8-17 The Nutcracker, OKC Ballet
  - 9 Stayin' Alive: One Night of The Bee Gees\*
  - 26-31 Tina – The Tina Turner Musical, OKC Broadway
- \*presented at Rose State College Hudiburg Center

### OKC Fairgrounds

okcfairgrounds.com • (405) 948-6700

- 1-2 The Santa Market Craft Show for Alzheimer's
- 2-3 Show Me Reptiles & Exotic Show
- 28-30 Jr. Open Wrestling Championship
- 30 Oklahoma High-Performance Racing Auction
- 30-31 Oklahoma Gun Shows

### Paycom Center

paycomcenter.com • (405) 602-8700

Visit [nba.com/thunder](http://nba.com/thunder) for Thunder schedule.

- 2 Cody Johnson
- 7 Trans-Siberian Orchestra
- 9 Adam Sandler
- 11 Thunder vs. Jazz
- 15-17 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey: The Greatest Show on Earth
- 18 Thunder vs. Grizzlies
- 21 Thunder vs. Clippers
- 23 Thunder vs. Lakers
- 26 Thunder vs. Timberwolves
- 27 Thunder vs. Knicks
- 28 Jeff Dunham
- 31 Thunder vs. Nets

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

## Fire Station 38

The Fire Department opened Fire Station 38, located at 14500 SW 59th St., last month. The state-of-the-art facility is equipped with cutting-edge technology, modern infrastructure and highly trained firefighters. This new addition will significantly enhance public safety in southwest Oklahoma City. Fire Station 38 was funded through the voter-approved Better Streets, Safer City bond program.

## Gift for golfers

Discounted packages will be sold at your favorite City golf course from December - February. Buy a "Frequent Player" package to get ten green fees and half-cart fees for the price of eight, a savings of 20%. Buy a "Tour of the City" package to get eight green fees and half cart fees for the price of six. Use them to play two rounds at each of our four courses and save 25%. Senior and walking versions available. Restrictions apply. Buy online beginning Dec. 1 at [okcgolf.com](http://okcgolf.com) or call a City course:

### Golf Courses

- (405) 843-1565 **Lake Hefner**
- (405) 691-1727 **Earlywine**
- (405) 424-1421 **Lincoln Park**
- (405) 677-8874 **Trosper**

## A lifelong career

Full-time jobs with the City of OKC enjoy many benefits, like stable employment, a pension plan and awesome health, vision and dental insurance. The positive work environment across 22 departments sustains long careers – 10 to 30 years. Take the first step towards job stability by applying at [okc.gov/careers](http://okc.gov/careers). The City also offers part-time positions for those looking to work 29 hours or less a week. Work for OKC!

## Zoo Safari Lights

OKC Zoo Safari Lights, presented by OG&E, is a festive celebration of brand-new, larger-than-life light displays. Safari Lights runs Nov. 11 through Jan. 1 with drive-through and walk-through experiences from 5:30-11 p.m. Open holiday nights, including Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Purchase tickets at [okczoo.org/safari-lights](http://okczoo.org/safari-lights).

## Human Rights Day

The City of Oklahoma City will celebrate International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10, joining others around the world to affirm our commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in Oklahoma City and beyond. We honor the memory and contributions of prominent civil rights figures such as Clara Luper and Ralph Ellison, who dedicated their lives to the pursuit of justice, equity and human rights. The City's Human Rights Commission sponsors this celebration and will continue to serve as a resource for the community. Please follow the City on social media, [@cityofokc](https://twitter.com/cityofokc), for announcements about ways to join the commemoration.

## Shop local, OKC

Help strengthen our economy and invest in your community by shopping online or in person at OKC retailers this holiday season. Shopping locally keeps your money here, supporting retailers who employ your neighbors. Learn more about sales tax in OKC at [okc.gov/tax](http://okc.gov/tax).

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### Christmas Day, Dec. 25

- Closed: City offices, \*HHW, Animal Shelter, \*Municipal Court pay window.
- No trash or recycling pickup. Makeup day Dec. 27. Bulky waste pickup not affected.
- EMBARK bus on weekend schedule. OKC Streetcar 11 a.m. -7 p.m. Free fares. Customer Service closed.

### Day after Christmas, Dec. 26

- Closed: City offices, \*HHW, Animal Shelter, \*Municipal Court pay window.
- Trash collection as usual.
- EMBARK bus on regular schedule. OKC Streetcar on regular schedule with free fare (Downtown in December).
- \*HHW: Household Hazardous Waste.**
- \*Pay online at [okc.gov](http://okc.gov). For details about posting bonds over the holiday weekend, visit [okc.gov/courts](http://okc.gov/courts).**

