



# OKC NEWS

MARCH 2024

## Save shelter pets

Oklahoma City Animal Welfare is looking for the community's support to save 600 lives. Whether you adopt a pet, foster, volunteer or even share a picture on social media, it can make a big difference. Join the life-saving effort at the OKC Animal Shelter 2811 SE 29th St. Adoption hours are Tuesday to Saturday from noon - 5 p.m. For more information, visit [okc.gov/animalwelfare](http://okc.gov/animalwelfare).

### April Adoption Events

- 4/6 Toast & Coffee • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
2416 N Robinson Ave.
- 4/10 PetSmart • 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
7177 SE 29th St.
- 4/20 Mathis Home • Noon - 4 p.m.  
3434 W Reno Ave.
- 4/24 PetSmart • 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
7177 SE 29th St.

## Play ball!

The Oklahoma City Baseball Club begins the 2024 season at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark April 2 and will have 13 home games throughout the month! Visit [okcbaseball.com](http://okcbaseball.com) for more information about gameday promotions and to purchase tickets.

## River cruises begin

Celebrate the Oklahoma River Cruises' opening weekend starting April 5. Cruises operate Friday through Sunday in April. Admission is paid as you board the boat. There will be door prizes for the first 50 riders. Adult admission is \$12, kids 7-17 are \$6, and children 6 and under are free. View the full schedule at [embarkok.com/ferry/public-ferry](http://embarkok.com/ferry/public-ferry).

## SPECIAL COLLECTION COMPUTERS • TIRES • AMMO • MEDS

The City is hosting a special collection for unwanted computers, tires, ammunition and prescription drugs from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Saturday, April 6**, at the OKC Fairgrounds. Syringes, liquids, inhalers, tire rims, televisions and wheels will not be accepted. This event is for OKC residents only. You must bring a current City of OKC water bill to prove residency. Enter the OKC Fairgrounds from May Avenue at Gate 5 on Gordon Cooper Boulevard. Visit [okc.gov/hhw](http://okc.gov/hhw) to learn more about items accepted year-round at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

## Rain barrel sale

OKC is offering discounted rain barrels in partnership with the Central Oklahoma Storm Water Alliance. The upcycled 55-gallon rain barrels are available in multiple colors and include all the necessary features to help get you started. Order your barrel by May 7 at [upcycle-products.com/ok-programs/ok-city](http://upcycle-products.com/ok-programs/ok-city). Composters and accessories also available. Rain barrel pick-up is from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., May 11 or 18 at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, 1621 S Portland Ave. Call (405) 297-1797 for more info.

## RAPID NW fare

EMBARC is now collecting fares for customers using RAPID NW. Customers have three convenient options to purchase a pass before the bus arrives:

- Purchase passes online using the Token Transit mobile app.
- Pay cash or card at the ticket vending machine located at the bus platform.
- Buy passes in person at EMBARK's downtown Transit Center.

Having a valid RAPID pass ready before boarding helps buses stay on schedule. For more info, call (405) 235-RIDE (7433) or visit [embarkok.com/rapid/fares-passes](http://embarkok.com/rapid/fares-passes).

## Expedition Africa opens

The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden's newest and largest-ever habitat expansion, Expedition Africa, presented by the Inasmuch Foundation, is now open. Enjoy the 12-acre expansion with the Flamingo Mingle as they flock together for guests to feed. Check out the state-of-the-art giraffe barn, where guests enjoy up-close views of the giraffes. The giraffe-feeding experience also returns this spring. So come see Expedition Africa, including covered pavilions where guests can be eye-level with the animals and deck seating, allowing for a more leisurely Zoo experience.

## Flood info

Residents may get flood information from the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map, including whether a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, which zone, and its base flood elevation. Flood Insurance Studies, letters of map changes, mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements, floodplain development regulations and Standard Operating Procedures are also available. Copies of FEMA elevation certificates of structures built in the floodplain after April 2013 are also available upon request by contacting the Drainage Division at (405) 297-2581.

## Request a speaker

The City's Water Conservation team is available to speak with your group about saving water around the house, at the office and in your landscape. We offer hands-on workshops, presentations, information booths and more. Fill out the "Request a Speaker" form at [squeezeeverydrop.com](http://squeezeeverydrop.com) to schedule a speaker for upcoming Earth Day events, HOA events, meetings, classroom activities and festivals.

## LitterBlitz 2024

Help is needed to keep OKC Beautiful by recruiting your neighbors, coworkers, organizations, friends and family for LitterBlitz 2024. Gather a team, pick a day that works for you and choose a location to pick up litter. Sign up at [OKCBeautiful.com/litterblitz](http://OKCBeautiful.com/litterblitz) or by emailing [natalie@okcbeautiful.com](mailto:natalie@okcbeautiful.com). Participants get free trash bags, gloves and basic safety and training tips.

## HUD grants

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded Oklahoma City with \$7.1 million in grants last month to provide housing for people experiencing homelessness. The award is \$2.4 million more than last year's grant. Funding through HUD is the largest source of homeless assistance the City receives annually. It helps fill gaps by combining permanent housing assistance for people of greatest need with services like case management to help them stabilize. Learn more about the City's homeless response plan at [keytohomeokc.org](http://keytohomeokc.org).

## Employees of the year

The City of Oklahoma City and the South Oklahoma City Kiwanis Club recognized three City employees for their outstanding achievements this past year. City Council recognized these individuals for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to OKC residents. Congratulations to Employee of the Year Krysta Snyder, Firefighter of the Year Maj. Lance Jones and Police Officer of the Year Master Sgt. Michael Rogers.

## Passenger increase

Will Rogers World Airport (WRWA) served 4,400,049 airline passengers in 2023, an increase of more than 11% from 2022, which had 3,951,333 passengers. The numbers came close to matching 2019 passenger numbers of 4,418,749, which are the highest on record. For the latest information on WRWA or to plan your visit, go to [flyokc.com](http://flyokc.com).

## Mental Health Services

The City of OKC is enhancing the way we interact with and provide services to people experiencing a mental health crisis. One example is our Crisis Intervention Team with the Police Department. This team is made up of officers who successfully completed a 40-hour crisis intervention training and are dispatched when a person poses a threat to themselves or others. The program focuses on mental health, substance abuse and crisis response training. For more info, visit [okc.gov/government/mental-health-services](http://okc.gov/government/mental-health-services).

## Tornado Safety

Tornado season is fast approaching, register your storm shelter so first responders can locate you quicker: [okc.gov/regshelter](http://okc.gov/regshelter).

- Shelter indoors, away from flying debris.
- Go to your basement, storm cellar, safe room or lowest level of your home.
- Go to the most interior hallway or room without windows. Stay away from windows and doors.
- Avoid places/rooms with wide-span roofs (cafeterias, gymnasiums, shopping malls).
- Don't try to outrun a tornado in your car. It's one of the most unsafe places to be during a tornado.
- Don't seek shelter in drainage systems, culverts or ditches because of flash flooding.



## MAY EVENTS

### Civic Center Music Hall

[okcciviccenter.com](http://okcciviccenter.com) • (405) 594-8300

- 5-6 Cirque Musica Heroes & Villains, OKCPHIL
- 7 At the Circus with Phil, OKCPHIL
- 9 Literary Voices: An Evening with James Patterson\*
- 9-14 Chicago, OKC Broadway
- 17 Brad Williams: Tour '24\*
- 20 Pines of Rome, OKCPHIL
- 26-27 Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets in Concert
- 30 Celtic Woman\*

\*presented at Rose State College Hudiburg Center

### Myriad Botanical Gardens

[myriadgardens.org](http://myriadgardens.org) • (405) 445-7080

- 2 Free Fitness
- 3 Reading Wednesday
- 12 Guided Gardens Tour
- 13 Plant-a-Prairie Sale
- 22 Earth Day Fun
- 23 Full Moon Sound Bath
- 23 Full Moon Bike Ride

### OKC Convention Center

[okcconventioncenter.com](http://okcconventioncenter.com) • (405) 768-4040

- 13 Rockstar Cheer and Dance
- 26-28 Memorial Marathon Health and Fitness Expo

### OKC Fairgrounds

[okcfairgrounds.com](http://okcfairgrounds.com) • (405) 948-6700

- 4-6 OKC Farm Show
- 5-6 Robotics Oklahoma Regional
- 6 Junior Botball Challenge
- 11-14 Shrine Circus
- 13-14 Festival of Trains – Model Train Show
- 18-20 ASHA National Championships

### Paycom Center

[paycomcenter.com](http://paycomcenter.com) • (405) 602-8700

- 9 Thunder vs. Kings
- 10 Thunder vs. Spurs
- 12 Thunder vs. Bucks
- 13 Dr. Jordan B. Peterson
- 14 Thunder vs. Mavericks

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