



# OKC NEWS

JULY 2024

## PARKS EVENTS

To register, visit [okc.gov/parks](http://okc.gov/parks) and select "Browse Programs."

### Stay Active & Independent for Life (ages 50+)

August 2 • Free  
Will Rogers Senior Center, 3501 Pat Murphy Dr.

### Hooked on Fishing (ages 5-15)

August 3 • Free • Route 66 Park, 9901 NW 23rd St.

### Kayak Safari (ages 18+)

August 10 • \$30 • Route 66 Bridge, 8703 Overholser Dr.

### Summer Survivors: Exploring Heat-Loving Plants

August 10 • \$5 • Will Rogers Gardens, 3400 NW 36th St.

### Park After Dark (ages 18+)

August 23 • \$5  
Martin Nature Park Center, 5000 W Memorial Rd.

## HOTEL TAX ELECTION SET

A Citywide election will be held on Aug. 27 to increase the hotel tax from 5.50% to 9.25%. Most of the money raised will help promote OKC as a visitor destination. The tax is charged to people who stay overnight in a hotel or rent a home-sharing property in OKC.

The 9.25% hotel tax would be in addition to the 4.5% state sales tax and the 4.125% City sales tax, for 17.875%. If passed, the new rate will take effect Oct. 1. Learn more at [okc.gov/HotelTax](http://okc.gov/HotelTax). If the election passes, the 3.75% increase is projected to bring in an additional \$11.6 million. See graphic for how the tax will be spent.



**75%**

### Tourism Promotion

Direct funding to promote and foster development of OKC's convention and visitor tourism.

**13.3%**

### Event Sponsorships

**6.7%**

### OKC Fairgrounds

Improvements, not including operational costs.

**5%**

### OKC Convention Center

Improvements, not including operational costs.

## MAPS 3 Wellness Center

The City opened a new MAPS 3 senior center in late May, located at 13660 S Western Ave. The YMCA operates the Center, which is called the YMCA Healthy Living Center. It features a heated lap and therapy pool, a large fitness center, a gym, an indoor walking track, a game room, classroom space, exercise studios, health clinic and more. Visit [ymcaokc.org](http://ymcaokc.org) or call (405) 272-7700 for details.

## EMBARK's Haul Pass

Through the EMBARK's Haul Pass Program, youth aged 18 and under can enjoy free rides on EMBARK buses, RAPID NW, and the OKC Streetcar. The program is available to all public, private, and home school students in Oklahoma City and the greater metropolitan area. For details, call 405-235-RIDE or visit [embarkok.com/haulpass](http://embarkok.com/haulpass).

## Homelessness count

The latest count of people experiencing homelessness in OKC, held on Jan. 25, 2024, showed 1,838 people were without a place to call home. This is an increase of 402 people from 2023. The increase is due to many factors, including the lack of affordable housing, an end to pandemic assistance and inflation. The Key to Home Partnership has a goal to house 500 chronically homeless and unsheltered people and rehouse or divert 100 youth from entering homelessness by the end of 2025. Read the Point in Time report and learn how you can help at [keytohomeokc.org](http://keytohomeokc.org).

## Budget approved

The Oklahoma City Council adopted the City Manager's 2025 budget on June 4. 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 \$918 million.

## Vision Zero Survey

Traffic deaths on Oklahoma City roads are on the rise. The City of OKC is developing a Vision Zero Plan to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy and equitable mobility for all. The City invites everyone who lives, works, or travels within Oklahoma City limits to provide input on our Vision Zero Plan to increase transportation safety. Take the survey here: [vision.okc.gov/vision-zero](http://vision.okc.gov/vision-zero).

## Project Life Run

Join the OKC Fire Department Aug. 3 for its 11th Annual Project Life 5k and 1-mile Fun Run. There's a new race site this year – Myriad Gardens Devon Lawn. Register (\$35/person) at [okc.gov/ProjectLife](http://okc.gov/ProjectLife). Project Life provides smoke alarms to homeowners within the OKC limits. A portion of the funds raised will also benefit Positive Tomorrows.

[okc.gov](http://okc.gov)

[fb.com/cityofokc](https://fb.com/cityofokc)

[@cityofokc](https://twitter.com/cityofokc)

[youtube.com/cityofokc](https://youtube.com/cityofokc)

[@cityofokc](https://instagram.com/cityofokc)

## Volunteer opportunity

Join the City's Storm Water Quality team Aug. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon for their Waterway Clean Sweep. It's a great way to give back by removing litter and debris from natural areas and along waterways. All supplies are provided. Community service verification letters available. Sign up at [okc.gov/WaterwayCleanSweep](http://okc.gov/WaterwayCleanSweep). For details, call Storm Water Outreach at (405) 297-1797 or email [StormWaterOutreach@okc.gov](mailto:StormWaterOutreach@okc.gov).

## Gorillas on the Line

Mining the metals used in electronics is a major factor in habitat loss affecting wild gorillas, and recycling is one way to help. Donate an old cell phone or other small electronics to the OKC Zoo as part of the Gorillas on the Line Cell Phone Challenge through Sept. 30 and receive free general Zoo admission. Drop off small electronics in the Zoo's Guest Services office to take part.

## Keep your pets cool

Keep your pets healthy this summer. Never leave your pet alone in the car. If you go on a walk, consider a cooling vest for your dog and always have fresh, clean water available. Set up a wading pool for supervised splashing at home. Treat your pets with frozen goodies like berries and carrots. Try this pet-friendly recipe: blend 1 cup of strawberries with 1/4 cup of water, pour into ice cube trays, add a dollop of xylitol-free peanut butter and freeze. Got extra ingredients? Donate them to the OKC Animal Shelter. For more info, visit [facebook.com/OKCAnimalWelfare](https://facebook.com/OKCAnimalWelfare).

## Rewarding careers

The City of Oklahoma City has career opportunities across 22 departments. Get paid to work at the pool this summer with a part-time job in OKC Parks, or search for your dream job at [okc.gov/careers](http://okc.gov/careers). Full-time employees enjoy a work-life balance with 11 regular holidays, 96 hours of vacation leave and 130 hours of sick leave a year. Learn more about job openings at [okc.gov/careers](http://okc.gov/careers) and never miss a chance to apply by signing up for Job Alerts.

## Cocktail Cruises

This summer, experience a relaxing Cocktail Cruise on the Oklahoma River. The Cruise departs from Regatta Landing at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., July - Aug. In September, there is one departure at 7 p.m. on Fridays & Saturdays. This an adult environment cruise. People under 21 are not allowed in the bar. Book at [okrivercruises.com](http://okrivercruises.com).

### Cruise tips:

- Consider a private charter for groups of 10 or more.
- Purchase tickets in advance: \$20/adults • \$15/ seniors & children under 12
- Concessions are sold on board (*soda, water and full cash bar*).

## Family Aquatic Centers

OKC Parks' aquatic centers are open.

### \$6 per person/per day

#### July 2 – Aug. 11

1-7 p.m., Tue-Thurs

1-8 p.m., Fri-Sat

1-6 p.m., Sun

#### Aug. 17–25

1-6 p.m., Sat & Sun only

#### Aug. 3 – Sept. 2

1-6 p.m.

Earlywine Family Aquatic Center  
SW 119 St. & May Ave.

Will Rogers Family Aquatic Center  
3201 N Grand Blvd.

## Report potholes

Help us improve our streets by reporting potholes to the Action Center:

**online** [okc.gov](http://okc.gov), find the "report it" button

**email** [action.center@okc.gov](mailto:action.center@okc.gov)

**call** (405) 297-2535, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., M - F

**text** (405) 252-1053

**tweet** @okcaction

**OKC Connect app**



## AUGUST EVENTS

### Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark

[okcbaseball.com](http://okcbaseball.com) • (405) 218-2100

6-11 OKC vs. Round Rock

20-25 OKC vs. El Paso

### Civic Center Music Hall

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

1-4 Cinderella

15 Bluey's Big Play, OKC Broadway

17 Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood:  
Asking for Trouble

23 Franco Escamilla "1995"

### Myriad Botanical Gardens

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

1 Zumba

8 Fall Vegetable Gardening

9-3 Breaking the Rules: Ike Bennet and Scott Gordon

17 Native Oklahoma Plants

19 Full Moon Bike Ride

24 Pressed Florals for Kids

31 Macrame Plant Hangers

### OKC Convention Center

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

3-4 Rubik's Cube Convention

10 Pakistan Day Event

### OKC Fairgrounds

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

3-4 Gypsy Soul Holistic Fair

11 Beauty Ball Hair Show

17 Pagan Pride Day

### Paycom Center

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

1 Aventura

3 Redneck Brawl 7 "Oklahoma vs. Texas"

11 Childish Gambino

14 Queens of R&B

17 Barry Manilow

18 Grupo Frontera

22 Luke Bryan

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