



# OKC NEWS

AUGUST 2024

## PARKS EVENTS

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

### Youth Acting (ages 7-12)

Sept. 4 • \$45 • Taylor Recreation Center, 1115 SW 70th St.

### Tech Help (ages 50+)

Sept. 4 • Free  
Will Rogers Senior Center, 3501 Pat Murphy Dr.

### OKC's Youth Hooked on Fishing (ages 5-15)

Sept. 7 • Free • Scissortail Park, 300 SW 7th St.

### Family Nature Hike

Sept. 7 • Free • Martin Nature Park, 5000 W Memorial Rd.

### Home Garden Design 101 for Beginners

Sept. 7 • \$5 • Will Rogers Gardens, 3400 NW 36th St.

### Adult Birding Hike

Sept. 14 • Free  
Martin Park Nature Center, 5000 W Memorial Rd.

## Residents Fire Academy

Join the OKC Fire Department for its 2024 Residents Fire Academy. Learn how they operate and respond to emergencies. Experience hands-on activities alongside firefighters, visit fire stations and ride in fire trucks to emergencies. The academy meets on Tuesday nights from Sept. 3-Oct. 22. This is not for those seeking employment with the OKCFD. For more information, visit [okc.gov/residents-fire-academy](http://okc.gov/residents-fire-academy).

## Housing discussion

The Oklahoma City Human Rights Commission invites you to join them at noon Sept. 25 to discuss housing in OKC. This meeting will expand on the HRC's July housing panel. The location is being finalized. For more information, visit [okc.gov/departments/city-clerk/meetings](http://okc.gov/departments/city-clerk/meetings). For questions, email [hrc@okc.gov](mailto:hrc@okc.gov).

SEPTEMBER IS

# EMSA care MONTH



You can enroll or change your participation in the EMSAcare program each September. EMSAcare provides permanent members of your household with emergency ambulance rides in the EMSA service area at 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, 2024, to Sept. 30, 2025, period. No action is needed 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. You can sign up or change your participation in the My OKC Utilities mobile app, by visiting [okcutilities.com](http://okcutilities.com) or by calling (405) 297-2833. For details go to [okc.gov/EMSAcare](http://okc.gov/EMSAcare).

## 250,000 RAPID riders

EMBARK's RAPID Northwest line hit a quarter of a million riders in July. Since the service's launch in December 2023, RAPID has averaged more than 1,100 riders per day. RAPID NW has 32 stop platforms, stretches 9.5 miles each way and integrates into the more extensive EMBARK transit network. The line travels through the downtown core and one of the region's most job-dense, high-traffic corridors. RAPID is composed of nine CNG vehicles with upgraded seating and amenities. It operates 365 days a year, with service at each stop every 12-15 minutes during peak service. Details at [embarkok.com/rapid](http://embarkok.com/rapid).

## An employer who cares

The City of OKC invests in their employee's personal and professional development. A career with the City means benefits like: great insurance, a pension plan, an employee medical center, online learning, and in-person development training. An Employee Assistance Program also provides free counseling and other resources. Start your career today at [okc.gov/careers](http://okc.gov/careers).

## Hotel tax election Aug. 27

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. The 3.75% increase is projected to bring in an additional \$11.6 million. Learn more at [okc.gov/HotelTax](http://okc.gov/HotelTax).

### How the tax will be spent

- 75% Tourism Promotion
- 13.3% Event Sponsorships
- 6.7% OKC Fairgrounds Improvements
- 5% OKC Convention Center Improvements

## Free landfill day

The City's Free Landfill Day is on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring an original, current City water bill or a copy of an e-bill to prove residency. Each household may bring one load using a passenger vehicle or truck (up to 1 ton) and one trailer up to 16 feet long. Commercial waste haulers not allowed.

Household hazardous waste, tires, oils, car batteries, propane tanks, pool chemicals, electronic waste and appliances containing freon or other refrigerants are NOT accepted. Learn more at [okc.gov/trash](http://okc.gov/trash).

### Participating landfills

- East Oak Landfill – 3201 Mosley 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)

## Drain pools properly

Did you know it's illegal to drain chlorinated and saltwater pools into storm drains and creeks? Pool water can pollute the water quality in surrounding creeks.

### Follow these steps to drain your pool:

1. Dechlorinate your pool by not treating it for 7-10 days. Use a pool test kit to verify.
2. Drain the pool directly into a sanitary sewer cleanout on your property.

If a sanitary sewer is unavailable, drain dechlorinated water to a grassy area on your property that will not flood a neighbor's property or pick up pollutants like fertilizers or pet waste.

## Fire Station 31

The Oklahoma City Fire Department broke ground on the new Fire Station 31, only a short distance from the existing Station 31 at 618 N Rockwell. The new station will house three fire truck bays, at least nine firefighters and room for future expansion as call volume increases. Estimated cost for the project is \$6.5 million, funded through the voter-approved Better Streets, Safer City bond project. Expected completion is summer 2025.

## Neighbors Night Out

Neighborhoods are encouraged to participate in Neighbors Night Out (NNO) on Tuesday, Sept. 10. NNO is a unique event where neighborhoods across the city host block parties, cookouts, ice cream socials and other activities with public safety officers. The event celebrates community spirit while working to prevent crime. Neighborhoods interested in participating can sign up at [nacok.org](http://nacok.org).

## Be careful in school zones

School starts this month. When entering a school zone, slow down and obey all traffic laws. Never text and drive 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 parking lots.

## New Martin Park hours

Martin Nature Park, 5000 W Memorial Rd., updated its hours as of July 1. Park Grounds (including trails, Fun Forest playground and picnic areas) are open 7 a.m.- 8 p.m., Wed.-Sun. and closed Mon. and Tues. The Visitor Center is open 9 a.m.- 5:30 p.m., Wed.-Sun. and closed Mon. and Tues.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### Labor Day, Sept. 2

- Closed: City offices, \*HHW, Animal Shelter, \*Municipal Court pay window.
- No trash or recycling pickup. Makeup day Wednesday, Sept. 4. Bulky waste pickup not affected.
- Free fare for bus, OKC Streetcar and *RAPID*.
  - OKC buses on a weekend schedule.
  - *RAPID* on a 30-minute frequency, 7 a.m. -7 p.m.
  - OKC Streetcar on a regular schedule.
  - EMBARK customer service closed.

\* *HHW: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.*

\* *Pay online at [okc.gov](http://okc.gov). For details about posting bonds, visit [okc.gov/courts](http://okc.gov/courts).*

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

### Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark

[okcbaseball.com](http://okcbaseball.com) | (405) 218-1000

3-8 OKC vs Sugar Land

10-15 OKC vs Tacoma

### Civic Center Music Hall

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

3-15 Moulin Rouge! The Musical

24 Avatar: The Last Airbender in Concert

25 Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse Live in Concert

26-29 Lizzie Borden

### Myriad Botanical Gardens

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

5 Ducks & Aquatic Plants

8 Summer Concerts at Myriad Gardens: R&B Night

14 Yoga

17 Full Moon Sound Bath

20 BOB: Dylan Meets Marley - A Gardens Tribute to Bob Dylan & Bob Marley

21 Migrating Monarchs 101

### OKC Convention Center

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

7-8 Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Championships

12-14 Ladies in Leather Motorcycle Rally & Parade

13-15 Oklahoma City Tattoo Festival

### OKC Fairgrounds

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

12-22 Oklahoma State Fair

### Paycom Center

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

11 Suicideboy\$

25 Theo Von: Return of the Rat

26 Hozier

27 WWE SmackDown

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