



OKC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024

PARKS EVENTS

To register, visit okc.gov/parks and select "Browse Programs."

Outdoor Adventure Camp

Oct. 14-18 • \$185
Sellers Recreation Center, 8301 S Villa Ave.

Kidz Rock Fall Break Camp

Oct. 14-18 • \$10 • Southern Oaks Recreation Center
6818 S Walker Ave.

Halloween Harvest

Oct. 31 • Free • Multiple Recreation Centers

Adaptive Nature Hike

Oct. 31 • Free
Martin Park Nature Park, 5000 W Memorial Rd.

EMSAcare

From Sept. 1-30, OKC residents can enroll or change participation in the EMSAcare program. The program provides permanent members of your household with emergency ambulance rides in the EMSA service area at no out-of-pocket cost, even without medical insurance. OKC residents can opt-in or out of the \$3.65 monthly membership for the Oct. 1, 2024, to Sept. 30, 2025, cycle. No action is required if you don't want to make a change. To make a change, visit okcutilities.com or call (405) 297-2833. Details at okc.gov/EMSAcare.

NE OKC bike lanes

A new bike lane on N Kelley Ave. is now open. This bike route connects streets like Springlake Dr., N Laird Ave. and Culbertson Dr. It's a connection to many core northeast OKC neighborhoods, along with several important community resources, such as the Metro Tech, Homeland and new MAPS 3 Health & Wellness Center.



INTRODUCING OKC'S NEWEST POLICE CHIEF

Ron C. Bacý

Oklahoma City Manager Craig Freeman announced in August the selection of Ron C. Bacý as Oklahoma City's 51st police chief. Bacý has been an Oklahoma City police officer for 32 years and served as one of the Police Department's five Deputy Chiefs. He succeeds former Police Chief Wade Gourley, who retired after 35 years with OKCPD, five years as chief. Bacý will oversee 1,235 uniformed officer positions, 558 other professional staff and the Police Department's \$286 million budget. Over the years, Bacý has served as a board member or volunteer for several organizations, including the Academy of Law & Public Safety at Douglass High School, the OSU-OKC Police Science Advisory Board, Oklahoma CASA and Stop the Violence OKC. Learn more about OKC's new police chief at okc.gov/police.

Free smoke alarms

This Fire Prevention Month, the Oklahoma City Fire Department wants to remind OKC homeowners they can request free smoke alarms. OKCFD comes to your home and installs the smoke alarms to ensure they are in the proper locations. Did you know that smoke, not the fire itself, is usually what causes people to die? The good news is that many of these fire deaths are preventable. If you have working smoke alarms in your home, you have at least a 50% greater chance of surviving a residential structure fire. Visit okc.gov/smokealarm or call 405-316-BEEP (2337) to schedule your free installation.

Haunt the Zoo

It's almost time for Haun the Zoo at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden. Haunt the Zoo, presented by News 9, brings trick-or-treaters across the state to show off their costumes and collect candy in a safe, welcoming environment. Come trick-or-treat on weekends in October from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Haunt the Zoo treat bags are required, and are \$8/bag or \$7/bag for members. No fake weapons or full-face masks allowed. Visit okczoo.org for more information.

Clean out the garage

Are old paint cans, pesticides, dead batteries, or pool chemicals taking up space in your garage? OKC residents can safely dispose of these items and more at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at 1621 S Portland Ave. Use the quick, simple drive-through service by showing your current OKC water bill as proof of residency. The Center is open Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.- 6 p.m., and Saturday, 8:30-11:30 a.m. For a list of all accepted items, visit okc.gov/hhw or call (405) 682-7038.

TSA PreCheck

OKC travelers can now enroll in the Transportation Security Administration's TSA PreCheck with CLEAR onsite at Will Rogers World Airport. CLEAR is an authorized TSA PreCheck enrollment provider that speeds up the airport security process for travelers. Travelers can enroll at the CLEAR kiosks at the security level of WRWA's Main Terminal. The service is available from 6 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday through Friday, and 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday. Travelers do not need an appointment to enroll.

Hiring event coming soon

The City of OKC will host a virtual hiring event this November through Zoom. Attendance is free, and registration opens this month. Participants will learn about the City's work culture, employee benefits and department openings. Visit okc.gov/careers for details or to start an application. Don't forget to sign up for Job Alerts to get email notifications when new positions open.

Volunteer opportunity

Join the City's Storm Water Quality team Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. - noon for their Waterway Clean Sweep volunteer program. It's a great way to give back to your community by removing trash and debris from natural areas and along waterways. Supplies are provided. Community service verification letters are also available. Sign up at okc.gov/waterwaycleansweep. Contact Storm Water Outreach for details at (405) 297-1797 or stormwateroutreach@okc.gov.

Sports complex opens

Last month, OKC Parks and North OKC Soccer Club hosted a ribbon cutting for phase 1 of C.B. Cameron Park Sports Complex, located at 4000 NW 122nd St. The \$5 million complex, funded through the Better Streets, Safer City bond program, features five new rectangular athletic fields, restrooms, concessions, field lighting, parking and a new entrance on NW 122nd St. Future phases include an investment from MAPS 4 and private contributions that will add more fields and amenities in 2025.

Hefner breaks ground

OKC broke ground on a new 18,000-square-foot clubhouse at Lake Hefner Golf Club, 4491 S Lake Hefner Dr., last month. The clubhouse will include a golf shop, locker rooms, grab-and-go food/drink area and full-service restaurant with panoramic Lake Hefner views. The existing golf courses and clubhouse will remain open during construction. The clubhouse is expected to open in 2026.

Haunt the River

Join Oklahoma River Cruises for Haunt the River. Enjoy the decorated boat, haunted tunes, light snacks, costume contest and cash bar. This cruise boards at 7:45 p.m. on Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26. Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in advance. Must be 21 and older to attend. Visit okrivercruises.com or call (405) 702-7755 for more information.

Key to Home

The Key to Home Partnership, an initiative of the City of OKC focused on addressing homelessness, is making strides in reducing long-term, unsheltered homelessness. The Partnership set a goal to house 500 individuals by the end of 2025 through an Encampment Rehousing Initiative. Through this initiative, services are brought to encampments with the goal of housing everyone within 4-6 weeks. To date, the Partnership has housed 214 individuals who were sleeping outside. Each person housed is provided 12 months of supportive services. 91% of those offered have accepted housing. Learn more about the Key to Home Partnership and how you can help at keytohomeokc.org.

MAPS 4 BRT route

Oklahoma City Council approved a 17-mile route for the new MAPS 4 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor in northeast and south OKC. Key community destinations and employment hubs along the corridor include Metro Tech, Ralph Ellison Library, Automobile Alley, the Innovation District, Capitol Hill, INTEGRIS Southwest Medical Center and Oklahoma City Community College. The approved route, which could be constructed in two phases, will include 26 stop locations, each with a northbound and southbound station, and is projected to serve 2,700 weekday riders.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Civic Center Music Hall

okcciviccenter.com • (405) 594-8300

- 1-6 MJ the Musical, OKC Broadway
- 4 Sesame Street Live! Say Hello*
- 18-20 Peter Pan, OKC Ballet
- 20 An Evening with David Sedaris*
- 27 Loksi' Shaali'

*presented at Rose State College Hudiburg Center

Myriad Botanical Gardens

myriadgardens.org • (405) 445-7080

- 4-20 Pumpkinville: Mythical Creatures

OKC Convention Center

okcconventioncenter.com • (405) 768-4040

- 12 OKC Whiskey Riot
- 12 Time Travelers Vintage Expo
- 19 NEWBREED Jiu Jitsu
- 20 The Dance Effect

OKC Fairgrounds

okcfairgrounds.com • (405) 948-6700

- 5-12 Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show
- 5-6 OKC Brick Convention
- 12-13 Oklahoma Mushroom Festival
- 18-20 NAPHA National Show
- 18-20 OPHA Fall Color Classic
- 25-27 Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Show
- 26 Festival of Freaks

Paycom Center

paycomcenter.com • (405) 602-8700

- 9 Thunder vs Rockets
- 12-13 Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live Glow Party
- 17 Thunder vs Hawks
- 18 Chayanne
- 24 Grupo Firme
- 26 MercyMe

Full calendar of events at visitokc.com