



City Hall
111 N. Main
Owasso, OK 74055
Phone: 918-376-1500
Emergencies: 911

Calendar of Upcoming Events December 2009 - February 2010

Regular Council Meetings

109 N. Birch - 6:30 p.m.
December 1
December 15
January 5
January 19
February 2
February 16

Board of Adjustment

No meeting in December
January 26
February 23

Sales Tax Watchdog Committee

109 N Birch - 6:30 p.m.
January 25

Planning Commission

109 N Birch - 6:00 p.m.
December 7
January 11
February 8

Council Ward 5 Election

Filing dates
February 1-3
Election - March 2

2nd Annual Economic Summit

February 26
More information will be available soon on the City website.

Quality of Life Study

Over the next several months, the City of Owasso will be seeking citizen input into issues that residents believe impact their quality of life in Owasso. The study provides an opportunity to participate in shaping the future of our City.

Public meetings will be announced on the City website, through local media sources, utility bill inserts, the City Manager's report, the City News email list, Twitter and Code Red. Now is a great time to visit the City's website and sign up to receive news and updates via email and social media.

Owasso On The Web:

www.CityOfOwasso.com
www.BuyOwasso.com
www.BaileyRanchGolf.com

Facebook:

[Owasso Police](#)
[Buy Owasso](#)
[Strong Neighborhoods](#)

Twitter:

[@OwassoCity](#) [@OwassoSNI](#)
[@OwassoPD](#)
[@BuyOwasso](#)



City Council Meetings are open to the public. Regular meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 109 N. Birch, in the Old Central building east of City Hall.

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

A list of meetings and agendas can be viewed on the City website, or if you prefer, can be emailed to you. Please contact Julie Stevens at jstevens@cityofowasso.com, or 376-1577.



City Connection

Winter, 2009

Holly Trolley

The Holly Trolley will roll through Owasso shopping centers again this year providing free rides to area shopping centers. Shoppers have the convenience of parking once and riding FREE all day. The Trolley will operate every Saturday until Christmas, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Santa will ride along from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm each Saturday.

City Office Holiday Closure

All City Offices will close

December 24
December 25
January 1

Police and Fire Departments remain open all holidays. Police and Fire dispatch is located at 111 N Main, north entrance. Utility crews can be reached for emergency during holidays at 643-9068.

Visit cityofowasso.com for any refuse schedule changes during the holidays.

Inside this issue:

- City Manager's Note **2**
- Councilor Corner **2**
- Department News **2**
- Employee Profile **3**
- Project Updates **3**
- Calendar of Events **4**

Buy Owasso Informs Citizens

The holiday season has begun and the inevitable after Christmas sales will be coming soon. This is a good time to be aware of the direct relationship between shopping



=



in Owasso and the City's ability to provide vital police, fire, street, and park services to our citizens. As new businesses have located in our community, and total annual retail sales have increased, there has been a corresponding increase in police and fire staffing, and additional annual street improvements.

The city's ability to maintain low crime rates, rapid ambulance response times and smooth streets depends directly on sales tax paid to

Owasso merchants, shops, and restaurants.

There is statistical reason to believe that about forty per-

cent of all purchases made by Owasso citizens are still being made out of town. It is important that citizens realize that their small purchases eventually add up to millions of dollars in sales tax. Those individual purchases added together will increase revenue to local merchants and would hire more police and firefighters, provide better traffic flow and enhance parks.

To help provide information, the City has created a new website that lists local mer-

chants, offers, special coupons and discounts, and shows how sales tax dollars have worked to build a better community.

Go to buyowasso.com to find out how you can help. If all residents made a stronger effort to Buy Owasso, a bag of groceries could help pay for a pothole repair, or a new washer/dryer purchase could help pay for an officer's protective clothing, and a meal in a local restaurant could help buy a new piece of park playground equipment.



Why Is The City Annual Audit Important To You?

The City of Owasso conducts an annual audit through the services of an independent auditing firm to vouch for the City's financial statements. Why is this important to you? An audit ensures full transparency of the City's financial affairs for citizens, providing a record of where your tax dollars are going.

Owasso established an Audit Committee comprised of local professional accountants who are committed to quality and excellence. The committee's purpose is to provide third party review of the audit report, and relate information to the City Council from the citizen's point of view. The responsibility of the independent auditors is to report control weak-

nesses, even if those weaknesses have no effect on the fair presentation of the financial statements. The result is an annual audit that leads to continuous improvements which are implemented to make the City's financial controls stronger.

The City's Finance department regularly institutes controls and procedures, reviews all spending, and generally acts as the City's internal auditor. However, the independent annual audit provides an extra measure of review resulting in increased confidence for citizens regarding the way tax dollars are allocated and expended.

The City publishes the annual audit on its website, and even though most citizens never review it, they can rest assured the report has been completed by an independent auditing firm, reviewed by a citizen's Audit Committee, followed by a review from the City Council.

Through the establishment of an independent Audit Committee, citizens can be assured its local governing body aspires to achieve "excellence" in the common goals of quality of service, accountability and transparency. The annual audit for FY08-09 will be completed by December 15 and available online by December 18, 2009.

Ice and Snow can impact Refuse Routes

Winter weather can present unique challenges in the collection of refuse in Owasso. During snow and ice conditions, it may occasionally be too hazardous for refuse trucks to enter neighborhoods. If inclement weather hits Owasso, visit the city's website to receive updated information on refuse pickup delays or changes. www.cityofowasso.com Or call 272-4959

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

- Anne Bradstreet



Komma Grocery, current site of Owasso Historic Museum

Visit the Owasso Museum to learn more about Owasso's history.

26 South Main
Tu-Fri 12pm - 4pm
Sat 10am - 4pm

272-4966

CITY MANAGER'S NOTE

In January, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation will begin the construction of a twenty million dollar widening project on US 169. The initial project will include adding two lanes to the inside median between I-244 north to the approximate mid-point between E. 46th Street North and E. 56th Street North. This project begins what city officials hope will be a widening of the Owasso Expressway all the way to 116th Street North. In fact, the E. 76th Street overpass is now listed on the ODOT Transportation Plan as the next US 169 project to be undertaken.

The widening of US 169, including new bridges at Bird Creek and new overpasses on E. 76th Street, E. 86th Street, and N. 129th East Avenue has been a top transportation priority for Owasso since the completion of the I-244 and US 169 interchange. Heavy traffic, a

growing community, and new Owasso retail opportunities have made this project critical to the safe flow of traffic.

While the details of the construction schedule are yet to be finalized, it appears that the contract awarded to Becco Construction will allow approximately one year for the 5.5 mile project. That means users can expect delays; but the final result will be less congestion, less pollution, decreased commute times, and a safer drive.

US Senator Jim Inhofe; ODOT Director and State Secretary of Transportation, Gary Ridley; Division 8 Engineer, Randall White; Congressman John Sullivan; and County Commissioner John Smaligo were key participants in getting this project approved and awarded.

COUNCIL CORNER



Bryan Stovall is Councilor for Ward 1 and has served on the City Council since May 2009.

Councilor Stovall has been a resident of Owasso since 1977 and graduated from Owasso High School. He has

seen many changes in Owasso since first moving here. He recalls that the Highway 169 overpass at East 86th St North was built during his senior year in high school.

Councilor Stovall is married to Nicole and they are parents of triplet sons, age 4 years. Bryan enjoys time with his family camping, boating, and visiting Owasso parks, especially Funtastic Island.

He received a degree from Northeastern Oklahoma and works in Owasso as a real estate agent.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
The United States Bureau of the Census counts everyone living in the United States every ten years. The census will begin in Owasso April 1, 2010.

The census will only ask ten questions and takes less than ten minutes to complete. (Cont. Pg 3)

Character traits for December - February

Self Control - Rejecting wrong desires and doing what is right.

Punctuality - Showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time.

Resourcefulness - Finding practical uses for that which others would overlook or discard.

To learn more about the Owasso Character initiative, visit the city website at www.cityofowasso.com, or contact the Character Coordinator, Michele Dempster at 376-1535.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Census data is critical in determining locations for new hospitals, improving schools, building new roads, expanding public transportation options and creating new maps for emergency responders, to name a few.

For more census information visit www.2010.census.gov.

Centennial Park, provides a great outdoor activity for both children and adults, any time of year.

POLICE/FIRE

The Owasso Police and Fire Departments offer assistance to local motorists installing or checking the installation of child car seats the second Tuesday of each month. Safekids Tulsa has partnered with the Owasso Police and Fire departments to offer this service from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Fire Station #2 located at the intersection of E. 76th St. North and Cedar.

The Fire Department would remind citizens that alternative heating sources in homes are a major cause of winter fires.

Citizens can contact the Fire Department at 272-5253 or visit the website <http://homesafetycouncil.org> for more information on home heating safety.

PARKS

Winter doesn't have to mean staying indoors all the time. Oklahoma's temperate winter weather provides many mild days to get out and enjoy any of Owasso's beautiful parks. The addition of disc golf at

PUBLIC WORKS

The Streets Division has completed preparation of the snow and ice control

equipment and is stocked with salt and sand in readiness for the winter season. All main access routes inside city limits will be maintained in passable condition to ensure safe and orderly movement of emergency equipment, vehicle traffic and pedestrians through the city.

If you have any questions, call 918-272-4959. Please drive safely this winter season and remember to remain at least 150 feet behind the plow and spreader trucks.

PUBLIC PROJECTS

Wastewater Treatment Plant contract awarded. Construction starts January. **96th Regional Detention** Awarded and construction begins January.

East Access Road from 106th to 116th: Storm drainage complete. Completion expected March. **Traffic Signal Enhancement** Signal linking on E 86th 95% complete, and E 76th complete. Final - December **E 76th St N Sanitary Sewer Interceptor** - Awarded. Construction completion July 2011.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE



Officer Penny Hamrick has been with the City of Owasso Police Department since November 2006. Officer Hamrick is supported in her

career with the City by her husband and two children.

Officer Hamrick during the course of her patrol duties has successfully solved several serious crimes within the city. She is consistently praised by her co-workers and supervisors for her dependability and dedication to the job.

Officer Hamrick continues to

show strong commitment to the department, city, and community as a whole through her strong work ethic.

When asked what she most enjoys about her work at the City, Penny states "The greatest reward is responding to a call and knowing you made a difference in someone's life in the short time you were there".

Holiday Greenery Disposal



The Parks Department will be picking up trees and holiday greenery for those citizens who do not have the ability to transport their greenery to the Recycle Center. Trees will be picked up on:

- December 30
 - December 31
 - January 4
 - January 5
 - January 6
- between 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

For citizens who wish to dispose of their own holiday greenery, trees can be dropped off at the City's Recycle Center Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm or Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, at no charge.



Timmy and Cindy Art Program Celebrates 5 Years

Vice Mayor Doug Bonebrake joined Owasso school children in celebration of the Timmy and Cindy 5th birthday. The Timmy and Cindy Art initiative has grown substantially in the five years since its establishment. There are now 35 statues throughout the city.

For more information, or a map of Timmy and Cindy locations, visit cityofowasso.com and click on the Timmy & Cindy link.