

April 4th City Council Runoff Elections in Wards 1 and 3

At the March 7th primary, city council members in two wards were decided and runoffs are now scheduled for the other two. Nancy Olson won the seat for the two-year term in Ward 2; Stewart Shapiro was selected to fill the unexpired one-year term in Ward 2 and Mike Gossman will serve in Ward 4. The April 4 runoffs are between Stan Street and Bob Carter for Ward 1 and Walter Johnson and Leslie Owens for Ward 3.

**Meet Polly Shelton**

Polly is the assistant city clerk/utilities clerk. She oversees all billing operations and customer service for sewer and sanitation customers and fulfills the duties of the city clerk when she is not available. Polly just received her 20-year service pin, as she started working for the city in July, 1985. She enjoys going to estate sales on her

days off and gathers treasures, which is evident by the decor in her office. She has three grown children and one grandchild.

MacArthur Project Update

After a long delay, work on the MacArthur project is back in full swing at the 63rd Street intersection. The delays were a result of previously unknown conflicts with water lines that were in locations different than shown on record plans. Those water lines were in the way of the new storm drainage system forcing a redesign and extra coordination with the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Department. There were also some additional storm sewer lines discovered in the intersection that created some additional storm sewer design changes.

Work is currently in progress on all four corners of the intersection as the contractor is trying to get the underground drainage system installed as rapidly as possible so they can then begin repaving the intersection. We understand the work at the 63rd Street intersection is a great inconvenience and we appreciate your continued patience. Now that progress has resumed, we hope to see some new pavement at the intersection in the relatively near future.

Dumpster Days Continue on First Saturday of the Month

The Sanitation Department is continuing its big trash drop off service at the Public Works service area at 6045 NW 50 St. Arrive early on the first Saturday of the month where employees will accept oversized items from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until all the dumpsters are filled to capacity. Residents must bring photo identification and their Warr Acres utility bill. Certain items are prohibited including refrigerators (with Freon chlorofluorocarbons), oil, batteries, tires or paint. Call the sanitation department with questions, 491-6474.

Mayor Shares Information on Community Food Network

Share your time, save on food through Heartland SHARE program

Do you take the time to visit a homebound friend, make a dish for community dinners, or give of your time in some other way? If so, you can participate in Heartland Share, the community-minded food network. Now available through Putnam City United Methodist Church at 41st & MacArthur, each SHARE food package consists of frozen meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, and convenience foods. They can be purchased for \$22 AND two hours of volunteer service in your community.

Choosing where you volunteer is up to you (Scouts, school, child sports, church choir), any good deed qualifies for SHARE. Place orders during business hours at the church's administrative offices and pay by cash, check, EBT/food stamps, or online bank draft. Deadline for April orders is April 10; food will be distributed on April 22. For more information and to see April's menu, contact Shelley White, host site coordinator, at 787-1359, or visit www.heartlandshare.com.

City Meetings Televised on Cox Channel 20

Warr Acres citizens are encouraged to watch city meetings in person at City Hall or on Cox Channel 20. Minutes of official meetings are available to the public in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

Citizen Survey Results Announced

City Planning Consultant Wiley Rice last month announced results of the citizen survey. Responses rating services and facilities follow (from "Part 2" of the survey). A total of 767 surveys were returned, with an unprecedented rate of return in each ward (Ward 1, 31%; Ward 2, 25%; Ward 3, 20%; Ward 4, 21%).

Respondents were most pleased with these services, which garnered a majority of "excellent" and "good" rating responses: police protection (47% excellent; 41% good), fire protection (55% excellent; 42% good) and trash collection (44% excellent; 42% good).

"Good" ratings were the majority for: emergency medical service (51%), availability and quality of city drinking water (52%), sanitary sewer service (56%), accommodation and control of storm water runoff (56%), animal control (51%), park maintenance (63%), senior citizen programs (50%), park facilities (52%), street lighting (52%), building inspection (57%), zoning and other code enforcement (54%).

Categories receiving a majority of "good" ratings that also received a number of "excellent" or "fair" ratings included: property maintenance enforcement (41% good; 31% fair), customer service at City Hall (54% good; 32% excellent), convenient stores and services within city (37% good; 35% fair), appearance and condition of city business areas (45% good; 36% fair), and general appearance and condition of your neighborhood (55% good and 28% fair).

No services received a majority of respondents rating them as poor, although the following received significant "fair" and "poor" ratings: condition of streets (59% combined fair and poor ratings), pedestrian facilities - sidewalks, trails, etc. (65% combined fair and poor ratings) and recreational programs (61% combined fair and poor ratings).

These results of direct citizen input are being shared with city staff and also used to help determine priorities for infrastructure improvements.

Warr Acres Joins in Statewide Severe Weather Preparedness Program: McReady Oklahoma

Fire Chief Rob Carter is working with Warr Acres McDonald's locations (5850 NW 39 St. and 5812 Northwest Expressway) to help families prepare for emergencies. Informational materials focusing on floods, tornadoes, lightning, emergency preparedness and NOAA weather radios will be available, in addition to severe-weather themed tray liners and drive-thru bag stuffers. For more information, call Chief Carter at 789-5912.

General Fund Reflects Revenue from Sales Tax Increase

Excerpt from *The Oklahoman* on March 11, 2006...

Auditor Mike Crawford, of Crawford and Associates, told council members this week (March 7) that sales tax proceeds dropped 4.5 percent for fiscal year 2004-05, but the city's general fund is increasing with sales tax proceeds that started arriving in December. "I think it validated the need for that sales tax. This shows where we were headed," Crawford said. "It's just been a bad year."

Voters passed a 1-cent sales tax in May. Half of the tax proceeds are for capital improvements, while the remainder goes into the general fund.

"So far this fiscal year, it appears employees are keeping the city at its budget," Crawford said. "The city is 67 percent through the fiscal year, with 67 percent of revenue collected. Also, the city has made 67 percent of its projected expenditures for the fiscal year," Crawford said. The auditor said it is unusual for a city to be so precisely on budget.

Crawford said the city could add to its fund balance this year with the help of the new sales tax.

Helpful Contacts

City Hall
phone: 789-2892, fax: 787-5432

Police Department
9-1-1 or 789-0282

Fire Department
9-1-1 or 789-5912

Community Center, 789-9892
4301 Ann Arbor Ave.

Legal Division, 848-9396

Municipal Court, 495-3032

Animal Control
6045 NW 50 St.
789-9025 or 789-0282

Inspections, 789-2892

Putnam City Schools, 495-5200

Sanitation Department, 491-6474

Sewer Department, 491-6478

Street & Parks, 787-1404

Storm Shelters
NW 67 & Cherokee
NW 40 btwn MacArthur & Hammond
City Hall, 5930 NW 49