

UPCOMING EVENTS

Movies or Food Fest – Which Won?

At the end of November, the City of Bixby published a poll on Nextdoor.com and the Charley Young Event Park Facebook page requesting public assistance on the 2019 Charley Young Event Park schedule. We asked residents whether they would like to see Food Fest with Live Music on the First Friday Night of the month or Movies in the Park. The results are in and the winner is... BOTH! Food Fest won the Nextdoor poll with 70% of the vote while Movies in the Park won the Facebook poll with 67% of the vote. Several Food Fest dates and Movies in the Park will be added to the 2019 event calendar. Stay tuned for event dates.

Bixby Library Events: (20 E Breckenridge Ave)

Build-A-Reader Family Storytime (ages 0-5)

Monday, Jan. 7, 14, & 28 / 10:30-11 AM.

Stay & Play after storytime on Jan 28th / 11-11:30 AM.

Adult Book Discussion

Evening: Thursday, Jan 10 / 6:30-7:30 PM

Daytime: Wednesday, Jan 16 / 2-3 PM

Read "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles and join the lively discussion. Copies available at the library. Refreshments served.

Family Game Day (ages 5 and up)

Saturday, Jan 19 / 10:30 AM-noon / Board games, word games, and fun family activities.

Tangled Tuesday (teens-adults)

4th Tuesday of the month – Jan 22 / 6:30-7:30 PM / Love to knit or crochet, or want to learn? Join us. Please bring your own supplies.



2018 Winter Wonderland and the Christmas Train

CONNECTING WITH BIXBY

- Ever wonder how to report a pothole, downed street sign, or malfunctioning traffic light? It is easy to generate a work order with the City of Bixby. Either call 918-366-4430 or report a problem online at www.bixbyok.gov/report-issues/
- Nixle is a service offered by the City of Bixby to keep you up to date with emergency, advisory, and community information. Sign up to receive relevant information regarding streets, utilities, weather, traffic, community events, and more. Opt in to the service by texting your ZIP code to 888777 or sign up by visiting www.nixle.com/.
 - For Bixby event information text **BIXBYEVENTS** to **888777**.
 - For emergencies and important City information text **74008** to **888777**.
- Sign up for nextdoor.com
- Visit the Facebook pages for the City of Bixby, the Bixby Police and Fire Departments, the Bixby Public Library and the Charley Young Event Park for information and events.

Connect with the City of Bixby on BixbyOK.gov and www.Facebook.com/BixbyCity to stay informed on City events, updates on bond projects, and other information.

City Council Meetings:

- 6 PM / 2nd and 4th Mondays each month
 - City Council Chambers / Bixby Municipal Bldg. / 116 W Needles
- Council meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the City of Bixby website, BixbyOK.gov.

IMPORTANT CITY/SERVICES NUMBERS

General Information	918-366-4430
Start/stop/transfer service	918-366-4430
Billing inquiries	918-366-4430
Payment arrangements	918-366-4430
Fax	918-366-6373
After hours/emergency	918-366-8294
Okie Line Locate	800-522-6543
Oklahoma Natural Gas	800-664-5463
Public Service of Oklahoma	888-216-3523
Oklahoma Gas & Electric	800-272-9741
East Central Electric	918-756-0833
BTC Broadband	918-366-8000

THE BIXBY BEACON

The City of Bixby Newsletter

Volume IX, Issue I / Jan 2019

Lake Bixhoma Vegetation Management Pilot Program

The City of Bixby has begun a Vegetation Management Pilot Program at Lake Bixhoma. The pilot program utilizes goats to aid in clearing vegetation along the steep banks of the lake. The goal of the Pilot Program is to reduce spending while keeping weeds and brush cleared along the shoreline. The program will also reduce City Park Department labor time and eliminate expensive equipment needed to mow. The program is an environmentally friendly approach for weed control.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons / Nightflyer.

Vegetation management with goats.

The Vegetation Management Pilot Program officially kicked off on November 5th, 2018. The Parks Department began by building an enclosure for the goats. The Department obtained tee posts, fence panels, and then began delivering them to Lake Bixhoma. On November 10th, 2018 a loafing shed was installed to provide shelter for the goats in inclement weather. The initial layout of marking and clearing a fence line started November 14th, 2018. Once completed the enclosure will

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Goat shed installed by Lake Bixby

expand 1150 feet of shoreline. Cattle guards will be installed at the beginning of January after the fence completion. The proposed date for Phase 1 construction of the project is the middle of January.

Goats are often a top animal of choice for vegetation management. Goats require a minimum investment for start-up, have low expenditures for maintenance, and require only a moderate level of labor for animal management. Utilizing this eco-friendly program, the City of Bixby will be able to save tax dollars, while creating more space for fishing and lake activity.

Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation Project to Begin

The City of Bixby has received information from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) that the Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation Project will start in early January of 2019. Improvements on the Arkansas River Bridge include a joint repair and seal project. This will require traffic to be reduced to one lane northbound and one lane southbound. The contractor will begin making the joint repairs on the northbound lanes, then traffic lanes will be switched for joint repairs on the southbound lanes. The contract time is 90 calendar days.

Message boards have been placed alongside the roadway to alert drivers to upcoming changes. Drivers can sign up for Traffic Advisory emails to receive information on any daily lane closures once the project begins. To sign up for ODOT notifications, go to the main page of www.odot.org and find "Sign up for News and Alerts." Select the "Tulsa Metro" option to receive information on the Memorial Bridge and other local projects.

Memorial Drive in Bixby is a state highway (US 64) constructed by and primarily maintained by ODOT. We appreciate your patience as this necessary improvement project is completed in Bixby.

2020 U.S. Census Implements New Technology

The U.S. Constitution requires that each decade a count or a census is made of America's population. The next upcoming Census is in the year 2020. The census provides vital information to the City of Bixby. We rely on census data to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools, and emergency services. Businesses also utilize census data to decide where to open places to shop. Each year, the federal government distributes hundreds of billions of dollars to states and communities based on Census Bureau data.

In 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will be implementing new technology to make it easier than ever to respond to the census. For the first time, residents will be able to respond online, by phone, as well as by mail. The Bureau will use data that the public has already provided to reduce follow-up visits. The U.S. Census Bureau is currently working to build accurate address lists and a system to automate their field operations. The overall goal is to count everyone once, and only once all in the right place.

The census provides current facts and figures about America's people, places, and economy; however, Federal law protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects. The City of Bixby will provide reminders about key dates and upcoming Census activity. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

The census timeline: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/visualizations/2018/comm/2020-at-a-glance.pdf>

Protecting Our Water Quality, Part 2

Sewers clogged by grease build-up can lead to overflows. The cause—typically, residents or businesses dumping food waste down the sink disposal and washing dishes without cleaning out excess fats, oil and grease (F.O.G.). This month, the *Bixby Beacon* brings you **proper F.O.G. disposal** as the second installment of a series on what you can do to protect our environment by mitigating pollution in stormwater runoff. As sewage overflows onto yards and streets, it not only creates local health concerns and nuisance but also enters the storm drain system where the sewage is carried to our local lakes and streams. Increased sewer blockages and overflows lead to excessive and costly maintenance and can result in increased sewer fees.

DO NOT

- Dump cooking oil, poultry fat, and grease into the kitchen sink or toilet.
- Use hot water and soap to wash grease down the drain. Doing so, will cool and harden the grease in your pipes or in the sewer.
- Use cloth towels or rags to wipe greasy plates and/or dish water. When you wash them, the grease still ends up in the sewer.
- Put food scraps down the garbage disposal. It does not remove the grease, but instead only makes the pieces smaller. Even non-greasy food can clog your sewer line.

DO

- Place cooled cooking oil, poultry and meat fats in sealed, non-recyclable containers and discard with your regular garbage.
- Use paper towels to wipe residual grease or oil off of dishes, pots and pans before washing them.



Stormwater runoff does not flow to pollution treatment systems, it flows untreated to streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.



www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

www.stormwaterok.net