



Piedmont Parks & Recreation News

piedmontparksandrec.com

April 2014



Bicyclists, Runners, Walkers, and Equestrians

Anyone who enjoys walking, jogging, bicycling or horseback riding is encouraged to attend an informal meeting on Monday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. at city hall to share their comments, suggestions, and ideas about sidewalks and trails in Piedmont.

Comments and suggestions shared at the meeting will be used to create short- and long-range plans covering issues such as where trails and sidewalks should be built, when they should be built, and the priority given to them.

Whether or not a city has a master plan for creating sidewalks and trails can be a determining factor in whether or not the city receives grants or other funding to build them. Having a plan in place will help Piedmont qualify for sidewalk and trail grants as they, and a place to put them, become available.

So, start thinking... and make plans to attend the meeting on Monday, April 14th.

FAST FACTS

The percent of people between the ages of 16 and 24 with a driver's license peaked in 1983 and is now at it's lowest rate since 1963.

The average young person is driving 23% less and biking 24% more.

Consider this . . . Businesses locate where the young people are. The young people go where they find the lifestyle they want. If young people are looking for walkable and bikeable communities, what changes will Piedmont need to make in order to attract the young people that will attract new businesses to our community?

The Library is Looking for Green Thumbs

The library is looking for a few gardeners and volunteers that can get together to help design, plant, and/or maintain the flower-beds in front of the library. The plants will be provided. Contact Rhonda at the library at 373-9018 if you want to be part of this project.



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Piedmont Parks and Rec

VOTE - April 1
on changes to the city charter

City's Spring Cleanup

Dates: April 5 & 7 - 11. Details are online:
<http://piedmont-ok.gov/PDF/sprtrash.pdf>



Monarchs and Milkweeds

Monarchs are not nearly as plentiful as they were years ago. Monarchs east of the Rockies spend the winter in Mexico, and in 1991, about 70% of the wintering monarchs in Mexico froze to death as a result of three days of rain and sub-freezing temperatures. The use of insecticides and herbicides has eliminated much of their habitat, and the milkweed that monarchs depend on for survival is disappearing as developments are replacing meadows and prairies at a rate of 6000 acres per day. Most North Americans were very lucky to have seen even one monarch butterfly over the past few years.

In a good year, approximately 180-280 million monarchs start migrating, mate, and lay eggs along the way, and three or four generations later, their offspring will complete the round trip. Milkweed is needed along the entire route or monarchs will not survive. It takes more than one milkweed plant for each monarch since one monarch can lay 600 eggs, and one caterpillar can eat over 20 large leaves. Monarchs can smell milkweed plants up to 20 miles away and will seek them out.

For more information about monarchs, or to order a \$3 packet (150 seeds) of butterfly garden seeds, which include milkweed seeds, visit www.livemonarch.com.



There's lots of information on the Live Monarch website, including the life cycle of the monarch, how to tell if a monarch is male or female, how to fix a butterfly's wing, ideas for science projects, and more.

Another good website is www.MonarchWatch.org which offers a program through which you can certify your property as a Monarch Waystation habitat. Even if you are not interested in certifying your property, you'll find a great list of the gardening practices and the plants that will help attract butterflies to your yard.

When Lightning Strikes

Lightning often strikes outside an area of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. Lightning that forms at the top of an anvil cloud is positively charged and can have ten times more energy and reach greater distances than the negative lightning that forms lower in the clouds.

An average of 54 people are killed by lightning each year. The safest place to be during a thunderstorm is inside a secure building with four walls and a roof. Picnic pavilions, carports and tents are not secure locations. Inside, don't use running water, and stay away from corded phones (use of corded phones is the leading cause of lightning injuries). If you are outside and unable to get into a vehicle, move away from tall trees, power poles, and any other tall object. In an open area, crouch on the ground, tucking your head in order to make yourself as short as possible, and staying up on the balls of your feet in order to have as little contact as possible with a current traveling along the ground if a nearby object is struck.

Being struck by lightning can cause nervous system damage, broken bones, and loss of hearing or eyesight. It can leave burns in two places - where the lightning struck, and where the electricity left the body. It is not true that people struck by lightning carry an electrical charge that can shock those that touch them.

Source: AccuWeather.com

WOW! (Walking On Wednesdays)

Walking on Wednesdays, sponsored by the Piedmont Public Library and Piedmont Parks and Recreation, will begin on Wednesday, April 2, and continue through Wednesday, May 14.

Parks & Recreation volunteers will meet students after school at Piedmont Elementary and walk with them on the sidewalk to the Piedmont Library at 1129 Stout NW.

Once at the library, students can participate in crafts, games and other activities, read, use library resources, or work on homework. Parents can pick up their child any time before 5:00 p.m.

The walk will take place every Wednesday, rain or shine, except in cases of severe weather or an electrical storm, and parents are welcome to walk with their child.

Space is limited so pre-registration is required online at <http://piedmontparksandrec.com/wow.html>. The registration form needs to be submitted only once, but on the Wednesdays that your child walks, you **must** send a note to your child's teacher stating that your child will be walking to the library rather than going home the way he or she usually does.

For more information, contact:

Lyn Land, Parks & Recreation Coordinator, at 202-3984



Piedmont Legislative Breakfast

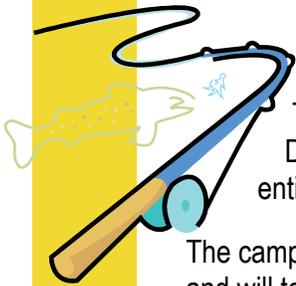
Enjoy a free hot breakfast and listen to legislative updates from your elected officials on Thursday, April 10 from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at city hall.

16th Annual Wildlife Youth Camp

Teens that are interested in hunting or fishing, or interested in a career with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, can apply to attend the annual Wildlife Youth Camp which is run entirely by employees of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

The camp will be held at Oklahoma University Biological Station at Lake Texoma from June 22 - 27, and will teach youth about the rewards of a career in wildlife as a game warden, fish and wildlife biologist, or even a communications or education specialist through courses on wildlife-related career opportunities, wildlife identification, wildlife law enforcement, archery, rifle and shotgun training, fishing, fisheries management, turkey and waterfowl hunting, law enforcement, management, ropes and swimming,

Teens interested in attending the Wildlife Youth Camp must be at least 14 years old but no older than 16 by June 22, 2014; fill out an online application; write a 75-word essay describing why they want to attend the camp, why they should be selected, and what they expect to learn; provide a letter of recommendation by someone other than a family member; and provide a recent photograph showing themselves participating in an outdoor-related event or activity. The entire application process can be completed online at <http://wildlifedepartment.com> any time through 4:30 pm on April 18, 2014. There is no registration fee to attend the camp.



April Community Calendar

Where friends meet!

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** (10:00 am) - Preschool Story Time for ages 2 & up, at the library, free, 373-9018
- 1, 15** (6:30 pm) - Essential Oils (for spring allergies on 1st, for spring cleaning on 15th) at the library, free, 397-9211
- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** (6:30 pm) - Knit & Crochet for all ages, at the library, come to learn or bring a project you're working on, free, 373-9018
- 2** (10:00 am) - Preschool Music and Movement with Alyssa, for ages 2 & up, at the library, free, 373-9018
- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** (noon) - Senior Adults lunch and fellowship at the Methodist church, \$3, for reservations call 373-2905
- 3** (noon) - Chamber of Commerce luncheon at city hall, Royce Young on "Blogging the OKC Thunder," free, optional lunch \$8, 373-2234
- 3, 10, 17, 24** (7:30-8:30 pm) - Zumba class at city hall, beginners welcome, \$3, 650-0229
- 5** (9:00-11:00 am) - Piedmont Recycling at former co-op, tires will be accepted this month only, 373-2905
- 8** (6:30 pm) - CC Tuff Riders 4-H equine program for 9-18 year olds, no horse required, at the library, free, 373-1387
- 9, 16, 23, 30** (10:00-noon) - Library Quilters for anyone interested in quilting, at the library, free, 373-1662
- 10** (7:00-8:00 am) - Quarterly Legislative Breakfast with elected officials, hot breakfast, at city hall, free, 373-2234
- 10** (6:30 pm) - LEGO Club for all ages, at the library, free, 373-9018
- 11, 18, 25** (10:00 am) - Mother Goose on the Loose for ages up to 3 years, at the library, free, 373-9018
- 11** (6:00-9:00 pm) - Stampin' Up beginner's class at city hall, \$7, bring double-sided tape, RSVP 535-8849
- 13** (10:45 am) - "The Easter Tree," children's Easter program, at the Nazarene church, 373-2308
- 14** (6:30 pm) - public input workshop at city hall for **BICYCLISTS, WALKERS, RUNNERS, & EQUESTRIANS** to discuss the need for & possible location of sidewalks and trails in Piedmont, 373-2621
- 17** (noon) - Brown Bag Book Club for adults, book: *Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman, at the library, free, 373-9018
- 17** (6:30 pm) - Piedmont 4-H for 9-18 year olds and Cloverbuds 5-8, at the library, free, 373-1387
- 17** (7:00 pm) - Maundy Thursday Worship Gathering at the Nazarene church, 373-2308
- 18** (7:00 pm) - Good Friday Worship Gathering at the Nazarene church, 373-2308
- 19** (2:00 pm) - Easter Egg Hunt at Windmill Park pavilion sponsored by the Nazarene church, free, 373-2308
- 20** (10:45 am) - Easter Sunday Worship Gathering at the Nazarene church, 373-2308
- 24** (11:00 am) - Spring Cleaning with Essential Oils, at the library, free, 397-9211
- 24** (6:30 pm) - Ladies Night at the library, conversation & snacks, craft is a chevron t-shirt, for adults, free, 373-9018
- 25** (6:00-9:00 pm) - Stampin' Up card class at city hall, \$12, bring double-sided tape, RSVP 535-8849
- 27** (2:00 pm) - Playday at Round-Up Club Arena, fees of \$7-\$20 vary by event, free to watch, 627-7437

An expanded version of the calendar is online at PiedmontParksAndRec.com
A Piedmont map of community events is online at PiedmontParksAndRec.com/map.pdf