

01 SAVE OUR STREAMS

KEEP STORM DRAINS POLLUTANT-FREE


Tulsa's storm drain system includes the curbside drains you see on our streets. These drains collect rainwater and route it directly into local creeks, lakes, and rivers without being cleaned or treated first. That's why it's so important to prevent pollutants from entering the system.

City crews monitor storm drains for pollution and regularly remove debris to prevent backups into streets and homes. It is illegal to introduce pollutants into the stormwater system. Pollutants include car fluids, soaps, lawn chemicals, leaves and grass, pet waste – anything that isn't pure rainwater.

It's critical to protect the quality of water flowing into the system and reduce the quantity when possible. You can help protect Tulsa's waterways and prevent flooding by following these simple steps:

- **Maintain your vehicle to prevent leaks and never pour used oil, antifreeze, pesticides, or other pollutants into a storm drain. Storm drains are for rain.**
- **Pick up pet waste and either flush it, bury it, or throw it in the trash. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that can wash into local waterways.**
- **Use a mulching mower or bag yard waste. Blowing grass and leaves into the street clogs storm drains and reduces oxygen in the water – oxygen fish need to survive.**
- **Apply fertilizers and pesticides properly. Read product labels for the correct timing and amount. Need help? Call the Master Gardener Hotline at (918) 746-3701 or visit www.tulsamastergardeners.org**
- **Pick up litter around your home or business to keep it from collecting on drains or clogging pipes.**
- **To report storm drain issues, including blockages, illegal dumping, or improper yard waste disposal, call 311 or email: Tulsa311@cityoftulsa.org**

Let's all do our part to protect Tulsa's streams and keep our neighborhoods safe and clean.



CITY LIFE

JANUARY 2026

IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE

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KEEP STREAMS CLEAN

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LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Grow your leadership skills by signing up for the Neighborhood Academy.

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FREE TAX PREP HELP

Volunteers are ready to assist low-income Tulsans with filling out their taxes.

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TULSA'S NIGHT COURT

Contact the Tulsa Municipal Court to verify if your citation qualifies.

+ PLUS: PREPARE TO BE SAFE IN WINTER STORMS.

WWW.CITYOFTULSA.ORG | TULSA311@CITYOFTULSA.ORG | CALL 311

CITY OF

TULSA



NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY

02 NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY

BECOME A VOICE FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Looking to grow your leadership skills or start a neighborhood association? The City of Tulsa's free Neighborhood Academy is designed to equip residents with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to make lasting, positive changes in their communities. Over time, neighborhoods can shift from the vision residents once had. This program helps neighbors reconnect, rebuild, and reimagine what's possible.

This three-session program is a nine-hour commitment that blends learning, networking, and direct access to City resources. Participants will receive exclusive materials, maps, templates, and guidance to use back home in their neighborhoods. Light snacks and refreshments are provided at each session.

Upcoming Academy Dates:

- **Sat., Feb. 28 | 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.**
- **Sat., March 28 | 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.**
- **Thurs., April 23 | 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Those who attend all three sessions will be recognized by City Council and the Mayor's Office as Neighborhood Certified Leaders. Graduates gain additional tools, connections with City departments, and a stronger voice in shaping future community projects. Deadline to register: **Saturday, January 31, 2026**

Learn more and sign up at cityoftulsa.org/neighborhoodacademy.



03 FREE TAX PREP HELP

AVAILABLE FOR LOW-INCOME TULSANS

For the 2025 tax season, the City of Tulsa Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth is continuing its partnership with Tulsa Responds and Goodwill Tulsa to help Tulsa's low-income households get their taxes filed for free.

Tulsa Responds and Goodwill Tulsa are currently looking for volunteers to participate in the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). Volunteers receive free tax training and certification so they can help residents prepare and file their returns. To sign up, call (918) 581-1227 or email kschultz@goodwilltulsa.org.

VITA volunteers help low-income households file their taxes for free to avoid paying tax preparation fees. Last year, Goodwill Tulsa and Tulsa Responds filed nearly 5,000 tax returns and brought over \$5 million back to Tulsa's taxpayers. They have doubled their goal to 10,000 returns for the 2025 tax season.

In Tulsa, households with incomes of \$69,000 or less may make appointments to meet with a VITA volunteer tax preparer at one of the available locations.

For details and to make an appointment, call (918) 581-1222 or (918) 900-0918 or go to www.GetYourRefundTulsa.org. For more information about Tulsa Responds and Goodwill Tulsa, visit www.tulsaresponds.org and www.goodwilltulsa.org.

WINTER PREPAREDNESS*

MAKE SAFETY YOUR TOP PRIORITY

Each year, Tulsa usually experiences a few winter storms with potentially hazardous conditions. Here are some steps for readiness in case of winter storms:

HAVE A PLAN:

- Discuss with your family what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued.
- Check that family, friends, neighbors, especially the elderly, are prepared.
- Remember your pets. Make sure they have food, water and shelter.
- Have your car winterized by checking antifreeze, washer blades, tire pressure, etc.

IF YOU MUST GO OUT IN A WINTER STORM, ASSEMBLE A KIT FOR YOUR CAR INCLUDING:

- Cell phone with extra battery or two-way radio
- Windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Rain gear and extra sets of dry clothing, mittens or gloves, socks and a cap
- Non-perishable snacks like dried fruit or nuts
- Bottled water
- Sand or cat litter for generating traction under wheels and a set of tire chains or traction mats
- Jumper cables, flashlight with extra batteries and first aid kit

*Sources: Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, www.ready.gov.



04 TULSA MUNICIPAL COURT

OPEN EXTENDED HOURS ON THURSDAYS

Tulsa Municipal Court began its Thursday Night Court in September 2023 to better serve citizens with municipal citations. This service helps citizens who cannot attend court during regular hours due to scheduling conflicts.

Thursday Night Court provides various services to help citizens efficiently resolve citations, including a cashier's window open after 5 p.m. on Thursdays for citation payments, extended hours for compliance letters, and cost administration for payment plans. Additionally, the court features three separate dockets at 4 p.m., 5 p.m., and 6 p.m. and offers a Spanish interpreter.

Citizens must contact Tulsa Municipal Court to verify if their citation qualifies for Night Court and schedule a date if applicable. Those with correctable citations should email their documents to nightcourt@cityoftulsa.org and obtain prior approval to confirm their scheduled court appearance.

Tulsa Municipal Court has also taken steps to enhance safety and security for attendees by improving the facility's outdoor lighting and offering free street parking after 5 p.m. on weekdays.

For questions or to schedule a Night Court appearance, call (918) 596-1625 during business hours or email nightcourt@cityoftulsa.org.