

# “The Piedmont Piece”

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## Park and Rec Calendar of Events

## Message from the Mayor

The search continues for a City Manger. After two months of interviews and meetings the City Council's choice to fill the vacant city manager position has come up empty. The position was presented to one of the finalists and unfortunately he turned the offer down. The Council must now regroup and decide on a new direction. I am still optimistic that we will name a new City Manager in the next 60 days.

Are full time paid firefighters on the horizon for Piedmont? I believe we are closer than most people think despite the recent set backs with the latest proposal. Our fire department is running consistently at least one call per day on average, and in many cases multiple calls. These men and women are doing it with no compensation and in some instances at their own financial hardship. Many of them are forced to leave work to protect our community in the face of an emergency. The basic proposal would allow the city to hire at least two full time employees who oversee the fire department. But it would also allow the city to provide

compensation to the volunteers for their service. There are still details that must be worked out in order to meet state laws governing fire departments. We have run into numerous roadblocks along the way, but I feel we are close to a proposal the citizens of Piedmont can decide upon. This proposal does come at a price to the citizens and that is why you will see this issue on a ballot in the near future. Currently we are weighing the options of how this money would be assessed.

Ultimately, it is hard to put a price on public safety, but we must be prudent in our approach. A balance must be struck between the community's public safety needs and our financial welfare. Before any plan is put on a ballot for your consideration it will be weighted against that theory.

Again, I would like to commend the members of the Vietnam Wall Committee who did an outstanding job. I am so proud of our community and the outpouring of volunteers for this event. I don't recall an event in our City's history that logged more volunteer hours than the Vietnam Wall event.

*Tickets on Sale at the Service Center for Hee Haw on September 26, \$10 for dinner tickets, and applications taken for those wishing to perform, 373-2044.*

*Tickets on sale at the Baptist Church for Focus on Parenting simulcast on November 14, discount tickets for \$40 for couples and \$20 for singles while supplies last, includes lunch, snack, and childcare, 373-2420.*

**1 (9:00 am - 11:00am) First Saturday Recycling** at former Co-op site, 373-2905.

**1,8,15,22,29 (10:00 - 2:00pm) Piedmont Historical Society Museum** open, free, 373-1424.

**1 (1:00 - 3:30 pm) Piedmont Area Rocketry Club** for anyone of any age interested in building and launching hobby rockets, at Civic Center, free, 488-5999.

**1-18 Free School Supplies for K through HS** students of low income residents. Must sign up in advance by calling the Service Center at 373-4022 (leave name, phone number, name of school, grade, and sex of child if you get the recording).

**3-7, 10-15 (10:00 - 3:00 pm) Angel Food Orders** can be placed in person at the Baptist Church (bring a large box), and picked up on Sat. Aug 22 (8:30—10:30 am) cash, money order, or food stamps, no checks please, 373-2420.

**5, 12, 19, 26 (10—3:00 pm) Senior Adults Lunch and fellowship** at the Methodist Church, cost is \$3, 3rd Wednesday is potluck and no charge if you bring a dish, reservations are appreciated, 373-2905.

**5 (10:00am) Preschool Music and Movement with Miss Bonnie** at the Library, children ages 2-5, free, 373-9018.

\*Calendar Continued on Back\*

## City Meeting Dates

Chamber of Commerce	6
Planning Commission @ 6:30	10
Parks and Recreation	17
City Council @ 7:00 pm	24

## Special points of interest:

- Don't forget to save your water bills this month for enrollment of your children for the 2009-2010 school year!
- Water Bills due the 15th! Call 373-2000 to find out about automatic draft.
- The CCR report will be available to pick up or view at City Hall beginning the 2nd week in August.

## From The Desk Of Clark Williams

What a great Fourth of July Celebration! Piedmont was honored by the visit of the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall. This is a traveling 3/4 replica of the Vietnam Wall located in Washington D.C. on the mall near the Lincoln Monument a tribute to all our American Servicemen and Servicewomen who paid the ultimate price defending our freedom. Vietnam Veterans and their families from far and near came to pay their tribute and remember their fallen loved ones and perhaps gain a bit of closure.

Brooke Kuns a member of our City Staff was very instrumental in the success of this undertaking and we would like to recognize her outstanding efforts and the diligent commitment of her time in supporting the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall visit. As we say in the Navy "Hat's Off" to the Oversight Committee, many volunteers, and all who gave unselfishly of their time and efforts to ensure this visit. This Navy veteran remembers all too well that time in his life and I for one am honored by the sacrifice and service of so many as well as those serving today. Thank you for your service! Remember the price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

Another product of the visit of the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall was the road and parking surface improvements made by Piedmont Schools. A thank you goes out to Piedmont Schools for providing the football field for the ceremonies.

Coincidentally, Piedmont at the same time received a great benefit from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) as they resurfaced Piedmont Road from Northwest Highway to Edmond Road. This added greatly to the appearance of the City. Many who I have visited with believe that

between twenty and thirty five thousand visited the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall—a benefit to Piedmont and its merchants.

No Hazard Mitigation planning meeting was held in June or July due to an issue raised by FEMA concerning the County's selection of a consultant and how they were chosen to do our hazard mitigation plans. \*article continued on back page\*

## Community Development News

The resurfacing work on Piedmont Road from 192nd to 206th commenced on July 31, 2009 with the placement of work signs. Equipment will move in the week of August 3, 2009 and the work should be completed in two (2) weeks, weather permitting. Haskell Lemon won the construction bid and is the contractor for the job. This is due to the use of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Funds act and managed by ODOT.

Building permits are still down as evidenced by the following information. In the year 2005 we had a total of 121 building permits filed, then in 2006 there were 108 building permits filed for the year. In 2007 84, then in 2008 the number declined to 52. So far for the year 2009 the City has only received 25 applications for building permits.

On August 11, 2009 the Oklahoma Water Resources Board will consider the City's funding request for the new sewer interceptor to be constructed from 164th east of Piedmont Road to the Oklahoma City sewer interceptor located south of 150th and east of Mustang Road. The funding request is for \$2,655,000.00 and initially the City could receive a grant for 20% of the

funding amount for \$531,000.00 with the possibility of receiving up to another 10% or \$265,500.00 based on how other funding requests are considered.

## Library Link

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Library's Summer Reading a big success! We had more than 450 children, 75 teens, and 50 adults participate in the reading program. Our weekly programs were attended by more than 2,000 kids and adults. We had fun painting, gluing, sewing, and creating all summer. Readers haven't yet collected their reading rewards are still welcome to do so through the middle of August. Weekly Preschool Story Time will resume Tuesday, August 18 at 10 am. Kids ages 2 through 5 and their grown-ups are invited to enjoy stories, songs, and finger-plays and dancing as well as a small snack and simple crafts.

Recent weather presented some challenges to the library as 3 of our 6 public access computers were damaged by the power surge. Hopefully, we will have them repaired or replaced in the next few weeks, but in the meantime computer availability will be limited. Thanks to a grant from the federal government through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Piedmont Library has received funding for the updating or replacing of our circulation software. We are currently reviewing different systems. Whichever we choose, our new system will allow readers to reserve and renew books from home via the internet, as well as create their own booklists, write book reviews and suggest books for purchase.

## From the Fire Chief



Summers almost gone and school is about to begin. Hopefully everyone made it through the summer alright. As you all know, there have been some changes in the Fire Department this year. Our biggest project has been to endure some modifications, but rest assured, we are diligently trying to assemble a plan that is best for the town of Piedmont. We are trying to come up with the best way to provide the

the services needed as efficiently as possible. Piedmont is growing, despite the economy, and we are trying to grow with it. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions.

## Public Works Update



A few weeks ago, the PMA workers repaired a water leak on 234th between County Line Road and Council Road. This put Piedmont citizens without water for a few hours. The workers worked well into the evening to get the water restored to the town.

The easement between Adams Avenue NW and Jefferson Avenue NW was cleaned up this week also. The crew collected more than 5 truckloads of trash from this area. The

Public Works crew also did some repair work on their lawn mower trailer and lawn mowers to ensure they are able to keep the easements looking nice as always.

Our Public Works Supervisor, Bud Stuber, has also been conducting interviews for new public work crew members as one has recently left us. Please feel free to pick up an application at City Hall. Piedmont Crews mowed all City easements and other

city property this week. Meters were also read this month and monthly water statements were mailed out at the end of July. On the calendar for the next few weeks the crew will begin filling potholes as needed around the City as well as the requests taken at City Hall by the citizens.

Finally, the 2008 Annual Drinking Water report will be mailed out to all citizens and is also available at City Hall

## From the Police Chief



TO THE CITIZENS OF PIEDMONT: The Piedmont Police Department wishes to thank everyone who took part in the preparation, long hours, and dedication during the days of the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall was in Piedmont. Many volunteers worked hard to make this event a success. The Vietnam Veterans who visited The Wall saw how proud the community of Piedmont responded to their needs, and made all the visitors feel welcome. The Piedmont Police Department was very glad to be a part of this effort. Our officers spent much of their time assisting visitors

by giving directions and being available to help in any way possible. A most humbling experience was when so many people lined the sides of the Highway 66 from El Reno through Yukon, and then north to Piedmont along Highway 4. The 1,200 + motorcycles covering over seven miles were very impressive. Finally, our thanks must go to the Dignity Memorial Network led by Jeremy Sparks of Chapel Hill Funeral Services for making all of this possible for our community. We at the Piedmont Police Department are very fortunate to have been a small part of this experience. It will

always be remembered, and we were honored to do it.

# City of Piedmont

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## Employee Spotlight



Our employee spotlight this month is over Nancy Armstrong. Nancy is a native Oklahoman but lived in Ohio for 30 something years before moving back in 1995. Nancy worked for the Piedmont Police Department from November 2000 until August of 2007. Nancy then retired for a short time before returning to us in May of 2009 as our Administrative Assistant and Community Development Assistant. Nancy has 2 children, Aaron who lives in Moore and Nicole who lives in Oklahoma City. She also has 2 grandchildren, Caleb who is 5 and Madilynn who is 8 months old. In her free time Nancy enjoys shopping.

## From the Desk of Clark Williams Continued

At this point all future meetings are suspended until the County gets this matter fixed. Jerry Smith, Director, Emergency Management for Canadian County, conducted an emergency meeting with all parties Wednesday, July 1st in the Canadian County commissioners meeting room at 10:00 am where he "briefed" the respective Hazard Mitigation Planning leaders from the Cities and Towns in Canadian County. Jerry stated, "Rest assured this is nothing to get alarmed about at this point and the worse case may be a couple of months delay in the completion of the plan". The Hazard Mitigation Planning Project Consultancy is being re-bid due to FEMA guidelines regarding the large cost of the project for this County. We should know something by the end of August and/or September regarding the commencement of the planning process.

We are getting close to the start of our new Sewer interceptor construction. OWRB will review our funding request for approval August 11th. Once this approval is in place and easements are purchased, the bidding process may commence. Subject to easement acquisition, the City is looking to a fall and/pr late fall construction start. Work should be finished by the summer of 2010.

## Park and Recreation Calendar

**6 (11:00 am) - Dedication Ceremony and Burial** for items left at the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall, followed by a reception, at Civic Center, 373-2621.

**6 (noon) Chamber of Commerce** meeting at the Civic Center, guest are welcome, free, 373-2234.

**12, 19, 26 (10:00 am) - Library Quilters** for anyone interested in quilting, at the Library, free, 373-1662.

**13 (6:00 - 8:00pm) - Piedmont Parent Advocates**, for parents of kids with special educational needs, child care for \$2.50 per child with prior reservation, at Methodist Church, 373-1398.

**17 (7:00 pm) - A Time for Community Healing** for the loss of several Piedmont youth, at the High School, 721-3182.

**18, 25 (9:30 am) Preschool Story Time** at the Library, free, 373-9018

**18 (6:30—8:30 pm) Windmill Poets** at the Library, for anyone who likes to read or write poetry, free, 664-1963.

**30 (6:00 pm, exhibitions at 5:00 pm) Play Day at Round Up** Club Arena, cost is \$2.00—\$4.00, 373-9234.

This calendar is a project of the Piedmont Parks and Recreation Board. To have your event added to the Community Calendar, call 202-3984.

