

## 01 SAFE DRINKING WATER

TULSA'S MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE

The City of Tulsa works diligently to deliver safe drinking water to you and your family and joins the American Water Works Association in celebrating Drinking Water Week, May 3-9, 2020. The water that flows freely through your tap delivers many things no other water can deliver. What do you know about H2O?

**Public Health Protection:** Our first obligation is to provide water that is safe for consumption and protects the public health. In parts of the world without modern water systems, an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne diseases like cholera and dysentery. In contrast, stringent U.S. water regulations require water systems to regularly monitor for more than 100 contaminants and meet public health-based standards.

**Protecting the Source:** Sixty miles east of Tulsa you will find Lakes Spavinaw and Eucha. These lakes provide half of all water flowing throughout Tulsa. The other half comes from Lake Oologah 35 miles north of the city. High quality water begins at the source, and the Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority (TMUA) works diligently to protect these water sources. TMUA follows a Source Water Protection Plan to minimize phosphorus loading in our water sources that could turn into taste and odor concerns in finished water for our citizens.

**Renewing Our Infrastructure:** Tulsa's water system contains over 2,300 miles of water lines which were mostly built several decades ago. TMUA and the City of Tulsa are taking a proactive approach to replace degrading system infrastructure. Delaying investment in critical system components could result in disruptions that increase expenditures for repair and replacement. Degrading utility systems is a national trend, and Tulsa is doing its part to ensure that our utilities are maintained for present and future generations.

**Quality of Life:** Tap water is an essential part of our lives – we can hardly imagine a day without it. If the City of Tulsa didn't have a reliable source of water, how would we wash clothes or dishes, bathe, flush toilets, or water our yards? How would businesses operate? Some measures of a successful society depend on the accessibility of safe water, resulting in low mortality rates, economic diversity, productivity and public safety.



### IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE

#### 01 CITY HAS CLEAN WATER

Celebrate Drinking Water Week, May 3-9. Learn how H2O improves lives.

#### 03 TRY OUT THE NEW AERO

Tulsa Transit has launched its Bus Rapid Transit route on Peoria Avenue.

#### 02 DAM-LEVEE FAILURES

Know where flooding could occur. Flood insurance can protect your property.

#### 04 PREPARE FOR WEATHER

Build and register a safe room; take precautions for tornadoes, flooding.

+ PLUS: CALL OKIE BEFORE YOU DIG

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



## 02 DAM/LEVEE FAILURES

A POTENTIAL HAZARD TO SOME AREAS

Some low-lying areas of Tulsa are subject to flooding from failures in dams or levees. If you live or work in these inundation areas, or routinely drive through them, you should be aware of potential hazards and plan the best evacuation routes to keep your family safe. If you encounter a flooded road, turn around; don't drown. It's wise to make an emergency plan and emergency kit. See [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan) and [www.ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit)

Remain vigilant during inclement weather. Tune in to the local news media for information about potential flooding or dangers from dam or levee failures. Know your risk of flooding. For a map of these inundation areas and other regulatory floodplains, visit: <http://maps.cityoftulsa.org/floodplains>

Whether or not you live or own property in a floodplain, flood insurance is available to all Tulsans, and is required if you have a federally-backed mortgage on a property in the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) floodplain. Flood insurance can be purchased through the same insurance agent that handles your basic homeowner's insurance. Homeowner's insurance itself does not cover losses resulting from flooding; you need flood insurance.

If you have questions about floodplains, contact City of Tulsa Floodplain Administrator Michael Ling at (918) 596-7285.



### 03 BUS RAPID TRANSIT

#### AERO BRT ROUTE LAUNCHES ON PEORIA

Tulsa Transit and the City of Tulsa have officially launched the new Aero Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, which provides service along Peoria Avenue from 54th Street North to 81st Street South.

The Aero, which features 11 new buses and 52 modern stations, runs every 15 minutes during peak service on weekdays, every 20 minutes on Saturdays and every 30 minutes on Sundays.

The goal of the Aero BRT is to connect Tulsa residents to job opportunities, destinations and educational opportunities like never before.

In addition to predictable service, Aero offers amenities such as real-time electronic bus arrival displays at stations, level boarding, bike racks on the bus and at stations, and on-bus Wi-Fi.

The high-capacity transit line connects people to many major destinations around Tulsa, including downtown, Cherry Street, Brookside, Pearl District, Gathering Place, Tulsa Tech Peoria Campus, Shoppes on Peoria and Oral Roberts University.

Funding for the Peoria Aero BRT service comes from passage of the 2013 Improve Our Tulsa capital improvements package and the 2016 Vision Tulsa permanent transit tax.

For more information about the Aero BRT, visit:  
<http://aerobrt.tulsatransit.org>

### SAFE DIGGING MONTH

#### PIPELINE SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITY

April is National Safe Digging Month. Before you begin any outdoor projects this spring, consider the following information that can keep you and your neighborhood safe.

As you know, the City of Tulsa provides water, sewer and stormwater service through a network of underground pipes. Your private water and sewer lines connect to the City's system. When you combine these piping systems with the electric, natural gas and telecommunications networks, it's easy to see why utility lines can be damaged if not properly located before digging.

Call Before You Dig – please be cautious before you begin any construction project on your property. While digging, if you accidentally hit the utility networks buried underground, you could interrupt services that thousands of people depend on, and put yourself in danger as well. Whether you're planting a tree, or installing a deck or sprinkler system, state law requires calling 811 at least 48 hours before you plan to dig, to allow all utility line locations to be marked. There's no charge to you for this service.

The City of Tulsa and other member utilities participate in "Call Okie," the Oklahoma One-Call System, which locates and marks their underground infrastructure, including pipelines, cables and wires within 48 hours of a request.

The City of Tulsa encourages you to be safe and avoid costly repairs: plan ahead and call 811 to locate underground utilities prior to digging. For more information, please visit: [www.okie811.org](http://www.okie811.org)



### 04 SAFE ROOM BENEFITS

#### BE PREPARED FOR TORNADOES, FLOODS

To ensure safe construction and proper installation, safe rooms built or installed within the city of Tulsa are required to have a building permit before construction. This is particularly true when building or installing safe rooms in flood-prone areas.

Flood hazards are an important consideration when placing an above- or below-ground safe room in a new or existing home. Below-ground safe rooms must be designed to avoid accumulating water during the heavy rains that often accompany severe windstorms.

Homeowners should contact the City of Tulsa Permit Center at (918) 596-9456 to obtain a safe room building permit. City staff can help you determine what additional requirements or restrictions there may be for your safe room if your property is located in a floodplain.

If you already have a safe room at your home or office, you should consider participating in the City of Tulsa's Storm Shelter Registry. This registry provides information to emergency responders to help them locate citizens after a natural disaster such as a tornado. Having a registered safe room will provide emergency personnel with time-saving information should your safe room be blocked by debris.

You can register your safe room online with your City utility account number. To participate in the registry, go to [www.cityoftulsa.org](http://www.cityoftulsa.org) and search for "safe room." After registering, you can call the City of Tulsa Customer Care Center at 311 to request that Tulsa Fire Department personnel visit your home or business and obtain the exact GPS coordinates of your safe room.

Tornadoes are dangerous, but the severe storms and flash flooding that often accompany them can be just as dangerous. During a tornado warning, it is always best to use a safe room or shelter in place in a sturdy building with as many walls between you and the tornado as possible and at the lowest level of the house. If you are in a mobile home, find a sturdy building or preferably a safe room you can go to when the storm threatens and allow plenty of time to get to it. You should always avoid basements with a history of flooding.