



## 01 IT'S HIP TO SNIP

FEBRUARY IS SPAY/NEUTER MONTH

Every day in the United States, 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. Every day in the United States, 10,000 humans are born. These statistics show a main reason why so many animals are in shelters.

In 2019, Tulsa Animal Welfare took in 10,661 dogs and cats. While 5,952 of them went back to their homes, new families or rescue groups, 2,860 were humanely euthanized. You can help decrease the number of animals coming to our shelter by spaying or neutering your pet.

Benefits of spaying or neutering include:

- **Increase chances for longer, healthier lives**
- **Minimize risk of disease in reproductive organs**
- **Reduce aggressive behavior, including dog bites**
- **Lower desire to escape from home in search of a mate**
- **Owners avoid a citation for having an unsterilized animal in the City of Tulsa. Yes, it's the law in Tulsa to spay or neuter pets.**

Tulsa Animal Welfare does not offer spay/neuter services to the public. Consult a veterinarian or low-cost spay/neuter clinic. For more information, see: [www.TulsaAnimalWelfare.org](http://www.TulsaAnimalWelfare.org)

# CITY LIFE

FEBRUARY 2021

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## IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE

**01**

**SPAY OR NEUTER PETS**

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Dog, cat owners need to follow City ordinance, help control overpopulation.

**02**

**LISTEN FOR SIRENS**

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Find out about the sounds and meanings of Tulsa's emergency sirens.

**03**

**PREVENT BACKFLOW**

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Follow a few simple precautions to help protect from backflow.

**04**

**BULKY WASTE DISPOSAL**


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City offers curbside pickup of items too large to fit in a refuse cart.

**+ PLUS: KEEP FATS, OILS, GREASE OUT OF SEWERS**

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Tulsa  
A New Kind of Energy.

## 02 EMERGENCY SIRENS

LEARN WHAT TULSA'S SIRENS MEAN

Being prepared when disaster strikes helps save lives and property, prevent injury and decrease recovery costs. Knowing about warning sirens and understanding the different siren tones can help you take the right protective action.

Tulsa has 102 siren locations in and near the city, with each siren reaching an approximately one-mile radius. The sirens' tones are intended to warn people who are outdoors about severe weather and other civil emergency threats. Tulsa's warning sirens are tested live each Wednesday at noon, weather permitting. The sirens also are tested silently if we are unable to do live tests due to the weather.

### THREE TYPES OF SOUNDS

**Three-minute "steady, one-note" tone** – is activated when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning including the City of Tulsa. The tone also is activated if the National Weather Service forecasts 80 mph winds within 30 minutes of the City of Tulsa. This tone is steady, but may sound like it is changing due to changes in wind velocity and direction. Upon hearing the tornado warning/high-wind tone, citizens should seek shelter immediately and monitor weather radios and the broadcast media for further information.

**Three-minute "high-low" tone** – is activated when the National Weather Service issues a flood warning for the City of Tulsa, and/or City of Tulsa hydrologists, in coordination with the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency and first responders, have verified that flood waters are escaping creek or river channels and are threatening structures. Upon hearing the flood sirens, citizens should immediately move to higher ground and monitor weather radios and the broadcast media for further information. During any flood or high-water event, motorists should avoid driving through flood waters, and remember to "Turn Around Don't Drown."

**Three-minute "waving" tone** – is similar to the "wailing" sound made by police and fire vehicles and is used only to warn of nuclear attacks.

To hear what Tulsa's different types of warning sirens sound like, you can visit: [www.cityoftulsa.org/sirens](http://www.cityoftulsa.org/sirens)

## 03 BACKFLOW PREVENTION

### PROTECT OUR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

The City's Water and Sewer Department is dedicated to ensuring that the water delivered through the public water system to your home is safe to drink. However, situations outside of the City's control sometimes occur and can jeopardize the quality of your drinking water by allowing backflow into the public water system.

Backflow is the reverse flow of water from a plumbing system back into the public water system. Cross-connections are connections between the public water system and anything else that could allow the backflow of foreign materials into the system.

Backflow occurs because of backsiphoning or backpressure. Backsiphoning happens when there is a loss of pressure in the water system and something foreign is sucked back into the water supply. Backpressure occurs when the pressure in premise plumbing is greater than the pressure coming in from the water main.

Follow these simple precautions to help protect our drinking water system from backflow events:

- **Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks or other containers.**
- **Always keep hose ends clear of possible contaminants. An air gap of 2 inches or more between the hose end and the receptacle is the safest and simplest way to prevent backflow and backsiphoning.**
- **Don't tamper with the temperature and pressure valves on hot water tanks. These valves will discharge when there is thermal expansion in the tank. Install a thermal expansion tank if necessary.**
- **Buy and install inexpensive backflow-prevention devices, called atmospheric vacuum breakers, for all threaded faucets around your home. These devices are readily available at hardware stores and home improvement centers.**
- **Don't use garden hose spray attachments to apply chemicals without using a backflow prevention device at the faucet. Lawn or cleaning chemicals are toxic, and many can be fatal if ingested.**

## TRAP THE GREASE

### AVOID COSTLY HOME PLUMBING BILLS

Fats, oils, and grease aren't just bad for your arteries; they are bad for the sewers, too. When food scraps are washed down the drain, the fat and grease from the food can build up in your sewer lines, causing raw sewage to back up into homes, businesses, and the environment. Anything with a fat content, including dairy products, salad dressings and cooking oils, can contribute to grease-clogged pipes. Avoid costly home plumbing bills by following these three simple steps:

1. **TRAP** bacon grease or meat drippings in a sealable container and toss in the trash.
2. **SCRAPE** all food scraps in the compost or trash.
3. **WIPE** all greasy, oily, creamy, or buttery food residues from dishes before you wash them.

*\* Running hot water and soap down the drain does not prevent grease build-up and blockages.*

You also can recycle your liquid cooking oils at the City's Household Pollutant Collection Facility, 4502 S. Galveston Ave. The facility is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information on proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease, visit: [www.TrapTheGreaseTulsa.com](http://www.TrapTheGreaseTulsa.com)

Despite all these preventive measures, if you see, hear or smell something you think might be a sewage overflow or backup, report it immediately by calling (918) 586-6999. The City of Tulsa has a customer service employee available around the clock and, if needed, a work crew is available to inspect and take action.



## 04 TRY BULKY WASTE PICK-UP

### USE FOR ITEMS TOO LARGE FOR CART

The City of Tulsa offers programs to help keep Tulsa beautiful. The Bulky Waste Pick-Up program allows for the collection of large or heavy items that do not fit inside the gray trash cart.

To schedule a bulky waste collection, call (918) 596-9777 at least two business days before your primary service day. The collection will occur on your primary service day. **The fee is \$10 per eight cubic yards.**

Bulky waste must be at the curb by 6 a.m., not within 3 feet of a fence or trash and recycling carts and away from vehicles, water or gas meters, telephone or cable boxes and not under power lines or trees.

#### ITEMS ACCEPTED:

- **Household appliances and furniture, including mattresses and sofas**
- **Electronic equipment such as televisions (limit 4), computers, and computer monitors**
- **Limbs, tree trimmings, and stumps cut to less than 5 feet long and less than 18 inches in diameter**
- **Remodeling debris from small projects performed by the resident at the address where materials are set out**
- **Tires, without rims - limit 4**
- **Latex paint – up to 10 gallons**
- **Glass - MUST be taped on both sides or separately contained**
- **Small items must be bundled or contained**

#### ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- **Automobile parts**
- **Batteries**
- **Liquids**
- **Poison**
- **Explosives**
- **Remodeling and demolition debris such as shingles, wallboard and lumber**
- **Loose glass**