LEGAL NOTICES

ORDINANCE NO. 2095

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2024 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AND AMENDING SECTION 98.001 , REGULATING AND GOVERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF BETHANY; AND REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced before the Bethany City Council on the 21 day of July, 2026, and was duly adopted and approved by the Mayor and City Council on the 21 day of July, 2026, and after compliance with notice requirements of the Open Meeting Law (25 OSA, Sections 301, et seq.)

/s/ Amanda Sandoval
MAYOR

ATTEST:
/s/ Michael Vaughn
CITY CLERK
(SEAL)

(Published in The Tribune July 31, 2026)
LPXLP

IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE MAXWELL WILLARD LONGACRE, JR., Deceased

CASE NO. PB-2026-206
SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE TO CREDITORS

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
ss.
COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA

All creditors having claims against Maxwell Willard Longacre, Jr., Deceased, are required to present the same with a description of all security interests and other collateral, if any, held by each creditor with respect to such claim, to the named Personal Representative at the address of the Attorney for the Personal Representative, set forth below, on or before the following presentment date: September 22, 2026, or the same will be forever barred. If the presentment date stated is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the presentment date shall be deemed to be the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Dated: July 22, 2026

/s/ David A. Carpenter
David A. Carpenter, Attorney for Lori Starr, Personal Representative of the Estate of Maxwell Willard Longacre, Jr., Deceased

David A. Carpenter,
OBA #1498
Grant A. Carpenter,
OBA #32368
Carpenter Law Firm
1437 S. Boulder Avenue,
Suite 1200
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119-3636
(918) 298-1001
Attorneys for Personal Representative

(Published in The Tribune July 31 and August 7, 2026)
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On August 13, 2026, at 6:15 p.m. the Bethany Board of Adjustment will during its regular session hold a public hearing at Bethany City Hall, 6700 NW 36th St., Bethany, OK 73008 for the following: Consider a request by Troy Rhodes, Applicant and Bethany First Church of the Nazarene, Property Owner, for a variance to § 153.16 of the Bethany Code of Ordinances, which stipulates that an illuminated sign shall not be located within 150 feet of a residential zoned property. At the location of 6900 NW 41st St.

The City of Bethany encourages participation from all its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, notification to the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48-hour rule if signing is not the necessary accommodation.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: BETHANY CITY ADD BLK 008 LOTS 1 THRU 16 EX S15FT OF LOT 9 THRU 11 and BETHANY CITY ADD BLK 006 LOTS 1 THRU 12 EX S28.5FT EXEMPT

(Published in The Tribune July 31, 2026)
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OSDE presents teacher certification data, new initiatives

Kevin Eagleson
Nondoc.com

Provided

Oklahoma State Department of Education staff members Jeff Smith and Autumn Kouba present teacher certification data and information at the State Board of Education meeting, July 23.

Oklahoma's number of education preparation program completions is still decreasing year-over-year, the number of first-year teachers with traditional certifications remains less than 50 percent and, for the fifth straight year, fewer than 90 percent of teachers statewide hold a traditional certification.

The numbers, presented at the July 23 meeting of the Oklahoma State Board of Education, illustrate an ongoing teacher shortage that has alarmed career educators like Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber) and spurred efforts to reverse course.

"I am not excited about those numbers. I do not think any of us are," said Lowe, chairman of the House Common Education Committee. "I think if you look at those numbers, you kind of understand where our test scores are, where they are at and why they have been there. It is just an unfortunate situation we are looking at. I think the light has been shined on the problem."

Lowe said he does not believe Oklahoma has an overwhelming number of "bad teachers," but he said more traditionally qualified teachers are needed

"We have really got to get qualified people teaching," Lowe said. "In any industry, you want qualified people doing the job, and so it is the same thing here. And this is such a critical one with our kids."

According to state data, less than half of first-year teachers since 2018 were traditionally certified. In 2018 and 2021, approximately a quarter of first-year teachers held emergency certifications, and approximately 30 percent held provisional certifications. Every other year since 2018, that data was essentially flipped, with at least a third of first-year teachers — up to 45.2 percent in 2024 — holding emergency certifications.

Similarly, the number of education preparation program completions has been on a downward trend since at least 2013, according to data presented to the State Board of Education last week. In 2013, 1,708 individuals completed an EPP. In 2024, 1,037 did so. From 2013 to 2024, there was, on average, a 4.41 percent decline in the number of EPP completions.

Beginning in 2018, the percentage of emergency-certified teachers began to balloon as the percentage of traditionally certified teachers constricted. In 2016 and 2017, less than 1.5 percent of teachers were emergency certified. In 2018, the number rose to 2.3 percent, and it peaked in 2024 at 6.4 percent. The number of emergency-certified teachers has begun to decrease, sitting at 4.6 percent as of October 2025.

'A retention problem': New initiatives aim to train teachers

Efforts are ongoing throughout the state to train and retain teachers. Alongside data on teacher certifications, Oklahoma State Department of Education staff presented information at the July 23 meeting on three initiatives aimed at improving teacher quality and helping aspiring teachers obtain a traditional certificate.

TeachForwardOK is a two-year pilot program created by Senate Bill 212, which flew through the Senate in 2025 but faced some opposition in the House during its floor vote. It ultimately passed. Concluding its first year, the program is serving about 450 emergency certified teachers and aspiring teachers as they pursue a traditional certification, OSDE staff said.

The program involves partnership with six higher education institutions, and two different pathways are offered. At the University of Central Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and Northeastern State University, emergency certified teachers can go through accelerated courses to obtain a traditional certificate. Meanwhile, Cameron University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University offer "apprenticeship-style" programs that allow "aspiring teachers and school employees to earn credentials while continuing to work."

According to a joint press release by OSDE and the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability, OEQA is funding and managing the programs at UCO, SWOSU, OSU and Cameron, while OSDE funds the work at NSU and OU.

"These partnerships meet two of our three priorities at OSDE: improving teacher recruitment and retention, and creating career pathways," Superintendent Lindel Fields said in the press release. "TeachForwardOK is proof that when individuals and organizations at all levels unite in the common cause of improving education in Oklahoma, we can have a positive impact on the entire system."

Secretary of Education Dan Hamlin, who is departing Oklahoma this summer, said in the press release that the effort "represents an important step toward ensuring that teachers holding emergency certifications receive high-quality training at no cost."

"This effort is a strong example of government-university collaboration in service of Oklahoma's teachers, schools and students," he said.

In an interview July 8, he was more candid.

"I think that is another huge initiative to kind of address the issue of having teachers who maybe have not had as much training as we would like them to have," Hamlin said.

OEQA executive director Michelle Seybolt said the program is "about creating more opportunities for Oklahomans to become outstanding teachers without lowering our expectations for quality."

Other efforts to address the teacher shortage and improve educator training are also underway.

Through the Oklahoma Educator Launch and Mentorship Initiative, 463 first- and second-year teachers are receiving a week of professional development — set to begin this week — and year-long mentorship from a retired teacher. The program had the capacity for 500 early-career teachers, but it did not receive that many applicants.

Autumn Kouba, OSDE's senior director of teacher recruitment and retention, said the timing of the professional development may have dissuaded some applicants.

"There is also the issue of the time in the summer when the institute is provided. It is the very end of July. The school year is starting earlier. So induction programs with districts, they are also starting that week," Kouba said. "This year was like, 'Let's get this out there, let's provide it.' Next year, if we have sustained funding, which we are hoping for, we can move those dates back to allow time for, you know, double dipping: They get the PD with us and the PD with their district."

In an interview after the July 23 state board meeting, Fields said he was "super excited" for the new educator mentorship initiative.

"They will help nearly 500 first- and second-year teachers get exposed to high-quality training and have a mentor throughout the year," Fields said. "I am convinced that, this time next year, we will be looking at data that says that program works and helps keep teachers. I think we have — it is not a recruitment problem, it is a retention problem, and programs like this are going to help with our teachers in Oklahoma."

According to Kouba, 79 retired teachers are serving as mentors in the initiative. They will "provide monthly observation and coaching through May."

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On August 13, 2026, at 6:15 p.m. the Bethany Board of Adjustment will during its regular session hold a public hearing at Bethany City Hall, 6700 NW 36th St., Bethany, OK 73008 for the following: Consider a request by Boomtown Sign Co, Applicant and Kevin Chambers, Property Owner, for a variance to § 153.16(D)(2)(a)(1) of the Bethany Code of Ordinances, which stipulates that in the CBD district, each tenant shall be allowed one building-mounted sign for each building elevation. At the location of 6800 NW 39th Expy.

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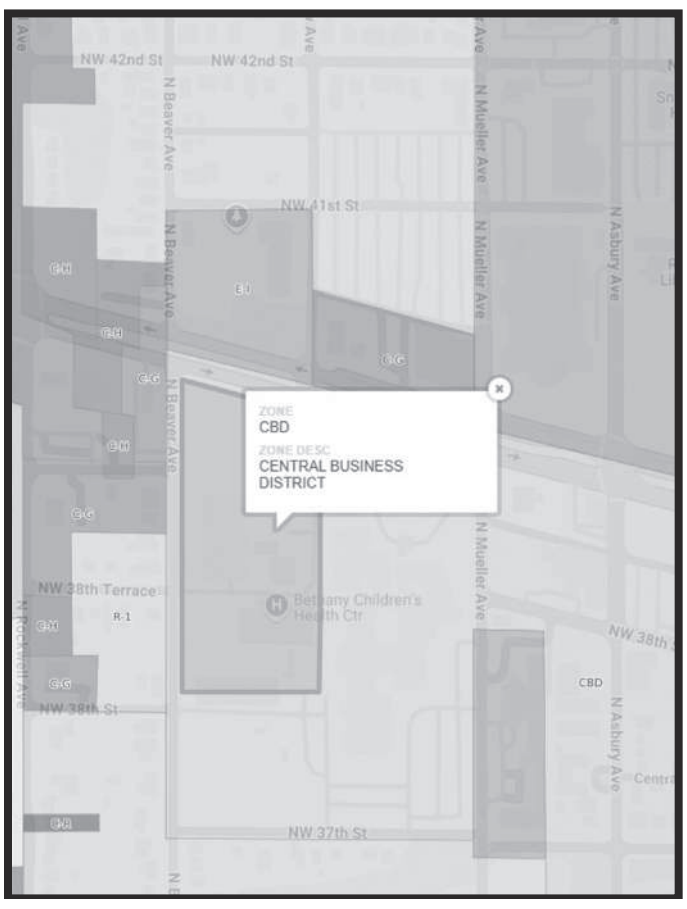
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: BETHANY CITY ADD 019 000 PT OF BLK 19 BEG 29.42FT S OF NW/C OF SD BLK TH SE438.23FT S703.01FT W403.32FT N812.14FT TO BEG

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