THE OKLAHOMA CITY METRO

Front Porch JOURNAL™

A LOCAL LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

OKC METRO GROUP
REAL ESTATE • LIFESTYLE • COMMUNITY

HOLIDAY ISSUE
NOVEMBER • DECEMBER • NEW YEAR
2026

The Most Wonderful Time to Call OKC Home

Thanksgiving in Oklahoma
Traditions, Giving, and Community

The Christmas Lights Centerfold
Metro Light Tours, Routes, and a Holiday Passport

A Seat at Every Table
The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, OKC Metro Group, and How You Can Help

A Fresh Start in OKC
New Year's Events, Ideas, and Inspiration for What's Next



From Our Home to Yours
LOCAL IDEAS, EVENTS, AND WAYS TO GIVE THIS SEASON

Doug and Ronnie

FROM OUR FRONT PORCH



From our front porch

There is something about the holidays that makes us appreciate home a little more.

Maybe it is the familiar smell of something wonderful cooking, the sound of friends arriving at the door, or the extra chair someone pulls up because there is always room for one more.

Those are the moments we remember.

Ronnie and I have been thinking about how fortunate we are to call the Oklahoma City metro home.

We have wonderful neighborhoods, generous people, creative local businesses, and traditions that bring us together year after year.

We wanted this special edition of Front Porch Journal to celebrate all of that.

Inside, you will find ideas for gathering around the table, places to enjoy Christmas lights, ways to give back, and a few reasons to fall in love with our community all over again.

We also included practical real estate conversations, because a home is often part of whatever new chapter life has in store.

Whether you are hosting a houseful, enjoying a quiet holiday, or making plans for the year ahead, we hope these pages feel like a visit with friends.

Thank you for being part of our lives and allowing us to be part of yours.

Doug and Ronnie

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The best part of this season is sharing it.

From Thanksgiving tables and generous neighbors to sparkling Christmas lights and fresh beginnings, this holiday edition is a celebration of life across the Oklahoma City metro.

MARKET PERSPECTIVE

What we are seeing in OKC

One of the first questions friends ask us is, “So, how is the market?” We always smile, because the answer depends on the neighborhood, the home, and what someone hopes to accomplish.

Oklahoma City is not one giant real estate market.

A beautifully maintained home in Edmond may face different competition than a property in Yukon, Mustang, Moore, or an established Oklahoma City neighborhood.

Even two houses on the same street can attract different buyers based on condition, layout, and price.

What we are seeing is a more thoughtful conversation.

Buyers are paying attention to their complete monthly expenses, how much work a home needs, and whether the layout will serve them for years.

Sellers are asking better questions about preparation, timing, and how to stand out without overspending.

We like that. Good decisions begin with good information.

Before we recommend a price or a strategy, we look closely at the homes a buyer would compare with yours, not just a headline about the national market.



Our perspective: The right move is the one that makes sense for your life. A little planning and a candid conversation can make the whole process feel easier.

SELLER PERSPECTIVE



From our front porch: If a move is on your mind for 2027, give us a call. We can help you sort through the possibilities, even if you are months away from making a decision.

Beyond the market headlines

If you are thinking about selling after the holidays, this is a wonderful time to begin preparing without feeling rushed.

You do not have to renovate everything or make your house look like a model home. You simply want buyers to see how comfortable and cared for it can feel.

Start with the things that matter most: a welcoming entry, clean and bright rooms, repairs you have been meaning to finish, and spaces that are easy to walk through.

A thoughtful presentation helps buyers understand the home before they ever schedule a showing.

Pricing deserves just as much care. The best number is not necessarily the highest number someone suggests.

It is a strategy informed by comparable sales, competing listings, condition, and your goals.

We would rather have an honest conversation at the beginning than an uncomfortable surprise later.

And yes, people do buy homes during the holidays. Some are relocating for work, some have a change in family circumstances, and others simply find the right fit.

The calendar matters less than the combination of presentation, price, and preparation.

HOME / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION

THANKSGIVING



The beauty of gathering

We love a beautiful Thanksgiving table. The good china, the candles, the greenery, and a long table filled with dishes that have been made for years.

But what makes that room special is not the centerpiece. It is the people sitting around it.

Think about your favorite Thanksgiving memory.

Chances are, it involves someone laughing in the kitchen, a story that gets told every year, or a guest who felt so welcome that they stayed long after dessert.

That is the magic we want to bring into our homes.

For a table that feels elegant without being fussy, begin with layers. Use a simple runner, a few natural branches, low flowers, and warm candlelight.

Mix pieces you have collected over time. Leave enough room for the food and for everyone to see one another.

And please do not worry if everything is not perfect. Nobody remembers a napkin that was folded the wrong way. They remember how you made them feel.

HOME / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION

HOSTING

Make the feast feel effortless

Here is a little secret about hosting: the most relaxed gatherings usually begin with a plan that leaves room for surprises.

Decide which dishes are family favorites, which can be made ahead, and which guests would enjoy bringing something to share.

Set the table the evening before. Put serving pieces where you will need them, clear space for people to move through the kitchen, and create a separate spot for drinks.

On the day itself, those small decisions make a big difference.

If you are hosting a large group, do not feel obligated to serve every dish at once. A beautiful buffet can be every bit as welcoming as a formal dinner.

Keep centerpieces low enough for conversation, and give people comfortable places to settle after the meal.

We also love the idea of a handwritten place card with a short note of appreciation for each guest. It takes only a few minutes and makes people feel genuinely special.

Our favorite hosting rule: When the guests arrive, stop trying to make everything perfect. Pour a glass of something good, sit down, and enjoy the people you invited.



Make room for one more at the table.

GIVING



The simplest traditions become the sweetest memories.

Giving across the metro

One of the things we love most about the Oklahoma City metro is how people show up for one another.

During the holidays, there are opportunities to make a difference in Oklahoma City, Edmond, Yukon, Mustang, Moore, Norman, and all the communities in between.

Giving does not have to be complicated.

It might mean supporting a food pantry, helping a neighbor with transportation, volunteering at a community organization, or inviting someone who would otherwise spend the holiday alone.

Every act of kindness counts.

Before collecting food, clothing, or gifts, check what an organization actually needs.

A financial contribution may allow a food bank to purchase and distribute food more efficiently. Some groups need volunteers, while others have specific supply lists.

If you want to make it a family tradition, choose one cause together and talk about why it matters.

Children often remember the experience of helping just as much as the holiday gifts.

Something to try: Ask a few neighbors or friends to join you in one small giving project. Good things have a way of growing when people do them together.

REGIONAL FOOD BANK



A seat at every table

It is difficult to enjoy a holiday meal without thinking about the families who are wondering where their next one will come from.

That is why we wanted to give the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma a special place in this issue.

The organization works to address hunger in central and western Oklahoma through a network of community partners and programs.

Its work matters throughout the year, not only when the holidays arrive.

Families facing a difficult season, older adults on fixed incomes, and people dealing with unexpected expenses may all need a little extra support.

There are several ways to help. You can make a financial gift, explore volunteer opportunities, or share the organization’s resources with someone who may need them.

The best place to begin is the Regional Food Bank’s official website, where current needs and opportunities are listed.

At OKC Metro Group, community is not a marketing slogan. It is the people we work with, the neighborhoods we live in, and the friends we care about.

We are proud to encourage support for organizations doing meaningful work close to home.

HOME / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION

KINDNESS

A season of small kindnesses

The gifts we remember most are not always wrapped.

Sometimes they arrive as a warm meal left on a doorstep, a ride to an appointment, or a phone call that comes at exactly the right time.

This holiday season, think about the people who make your everyday life easier.

The teacher who stayed late, the neighbor who checked on your house, the person who always remembers your birthday, or the friend who has had a particularly difficult year.

A sincere note can mean more than an expensive gift.

There are simple ways to include the whole family. Deliver a treat to someone who works through the holidays. Check on an older neighbor after a winter storm.

Support a local nonprofit with a donation or a few hours of your time. And if you know someone spending the season alone, invite them to join you.

Kindness has a way of making a community feel smaller in the best possible way. It reminds us that we belong to one another.

A holiday thought: You do not have to do something grand to make someone feel seen. Sometimes the smallest gesture becomes the brightest part of their day.



Giving brings a community closer.

DECORATING



Deck the halls, beautifully

We are all for a little holiday sparkle.

But a home feels especially beautiful when the decorations reflect the people who live there, rather than a display someone copied from a catalog.

Start where people naturally gather.

A wreath on the front door, warm lights in the living room, and greenery along the dining table can set the mood without filling every corner.

Choose a few colors and textures you love, then let your favorite ornaments and keepsakes tell the rest of the story.

For an elegant look, mix natural elements with a touch of shine. Evergreen branches, velvet ribbon, glass ornaments, and candlelight make a lovely combination.

If you have a treasured collection, give it room to be noticed instead of crowding it with more decorations.

And remember the practical side. Keep walkways clear, check electrical cords, and place candles where they can be enjoyed safely.

Our favorite finishing touch: Turn down the overhead lights in the evening and let the tree, lamps, and a few candles create that wonderful holiday glow.

Small gestures can mean so much.

HOSPITALITY



The art of making room

You do not need a grand house to be a wonderful host.

Some of the most memorable evenings happen in modest living rooms, around kitchen islands, and on patios where everyone ends up talking long after dinner.

Think about comfort first. Is there a place for guests to set down a drink? Can people find a chair without moving half the furniture?

Is the lighting warm enough to make the room feel inviting? These small details often matter more than square footage.

If space is tight, borrow a few chairs, use a sideboard for serving, or rearrange the furniture to create better conversation areas.

A cozy gathering can feel especially personal because people are close enough to share stories and laughter.

And if your home looks different this year because of a move, a change in family, or a new chapter, give yourself permission to create new traditions.

The familiar feeling of the holidays comes from connection, not a particular floor plan.

HOME / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Christmas lights across the metro

There is something about driving through the Oklahoma City metro on a chilly December evening that makes us feel like kids again.

The music is on, the car is warm, and around the next corner there may be a house covered in thousands of lights.

Our favorite way to enjoy the season is to choose a few stops rather than trying to see everything in one night.

Downtown Oklahoma City and other metro communities often offer seasonal displays, festive gathering places, and special events.

Neighborhood streets can be just as memorable as a major attraction.

Make a little tradition out of it. Bring hot chocolate, let everyone pick a favorite holiday song, and stop somewhere local for dessert.

You can even ask each person to vote for the most creative display.

Because displays, dates, admission details, and traffic patterns change from year to year, check official event pages before heading out.

A quick look at the details will make the evening much more enjoyable.

Our tip: Pick one part of the metro each night. You will spend less time in traffic and more time enjoying the lights.



A home that feels like the holidays.

LIGHTS PASSPORT



Let the season sparkle.

Your holiday lights passport

A holiday lights tour can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. We suggest making it a little adventure with three kinds of stops.

The classic: Choose a favorite public display or a well-known neighborhood.

Arrive early enough to enjoy the atmosphere, and be considerate of residents if you are driving through residential streets.

The surprise: Take a different route home and look for the unexpected.

Sometimes the house with the handmade decorations or the street where every neighbor participates becomes the highlight of the night.

The sweet ending: Finish with a local coffee shop, bakery, or restaurant. There is something wonderful about warming up together and comparing favorite moments.

For families, keep a little list of what you spot: a giant snowman, a beautifully decorated tree, a rooftop Santa, or a display set to music.

It turns an ordinary drive into a memory.

Make it yours: Add one new neighborhood or community to your route every year. Before long, you will have a holiday tradition that belongs to your family.

HOLIDAY ROAD TRIP



A holiday lights road trip

If you have friends or family visiting Oklahoma City for the holidays, a lights tour is a lovely way to show them around.

Begin with dinner or an early snack, then head toward one of the metro’s seasonal attractions. Leave enough time for a relaxed drive through nearby neighborhoods.

We like building the evening around the people in the car. With little ones, an earlier start and a shorter route may be best.

With friends, a leisurely dinner followed by lights and dessert makes a wonderful night out.

If you are showing visitors around the metro, include a few places that tell the story of why you love living here.

Bring a blanket for each passenger, charge your phone, and check whether any attraction requires tickets or timed entry.

If the weather turns icy, save the adventure for another evening. The lights will be much more fun when everyone can relax.

Holiday road-trip rule: Leave room for an unplanned stop. Those are often the moments everyone talks about later.

HOME / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION

PERFORMING ARTS

The season takes the stage

A live holiday performance has a way of making the season feel special.

The music, the lights, the anticipation before the curtain rises, and the shared excitement in the audience all become part of the experience.

Oklahoma City has a vibrant arts community, and the holidays are a wonderful time to support local performers, theaters, and arts organizations.

Whether you enjoy a traditional concert, a festive stage production, or a family-friendly show, there is something especially memorable about spending an evening together.

Make a night of it. Choose a restaurant nearby, dress up a little if you feel like it, and arrive with time to enjoy the venue instead of rushing to your seats.

For visiting family, tickets to a performance can be a thoughtful alternative to another wrapped gift.

Schedules and productions vary, so check each venue’s official calendar for this season’s performances, ticket information, and accessibility details.

A gift idea: Give an experience you can enjoy together. The memory often lasts much longer than the present.



Make a night of it. Make a memory.

SHOPPING LOCAL



Good gifts come with local stories.

Shop local, give local

We have always believed that a great local business adds something special to a community.

It might be the shop owner who remembers your name, the restaurant that knows your favorite order, or the artist whose work becomes a treasured gift.

When you shop locally during the holidays, you are doing more than crossing names off a list.

You are supporting neighbors, jobs, and the personality of the places we call home.

Look for handmade pieces, locally roasted coffee, books, home accessories, specialty foods, or a gift card to a favorite neighborhood spot.

One of our favorite ideas is to build a gift basket around Oklahoma. Add something delicious, something useful, and something personal.

It is thoughtful, easy to customize, and a wonderful way to introduce out-of-town friends to local favorites.

Do not forget the experience gifts, either.

A dinner out, a class, a performance, or an afternoon exploring a neighborhood can create a memory that lasts long after the holidays.

From us: If you discover a wonderful small business this season, tell your friends. Word of mouth is one of the nicest gifts you can give.

HOLIDAY TABLE



The holiday table

Every family seems to have at least one dish that absolutely must appear on the holiday table.

Maybe it is a recipe written on a well-loved card, a dessert someone has made for decades, or a new favorite that earned its place last year.

We love the idea of building a menu around those meaningful dishes, then keeping the rest simple. Choose a few things you can prepare ahead of time.

Ask guests what they would enjoy bringing. A table full of food is wonderful, but a host who gets to sit down and enjoy it is even better.

For the setting, mix old and new. Use a treasured serving platter beside simple modern dishes. Add greenery, a few candles, and linens that feel special.

It is the combination of personal pieces that gives a table character.

And when the meal is over, let the conversation continue. Bring out coffee, slice another piece of pie, and enjoy the fact that everyone is together.

A sweet tradition: Ask a guest to write down the story behind a favorite recipe. Over time, you will create a collection that means far more than a cookbook.

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NEW CONSTRUCTION

New construction in OKC

There is something exciting about walking into a brand-new home. The fresh finishes, thoughtful floor plans, and possibility of making the space your own can be hard to resist.

But the most important questions are not always about countertops and cabinet colors.

We encourage buyers to think about everyday life. Where will everyone gather? Is there room for a home office or visiting family?

How does the kitchen work when several people are cooking? And what will the yard, storage, and maintenance feel like a few years from now?

Across the Oklahoma City metro, new construction offers a variety of neighborhoods, home styles, and lot sizes. The right choice depends on your priorities and budget.

We help buyers compare what is included, what costs extra, and how one builder’s offering differs from another.

Before your first visit, talk with us about representation. A builder’s on-site sales representative works for the builder, and registration requirements can vary.

We want you to understand the process before you walk through the door.

Our advice: Fall in love with how the home will live, not just how the model is decorated.



There is no one-size-fits-all way to feel at home.

BUILDING SMART



The right home fits the life you want.

Questions before you build

A model home is designed to inspire you, and it usually does a wonderful job. The important next step is finding out exactly what comes with the home you would be purchasing.

Ask which finishes and features are standard, which are upgrades, and how changes are priced.

Review the lot carefully, including drainage, orientation, access, and any neighborhood requirements.

Make sure you understand the construction timeline and what happens if materials, permits, or weather affect completion.

Warranty coverage is another conversation worth having early. Find out what is covered, how service requests are handled, and which inspections are permitted before closing.

Ask about the final walk-through and what happens if an item still needs attention.

Financing incentives can be helpful, but they deserve the same careful comparison as any other offer.

A good lender can explain the complete costs and any conditions attached to an incentive.

One more thing: Bring your questions. Lots of them. We would much rather answer everything now than have you discover an unpleasant surprise after you move in.

FINANCING



Financing your next move

We know mortgage conversations are not everyone’s favorite part of buying a home. But a good one can make the entire process feel much more comfortable.

It is easy to focus on the interest rate or the price on a listing. What matters most is how the full monthly expense fits your life.

That includes principal and interest, property taxes, insurance, and any applicable mortgage insurance or association dues.

You also want to leave room for maintenance and the things you enjoy doing.

Before touring homes, talk with a licensed lender about your options.

Ask for a clear explanation of estimated closing costs, down payment, lender fees, and the differences between loan programs.

If assistance programs or builder incentives are available, make sure you understand the eligibility rules and any tradeoffs.

We love helping buyers connect the numbers to real life. A home should be something you enjoy, not something that makes every other part of your budget stressful.

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BUYING

A better buying conversation

Before we start opening doors, we like to have a real conversation. Not just about bedrooms, bathrooms, and price, but about what home needs to do for you.

Do you want room for friends to gather? Are you hoping to travel more and spend less time maintaining a yard?

Do you need a quiet office, an accessible layout, or space for visiting family? The answers help us separate the must-haves from the nice-to-haves.

As we tour, we look beyond the first impression. We pay attention to storage, natural light, condition, traffic patterns, and the expenses that come with ownership.

A beautiful house is not automatically the right house.

When you find a place that feels promising, we will help you evaluate the property, the competition, and the contract terms.

We will explain what comes next, answer questions, and make sure you have time to make informed decisions.

Our promise: We are here to help you find a home that fits your life, not to talk you into one that does not.



Every new chapter deserves a thoughtful plan.

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RIGHTSIZING



Good questions lead to better decisions.

Rightsizing for what comes next

We have helped many people reach a point where they look around and say, “We love this house, but do we still need all of it?” That question can be the beginning of a really good conversation.

Rightsizing is not necessarily about moving into something smaller. It is about choosing a home that fits the life you want now.

Maybe you would enjoy less yard work, fewer stairs, more time to travel, or a place closer to family and friends.

Maybe you want a wonderful kitchen and entertaining space without rooms you rarely use.

Of course, leaving a longtime home can be emotional. Every closet, photograph, and piece of furniture may hold a memory. There is no reason to rush through that.

We encourage clients to start early, make thoughtful decisions, and involve family when it is helpful.

We can help you think through the timing, preparation, sale, and next purchase so the transition feels manageable.

Sometimes the best first step is simply talking about what you would like the next chapter to look like.

Our favorite way to describe it: Less of what you no longer need. More of what makes life wonderful.

RELATIONSHIPS



People first, always

Real estate has a way of bringing us into people’s lives at important moments. Sometimes it is an exciting first home, a growing family, or a long-awaited retirement.

Other times it is a difficult transition, an unexpected move, or the sale of a home filled with memories.

We never forget that there is a person behind every decision. A house may be the property we are discussing, but it is rarely the whole story.

People need good information, honest advice, patience, and someone who will answer the phone when they have a question.

That is the way Ronnie and I have always wanted to do business. We listen first. We explain the options.

We look out for the people who trust us, and we stay involved long after the paperwork is signed.

As we look toward a new year, we are especially grateful for the clients who have become friends and the friends who continue to introduce us to people they care about.

From our hearts: Thank you for trusting us with moments that matter. We do not take that responsibility lightly.

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NEW YEAR

New Year in Oklahoma City

There is something hopeful about the last evening of the year.

Whether you are dressing up for a night downtown, gathering with friends around a beautiful table, or staying home in your favorite pajamas, it feels good to celebrate everything the year has held.

Across the Oklahoma City metro, the season often brings special dinners, live entertainment, family activities, and festive places to gather.

The best plan is the one that suits the people you are with. You do not need an elaborate itinerary to make the night memorable.

If you are heading out, make reservations early, confirm event details with the venue, and arrange a safe ride home.

If you are staying in, create a little occasion of your own. Set out a favorite dessert, choose some music, and invite everyone to share one happy memory from the year.

We also love taking a moment to appreciate the people who made the year meaningful. A quick message to an old friend or a heartfelt toast can be the highlight of the evening.

Here is to 2027: More laughter, more good conversations, and more time with the people who make life special.



Sometimes a fresh start begins at home.

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FRESH START



The best celebrations are shared.

Make room for what matters

The beginning of a new year always brings plenty of advice about doing more, being better, and changing everything at once.

We prefer a gentler idea: make a little more room for what matters to you.

Maybe that means inviting friends over more often, exploring a neighborhood you have never visited, finally organizing the garage, or creating a cozy corner where you can enjoy your morning coffee.

Small changes can make everyday life feel surprisingly fresh.

Home plays a big part in that. Think about which spaces make you happy and which ones create unnecessary work.

A simple furniture rearrangement, a new lighting plan, or a weekend project may be all you need.

And if you are considering a larger move, there is no harm in beginning with questions rather than deadlines.

Ronnie and I believe a home should support the life you want to live. Sometimes that means staying exactly where you are and making it better.

Sometimes it means opening the door to something new.

A fresh-start thought: Choose one thing that will make your days easier or happier, and begin there.

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STAY CONNECTED



Stay connected all year

One of our favorite things about living in the Oklahoma City metro is that there is always something new to discover.

A restaurant you have never tried, a community event worth putting on the calendar, or a little local business you cannot wait to tell a friend about.

That is why we created MyOKCMetroLife Weekly. It is a friendly email filled with local happenings, weekend ideas, community discoveries, and occasional real estate perspective.

Think of it as a note from us to help you enjoy where you live, not another sales pitch in your inbox.

Front Porch Journal is our place for a deeper visit.

Here, we can share seasonal stories, thoughtful home advice, community spotlights, and the real estate conversations that matter to our friends and neighbors.

We would love for you to be part of both. You can explore the weekly newsletter and subscribe at the link below.

For future magazine updates, watch our website for the latest edition.

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From our home to yours

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your Oklahoma City story.
May your holidays be filled with the people and moments that matter most.



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