

CITY RECEIVES FAVORABLE RATINGS FROM MOODY'S, STANDARDS & POOR'S CREDIT AGENCIES

Moody's Investor Services' and Standard and Poor's newly-released Credit Rating report reaffirms the City of Broken Arrow's outstanding credit rating with each agency.

According to Moody's latest credit opinion, which gives the City an Aa2 rating, "reflects a sizeable tax base in the Tulsa metropolitan

area, and a history of satisfactory financial management with adequate, though somewhat narrow, reserves."

The rating also incorporates the city's exposure to variable rate debt and interest rate derivatives.

"We are very pleased the City has maintained its strong credit rating," said Mayor Craig Thurmond. "A favorable rating from two of the world's leading credit agencies provides investors, and the community, the confidence in the financial leadership and management of this municipality."

The Moody's report notes a substantial tax base located within the Tulsa Metropolitan Statistical Area, above average socioeconomic profile and a history of stable General Fund reserves as strengths.

The S&P rating also proved favorable with an AA-stable rating.

"A strong rating allows for a lower interest rate from banks and other financial institutions, which places the City in a stronger financial position," said City Finance Director Tom Caldwell. "The stronger the City's financial position, the more resources can be allocated to improve the City's infrastructure."

This report equates the AA-stable rating to the following:

- Adequate economy with participation in

STANDARD & POOR'S

MOODY'S

the Tulsa metropolitan statistical area (MSA);

- Adequate budgetary flexibility
- Adequate budgetary performance
- Adequate debt and liability profile
- Adequate management conditions
- Strong Institutional Framework

While the City's credit ratings are in good standing, there are still challenges ahead.

Like other Oklahoma cities, Broken Arrow is largely dependent on sales taxes as its main revenue stream based on the state constitution. In fiscal year 2011, sales taxes accounted for 52.7 percent of General Fund operating revenues. Overall, the city levies a 3 percent sales and use tax and designates 1.5 percent of the receipts to general purposes, 1 percent pledged to the municipal utility authority, and 0.5 percent designated for capital improvements.

"With such erratic revenue fluctuations, the City must continue to be cognizant of where tax-payer dollars are being spent," City Manager Moton said. "We must also continue to explore more resilient revenue streams that can enhance the City's ability to provide infrastructure and services. The City's management team will continue in its efforts to continue building the City's Emergency Reserve Fund, as well."

Despite the national economic downturn, the city's sales tax receipts have remained relatively strong, averaging 3.9 percent annually over the past five years. In fiscal year 2013, sales tax was 6.3 percent higher than the prior year's. The fiscal year 2014 budget included an increase of 4.5 percent.

2014 City holiday schedule

The city of Broken Arrow has announced its holiday schedule for 2014.

City offices will be closed Jan. 1 and on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 20.

Other holidays include Good Friday, April 18; Memorial Day, May 26; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, Sept. 1; Veteran's Day Nov. 11; Thanksgiving, Nov. 27 and 28; and Christmas, Dec. 25.

City employees will be off on those days, with the exception of some police and fire department personnel.

City hall and other city facilities will be closed.

On those holidays which fall on Monday, the curbside trash pickup schedule will be changed with Monday and Thursday customers having service on Tuesday and Thursday, and Tuesday and Friday customers on Wednesday and Friday.

When holidays fall on other days of the week, service will resume on the residents next scheduled day.



PREVENT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING DURING WINTER MONTHS

The City is encouraging residents to take the following precautions to prevent water lines from freezing.

1. Open any cabinet doors to allow warm air under the sink area.
2. Let water drip from faucets that are against outside walls. Moving water does not freeze as quickly as still water.
3. If you live in a mobile home, be sure the aprons are placed properly to prevent cold air from blowing under the structure.

4. Any pipes that are exposed to the cold need to be insulated to prevent freezing.

5. Be sure all garden hoses are unhooked from the outside faucet.

The Action Center will respond to calls involving water lines on the City's side of the meters.

If a problem persists on the residents side and into the house, the customer must correct the problem themselves or call a plumber to address the problem.



'Bring it On: the Musical' takes the stage Feb. 18

As part of The Spotlight Series, "Bring it On: The Musical" will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center, 701 S. Main St.

The musical, sponsored in part by the Broken Arrow Convention and Visitors Bureau, is biting relevant and sprinkled with sass.

Inspired by the "Bring It On" movie, this musical takes viewers on a high-flying journey through friendship, forgiveness and determination.

"Bring it On: The Musical" tells the story of the challenges and unexpected bonds formed

through the thrill of extreme competition.

With a colorful crew of characters, an exciting fresh sound and explosive dance with aerial stunts, this all-new story is sure to be everything you hoped for and nothing like you expected.

Tickets range in price from \$20-\$60.

Other sponsors include AVB Bank, Tulsa Teachers Credit Union, Cox Communications and First National Bank of Broken Arrow, SJS Hospitality, St. John Broken Arrow and Fox 23.

For more information or for tickets, call 918-259-5778 or visit www.thepacba.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1-28

Feb. 4 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

Feb. 6 — Broken Arrow Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

Feb. 11 — Downtown Advisory Board 4 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

Feb. 8 — Daddy Daughter Dance This year, 2 dances have been scheduled: 5-6:30 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m. Nienhuis Park Community Center, 3201 N. Ninth St. Do something special this year with your daughter by attending the Daddy/Daughter dance hosted by the City of Broken Arrow Parks Department. Tickets are \$5 each and will go on sale Jan. 2. Daughters must be 18 or younger. For more information, call 918-259-8437.

Feb. 18 — Bring it On: The Musical — 7:30 p.m., Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center, 701 S. Main St. Inspired by the "Bring It On" movie, this musical takes viewers on a high-flying journey through friendship, forgiveness and determination. Cost: \$20-\$60. For more information or for tickets, call 918-259-5778 or visit www.thepacba.com.

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Feb. 25 — Downtown Advisory Board 4 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.



DON'T FORGET! FOLLOW THE CITY OF BROKEN ARROW ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!



BAPD to offer free motorcycle course

The Broken Arrow Police Department will provide a motorcycle survival training course free to the public.

This course is designed to teach experienced riders how to survive riding on our roadways and is taught by seasoned, police motorcycle officers that know what it takes to stay safe on a motorcycle.

This course will teach participants:

- *Effective turning
- *Obstacle avoidance
- *Braking maneuvers
- *Clutch control techniques
- *Traffic strategies
- *Proper protective equipment
- *Motorcycle maintenance

Participants will learn a number of skills attending this six hour class while riding their own motorcycles. Anybody with motorcycle riding experience can attend this course. Regardless of your experience, participants will learn new techniques to take to the streets to survive the ride.

Four dates have been scheduled for 2014.

Course Date, Times, Location

- April 6 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Nienhuis Park, 3201 N. Ninth St.
- May 18 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Nienhuis Park, 3201 N. Ninth St.
- June 7 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Nienhuis Park, 3201 N. Ninth St.
- Sept. 14 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Nienhuis Park, 3201 N. Ninth St.

All participants are required to have a valid driver license with a motorcycle endorsement, as well as valid insurance on their motorcycle to attend the course.

Participants will be required to have a DOT approved helmet, gloves and proper apparel to attend the course.

The motorcycle cannot be smaller than a 250 cc or any type of scooter or three-wheeler.

Each class is limited to 25 participants. To register call (918) 259-6512 or visit www.brokenarrowok.gov.