

## Start Preparing for Tornado Season

While tornadoes can occur at any time of the year, emergency management officials agree that tornado season generally runs from March through August.

Make sure your family discusses where you will go to seek shelter. Developing a family communications plan is an important part of emergency planning. If you haven't assembled an emergency kit, now is the time to put one together.

It's important to monitor local weather reports via television, radio or a weather radio, when you know that severe weather is approaching.

Remember, A TORNADO WATCH means tornadoes are

possible. A TORNADO WARNING means a tornado has been sighted.

When a TORNADO WARNING is issued, take shelter in a basement, away from windows. If there is no basement, go to an interior room, like a closet, on the ground floor.

### **TORNADO SAFETY**

When a severe storm or tornado threatens, the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management wants you to know these basic guidelines:

**GET IN** - get as far inside a strong building as you can, away from doors and windows.

**GET DOWN** - get to the lowest floor.

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## Receive Free Weather Alert Notifications

Sign up to receive automated weather alerts from the National Weather Service. This free service is available when you create an account through Connect CTY (Blackboard Connect).

1. Go to [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov) and click on "Connect CTY". This will take you to a new webpage.
2. If you need to set up an account, click on "Sign Me Up".
3. Follow the instructions to receive alerts by phone, email and/or text. You may edit your subscription at any time.

The City of Broken Arrow uses the Connect CTY system to distribute mass notifications regarding emergencies, neighborhood meetings and other important information. By signing up for notifications, you'll stay connected and ready for any event.

## Bond Sale to Fund 2014, 2011 Construction Projects

The City of Broken Arrow recently completed the sale of \$14,880,000 in General Obligation (GO) bonds.

The staff recommended and City Council approved the 2014 list, based on contractual or other binding commitments to proceed with the project or complete it in the next year. The list of 2011 projects includes roadway improvements in four subdivisions where staff has determined the existing condition of the streets are in substantial disrepair. Plus, the improvements at Nienhuis Park will enhance the most heavily used facilities and expand recreational activities that do not currently exist.

### **Projects Authorized in 2014**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. 2004 Conference Center (Repurposed 2014)                 | \$5,855,000 |
| 2. 23rd Street Kenosha/Houston 5 lane (for right-of-way)    | \$650,000   |
| 3. 37th Street Omaha/Albany Improve to 3 Lanes              | \$4,200,000 |
| 4. 37th Street Regional Detention Facility                  | \$370,000   |
| 5. Drainage Improvements, near BAX/Elm Place Phase I and II | \$630,000   |

### **Projects Authorized in 2011**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 6. Henshaw Park with Concord to Aspen Rehabilitation and Resurfacing | \$600,000 |
| 7. Village Square Rehabilitation and Resurfacing                     | \$600,000 |
| 8. Leisure Park Rehabilitation and Resurfacing                       | \$700,000 |
| 9. Stacey Lynn 6 Rehabilitation and Resurfacing                      | \$500,000 |
| 10. Nienhuis Park Football/Tennis Courts/Outdoor Basketball          | \$775,000 |

The 2014 GO bond sale will not increase the ad valorem rate, which is used to calculate property taxes. The City is able to keep the ad valorem rate the same by issuing new bonds as old bonds are paid off.

Start dates for construction will vary because bids have yet to be received for most of these projects. City employees will work expeditiously to complete these projects within a reasonable time frame.

View a summary of all bond projects dating back to 1997 by visiting [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/bondprogress](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/bondprogress).

### Stay in touch!

[www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov)

City Hall  
220 S. First Street  
918-251-5311

Action Center 258-3587  
One Stop Center 259-2411

[www.facebook.com/CityofBA](http://www.facebook.com/CityofBA)  
[www.twitter.com/CityofBA](http://www.twitter.com/CityofBA)

### *Tornado, From page 1*

**COVER UP** - use whatever you can to protect yourself from flying or falling debris.

A reinforced underground storm shelter, storm cellar, enclosed basement or safe room are usually the safest places in a tornado. Underground shelters get you out of the way of flying and falling debris, which is a tornado's most lethal weapon.

If you cannot get underground, remember the basic guidelines. Get as far inside the strongest building you can find. Stay away from doors, windows and other openings to the outside. Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.

Get as low as you can. Go to the lowest floor of the building you're in.

Cover up to protect yourself from flying and falling debris. Use whatever you can find - pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, mattresses. Wearing a helmet or hardhat will help protect your head from debris.

Being outdoors, in a mobile home, or in a vehicle are all unsafe in a tornado or severe thunderstorm. Find stronger shelter before the storm arrives and remember to get in, get down and cover up.

If you are outdoors and a tornado is heading your way, do not seek shelter under a bridge or overpass. Emergency officials say it is safer to lie flat in a low spot, as far from the road as possible

#### **DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**

Electricity, water, heat, air conditioning or telephone service may not work in an emergency. Preparing disaster

supply kits in advance can save precious time in the event you must evacuate or go without utilities for an extended period.

Store items for a "go" kit in an easy-to-carry bag and keep in a car or in the garage. The "home" kit can be stored in a plastic tub or garbage can and kept in your home's safest place where you will take shelter.

*Consider including the following items when putting together your disaster supply kit:*

- At least a 3-day supply of water (1 gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Replace every 6 months.
- A 3- to 5-day supply of nonperishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- Blankets, bedding or sleeping bags.
- A first aid kit and prescription medications (be sure to check expiration dates).
- An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses and solution.
- Special items for infants, the elderly or family members with disabilities.
- A battery-powered radio, a flashlight and extra batteries.

#### **AFTER THE STORM**

Once severe weather has passed, be prepared for possible flooding to occur. Also, watch for downed power lines and never drive into high water.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**March 3-26 — Green Country Watercolor Society Exhibit,** BA Historical Museum, Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**March 3 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**March 12 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**March 14 — 'ShamRock the Rose' St. Patrick's Day Festival,** 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Main Street. For more information call 918-850-3654.

**March 14 — Pickleball Tournament (Ages 45+),** 8 a.m., Central Park Community Center. For more details, call 918-259-8437.

**March 17 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**March 26 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**March 27 — BAHS Project Graduation Golf Tournament,** Forest Ridge Golf Course. For details call 918-269-4647.

**April 3 — City offices closed for Good Friday.** No Trash service pickup that day.

**April 7 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**April 7 — City Council Election.** For more details, visit [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov).

**April 9 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

## Long-time City Employee Hired as Events Coordinator

The City of Broken Arrow takes pride in hosting a wide variety of festivals and events throughout the year. That's why it's important to have a knowledgeable point of contact who can facilitate the event planning process.

Vaunda Olivera is now serving as the Events Coordinator for the City. Vaunda brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her, as she's been employed with the City since 1999. During her tenure, she has worked in Inspections, Engineering, Stormwater, Community Development and Development Services. She has extensive knowledge of event permitting and licensing and has served as chair of the Special Events Committee for the last two years.

If you have an event you'd like to host in Broken Arrow, contact Vaunda at 918-451-4211 or [specialevents@brokenarrowok.gov](mailto:specialevents@brokenarrowok.gov).

Mark your calendars now, the Rose District Farmers Market will re-open April 18! Market hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. every Saturday from April 18



to September 26. To receive real time posts of produce in season and other valuable food tips, like us on Facebook @Rose District Farmers Market. More details to come in the April issue of the FOCUS.