

## Scoop it Up to Keep our Waterways Clean

*Be mindful of pet waste, grass clippings and fertilizer*

As the weather warms up and we spend more time outdoors, please take steps to avoid some common ways we are polluting our waterways.

Water is one of the most important natural resources we have. We drink it, bathe in it and use it to clean our homes and businesses. Because we're fortunate to have access to many area lakes and rivers, water also provides recreational opportunities through boating, swimming and fishing.

Pollutants such as lawn fertilizer, grass clippings and pet waste make their way into these water sources when rain or melting snow washes it into storm sewers. It makes our waterways unsafe, creates health problems and kills wildlife and vegetation. That's why it's important to keep pollutants from reaching our storm sewers!

### PET WASTE

Pet waste caught in stormwater sources introduces diseases and parasites into our water system. This includes microorganisms such as cryptosporidium, a protozoan parasite carried by dogs, cats, and many other mammals that causes diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, and dehydration and can be fatal to people with depressed immune systems. Another serious pathogen is parvovirus, or parvo, that can be 80% fatal to puppies under the age of six months.

**TIP:** To keep pathogens out of our waterways, simply pick up your pet's waste with a plastic bag and dispose of it in the trash.

### GRASS CLIPPINGS

Grass clippings contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous, which cause excessive algae growth in our waterways. Too much algae blocks sunlight and prevents other plants from growing. When algae dies and decays, it also takes much needed oxygen away from fish.

**TIP:** After you mow, sweep up grass clippings from the street, curb and driveway. You may compost the grass

clippings or dispose of them in the trash. Better yet, use the mulch setting on your lawn mower, if available, so that the grass clippings can be distributed throughout your yard.

Also, blowing grass clippings and leaves out into the street violates City of Broken Arrow ordinances.

### FERTILIZERS

Lawn and garden fertilizers also contain nitrogen and phosphorous. The following recommendations will help you to use fertilizer responsibly.

- Apply fertilizers only when necessary and at the recommended amount.
- Don't apply fertilizer before windy or rainy days.
- Prevent fertilizer from getting on pavement.
- Apply fertilizer as close as possible to the period of maximum uptake and growth for grass and other plants, which is usually spring and fall in cool climate, and early and late summer in warm climates.
- Avoid applying fertilizer close to waterways.
- Do not overwater lawns and gardens. Overwatering carries away fertilizers that would otherwise enrich vegetation.

The City of Broken Arrow Stormwater Division is responsible for keeping our waterways free of pollutants. If you would like additional information, please contact them at 918-259-7000 ext. 5241.



East branch of Haikey Creek in Central Park

## Candidates File for City Council Seats

The next City Council Election will be held on April 7, 2015. All registered voters who live in the City of Broken Arrow may vote in City Council Elections. Ballots may be cast for any candidate, no matter the Ward.

Broken Arrow will have one race in the April 7 election. Ward 4 Council Member Jill Norman has filed for re-election. Scott Eudey has also filed for the Ward 4 Council seat.

Ward 3 Council Member Mike Lester and At Large Council Member Johnnie Parks have been elected without opposition. Both will serve another four-year term.

To complete an absentee ballot, update voter registration or to locate precinct information, contact the Tulsa County Election Board at 918-596-5780. If you are a Broken Arrow citizen living in Wagoner County, contact the Wagoner County Election Board at 918-485-2142.

### 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)

## Report Problems Online Through the Request Tracker

If you have a problem or concern to report, you may now submit your request online through the City's website at [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/requesttracker.aspx](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/requesttracker.aspx).

Action Center staff will submit these requests to the appropriate department to resolve the issue. Photographs of the problem may also be uploaded with the request.

### Instructions

1. Go to [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/requesttracker.aspx](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/requesttracker.aspx)
2. Click the issue that best describes your problem or concern.
3. Existing users may log in, or you may create an account by clicking "New User". If you do not wish to sign in, click "Anonymous Login".
4. Complete the form fields, upload photographs (if available) and hit submit.

A Citizen Request Tracker iPhone app is also available in the App Store. It allows you to take pictures of the problem immediately on your smartphone or other mobile device and submit your request.

## Weather Siren Testing Begins

The City of Broken Arrow's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will audibly test its weather sirens on the first Monday of every month from March until June, weather permitting.

If it is cloudy or severe weather is in the area, sirens will sound the following Wednesday.

The EOC conducts silent testing every Monday throughout the year. However, audible testing is conducted during storm season, March through June.



### What is the Action Center?

The City of Broken Arrow's Action Center serves as a central contact point for citizens who wish to report a problem to the City.

In order to address requests for help, the Action Center staff needs the address of the property and the nature of the complaint or problem. They will also need your name and address and telephone number.

Action Center staff may still be reached by telephone at 918-258-3587.

## Free Dump Day To Be Held April 25

Residents will have the opportunity to dispose of unwanted items at the City's annual Spring Clean-Up.

This year, the event will be Saturday, April 25 from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Waste Management Quarry Landfill, 13720 E. 46th St. North. This is easily accessible by traveling north on U.S. Highway 169 to the Eastbound exit at 46th St. North.

Residents may dump free by presenting a driver's license with a Broken Arrow address or a recent utility bill. City employees will be on site to verify residency.

- Any household waste can be dropped off except for the following items: Hazardous materials, liquids (such as paint in liquid form, gasoline, used oil, etc.), batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, untreated medical waste and compressed gas cylinders.
- Refrigerators/air conditioners/freezers/or Freon containing items will be accepted with the proper documentation that the refrigerant has been properly removed by a licensed CFC technician.
- There will be a \$2 fee for each car tire, and a \$4 fee for each truck tire.
- Motor oil, batteries, antifreeze, steel cans and scrap metal are accepted year-round at the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (MET) recycling facility located at 302 North Elm Place. The facility also accepts plastic bottles, glass bottles, newspaper, office paper, aluminum cans, cardboard and paperboard.

## Rose District Farmers Market Opens April 18

Shoppers who visit the Farmers Market on opening day, Saturday, April 18, and bring their reusable bags will be entered into a contest to win one of three \$100 vouchers to be spent on any item at the market. Tickets will be handed out, and the winning numbers will be posted on the Rose District Farmers Market Facebook page on April 20.

Located in the newly renovated Rose District, at 418 S. Main Street, the market is in its eighth year. Shoppers benefit by buying produce harvested within a few hours of purchasing and supporting the local economy. Early crops such as spinach, kale, and leaf lettuces will be available; along with bison, chicken, eggs, regular and gluten free Amish bread and local honey. Several types of vegetable starts will also be available, as well as a variety of unique agricultural crafts.

The Market will continue each Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. through September 26.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**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 Day**

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

**April 11 — Puzzle Piece Palooza** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Chisolm Trail South Park, 4000 E. New Orleans St. Call 918-884-5771 for more information.

**April 15 — Broken Arrow Soccer Club fall registration opens.** Go to [www.bascok.com](http://www.bascok.com) for more details.

**April 17 — Broken Arrow Senior Resource Fair** 9 a.m., and **Free Document Shredding Event**, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Central Park Community Center, 1500 S. Main St.

**April 18 — Rose District Farmers Market Opens** 8 a.m., 418 S. Main St.

**April 21 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**April 23 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**April 25 — Annual Trash Bash** 8 a.m., Central Park Community Center.

**April 25 — Free Dump Day** (see related story for details)

**May 1 — CarFit Vehicle Safety Program for Seniors** 10 a.m. AAA Office, 101st & Elm. Call 918-451-8213 for details.

**May 5 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**May 14 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.