

City's Top Priorities for 2017

A message from City Manager Michael Spurgeon

By now, many of you have thought about your goals for the new year and how you're going to accomplish them. This is a topic that's been on City officials' minds as well, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share with citizens our top priorities for Broken Arrow for the upcoming calendar year.

Here's a look at what's in store for 2017:

- Continue providing outstanding customer service.
- Maintain an emphasis on long-term financial stability.
- Implement the renewal of the Vision 2025 sales tax to hire more police officers and fire fighters and maintain our streets.
- Continue reinvesting more in our public infrastructure (roads, parks, utilities, stormwater and facilities).
- Working with our Economic Development Corporation, we will maintain an aggressive and comprehensive economic and community development program (jobs, sales tax and attractions).
- Complete our analysis to create a workable plan for Rose District housing development and redevelopment.
- Pursue making our City more sustainable: including implementation of a curbside recycling collection program for single-family residential households.
- Prepare the next General Obligation Bond package for voters' consideration in 2018.
- Implement recommendations from the Tourism Asset Inventory report to help attract more visitors to our city.



As you've heard City officials state on many different occasions, the City's over reliance on sales taxes to fund operational expenses is not sustainable. Sales tax, which is the primary revenue source funding many of our services, is an elastic unstable and regressive source of revenue. We have expressed our concerns to state legislators in the hope of getting this problem addressed. We will always be working on ways to continue providing the high level of services our residents have come to expect.

Expectations are always high in Broken Arrow. The Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, our first convention and meeting space, will open in the fall right across from the Bass Pro Shops on Albany Street. A citizen-led recycling committee is researching options for incorporating curbside recycling collection into our current trash collection service. This will greatly enhance our ongoing sustainability efforts. A pivotal moment which came in December 2016 when we began taking our solid waste collected to the Covanta Tulsa Energy from Waste facility. Your thoughts and suggestions are welcomed and appreciated. Broken Arrow is a city that continues to grow and is on the move! Together, we will make 2017 an even greater year than the one before.

BA Officials Appointed to National Committees

Mayor Craig Thurmond was elected to serve another term on the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors. The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. Thurmond, who will serve a one-year term, will help guide NLC's strategic direction and set the organization's advocacy priorities and operational goals.

Councilor Mike Lester was reappointed to the NLC 2017 Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and

Continued, page 2

Watch Important BA News on Cox Cable Channel 24

The City of Broken Arrow has its own TV channel, which Cox Cable customers can watch on channel 24. We recently upgraded equipment to improve the audio and video quality on the channel, so be sure to check it out! We've also expanded our programming with more videos, that will keep you informed about what's going on in BA. Learn about road closures, upcoming projects, helpful tips, events and more. If you don't have Cox Cable, you can see our videos at YOUTUBE.COM/CityofBrokenArrow.

Watch weekdays on Cox Cable Channel 24

City Council Meetings: 9:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meetings: 11:30 a.m., 8:30 p.m.

BA News: 5:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.

Tornado Season Means Audible Weather Siren Testing in BA

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. Make sure your family discusses where you will go to seek shelter during a tornado or other severe weather event. 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.

Register for Free Motorcycle Safety Training

The 2017 "Share the Road" courses will be held at the Chisholm Trail South Park, 21101 E. 101st Street in Broken Arrow, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following dates: March 19, April 8, April 22, June 4, and September 10 and September 17.

Motorcycles are inexpensive to operate, fun to ride and easy to park. Unfortunately, many riders never learn the critical skills needed to ride safely. Motorcycling requires skill, concentration and reasonable precautions. Although it is possible to ride a motorcycle on your own, the trial and error method is a tough teacher of motorcycle skills.

This course is designed to teach experienced riders how to survive riding on our roadways. It's taught by seasoned, police motorcycle officers who know what it takes to stay safe on a motorcycle! By attending this course you will learn how to turn effectively, avoid obstacles, braking and more. To register, go to www.brokenarrowok.gov/motorcycle, or call 918-259-2400 ext. 8692.



Councilors, from page 2

Advocacy Steering Committee. This Committee has the lead responsibility for developing NLC federal policy positions in the areas of crime prevention, public safety, homeland security, disaster preparedness and response, substance abuse, and municipal fire policy. In his role, Lester will continue exploring new ways to deal with issues that impact Broken Arrow, whether it is in working with FEMA, seeking new ways to provide first responder services, or the latest in technology in support of our public safety personnel.

Councilor Scott Eudey has been appointed to the NLC 2017 Transportation and Infrastructure Services (TIS) Federal Advocacy Committee. This committee has the lead responsibility for developing NLC's federal policy positions on issues involving transportation, including planning, funding, safety and security of public transit, streets and highways, aviation, railroads and ports.

Mayor Thurmond, along with Councilors Eudey, Lester, and Parks will travel to the nation's capitol in March for NLC's annual conference and committee meetings.

BA Hires Emergency Management Director

Great news for our Community! Jamie Ott has been hired as the new Director of Emergency Management for the City of Broken Arrow. Jamie offices in the Public Safety Complex and is housed under the Police Department. Jamie's function is to coordinate the resilience, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation of major emergencies and disasters for the citizens of Broken Arrow. His office does so in collaboration with County, State, and Federal Agencies during declared major emergencies and disasters. Jamie's office also interfaces with public, volunteer, and private resources to respond to and assist with various disaster response related activities.

Jamie most recently served as the Deputy Director for the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency. He has assisted with 9 Presidential disaster declarations including Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the 2007 and 2010 ice storms in Oklahoma, and the 2013 Moore tornado. Jamie has completed over 1,400 hours of emergency management training at the local, state and federal level.

Financial Transparency

The City of Broken Arrow has launched a new financial transparency tool that provides residents, elected officials, and staff convenient access to the City's finances and performance information. The user-friendly design makes it easier to explore how taxpayer money is spent.

The OpenGov platform displays multiple years of government spending and revenue detail in a user-friendly portal. Users can view historical revenue and expenditure trends over time and explore multiple views of financial data, including by fund, department, expense, or revenue type. For example, visitors to the platform may answer frequently asked questions such as "What did the city spend on public safety over the past 3 years?" or "How much did the city collect on fees?" and then share that information directly from the platform via email or on social media.

Take a look at www.BrokenArrowOK.opengov.com.

Hiring for Seasonal Positions

Applications will be accepted starting in March for seasonal summer positions. Lead lifeguards, lifeguards, concession workers, and cashiers are needed. Great pay in a fun environment! Pools open May 29 for the season. Apply online at www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/JOBS or call the Parks and Recreation Department at 918-259-7007.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Time Correction: February 25 — Annual

Homeowners Association Workshop will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Central on Main, 210 N. Main Street.

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

March 9 — Planning Commission 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

March 11 — ShamRock the Rose Street Festival **This event has been cancelled.**

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

March 23 — Planning Commission 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

April 4 — Election Day

April 8 — Motorcycle Safety Course (see related story)

April 8 — Pickleball Tournament 9:00 a.m., Central Park Community Center. Call 918-259-7000 for details.

April 14 — City offices closed for Good Friday. No trash service that day.