

Shedding Light on our Traffic Management System

A Message from Assistant City Manager of Operations Kenny Schwab

It is no secret that the City of Broken Arrow has grown at a rapid pace. In fact, the City has added almost 100,000 people in less than 50 years! This growth sets us apart from nearly every community in Oklahoma. It definitely comes with the proverbial growing pains, and those growing pains have taxed our public infrastructure. One of the areas that stress is most visible is the traffic management aspect of our community. Traffic signals, streetlights and school zone warning signals are designed to move traffic efficiently and safely, so you can get to work, school and home as quickly as possible. Here's an overview of what the City manages and some plans for the future.

OVERVIEW OF ASSETS

The City of Broken Arrow owns, operates and maintains 83 signalized intersections. In addition, we operate and maintain 18 signalized school zones, along with 55 civil defense and outdoor storm warning sirens. On top of the signalization and warning elements of the management system, the City has approximately 5,000 streetlights located across residential, commercial and industrial subdivisions, and along our arterial streets. These streetlights provide light for our residents during periods of low visibility and help accentuate our community's beauty. The City owns, operates and maintains nearly 1,750 of those streetlights. The Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) owns the remainder, except for a small portion that is owned and maintained by private residential subdivisions. Regardless, except for those in the private subdivisions, the City pays for the electricity to operate and service all streetlights within the community.

PAYING FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The City staffs a Signal Maintenance Division that oversees all the operations and maintenance associated with our entire traffic management system. The operations and maintenance aspect of this effort is funded in part by the streetlight fee, as established by City ordinance. This fee appears on your monthly utility bill. Funds received help pay for operational costs to maintain our system and the entire PSO bill for electricity to our signals and lights.

KEEPING UP WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY – FLASHING YELLOW ARROW SIGNALS

As our community continues to grow, not only will the cost to fund the traffic management system grow, but we will also need to keep up with changes in technology. We have started the process of replacing aging traffic signals with the new flashing yellow arrow, permissive left turn signals. In order to provide the flashing yellow light feature, what is known as a 2070 Signal Cabinet is required. The City has established a process of replacing the older signal cabinets with the 2070 Signal Cabinets, as funds allow. This causes the cost of the feature vary widely. Generally speaking, to upgrade to the flashing yellow signal with an existing 2070 Signal Cabinet, the cost is approximately \$3,000 per intersection. The cost to replace the cabinet with the 2070 series cabinet is approximately \$11,000. The following is a break-down on intersections completed and planned for the next 14 – 18 months:

To date, the City has upgraded four intersections:

1. 9th & Kenosha
2. Elm & Creek Turnpike
3. Tucson & Redbud
4. Aspen & Tucson

In the upcoming fiscal year (July 2017 – June 2018), the City plans on upgrading the following six intersections, as funds allow:

1. Elm & Florence
2. Elm & Washington
3. Aspen & Washington
4. Aspen & Houston
5. Aspen & Detroit
6. Aspen & Kenosha

Please note, the flashing yellow arrow functions just like a solid green ball. The motorist may make a left-hand turning movement upon yielding to oncoming traffic.

City Council Election Results

Broken Arrow residents voted to re-elect Craig Thurmond to the Broken Arrow City Council for Ward 2. Residents also elected Debra Wimpee to the Ward 1 City Council seat. Wimpee replaced long-time City Councilor Richard Carter, who served on Council since 1993. Thurmond and Wimpee were sworn in on April 18 to serve a four-year term. Thurmond was re-elected by the Council as Mayor, and Scott Eudey was elected as the new Vice-

Mayor. Because Broken Arrow operates under a Council-Manager form of government, the Mayor and Vice-Mayor are part of the Council instead of holding executive positions. Councilors are not provided a salary, as these are unpaid elected posts.

The City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at City Hall. Council meetings are also posted online at www.BrokenArrowOK.gov and on Cox Cable Channel 24.

Twenty New Firefighters Hired in Less than Two Years

Great news!!! The City has fulfilled a Vision 2025 Renewal campaign promise to hire 20 new firefighters by 2020. Broken Arrow voters in November 2015 agreed to renew the Tulsa County Vision 2025 sales tax and repurpose it to pay for additional police officers, firefighters and local street improvements.

Through a federal grant we were able to hire nine (9) firefighters for the department in November 2015. FEMA awarded the department a second grant, which allowed BAFD to hire an additional 11 firefighters in February 2017. While the grant covers salaries for a two-year period, the voter approved renewal of the Vision 2025 sales tax ensures BAFD will be able to retain the new firefighters after the grants expire. BAFD's authorized strength is now at 173.

The Broken Arrow Fire Department provides fire suppression services, emergency medical service and transport, hazardous materials mitigation at the operations level, and rescue technician level services within the City of Broken Arrow's 105 square mile fence line.

Tuesdays in the Park

Join ARTSOK, the Regional Arts Alliance of Broken Arrow, for its Tuesdays in the Park concert series! Every Tuesday in June at 7:00 p.m., bring your lawn chair and enjoy the music in a beautiful outdoor setting at Central Park, 1500 S. Main Street. June City Council meetings will be held on Mondays due to these events.

June 6 - Grady Nichols

June 13 - Mary Cogan

June 20 - Starr Fisher Ensemble with Larry Stokes

June 27 - Zodiac



Police Cadets Graduate

Eleven police cadets graduated from the Broken Arrow Police Academy on April 13. Five of the officers are funded from the Vision 2025 Renewal.



The Broken Arrow Police Department's authorized strength is now 141 sworn officers. Thank you for your commitment to continue making BA a safe place to live!

Mosquito Prevention Starts at Home

It's important to protect your family from mosquito-borne illnesses. The best way to control the mosquito population in Broken Arrow is by not allowing them to breed in the first place. It's also important to protect yourself against mosquito bites, by wearing long sleeves and pants when possible and using mosquito repellent containing DEET when outside.

- Prevent items such as buckets and tarps from holding standing water.
- Empty your outdoor pet's water bowl and refill daily.
- Rinse, scrub, and refill birdbaths weekly.
- Empty plastic wading pools weekly and store indoors when not in use.
- Regularly maintain swimming pools and outdoor hot tubs.
- Empty water from the pool and hot tub covers weekly.
- Store boats covered or upside down.
- Regularly check for clogged rain gutters and clean them if needed.
- Repair leaky lawn irrigation spouts.

TO REQUEST MOSQUITO SPRAYING

Due to federal regulations, the City must first prove there is a mosquito problem before crews can treat the requested area. Information is collected on a weekly basis from permanent trapping sites, and that data helps determine whether treatment is warranted. Report a mosquito problem online at www.ActionCenterBA.com, or call the Action Center at 918-258-3587.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Tuesday in June - Tuesdays in the Park concert series (see related story).

Ongoing through October - Rose District Farmers Market 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and 7:00 a.m. - noon on Saturdays, 418 S. Main Street.

Ongoing through July - BA Recreation Youth Soccer Registration. Boys and girls ages 4-18. Visit www.bascok.com.

June 1 — Book Discussion Series: Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma! 6:30 p.m., Museum Broken Arrow, 400 S. Main St.

June 2-3 — Folk Arts Festival & Woodcarving 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Park Community Center, 1500 S. Main Street.

June 3 — Fishing Derby 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Chisholm Trail South Park, 21101 E. 101st Street. For

details, call 918-259-7007.

June 5 (Monday) — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

June 8 — Planning Commission 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

June 19 (Monday) — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

July 2 — Rockets Over Rhema, 1025 W. Kenosha

July 3 (Monday) — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

July 4 — City offices closed for Independence Day. Trash service will resume on the next scheduled pickup day.

July 13 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.