

## Federal partners step in to save land swap

A \$612,248 federal tax lien that jeopardized a land swap between the City of Broken Arrow and Broken Arrow Public Schools (BAPS) was resolved after the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provided a partial lien release on land the City purchased in 2010.

Resolution of the lien clears the way for BAPS to build a new elementary school in the southeast part of the community, and for the City to build a new softball complex at the Events Park and a new park in the southwest part of Broken Arrow.

“On behalf of the City Council and Administration, I want to thank the White House and Sen. Inhofe’s office. Had they not asked IRS staff to act on this tax lien, the City would have been involved in a year-long legal battle that would have cost taxpayers thousands of dollars and delayed the opening of

a much needed elementary school for the Broken Arrow school district,” said Mayor Craig Thurmond.

“This land swap is another example of the strong partnership between our district and the City of Broken Arrow,” said Broken Arrow Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Janet Dunlop. “Acquiring this land allows us to respond to the growth in the southeastern portion of our district while continuing to strategically manage the resources our community has entrusted us with.”

In 2010, the City purchased 81.5 acres of land at 21500 E. 96th St. through a lease purchase agreement and in eight years paid nearly \$2.3 million for the land near the City’s Events Park at 21101 E. 101st St.

In 2015, the City and BAPS agreed to trade land in a mutually beneficial

agreement. The City would give a portion of the land by the Events Park to the school district for a new school in exchange for land near Aspen Creek Elementary for a new regional park. The school is expected to open in August 2020.

During closing in February 2019, the City was made aware of a federal tax lien of over \$600,000 on the property. The IRS filed this lien in 2017, seven years after the City’s lease purchase agreement. This lien prevented the City from obtaining the deed to the property and exchanging land with BAPS.

Efforts by both the property owner and the City to remove the lien failed. So in March 2019, Thurmond met with Sen. Jim Inhofe’s office and a U.S. Mayors’ liaison within the White House, Morgan Bedan. The efforts paid off and the lien was cleared off the property in late March.



### City Council election: Gillespie, Eudey, Parks elected

On Tuesday, April 2, Broken Arrow residents voted to re-elect Vice Mayor Scott Eudey to the Broken Arrow City Council for Ward 4 and Johnnie Parks to the At Large Council seat. Residents also elected Christi Gillespie to fill the Ward 3 City Council seat. Gillespie replaces long-time City Councilor Mike Lester, who served on Council since 2007.

With Gillespie joining the Council, this is the first time in Broken Arrow history that two women (her and Ward 1 Council Member Debra Wimpee) will serve on the City Council at the same time, according to City records.

Eudey, Parks and Gillespie were sworn at the April 16 City Council meeting.

## Ribbon cut on Reflection Park



The City of Broken Arrow cut the ribbon on its newest park facility on March 27. Located at 709 Magnolia Ct., Reflection Park is dedicated to victims of the Bever family murders and the first responders at the tragic 2015 crime scene.

In 2017, private donors from Broken Arrow and throughout the Tulsa metro area gave \$50,000 to purchase the house, which had been demolished after a fire broke out in the then vacant home. Former City Councilor Mike Lester led the successful fundraising campaign to turn the property into a memorial

park and garden. Beginning in May 2018, the City used mostly donated supplies and labor to construct a small walking path, garden and gazebo on the site.

“We can never erase the tragedy that occurred here, but we are making a statement with Reflection Park that we will not allow evil to define who we are and the high standards we hold as a community,” Lester said. “Thanks to the generosity of so many people in Broken Arrow and the metro area, we have built a place of peace and serenity.”



## Free summer concerts

### 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 p.m., bring your lawn chair and enjoy the music in a beautiful outdoor setting at Central Park, 1500 S. Main St.

June City Council meetings will be held on Mondays due to these events.

**June 4 — Usual Suspects (Rock, dance and blues)**

**June 11 — Rendezvous (Classic and southern rock)**

**June 18 — Denise Hoey and the Boulevard (Country and blues)**

**June 25 — HiFi Hillbillies (Classic rock)**

### Thursday Night Live

Thursday Night Live is back every Thursday night in the Rose District Pavilion, 418 S. Main Street, from 7-9 p.m. beginning April 18.

Thursday Night Live will feature different types of entertainment and art forms each week. The event is free and open to the public. Bring a lawn chair and refreshments.

**June 6 — Paul Holt Band (Classic Rock)**

**June 13 — Garrett Heck (Blues)**

## Mosquito control begins with prevention

The best way to control the mosquito population is by not allowing them to breed in the first place. You can 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.

You can report a mosquito problem online at [www.ActionCenterBA.com](http://www.ActionCenterBA.com), or use the City’s Action Center app (search for “Action Center Broken Arrow” in your app store) or call the Action Center at 918-258-3587.

## Pet leashes and clean-up required

The City of Broken Arrow reminds residents that dogs are required to be on a leash in public, unless in the proper area at the Rose West Dog Park, 4751 W. New Orleans St. Dogs are not permitted at events with 1,000 or more people in attendance. These rules do not apply to police dogs or service dogs.

Pet owners also violate City ordinances when they do not pick up their pets’ excrement. Please remember to clean-up after your pet when you visit public spaces or walk your dog in your neighborhood. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep Broken Arrow a safe and friendly community!

## Utility Customer Service lobby temporarily closed

The Utility Customer Service office will undergo renovations beginning May 17 until approximately the end of June. As a result, the service lobby, 116 E. Dallas St. on the south side of City Hall, will be closed.

Customers can still conduct business and make payments at the One Stop Division on the north end of City Hall, 220 S. First St. The dropbox in the parking lot south of City Hall is unaffected.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Ongoing through June 22 — BA Youth Football Spirit Registration** Visit [bayouthfootball.com](http://bayouthfootball.com) for details.

**Ongoing through July 17 — BA Youth Football Registration** Visit [bayouthfootball.com](http://bayouthfootball.com) for details.

**Ongoing through August — BA Soccer Club Fall Registration** For ages 3-18. Visit [www.bascok.com](http://www.bascok.com) for details.

**Ongoing through October — Rose District Farmers Market** 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Rose District Plaza, 418 S. Main St.

**June 1 — Take Me Fishing Day** 7 a.m.-noon, Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St.

**June 2 — Kites over Broken Arrow** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St.

**June 3 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council

Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**June 4-25 — Tuesdays in the Park** Central Park, 1500 S. Main St.

**June 9 — Share the Road Motorcycle Safety Course** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Events Park. Visit [BrokenArrowOK.gov/ShareTheRoad](http://BrokenArrowOK.gov/ShareTheRoad) for details.

**June 12 — Community Blood Drive** noon-6 p.m., Central Park Community Center, 1500 S. Main St.

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

**June 15 — Flag Day Ceremony** 11 a.m., Military History Center, 112 N. Main St.

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

**June 21 — Wine, Eats & Easels** 6-9 p.m., Rose District Pavilion, 418 S. Main St. Visit [facebook.com/WineEatsandEaselsBA](http://facebook.com/WineEatsandEaselsBA) for details.

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**June 22 — BARC Walk** 8:30-2 p.m., Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St. Visit [facebook.com/barc4animals](http://facebook.com/barc4animals) for details.

**June 27 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**June 28 — Community Blood Drive** 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Nienhuis Park Community Center, 3201 N. 9th St.

**July 2 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**July 4 — Independence Day** City offices closed. No trash service.

**July 4 — Patriots in the Park** 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St. Visit [patriotsinthepark.com](http://patriotsinthepark.com) for details.

**July 11 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.