

Hillside Drive to Reopen in May

As a result of the historic rains in late December 2015, a portion of Hillside Drive between 9th Street and Albany Street was closed due to safety concerns regarding the retaining wall. We now have some great news to share with you. A City of Broken Arrow consultant determined that the retaining wall is structurally safe; therefore, we will reopen the road in early May.

The inspection determined that the retaining wall's drainage system was not designed to convey the heavy rainfall the area received in December. Consequently,

the hydrostatic pressure on the wall pushed it forward approximately three inches toward Hillside drive, causing the sidewalk to buckle. Hillside Drive will reopen once the sidewalk has been removed and the curb repaired. Improvements being made to the wall's drainage system will not affect traffic on the roadway. The City is currently negotiating with the design engineer and the subcontractor for reimbursement of repair costs. We apologize for the inconvenience and interruption of traffic, while we made sure the roadway was safe.

City Manager's 2016 Priorities

City Manager Michael Spurgeon recently presented to the City Council his top 10 priorities for 2016. Those priorities included:

1. City Organizational Chart

- Modernizing and updating the way departments are organized will produce more efficiency and accountability in City government. The new organizational chart may be viewed at www.brokenarrowok.gov/cityorganization.

2. Financial Stability

- Review and implement plans that ensure the City has plans and policies in place to provide adequate and sustainable resources to meet the future needs of local government and utility operations.

3. Vision 2025 Renewal

- Begin the process of hiring 20 new police officers and 20 new firefighters over the next five years.
- Prioritize roads to be repaired through the streets maintenance program and improve traffic management in the City.

4. Economic Development

- Continue efforts to attract new businesses and retain existing ones.
- Begin discussions on creating a future Innovation (technology) park.
- Promote shopping locally in Broken Arrow to ensure sales tax dollars support our community.
- Continue downtown revitalization efforts in the Rose District.
- Develop a strategic and marketing plan for tourism, which will include a partnership with the operator of the new Stoney Creek conference center.

5. BAMA Public Utilities

- Establish stable rates (cost of service) for all utility services based on a strategic, long-range plan that considers maintaining systems, operations and capital improvement needs.
- Review current trash service operations and potential for implementing a recycling program.

6. Street Improvement Program

- Develop a robust street maintenance program, with additional funds provided through the Vision 2025 sales tax renewal and future General Obligation bond projects.
- Identify needs for a long-term Capital Improvement Transportation Plan.

7. Public and Private Development

- Improve project management and accountability of public projects.
- Transition current development process to a partnership model, to facilitate investments in the City of Broken Arrow.

8. Leadership and Management

- Provide management training and develop succession plans within each department for seamless leadership transitions.

9. Relationship Building

- Continue to develop relationships in order for Broken Arrow to maintain its position as a metro, state and regional partner.

10. Transparency

- Make the City's financial reporting more transparent through implementation of a new program called OpenGov and delivery of a new financial newsletter to citizens.

Continued on page 2

Downtown Development Continues to Improve Rose District

Some big changes are coming soon to downtown Broken Arrow, and it will dramatically improve the look of the Rose District and economic opportunities in the area. The City Council in February authorized the Administration to purchase the property at 305 North Main, remove it, and make it an attractive piece of land that private businesses will want to develop. The Economic Development Corporation is putting together a Request for Proposal for mixed-use development, which would be a combination of retail, office and residential uses for that site. The City expects to demolish the building by July. Interested developers should contact the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation at 918-251-1518.

Downtown is a very exciting place to be right now, which is why the City of Broken Arrow is seeing an increased demand for new housing. In response, the Council has authorized the City Manager to form a Downtown Coordinating Committee to make recommendations for residential development standards for the Rose District and the surrounding one square mile located south of Kenosha Street, North of Houston Street, east of Elm Place and west of 9th Street. That committee is made up of Warren Unsicker from the BAEDC, Lynn Palmer, a local builder, Terry Maytum, a local architect, Michael Skates, Development Services Director and Michael Spurgeon, City Manager.

Proposals are now being accepted in order to hire a consultant to help the City with new design guidelines. It is anticipated that an ordinance establishing the overlay district will be proposed for consideration by the Council on or before September 16, 2016. The intent is to make sure that single-family and multi-family housing built in the future is consistent with the Rose District and surrounding area. This Plan, once adopted, must serve as the basis for new residential development in the defined downtown area and subsequently be included in the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinances.



Mark your calendars for Rooster Days 2016, coming to town May 12 - 14. Presented by the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce, the "Oldest Festival in Oklahoma" is celebrating its 85th year of bringing family fun to Broken Arrow.

The festival kicks off at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, May 12 at Central Park, 1500 S. Main Street. Festival goers will find food trucks, a market filled with unique clothing and gifts, a family fun zone and live entertainment. Visit the event's website, www.roosterdays.com for carnival hours and details on ride passes. The Rooster Days Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Priorities, From page 1

- Implement a variety of new communications initiatives, primarily video driven, to enhance and improve delivery of important information to the public.
- Provide a user friendly mobile application for citizens to report non-emergency issues, such as potholes, street light outages and more.

Register Your Storm Shelter

The City of Broken Arrow maintains a database of storm shelters and safe rooms to assist emergency responders after a storm. If you have such a facility and have not yet registered it with the City, please take time to do so. An online form is located at www.brokenarrowok.gov/STORMSHELTER. Or you may call 918-259-2400 ext. 5200.

A reinforced underground storm shelter, storm cellar, enclosed basement or safe room is usually the safest place to go during a tornado. If you cannot get underground, remember the basic guidelines. Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can, and stay away from doors, windows and other openings to the outside. 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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing Each Saturday — Rose District Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon, Corner of First Street and Dallas

Ongoing through July 9 — BA Soccer Club Fall Registration. Visit www.bascok.com for details.

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

May 7 — Mom & Me Hike 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. or 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Ray Herral Nature Park. Tickets are \$5 per person. Call the Parks & Rec. Department for details. 918-259-7007.

May 7 — Rooster Days Run, Chisholm Trail South Park, 21101 E. 101st Street, registration starts at 6:30 a.m.

May 8 — Mother's Day

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

May 12-14 — Rooster Days Festival (see related story)

May 14 — Rooster Days Parade, 10 a.m., Main Street

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

May 21 — Camp Bandage, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Chisholm Trail South Park, 21101 E. 101st Street. Phone: 918-258-5506.

May 21 — KBAB Rose Festival at the Rose District Farmers Market 8 a.m., Corner of First Street and Dallas.

May 22 — UP CLOSE Concert Series: Tulsa Symphony String Quintet, 2:30 p.m., BA Performing Arts Center, 701 S. Main St. For tickets and details, call 918-259-5778 or visit www.brokenarrowpac.com

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

May 30 — City offices closed for Memorial Day. Monday and Tuesday trash service will be one day later.

June 4 — Fishing Derby, 8 a.m., Chisholm Trail South Park, 21101 E. 101st Street

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

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