

Shop Local in Broken Arrow

A Message from City Manager Michael Spurgeon

Living in Broken Arrow, we have a multitude of things that make us proud and for which we are grateful. For example, we are recognized as one of the safest cities in America and our quality of life is second to none. Likewise, our public school systems are outstanding in every regard. And similarly, this excellence extends to our outstanding business community.

Supporting our local businesses is what I would like to touch on. We all have choices on where we can spend our hard-earned dollars. When you do, please keep in mind all of our “brick and mortar” stores. These businesses not only create thousands of jobs, make significant financial investments in our city, but they also contribute to local charities and community groups that do so many wonderful things for our community. Equally important, by supporting Broken Arrow businesses, you help fund the local public services we **ALL** rely on every day.



Your Purchases Fund Police Officers, Firefighters, Parks, Good Roads and More...

Almost half of the City of Broken Arrow’s total operating revenue derives from sales tax, which comes from goods purchased in our City. By state law, all cities in Oklahoma rely primarily on sales tax to pay for City operations. This means, if you’re a Broken Arrow resident and you’re shopping in Tulsa or Bixby, or any other city, you’re paying for their public safety, parks, and roads instead of ours. Current estimates show that we have a sales tax leakage of approximately 49%. Support for the region is certainly important for many obvious reasons, but ultimately shopping locally is one of the most important things we all can do to support our community.

A majority of core services we provide to the community that are paid for with sales tax include:

- Police operations
- Fire suppression
- Emergency medical services
- Ambulance services
- Streets maintenance and repair
- Traffic signalization
- Permitting and inspections
- Code enforcement
- Swimming pools
- Community centers
- Parks
- Cemetery

To help me demonstrate the importance of shopping local, I have included a graphic that demonstrates how much has to be spent (in dollars) to pay for just one (1) new police officer's salary, car, and equipment. That figure of \$4 plus million dollars is correct, as the City only receives 3% of all sales tax collected. Starting in January we’ll receive 3.55% as a result of the Vision 2025 repurposing approved by voters last year, which is restricted for public safety and road improvements.

Hopefully you have had the opportunity to review our first annual City Financial/Project Newsletter called “Your Money at Work.” It was delivered to homes right after Labor Day and contains information on how your tax dollars

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Buy Broken Arrow Prize Drawing

Be sure to keep collecting your Buy Broken Arrow tickets. You could win cash! The prize drawing will be held on December 13 at 3:00 p.m. at Moody’s Jewelry, 2013 W. Kenosha Street. The BA Chamber will host the drawing, and three winning numbers will be announced. Prizes for the lucky ticket holders will be \$10,000, \$3,000 or \$2,000. To see a complete list of participating Buy Broken Arrow merchants, visit www.bachamber.com/BUYBA.



Stay in touch!

www.brokenarrowok.gov

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are spent. If you have not had the opportunity to read it, it is available on our website at BrokenArrowOK.gov/YOURMONEY. Finally, I would like to offer some easy ways we can all contribute to the success of local businesses and our community as a whole.

5 Suggestions - How we all can help do our part

1. When possible, please endeavor to make everyday purchases in Broken Arrow.
2. When you have the opportunity, eat at the many great Broken Arrow restaurants.
3. Visit Broken Arrow stores when doing your holiday shopping and throughout the year.
4. Educate your family and friends about the importance of shopping in Broken Arrow.
5. Entertain your out of town guests in Broken Arrow. Check out ideas at VisitBrokenArrowOK.com.

Please help us maintain our high quality of life by shopping at and supporting our local businesses. This will help keep our community awesome and moving forward.

New Utility Rates Under Consideration

A Message from City Manager Michael Spurgeon

I would like to take this opportunity to update the community on an important municipal matter. Earlier this year, the City of Broken Arrow Administration completed the process of updating a five-year capital improvement plan for its utilities infrastructure and presented the preliminary findings to the City Council. The City's utility infrastructure includes a water production plant, two waste-water treatment facilities, six water storage facilities, 33 lift stations, two booster pump stations and approximately 1,400 miles of water and sanitary sewer lines. The City is also responsible for managing stormwater conveyance systems, so that stormwater runoff is transported to natural drainage ways. In short, my analysis revealed that a major reinvestment is needed in the City's utility infrastructure over the next five-plus years, to specifically include: \$26 million to improve our water system, \$102 million to improve our wastewater (sanitary sewer) system, and \$12 million to improve our stormwater systems, for a total of \$140 million.

How will the City Pay for the Improvements?

The City will pay for the utility systems improvements through utility rates charged to customers and a possible General Obligation Bond that voters could consider in 2018. Last year, the City hired the engineering consultant firm of Black and Veatch, that specializes in helping municipalities analyze costs for services delivered and establish appropriate utility rates. Black and Veatch will help determine what Broken Arrow's water, sewer and stormwater fees should be in order to pay for the necessary utility systems improvements and the additional staff needed to maintain the systems. It is anticipated that the results of the study will be presented to the City Council and the Broken Arrow Municipal Authority in November 2016. The public will be notified

via the City's website (BrokenArrowOK.gov) and social media when that meeting occurs. The City has also produced a video that explains more about the utilities infrastructure at BrokenArrowOK.gov/WATERBILL.

History and Background

A tremendous amount of utility infrastructure growth and expansion occurred in the late 1960s through the mid-1980s. Much of this early expansion is now aging and beginning to show significant signs of deterioration. Additionally, nearly 100,000 people have been added to our community in the last 46 years! In 1970, the population of Broken Arrow was almost 12,000. Today in 2016, it is nearly 110,000. This nine-fold growth has significantly impacted and stressed our utility infrastructure, coupled with the fact that a substantial amount of it is at the end of its useful life.

This is not a challenge solely facing our community. In fact, much of the public utility infrastructure throughout the nation is severely aging and showing significant signs of deterioration. However, the City and Authority are preparing and focusing on ways to become more proactive in order not to reach critical mass, with respect to an aging and deteriorating utility infrastructure. The goal of the City Manager and Staff is to move the City ahead of the declining infrastructure curve and ensure that we have a reliable, effective and well-maintained infrastructure for our current and future customers.

Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule

Trash service will be available Friday, December 23. On Monday, Dec. 26, trash service will be shifted to Tuesday, Dec. 27 and Tuesday's trash service will be shifted to Wednesday, Dec. 28. Regular service resumes on Thursday. The same schedule shift will occur following the New Year's Day weekend.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing — Buy Broken Arrow Program (see related story)

Ongoing through December 10 - Annual Christmas Tree Exhibit (Museum Broken Arrow. For details call 918-258-2616.

Ongoing through January — BA Girls Spring Softball Registration. Ages 4-18. Visit www.bagsl.org for details.

December 1 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

December 3 — Annual Civitans Christmas Parade 10 a.m. on Main Street.

December 3-4 — Ruts & Guts Cyclocross Competition Chisholm Trail South Park. Call 918-408-6733 for details.

December 6 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City

Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

December 15 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

December 17 — Pizza With Santa. Nienhuis Park Community Center. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$1 per person and must be purchased by Dec. 15. Call 918-259-6550 for details.

December 20 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

December 23 & 26 — City offices closed for Christmas Holiday. Please review trash schedule above.

January 2 — City offices closed for New Year Holiday.

January 3 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m.

January 5 (tentative) — Planning Commission 5 p.m.