

Emergency operations ensure citizens' safety

The last two weeks of May was a time of trials for the City of Broken Arrow. Excessive rainfall in the region coupled with continuous dangerous thunderstorms created an emergency situation in several parts of town.

Flash flooding events on the night of May 20 kept the Broken Arrow Fire Department busy with water rescues. BAFD was even able to capture a dramatic swift water rescue with a drone and released the footage to emphasize to the public why it's important to "Turn around; don't drown."

Once daylight arrived on May 21, it was obvious there were several issues that needed to be addressed, mainly the flooding potential along the Arkansas River and movement behind the Hillside Drive retaining wall between Charleston's and Hobby Lobby.

Emergency Management Director Jamie Ott opened the Emergency Operations Center at the Public Safety complex



Most of Indian Springs Sports Complex was underwater during the peak of the flood emergency.

and met with leaders of every City department each day beginning May 21 to anticipate threats and responses to various situations across the City.

Hillside Drive was closed immediately. The City has hired an engineering firm with extensive experience with this type of retaining wall to survey the damage and design repairs. Hillside Drive may remain closed for several months while repair work is done.

City staff also estimated

the potential impact along the Arkansas River as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers increased releases from Keystone Dam.

Concerns were raised about both the Lynn Lane Water Reclamation Plant on the Arkansas River and the Verdigris River Water Treatment Plant, however several City departments banded together to ensure neither facility's operations were impacted by flood waters.

More storms rolled

through the area as the week progressed and an EF-1 tornado struck part of north Broken Arrow early on the morning of May 26. The Emergency Operations team and City Leaders met again on Memorial Day to further assess the City's situation. Emergency meetings continued until May 31 when the emergency situation began to subside.

Communication was key during the event, especially once Mayor Craig Thurmond signed an Emergency Declaration for all areas south of Jasper (131st) Street on May 23. Local media kept their focus on harder-hit areas like Sand Springs, but the City used its website and social media pages to keep residents informed of the developing situation.

Broken Arrow was fortunate that relatively little private property was impacted during this event. A concerted effort by all City departments and the cooperation of Broken Arrow residents led to a great result from a stressful situation.

Broken Arrow names new Parks director

Following a comprehensive nationwide search, the City of Broken Arrow announced Matt Hendren as its new Parks and Recreation Director.

"I am honored to have been chosen to lead the Broken Arrow Parks and Recreation Department into an exciting future," Hendren said. "I have dedicated my career to Parks and Recreation and believe wholeheartedly in the positive effects an active, dedicated Parks and Recreation Department has on a community. I look forward to collaborating with the leadership team, elected officials, Parks and Recreation staff and the entire Broken Arrow community on the exciting opportunities that await."

Hendren joins the City from



Norman, where he served as parks superintendent since 2015. Prior to that, he worked for Wyandotte County, Kan., as well as for golf courses in the Kansas City area.

"I am excited to have Matt join our leadership team," said City Manager Michael Spurgeon. "The energy and

experience he will bring to the Parks and Recreation Department will be a vital addition to the organization."

Hendren is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, Certified Aquatic Facility Operator, a graduate of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Directors School, and a trustee for the Oklahoma Recreation and Parks Society Board of Directors.

Hendren started work in Broken Arrow in July.

He is in charge of 41 parks and 800 acres of public space, including an 18-hole golf course — the Battle Creek Golf Club — two community centers, a nature center and two aquatic facilities.

Youth City Council seeks high school applicants

The City of Broken Arrow is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 Youth City Council program, which will run from September until early May. Youth Council members meet once a month, typically at 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.

Youth City Council provides a great opportunity for high school students to learn how municipal

government works, obtain an understanding of local policy making and help serve their community. Participants will meet with City Councilors and other City officials, tour public facilities, attend public meetings, and demonstrate what they learned by conducting a mock council meeting at the end of each program year.

To be eligible, new applicants must:

- Reside within the Broken Arrow fence line
- Be a sophomore or junior in high school in the fall
- Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA
- Set a proper example for the youth of Broken Arrow

Historically, the Youth City Council has been a two-year program for students in their junior and senior year. In 2019, the City Council voted to make this a three-year program,

making it available for the first time to sophomores in the 2019-2020 school year. Sophomores and juniors may apply this summer. The sophomores will be joining a three-year program, and the juniors will be applying for a two-year program.

Applications for 2019-2020 are due Sept. 3. Details and forms are available at www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/YouthCityCouncil. For questions, call 918-259-8419.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing through August — BA Soccer Club Fall Registration For ages 3-18. Visit www.bascok.com for details.

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

Aug. 3 — Back to School Bash and Community Health Fair 9 a.m.-noon, The Assembly at Broken Arrow, 3500 W. New Orleans St.

Aug. 3 — Tie Dye Party 10 a.m.-noon, Ray Herral Nature Center, 7101 S. 3rd St. Bring your own white T-shirt.

Aug. 6 — National Night Out 6-8:30 p.m. See related story for details.

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

Aug. 7 — Community Blood Drive noon-6 p.m., Central Park Community Center, 1500 S. Main St.

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

Aug. 10 — Back to School Bash & SandDazzle 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Nienhuis Park, 3201 N. 9th St.

Aug. 17 — Pooch Plunge 8 a.m.-Small dogs (less than 40 lbs), 9:30 a.m.-medium dogs, 11 a.m.-large dogs (over 70 lbs), Family Aquatic Center, 1400 S. Main St. \$5 per dog. No children under 12 permitted. Pre-registration required. 918-259-8437.

Aug. 20 — First day of school Bixby Public Schools.

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

Aug. 21 — First day of school Broken Arrow and Union Public Schools.

Aug. 22 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

Sept. 2 — Labor Day City offices closed.

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

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

Sept. 13-15 — ScotFest Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St. Visit okscotfest.com for details.

New department name shows focus on community

One of the City's most public-facing departments, the Development Services Department, is changing its name to the Department of Community Development.

The City Council approved the change June 3, after City staff conducted a survey of nearby cities with similar populations and found many of them use "Community Development" in their similar departments' names.

"Changing this department's name indicates we have a more robust and broader focus than just simply development services," said City Manager Michael Spurgeon. "This shows

the City's continued efforts to be a customer-service driven organization."

Community Development is responsible for a wide variety of jobs, often dealing with the planning and permitting that allow existing businesses to grow, and also make it easy for new industries to either get started or expand in the community.

Along with the name change, the Department of Community Development will plan for the future of the organization by examining the possibility of venturing into the fields of sustainability, innovation, place-making and special events.



BAPD hosts Night Out, Back-to-School Bash

The Broken Arrow Police Department encourages you and your neighborhood to join other communities across the nation to celebrate America's Night Out Against Crime.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

This year, National Night Out will be 6-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 6. To register your neighborhood, contact Lisa Ford, BAPD Crime Prevention Specialist, at 918-451-8213 or email lford@brokenarrowok.gov.

BAPD, The Assembly at Broken Arrow and St. John Broken Arrow are also proud to sponsor the 12th annual Back to School Bash on Aug. 3 free of charge. The Bash runs 9 a.m.-noon at The Assembly, 3500 W. New Orleans St.

There will be free school supplies, haircuts, immunizations, vision screening and more! Other organizations in attendance will include: Broken Arrow Fire, Broken Arrow Public Schools Child Nutrition and Transportation departments, Masonic Lodge CHILD ID program, Camp Bandage, Family and Children's Services, Tulsa CityCounty Library, Vince and Larry the Crash Test Dummies and McGruff the Crime Dog.

DIRECTOR PROFILE



Lee Zirk

Lee Zirk has been with the City of Broken Arrow for 31 years, starting his career as a Fleet Maintenance mechanic.

Lee holds an associate degree in Automotive Mechanics from OSU-Okmulgee. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Management from the University Center at Tulsa. Lee has been in the military for over 26 years starting in the United States Air Force and currently serving as a Chief Master Sergeant in the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

Lee has an adult son and daughter.

About the department



The General Services Department is a service department within the City of Broken Arrow. The Department employs 91 people in six divisions, which manage a wide variety of tasks for both the organization and the general public.

The Sanitation Division is the most public facing part of General Services. The 44 members of the sanitation division work hard to ensure residents' trash is collected in a timely manner.

Park Grove Cemetery is the City owned and operated cemetery on Houston Street between Aspen and Elm.

The Operations Division takes Action

Center calls, assigns them to the proper department and tracks the requests.

The Logistics Division organizes competitive bidding for the City, as well as manages assets at two City warehouses.

Fleet Maintenance maintains all vehicles, construction equipment and other mechanical equipment owned by the City.

Building Maintenance is responsible for 133 structures owned by the City. These properties range from small lift stations to the 70,000 square foot Public Safety Complex.

Operations focuses on customer service

The three employees of the Operations Division are customer service focused. They handle approximately 3,000 calls from other City departments as well as Action Center requests from residents each month.

Contact the Action Center at 918-258-3587 or by emailing Action1@brokenarrowok.gov.

The Action Center is also available online and on iOS and Android

devices. Visit ActionCenterBA.com to report an issue or find links to the mobile app.

Issues that are commonly reported include:

- Water (meter leak, water outage, main water line break)
- Refuse (missed pickup, bulky waste, dead animal pick up)
- Sewer (back up, manhole overflow, main sewer line break)
- Stormwater (clogged storm drains, concrete repair)

- Traffic signal maintenance
- Street (asphalt repair, potholes)
- Code enforcement (tall grass/weeds, RV/boat parked in yard/driveway, trashy yard)
- Police department (Vehicle parked in the street for more than 24 hours)

Operations staff also issue Swift 911 notifications to notify residents about water outages and delayed refuse service in mapped areas. To learn more about this service or to sign up, visit BrokenArrowOK.gov/Alerts.

Logistics keeps the City running efficiently

Comprised of seven employees, the Logistics Division manages many financial assets for the City.

Purchasing ensures the City of Broken Arrow remains in accordance with City ordinances and state statutes when buying goods and services. Buyers procure the proper quality and quantity of items and services needed by other departments to help the City operate efficiently while controlling costs and saving taxpayer dollars.

Logistics also oversees competitive

bidding for the City, encouraging the most open purchasing processes practicable to maximize possible value while maintaining fair and equitable treatment of vendors.

The division also manages two warehouses for the City that contain over 2,500 items valued at over \$1 million. The warehouses stock items that are consistently needed by other departments to complete their tasks.

Logistics also ensures the City's two fueling stations are adequately supplied

so all departments can keep their vehicles on the road as necessary.

When items have outlived their usefulness to the City, they are moved to surplus by the Logistics Division. Once surplus items reach an approximate combined value of about \$15,000, a public surplus auction is held, usually about once per year. Auction proceeds are deposited into the City's General Fund or Broken Arrow Municipal Authority (BAMA) funds, depending on the sold item's source funding.



Restoring peace in death

Established in 1902, Park Grove Cemetery, 1000 W. Houston St., offers a peaceful environment for you or your loved ones' final resting place.

Three full time and one seasonal employee work to support and preserve the cemetery through mowing, maintaining graves, selling plots, receiving calls to help with funeral services and memorials and helping the members of the public find a resting place for themselves or members of their family.

The oldest known grave within Park Grove Cemetery belongs to James Williams, a four year old boy whose grave is marked Sept. 2, 1902. Also buried there is composer and lyricist, Ralph Blane, who wrote "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas".

Broken Arrow's Park Grove Cemetery offers both traditional plots and a columbarium for cremated ashes. For more information, call 918-259-8691 or visit BrokenArrowOK.gov/cemetery.

Supporting fellow employees

The Building Maintenance Division serves the needs of fellow City employees. These 12 employees are proud to offer a wide range of services to help the City operate.

The division coordinates outside specialized contractors (such as pest control and electricians) and provides custodial services for 10 City facilities. Almost 900 pieces of equipment, such as ice machines, fire extinguishers, and HVAC equipment, are maintained by the Building Maintenance Division.

Building Maintenance's services are extremely varied across the City. The division usually closes between 150-200 work orders per month, in addition to revolving projects. Services provided include minor electrical, carpentry, plumbing, demolition, appliance repair, moving and relocation, construction and remodeling. Building Maintenance also lights Main Street every holiday season!

Taking out the trash

The Sanitation Division provides an essential service that protects public health and the environment through the collection, transfer and disposal of residential refuse.

Sanitation provides more than the twice weekly residential refuse service to about 35,000 homes. Bulky waste pickup is available for larger items or a large amount of material. Fees vary and are listed at BrokenArrowOK.gov/Trash. To schedule a bulky waste pickup, call 918-259-8373.

The 44 Sanitation employees are some of the hardest working, and most appreciated, in the City. Each trash day, a truck services an average of 1,250 homes. In 2018, Broken Arrow

residents generated 38,934 tons (or 76,788,000 lbs) of garbage. An average household in the City generates about 46 lbs of refuse each week.

Each of the City's 18 sanitation trucks can hold 20-yards of compacted trash, which is about 9.5 tons of refuse. A truck averages 2.1 trips to the landfill per day.

Curbside Recycling Pilots

From January-May 2019, the Sanitation Division operated two curbside recycling pilot projects with about 500 customers each. Both used a blue cart for recyclables and reduced pickup to once per week. More than 52 tons of recyclables were collected during the programs.

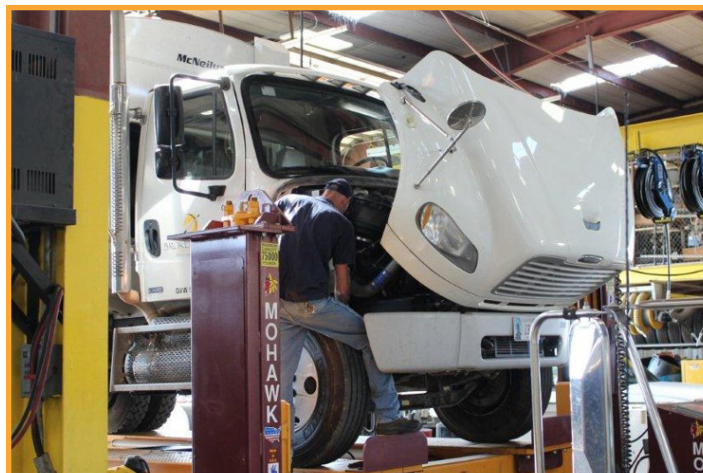


A full report will be given to the Broken Arrow Municipal Authority (BAMA) this summer to help the Authority decide on the future of curbside recycling in Broken Arrow. (BAMA is comprised of the five City Council members and oversees the City's utility and sanitation services.)

Star Fleet: Keeping the City running

Safe and reliable vehicles are important when getting around the City. This is why the 21 skilled employees of Fleet Maintenance are dedicated to providing fellow employees with the necessary repairs and maintenance of City owned vehicles and equipment, often within three service days.

As the City's population continues to grow, so do Fleet Maintenance's service demands. With the many technological changes in today's world, the Fleet Maintenance division must keep up with increasingly complex vehicles and



equipment through continuous training.

Today the City's fleet

consists of approximately 1,500 vehicles and equipment including: 13 ambulances, 24 fire trucks,

and 136 police patrol units. Services Fleet Maintenance provides include:

- Preventative maintenance and repair of all City vehicles and equipment
- New vehicle check in and make ready
- Welding
- Fabrication
- Modifications
- Emergency equipment and communication installations
- Police outfitting

The division's mechanics are accessible 24 hours per day and provide support during winter storm events or other events as needed.