

## City Manager delivers State of the City

City Manager Michael Spurgeon delivered the 2018 State of the City address at a Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce luncheon in December. The State of the City is an opportunity to share with the community this year's accomplishments and what's next for the year ahead. This is Spurgeon's fourth such presentation since becoming City Manager in fall 2015.

In 2018, Broken Arrow received several national accolades that spotlight the City's outstanding quality of life. The Rose District was named one of USA Today's Top 50 Most Charming Main Streets in America. The U.S. Conference of Mayors named Broken Arrow the Most Livable Small U.S. City. Business Insider and 24/7 Wall Street ranked BA in their safest cities lists. Additionally, Wallet Hub named BA as the best U.S. City for first time home buyers.

For 2019, the City will continue to focus on providing great services citizens rely on everyday, such as sanitation, water and sewer, transportation, parks and community development. Rebuilding and expanding the public infrastructure



will also be a priority, as projects from the 2018 Build our Future BA General Obligation Bond begin to be implemented. City Administration will also increase business retention efforts, as part of economic development initiatives.

Regarding the City's financial

condition, Spurgeon reported that sales tax collections are keeping pace with projections and operational expenses are staying below budget within the first six months of Fiscal Year 2019.

View the State of the City presentation at [BrokenArrowOk.gov/stateofcity](http://BrokenArrowOk.gov/stateofcity).

## Strengthen your neighborhood: Attend the 2018 HOA Workshop

The 2019 Broken Arrow Homeowners Association Workshop is a great place to get helpful tips and resources for property owners, renters and those wanting information on owning a home within an HOA. Learn all you need to know about getting your neighborhood started or being the best neighborhood you can be!

Join the casual roundtable discussion after the sessions to discuss topics tailored to those attending and get to know your "neighbors." This is a great opportunity to network!

Topics taught in previous years include:

- Legal and Operation issues for Homeowners Associations
- Public Safety (Police and Fire Departments)
- Animal Control

- Building Permits
- Planning and Development
- Code Enforcement
- Neighborhood Beautification
- Stormwater Management and Low Impact Development (LID) Certification for Neighborhoods
- HOA Insurance
- Recycling
- Representatives from various City departments will also be available to answer your questions.

The free workshop will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16, in the Stoney Creek Conference Center ballroom, 200 W. Albany St. Light refreshments will be available. Attendees will also be eligible to win a weather radio and other door prizes. The event is free and open to the public.

To register, visit [www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/HOA](http://www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/HOA).

## BAPD motorcycle safety course resumes in March

Motorcycles are inexpensive to operate, fun to ride and easy to park. Unfortunately, many riders never learn the critical skills needed to ride safely. Motorcycling requires skill, concentration and reasonable precautions.

The Share the Road course is designed to teach experienced riders how to survive riding on our roadways. It's taught by seasoned police motorcycle officers who know how to stay safe on a motorcycle. Riders will learn effective turning, obstacle avoidance, braking and more.

Dates for 2019 "Share the Road" courses are: March 24, April 7, April 28 and advanced classes on June 9 and Sept. 8. Riders **must** have taken the beginners course to register for an advanced course.

All classes will be from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St. in Broken Arrow. Visit [BrokenArrowOK.gov/ShareTheRoad](http://BrokenArrowOK.gov/ShareTheRoad), or call 918-259-2400 ext. 8692 for details.

# Longtime Parks, Recreation director retires

After 20 years with the City of Broken Arrow, Parks and Recreation Director Scott Esmond retired in January. A nationwide search for his replacement is underway.

“It has been a pleasure to work with the citizens of Broken Arrow and a dedicated Parks and Recreation staff over the past 20 years,” Esmond said.

Under his leadership, Broken Arrow’s parks and recreation system saw tremendous growth. The City currently supports 38 parks, over 800 acres of land, three community centers, a nature center and more than 20 miles of walking and biking trails.

The Broken Arrow Parks and Recreation Department also offers a wide variety of athletic and recreation activities all over the City, as well as an increasing number of special event opportunities each year.

“The Broken Arrow City Council and I want to commend Scott Esmond on the fantastic work he has done for Broken Arrow’s parks,” said Mayor



Craig Thurmond. “Broken Arrow is widely recognized as one of the most beautiful cities in the region, and a large part of that is because of Scott’s leadership over the last two decades. We wish him and his family the best.”

“Scott will definitely be missed by many in Broken Arrow,” said City Manager Michael Spurgeon. “He is a great community leader and has dedicated a tremendous amount of his time and energy to ensure residents and visitors in Broken Arrow have access to the recreational activities

that interest them. Having led the department for such a long time and accomplished much, Scott’s retirement leaves a big hole that will be very difficult to fill.”

In recent years, the department has received numerous honors, including:

- 18 years as a Tree City USA
- Ray Herral Nature Center named a Top 100 Thing Every Tulsan Needs to Do by the Tulsa World
- Arrowhead Park named Complex of the Year by USA Softball in 2014
- Indian Springs Sports Complex named Best Sports Center in Oklahoma by Best Things Oklahoma in 2017

Esmond originally came to Broken Arrow after spending 12 years with the City of Tulsa’s Parks and Recreation Department. He also worked at LaFortune Golf Course after college and began his career in parks and recreation as a seasonal worker at the age of 16. He is a past president of the Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation and the Oklahoma Recreation & Parks Society.

## Downtown commuters, air travelers should plan for construction

In January, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) began two major construction projects that may affect Broken Arrow residents who commute to downtown Tulsa, as well as anyone who plans to fly out of Tulsa International Airport.

### Broken Arrow Expressway

The first project is a \$25 million plan to reconstruct all pavement on the south leg of the Inner Dispersal Loop (IDL), as well as rehabilitate the eastbound I-244 ramp to northbound US-75/eastbound SH-51, the Houston St. bridge on the south leg of the IDL, and also the 6th and 11th St. bridges on the east leg of the IDL.

The southbound US-75/westbound SH-51 lanes on the south leg of the IDL are closed until further notice. Traffic is detoured to the other legs of the IDL. The southbound US-75 lanes of the east leg are also closed until further notice.

Significant delays can be expected on all downtown highway corridors, especially during rush hours.

Changes to traffic flow can be expected later in the project to close the other directions of the south and east legs. Specific lane and ramp closures will be announced in the daily Traffic Advisories section of [odot.org](http://odot.org) as they are scheduled.

The project is expected to be completed in early 2020, weather permitting.

While this project is under construction, a separate but nearby project will rehabilitate bridges on SH-51 (Broken Arrow Expressway) between Lewis Avenue and 15th Street. This work is expected to start in early spring 2019.

### Highway 11 near TIA

The second project is a \$9 million plan to improve eight bridges on SH-11, including bridges at the I-244 junction, Pine Street, Memorial Drive and also over a BNSF rail line.

Drivers needing access to the Tulsa International Airport complex are urged to plan ahead for extra travel time throughout the project. Detours to the main airport entrance will be in place during a portion of this project.

SH-11 is expected to be complete in early 2020, weather permitting.

Drivers can sign up for daily Traffic Advisories at [www.odot.org](http://www.odot.org), which detail upcoming lane closure information as it is scheduled. Click the “Sign Up For News & Alerts” link on the main page of this website and select the Tulsa Metro option.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Ongoing through Feb. 9 — Broken Arrow Youth Baseball registration** [bayouthbaseball.com](http://bayouthbaseball.com), 918-455-2292

**February 5 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**February 9 — Daddy Daughter Dance** 6 p.m., Nienhuis Park Community Center, 3201 N. 9th St. \$5 per person in advance. 918-259-6550

**February 14 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**February 19 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**February 26 — Empty Bowls** 5 p.m., Broken Arrow High School, 1901 E. Albany St. \$10, [baneighbors.org/empty-bowls](http://baneighbors.org/empty-bowls)

**February 28 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**March 5 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**March 14 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

**March 16 — ShamROCK the Rose** 5 p.m., Rose District. <http://www.facebook.com/shamrocktherose>