

Recycling pilot programs approved

Both pilot programs will include about 500 customers each

On Dec. 5, 2017, the Broken Arrow City Council approved the Citizens Recycling Committee's recommendation of running two concurrent curbside recycling pilot programs encompassing 500 customers each. The first pilot would continue the collection of garbage in trash bags, but include a plastic cart for recyclables. The second pilot would include a cart for both trash and recycling services.

Both pilot programs would reduce refuse pick up to once per week instead of twice and discontinue the use of City-provided trash bags. The cost for running the two pilots projects is approximately \$300,000, funded by the Broken Arrow Municipal Authority (BAMA).

Current sanitation routes will determine who will be selected for the pilot, which is anticipated to begin in late

Spring of 2018. Please note that this is just a pilot program to determine if curbside recycling is feasible in Broken Arrow, and if it is, recycling would be completely voluntary.

Broken Arrow currently does not offer curbside recycling service, and the pilot program will help guide staff, the Committee and the City Council on future action steps regarding curbside recycling city-wide.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will the pilot program start?

We are projecting the pilot projects to kick off sometime in the late Spring of 2018.

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Stoney Creek Grand Opening



Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center held its Grand Opening on Saturday, Dec. 2. Stoney Creek boasts 40,000 sq. ft. of event and meeting space for events up to 1,000 people. The hotel portion features 177 guest rooms and a heated indoor/outdoor pool. StoneyCreekHotels.com

Strengthen your neighborhood: Attend the 2018 HOA Workshop

The 2018 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.- 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 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.

Super Myers brothers have each worked over 40 years for City

Charles Myers worked for the City of Broken Arrow for 18 years. In that time, he was able to help sons John and David Myers both find work with the City of Broken Arrow. In December, John and David were recognized by the City for their 40-plus years of service.

John, 63, is stormwater superintendent for the City. He first started in summer 1972 working in Sanitation like his father. John moved on to the Utilities department, where he read meters, installed water taps and fixed leaks. He also ran both the water and wastewater treatment plants and worked in the Construction department.

"I've worked for just about every department except Fire and Police," John said. In 1991, he started with the Stormwater department, which was called the Special Projects



Brothers David, left, and John Myers have each worked for the City of Broken Arrow since the '70s.

department at the time, and has been there since.

David, 62, is a contract administrator in the Engineering and Construction department. He first worked part time with the City reading water meters during Christmas break in 1973 and became full time in May 1974, also with the Utilities department. David became an inspector with the Public Works department in 1992 and has been there since.

The family connection doesn't stop with them either. David's son, Clint Myers, and John's son-in-law, Kory McCracken, also work for the City of Broken Arrow.

"I like what I'm doing and seeing the growth of the City," David said.

"I've always liked the work," he said. "It always feels like you accomplished something."



Read the 2017 Annual Report

The 2017 Annual Report provides an excellent overview of the progress the City of Broken Arrow has made on projects and programs throughout the year, as well as provide a snapshot of what's ahead in 2018. Read it online at BrokenArrowOK.gov/AnnualReport, or pick up a complimentary copy at City Hall, 220 S. First St.

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Who will be selected to participate in the pilot program?

The pilot program area will be selected from existing refuse routes. All refuse customers in those selected areas will be a part of the pilot program.

Will the recycling pilot programs make my trash bill increase?

Participation in the pilot program will not affect rates, and the recycling systems being tested in the pilot programs are not expected to increase rates if adopted.

What if I'm selected for the pilot, but I don't want to recycle?

Recycling will be encouraged, however, it will be voluntary.

Why use carts for the pilot? Why not just collect recycling in bags?

There are several advantages to

using the carts:

- Rolling carts reduce the possibility of litter and debris being spread throughout neighborhoods due to disturbances by animals.
- Rolling carts provide homeowners with an easier and cleaner method for the storage of trash and recyclables between collection days.
- Rolling carts easily handle glass and cardboard.
- Rolling carts provide for a more efficient and safer collection method, and the possibility of implementing a fully-automated service.
- The use of rolling carts eliminates the recurring annual expense of purchasing plastic bags.
- The use of rolling carts generally contributes to the generation of a better quality of collected recyclables with less contamination.
- Bags generally contribute to higher recycling processing cost than carts and are problematic for recycle machinery.

Where will I put my carts?

Carts can be stored on a homeowner's property at their discretion but are typically stored in the garage or at the side of the house. The City will work with Homeowners Associations that have covenants restricting the placement of bins outdoors.

How long will the pilot program last?

Four months, however, the programs will continue to run and operate until such time a decision is made on City-wide implementation.

Who makes the final decision?

The Broken Arrow Municipal Authority will make the final decision. However, after the pilot projects are completed and all data collected, the information will be presented to the Citizens Recycling Committee for their analysis and comment.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 3 — Guided Hikes Noon-2 p.m., Ray Harral Nature Center, 7101 S. 3rd St.

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

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

February 10 — Daddy Daughter Dance 6-7:30 p.m. or 8-9:30 p.m. Nienhuis Park Community Center, 3201 N. 9th St. Advanced tickets required, \$5 per person and available at either community center.

February 17 — Guided Hikes Noon-2 p.m., Ray Harral Nature Center, 7101 S. 3rd St.

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

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

March 3 — Annual HOA Workshop 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Stoney Creek Conference Center, 200 W. Albany St. See related story for details.

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

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

March 10 — ShamRock the Rose Street Festival 4-10 p.m., The Rose District

March 18 — Share the Road Motorcycle Safety Course 9 a.m.-3p.m. Chisholm Trail South Park. Visit BrokenArrowOK.gov/ShareTheRoad for details.