

Florence Street closed for widening project

A half-mile section of Florence Street between Olive (129th East) Avenue and 138th East Avenue has been closed for a street widening project.

The road closure is necessary to allow the contractor, Becco Contractors, Inc., to safely complete underground utilities, including stormwater structures and waterline relocations associated with the public improvements project. The road closure was presented to the City Council at its April 21 meeting.

A detour route has been implemented to shift traffic around the work zone. Residents are allowed local access through the area during construction. The road closure is expected to last until Aug. 20, weather and other conditions permitting.

Motorists should use caution in the area during construction for the safety of contractors and residents.

This project will widen Florence between Olive and Aspen Avenues. Half of the mile will be widened from two lanes to three and the rest will be increased to five lanes.

The project is estimated to cost about \$3.9 million and is funded by the voter-approved 2014 general obligation bond.

Economic recovery taskforce aims to help BA recover from COVID-19

The City of Broken Arrow, Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce formed “BA Rising: Economic Recovery Taskforce” in April to address how the City of Broken Arrow will strategically transition from disaster response to economic recovery.

They key objectives for the taskforce are to assess and forecast the current and future economic impact of COVID-19 in Broken Arrow and implement a plan to re-open the economy in a safe and strategic manner.

Additionally, the taskforce will provide recovery resources to businesses and nonprofits as well as develop and deliver a road map to help unemployed and displaced workers get back to work. The taskforce will create industry cluster workgroups and work collaboratively with industry leaders to accomplish these objectives.

“Working with our business community, the BA Rising Economic Recovery Taskforce will help facilitate the re-opening of our businesses and help find ways to get our economic engine going again” said Michael Spurgeon, City

BA RISING

ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASKFORCE
Manager.

Taskforce members include, Mayor Craig Thurmond, City Manager Michael Spurgeon, Chamber and EDC President & CEO Jennifer Conway, Broken Arrow Public School District Superintendent Dr. Janet Dunlop, City Economic Development Manager Norman Stephens, EDC Vice President Darla Heller, Chamber Chairman Alvin Bailey and EDC Chairman Jim Beavers.

“Broken Arrow has done an excellent job in responding to the COVID-19 Crisis. Now, it is vital we move from responding to building the path to restart our economy in a safe manner. I believe we will rise even higher than before this crisis. Much of the planning has already begun with our city and schools, but bringing industry sectors, from manufacturing to nonprofits, to the table is an important step as each industry has been impacted in a different way. We will strive to make sure no one is left out of the recovery” Conway said.

Swezey named communications manager

The City of Broken Arrow is pleased to announce the promotion of Jennifer Swezey to the position of Communications and Media Relations Manager. She will lead the Communications division within the City Manager’s Office.

Swezey, who most recently has served as the City’s Community Relations Liaison, brings 16 years of experience including nine in local government. She began work at the City in 2014 after spending 10 years in North Carolina working



in tourism, marketing and communications. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Marketing from Oklahoma State University

and a Master’s degree in Administrative Leadership from the University of Oklahoma.

“I was very excited to promote Jennifer to this important position on the City’s leadership team,” said City Manager Michael Spurgeon. “She has many great ideas on how we will enhance, expand and take our transparency and communications responsibilities to the community to the next level. I’m very excited to see where she takes us!”

The Communications Division manages the City’s website, online citizen request tool (ActionCenterBA.com), social media platforms, government access channel (Cox Cable Channel 24), video production, press events, media relations, publications, marketing and branding for the City.

“Broken Arrow is a great place to live, work and play,” Swezey said. “I am grateful for this opportunity to keep telling Broken Arrow’s amazing stories and keep our citizens informed.”

Mosquito control begins with prevention

The best way to control the mosquito population is by not allowing them to breed in the first place. You can protect yourself against mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and pants when possible and using mosquito repellent containing DEET when outside.

- Prevent items such as buckets and tarps from holding standing water.
- Empty your outdoor pet's water bowl and refill daily.
- Rinse, scrub, and refill birdbaths weekly.
- Empty plastic wading pools weekly and store indoors when not in use.
- Regularly maintain swimming pools and outdoor hot tubs.



Courtesy: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

- Empty water from the pool and hot tub covers weekly.
- Store boats covered or upside down.
- Regularly check for clogged rain gutters and clean them if needed.

- Repair leaky lawn irrigation spouts.

To request mosquito spraying:

Due to federal regulations, the City must first prove there is a mosquito problem before crews can treat the requested area. Information is collected on a weekly basis from permanent trapping sites, and that data helps determine whether treatment is warranted.

You can report a mosquito problem online at www.ActionCenterBA.com, or use the City's Action Center app (search for "Action Center Broken Arrow" in your app store) or call the Action Center at 918-258-3587.

How the City communicates news and information

The City uses multiple methods to disseminate information to the public.

The primary source of City information is the recently redesigned City website, BrokenArrowOK.gov. The webpage includes helpful news and calendar sections that residents can sign up to receive an email notice when items are posted.

To sign up for emails:

1. Visit BrokenArrowOK.gov/Notifications.
2. Enter your email address and name.
3. Click the envelope icon next to each category of item you want to receive emails for OR to subscribe to all categories, select the envelope at the bottom of the page.
4. Click submit.
5. Check your email for a confirmation link.

Once your email address is confirmed, you will receive an email anytime we post content to your

selected categories.

Automated city-wide phone calls

Swift911 is the City's automated telephone system for emergency notifications. This system makes phone calls or sends emails or texts to people in the event of an emergency or for sharing important information. All the calls you receive will have the Caller ID of "City of Broken Arrow" or "Broken Arrow Police Department."

To sign up, visit BrokenArrowOK.gov/alerts.

Press releases

The City routinely sends updates on local services and events to area news outlets. These releases are published under the News section of the website.

Social media

The City utilizes several social media channels:

- facebook.com/cityofba

- twitter.com/cityofba
- instagram.com/cityofba
- youtube.com/user/cityofbrokenarrow
- The City also routinely publishes information on the NextDoor app. NextDoor is a service that connects neighbors within the community. Visit nextdoor.com to get connected.

Focus newsletter

Our monthly citizen newsletter, distributed with utility bills or with a link by email to those that subscribe to e-billing. Archived issues are also available at BrokenArrowOK.gov/Focus.

TV24

Cox Cable subscribers in BA can easily watch BA news and updates as well as recent City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Tune into Channel 24 for programming.

Finally, the City will also send direct mail whenever necessary to communicate information.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many events were canceled or postponed. Visit BrokenArrowOK.gov/calendar for updated events.

June 2 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

June 11 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

June 16 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

June 25 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

July 3 — Independence Day (Observed) City offices closed.

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

Holiday trash schedule

City offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observation of Independence Day.

There is no trash service on Friday, July 3, except for residents in the Friday Recycling Pilot Project area.

The Police and Fire Departments will remain open. If an emergency call requires the services of Public Works crews in water or streets, employees will be brought in to fix the emergency. The after-hours emergency number is 918-259-8400.

Pet leashes and clean-up required

The City of Broken Arrow reminds residents that dogs are required to be on a leash in public, unless in the proper area at the Rose West Dog Park, 4751 W. New Orleans St. Dogs are not permitted at events with 1,000 or more people in attendance. These rules do not apply to service dogs.

Pet owners also violate City ordinances when they do not pick up their pets' excrement. Please remember to clean-up after your pet when you visit public spaces or walk your dog in your neighborhood.