

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilors
From: Michael Spurgeon, City Manager
Date: February 3, 2017
Re: Notes to Council

1. STAFF REPORTS / ITEMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

- Utilities Department Monthly Report – December 2016

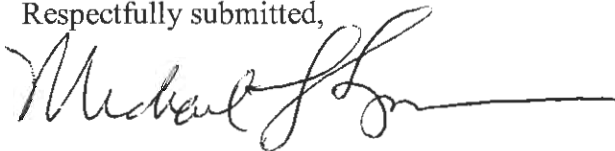
2. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE / NOTIFICATION

- Press Release - GO Bond Sale – February 1, 2017
- Military Center News Letter – January 2017

3. SPECIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

- Parks Post-Event Report – Disk Golf – January 21, 2017

Respectfully submitted,



Michael L. Spurgeon


jmh
Attachments

1. STAFF REPORTS / ITEMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION





INTEROFFICE MEMO

To: Michael Spurgeon, City Manager
From: Anthony Daniel, Utilities Director 
Date: January 30, 2017
Re: Utilities Department Monthly Report – December 2016

	December 2016	December 2015
Water Treated, Purchased and Distributed		
Water Purchased from Tulsa	1.7 MG	.002 MG
Water – Produced at Verdigris WTP	<u>287.7 MG</u>	<u>263.9 MG</u>
Total	289.4 MG	263.902 MG
Wastewater Treated		
Lynn Lane Plant	105.6 MG	165.5 MG
Haikey Creek Plant flow from BA	135.2 MG	199.9 MG
Haikey Creek Plant flow from Tulsa	188.0 MG	232.9 MG

**Lift-Booster Station Equipment Maintenance Summary-
David Handy**

1. Changed oil in Pump #2A at Old Adams Creek.
2. Replaced solenoid valve on Pump #2 at Southpark Lift Station.
3. Replaced relay in motor control panel at Adams Creek NW L.S.
4. Wired new float @ Indian Springs L.S.

LLWWTF Maintenance Summary

1. New booster pump installed for sludge Belt Press.
2. Installed backflow preventer in RAS basement.
3. New heater, contactor, thermostat and breaker installed in Headworks Building.
4. RAS Building winterized.
5. Screw Pump #1 at Headworks, out of service for inspection on lower bearing.
6. East Clarifier maintenance done on skimmer arm.
7. Auger repaired on grit classifier, put back in service.
8. Repaired heaters in sludge Belt Press Building.
9. Repaired control relay on sludge Belt Press.
10. Replaced Blower #4 filter.

Lynn Lane and Haikey Creek WWTP Industrial Pretreatment Program Summary- Lauren Wilson

Fats, Oil & Grease (FOG) Program Activities

1. Food Handling Establishment Inspections:

City pretreatment staff inspected 9 food handling establishments (FHE) in the month of December.

Staff inspected manifests for grease interceptor (GI) maintenance, looked at GI, and discussed best management practices. FHEs with improperly maintained interceptors have been asked to have their grease interceptor pumped immediately. Re-checks are done for non-compliance issues.

2. FOG Program Administration & Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) Response:

- City of Broken Arrow pretreatment staff checked the manhole in front of Forest Hills adult care facility to check for grease build-up. As we have reported previously, this manhole is a location of repeated grease-related sanitary sewer overflows. The manhole was full of grease. City staff checked maintenance records at the facility and found that Forest Hills has increased the maintenance schedule on both interceptors as the City had requested. We notified maintenance personnel of our findings and asked that they have their contract maintenance company come out to inspect the interceptor for structural or piping problems. The east interceptor had extremely hot water flowing through it at the time of our inspection. We will also explore the possibility that the hot water is causing the interceptor to not operate properly. City staff will check back with Forest Hills next month.
- Pretreatment staff received and reviewed the Wingstop grease interceptor plan. Grease interceptor specifications were sufficient to meet Broken Arrow pretreatment standards with proper operation and maintenance. Wingstop has been added to the FHE database for scheduled inspections.
- Certified letters were mailed to Brookdale, Village Healthcare, and Franciscan Villa adult care facilities notifying them of not having a grease trap and not being in compliance with Broken Arrow municipal code. We requested a compliance plan within 60 days. The letter gives the facilities 18 months to install grease interceptors.
- A certified letter was mailed to Union Public Schools notifying them of not having a grease trap and not being in compliance with Broken Arrow municipal code. We requested a compliance plan within 60 days. The letter gives Union Schools 24 months to install grease interceptors at Tom Peters and Christa McAuliffe elementary schools.
- Pretreatment staff updated the database/file system and met to discuss FHE issues.

Industrial Pretreatment Activities:

1. Industrial Pretreatment Program Administration:

- City pretreatment staff reviewed wastewater discharge permittee files, updated fact sheets, and looked up NAICS and SIC codes for accuracy in preparation of the annual DEQ pretreatment compliance inspection. DEQ performed the annual inspection for the Regional Metropolitan Utility Authority and Broken Arrow Municipal Authority on Tuesday, December 20th at the Broken Arrow Pretreatment office. Blue Bell and CSI Aerospace files were audited. No deficiencies were noted. DEQ commended staff in

running the City of Broken Arrow's pretreatment program and made mention of the fact that Broken Arrow best management practice signs are used by other cities in Oklahoma.

- AMI/L3 Communications printing best management practice was issued and signed. Inspections will be performed periodically to check waste manifests, pH records, and training documentation.
- Conference call with CSI Aerospace about the addition of a "process sink". City will require CSI to perform laboratory analysis on the sink waste quarterly. CSI is going to provide the City with schematics so that a permit amendment can be made. City staff will inspect the process sink waste before issuing the permit amendment.
- City staff reviewed the EPA's dental office pretreatment standards that were signed on December 15th and prepared an overview for the Utilities Director. EPA will require all dental offices that place or remove amalgam fillings to install a solids separator, incorporate required best management practices and send certifications to the City within 3 years. All new dental offices (that place or remove amalgam fillings) will be required to install the solids separator and incorporate required best management practices within 90 days of discharge to the City sewer system and submit written certification to the City. All dental offices that are exempt will be required to send certification to the City within the 3-year period. This law will have to be adopted by the State of Oklahoma before the 3-year period begins. I will continue to provide updates on this initiative.
- City pretreatment staff received notification from City of Tulsa that Haikey Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant had diverted influent wastewater that smelled like gasoline on 12/29/16. City of Tulsa staff had reported that they believed the smell was coming from the Broken Arrow connection to the plant. The wastewater had already been diverted when Broken Arrow was notified. Broken Arrow Fire Department reported that no spills or gasoline smell reports were received that day. City sewer collection crews did not notice any gasoline smell during lift station checks. The incident was recorded in the Haikey Creek Wastewater Operations log book and in the pretreatment program files.

2. Compliance monitoring reports and laboratory analysis:

- City pretreatment staff performed quarterly influent and effluent priority pollutant scan at the Lynn Lane Wastewater Treatment Plant. Laboratory analysis consists of oil & grease, phosphorus, ammonia, table III metals, herbicides, pesticides/poly-chlorinated biphenyls, volatile and semi-volatile organics. No deficiencies were noted.
- City pretreatment staff performed quarterly sampling at the Verdigris Water Treatment Plant. Citric acid waste is hauled to a lift station that is routed to the Lynn Lane Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the waste is analyzed to ensure compliance with Broken Arrow pretreatment limits for metals. Total suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand are also analyzed for operational purposes. No deficiencies were noted.
- Compliance monitoring reports and laboratory analyses from Flight Safety, CSI Aerospace, and Unifirst were received and reviewed. No deficiencies were noted. Surcharges were calculated for Unifirst based upon this report in the amount of \$5,424.37.
- Blue Bell compliance monitoring report and laboratory analysis was received and reviewed. Two violations were reported for biochemical oxygen demand, one violation was reported for pH, and one violation was reported for oil & grease. Surcharges were calculated in the amount of \$23,487.77. Surcharges are not being billed at this time per

Utilities Director. City staff have prepared a consent order that has been reviewed by both parties. City staff will present the consent order to Broken Arrow Municipal Authority for approval. City staff met with Blue Bell and their engineering firm the week of 1/3/17.

3. Auto Shop Inspections:

City pretreatment staff inspected 39 auto shops in the month of December. Best Management Practice signs are being distributed to auto shop management. Management is asked to hang the signs for employees to view. City staff is looking at hazardous/waste disposal manifests and compiling information for the database.

UTILITIES DISTRIBUTION/COLLECTIONS MAINTENANCE SUMMARY

WATER DISTRIBUTION – Jerry Hanewinkel

1. New Taps and Meters set 36
2. Responded to 55 water leak calls
3. Replaced 27 meters
4. Repaired or Replaced 22 meters and valve boxes
5. Replaced 10 Curb Stops
6. Cleaned and restored 12 yards after water line repairs were done
7. Responded to 593 Call Okie Line Locates
8. Installed 5 service crossings
9. Responded to 51 water system service requests
10. Flushed 50 main lines for water quality issues
11. Distribution Main Leaks repaired 46
12. Meter leak repairs done 12
13. Valve truck crew exercised 116 valves for the month, bringing the total to 1151
14. Fire Hydrants Repaired 1
15. Fire Hydrants Replaced 1
16. Repaired 4 isolation valves

AMR PROJECT-

AMR register with meter installed-28

AMR registers only installed-25

SEWER COLLECTION- David Marlow

1. Service requests calls 36
2. Sewer line blockages 11
3. Lift station repairs done at 11 stations
4. Manholes cleaned /raised/repaired 15
5. Sewer line cleaned 630 ft.
6. CCTV 300 ft. to locate problems/defects in the sewer line
7. Sewer line locates done 68
8. Clean ups done at 4 locations after repairs to sewer lines were done
9. Sewer lines root cut at 2 locations
10. Stand-by and night crew responded to 11 sewer calls
11. Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO's) reported for the month of December 2016-3
12. Cleaned check valves/pumps at 10 lift stations

METER READING – Derriel Bynum

1. Replaced Meters-67
2. Door Hangers for bad check-100
3. Turn Ons for nonpayment-184
4. Turn Offs for nonpayment-239
5. New Accounts-443
6. Finals-474
7. Read 37,785 Meters for the month of December 2016
8. Construction Meters Set-6
9. Rereads/Leak Tests-201
10. Meter boxes replaced-3
11. Misreads-55 verified
12. Met with residents-10
13. Resident requested meter check-4
14. Meters pulled-10
15. UME chambers installed-4

AMR PROJECT-

AMR registers only installed-59

AMR register with meter installed-67

Retrieved water use history from 48 AMR radio devices and provided the graphs to the customer.

UTILITIES CONSTRUCTION – Tommy Kimbrough

1. Water Line Project from 61st St to 129th St-installed 53' of 12" C-900 pipe water line.
2. OOWA line locates-8
3. Assisted Water Department restoring yards after water line repairs were done.
4. Assisted Meter Reading Department with meter change outs and AMR Project.

WATER QUALITY- Diana Flora

1. Flushed dead end water lines at 40 locations.
2. Tested chlorine levels near auto flushers to verify all are working, 18 total.
3. 20 dirty water calls, 433,500 gallons of water flushed to improve water quality.
4. Collected 100 Bac-T samples and 2 chlorine (am/pm) daily for the month.
5. Total gallons flushed to improve water quality in December; 5,935,480 gallons.

VERDIGRIS WTP – Jimmy Helms

1. Removed in line mixers from vault #1, and 2. Installed new flange with threaded coupler.
2. Cleaned and inspected all four membrane feed strainers.
3. Cleaned and inspected all four pre-treatment trains.
4. Made repairs to leaks on the earth Tec flow meter.
5. Made repairs to leak on caustic panel valves.
6. Made repairs to fluoride metering pump.
7. Replaced caustic metering pump hose.
8. Troubleshoot Baptist tower telemetry.
9. Replaced two sensors in our finished water flow meter.
10. Repaired CL17 monitor due to air in the line.

11. Replaced photo control cell for the pretreatment basin lights.
12. Replaced permanganate pulsation dampener.
13. Replaced the positioner on rack #9 flow control valve.
14. Replaced a control relay in the back panel to Blower B and it is back up and running.
15. Addressed leaks on chlorine generators.
16. Replaced sludge drive cable on pre-treatment train #4.
17. Installed digital totalizers on sodium permanganate feed system.
18. Safety meeting over carbon monoxide on 12-14-16.
19. Conducted plant tour for Youth City Council 12-13-16.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-Barney Campbell

MEETINGS

- Leadership Team meetings
- Distribution system
- Utilities Staff meetings
- Development Services/Michael Skates-Cotton Patch Development
- Legal Dept/Beth Ann Childs-8" water line at the Creek Tpk & Olive (129th)
- Sewer line protection at Pelmore property
- Sewer problem on E Dallas St.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Anthony Daniel

1. Attended the weekly City Manager's leadership meetings.
2. Participated in the weekly Asst. Manager of Operations staff meetings.
3. Conducted the weekly Utilities Department staff meetings.
4. Attended the scheduled City Council and BAMA meetings.
5. Participated in several teleconferences with IT and Finance staff and Clevest team to resolve issues with the mass meter change-out software being utilized for the AMR Project.
6. Participated in the monthly RMUA operations committee meeting with Tulsa staff at Haikey Creek WWTP.
7. David Handy and I met with City Attorney and Asst. City Manager-Operations about drafting the effluent reuse agreement with Indian Springs Country Club. Executed copy of the agreement is required for the LLWWTP OPDES renewal permit application.
8. Utilities staff and I met with PEC Consultants and E & C project manager to review progress made on the issue of low chlorine residuals in the ground storage tanks.
9. Attended the scheduled RMUA board meeting at the City of Tulsa.
10. Attended the lunch time presentation by Aerostrip on aeration system at the WWTP.

FUTURE PROJECT TO DO LIST:

Replace the encased segment of pipe under the BA expressway. Ductile iron pipe is leaking.

2. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE / NOTIFICATION



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Krista Flasch
Director of Communications
City of Broken Arrow
Phone: (918) 259-2400, ext. 5309
Mobile: (918) 409-7771

\$18.7 Million in New Projects to Begin in BA *City sells 2014 General Obligation Bonds*

Broken Arrow, Okla. (2/1/17) – The City of Broken Arrow has sold \$18.7 million of General Obligation (GO) Bonds approved by voters in 2014. The sale will pay for several streets, public safety, quality of life, and stormwater projects. Approximately \$30.1 million of authorized 2014 bonds remain and will be sold over the next two years.

“With the upcoming bond sale, we will be able to move forward on projects that are important to our residents,” said Broken Arrow City Manager Michael Spurgeon. “We’re excited to complete these necessary improvements that will continue to enhance the quality of life in our community.”

PROJECT BREAKDOWN

STREETS

- Widen 23rd Street (193rd E Avenue/County Line Road) to five lanes between Kenosha (71st Street) and Houston (81st Street): \$2.5 million
- Widen Olive Avenue (129th E Avenue) to four lanes between Albany (61st Street) and Kenosha Street: \$1 million.
- Widen Kenosha Street between Date and Main Street to five lanes: \$1.89 million
- Resurface Ash Avenue and First Street between College and Dallas Street: \$525,000
- Resurface Kenosha Street between Garnett and Aspen Avenue (145th E Avenue): \$1.05 million
- Resurface streets in the Arrow subdivision: \$945,000

(Continued)

- Resurface Aspen Avenue between Washington (91st Street) and New Orleans (101st Street): \$800,000
- Resurface Omaha (51st Street) from Aspen Avenue to Elm Place (161st E Avenue); Jasper (131st Street) from Aspen Avenue to Elm Place; and New Orleans (101st Street) from Olive (129th E Avenue) to Garnett: \$375,000

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Improve Police and Fire Training Center: \$367,500
- Purchase and install police mobile data technology: \$304,000
- Purchase multiple self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs): \$840,000
- Purchase land and design a new fire station: \$400,000

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Construct Rose West dog park and trailhead restroom: \$473,000
- Build restroom at the Liberty Parkway Trail junction at either Aspen or Elm (161st E Avenue): \$315,000
- Build concessions, restrooms, umpire building at Arrowhead Park: \$225,000
- Construct regional playground, restrooms, picnic pavilion, and add security lighting at Chisholm Trail South Park: \$1.55 million
- Improve soccer fields lighting at Indian Springs Sports Complex: \$600,000
- Build connection from banquet hall to clubhouse at Battle Creek Golf Club: \$158,000
- Construct new splash pad and playground at Leisure Park: \$368,000
- Construct playground at Country Aire Park: \$158,000
- Refurbish playground at Copper Creek Park: \$126,000
- Convert two football fields to synthetic turf, add security lights at Neinhuis Park: \$1 million

(Continued)

- Construct a community trail network: \$500,000
- Purchase land and potentially construct a Creative Arts Center in the Rose District: \$1.4 million

STORMWATER

- Construct drainage improvements along Albany Street between 9th Street (Lynn Lane/177th E Avenue) and 23rd Street: \$850,500

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Freedom's Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Military History Center

112 N. Main ST
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
<http://www.okmhc.org/>



"Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History"

Volume 5, Number 1

January 2017

Important Date

March 16 – Vietnam Veterans Day

The MHC will host its annual Vietnam Veterans Day observance on March 16. The February newsletter will contain detailed information. In the meantime, please mark your calendars, and plan to attend this important, patriotic event.



The Last Charge by John Solie depicts 1LT Edwin Ramsey leading troopers of the 26th Cavalry "Philippine Scouts" Regiment on Bataan in the last mounted charge of U.S. cavalry, seventy-five years ago this month – January 16, 1942. (Story on page six)



45th Commander-in-Chief



Donald Trump and Michael Pence laying a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery

On January 20, Donald John Trump was inaugurated as the forty-fifth President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States.

President Trump was born in the Jamaica neighborhood of the Borough of Queens, New York City, on June 14, 1946. His high school education was at New York Military Academy. Young Donald had disciplinary problems, so his father sent him there to "shape him up". Apparently he succeeded, as Trump graduated as cadet captain and captain of the baseball team. After NYMA, Trump attended Fordham University in New York City for two years and then transferred to the University of Pennsylvania's Warton School of Business from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics. After graduation, he joined his father's real estate business. The senior Trump gave his son control of the business in 1971, and Donald Trump was on his way. He developed the company into an exceptionally successful, international real estate development business.

Trump is the first U.S. president without either prior government or military experience. He is the seventh President elected from New York state.

MHC Christmas Party

The MHC held its annual staff Christmas party in the Center's Research Library on Thursday, December 9.

Meet the Docents



(L.-R.) Ken Collins, Mitch Reed, Jim Reib, Dennis Hoch, Barry Holcomb, Lynn Burgess, Greg Baile, Dakota Roberson, Tim Decocq, Harold Hayes and Sandy Winfield.

and, the Volunteers



(L.-R.) Nancy Brian, Jean Baile, MHC Executive Assistant (employee), Susan Virdell and Claudia Price



The MHC Board of Directors selected Docent Dennis Hoch as the 2016 Volunteer of the Year. The MHC is proud of all of its volunteers and docents, who are also volunteers, and grateful for their loyalty and hard work. It would not be possible to operate the MHC without them.



MHC Annual History Project Night



Zoe Woodman, Oneta Ridge Middle School history student, with her mother and MHC Docent, Harold Hayes



Mitch Reed, MHC Docent and President of Ernest Childers Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, arranged with the City of Broken Arrow for the placement of this sign at the MHC. It's a special reserved parking space for combat wounded, who are qualified for a handicap parking space. It is the first such sign in Broken Arrow. Others are expected to follow at other sites within the city.



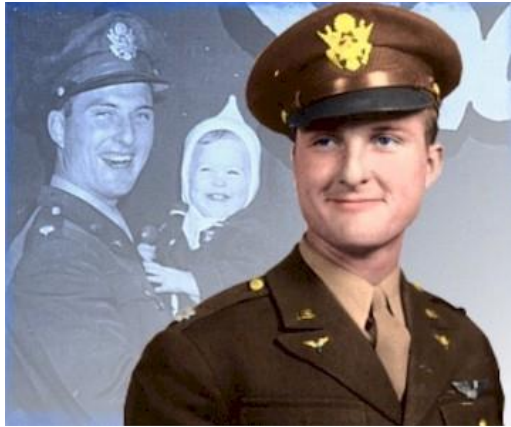
Ms. Heather Goodenough, Broken Arrow Schools Social Studies Instructional Specialist, her sons, Maddox and Tucker, a Childers Middle School history student – Ms. Goodenough is the driving force behind History Project Night. This year it was on Tuesday, December 13.

Support the Military History Center

We believe the MHC provides a valuable service to the local community, especially to veterans and students, by "Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History". We ask for your financial support to help the MHC continue our educational endeavors, such as History Project Night, and to help our ongoing mission of promoting patriotism and honoring our veterans for the sacrifices they have made, and are making, to keep America free.

For more information, please contact the Military History Center at (918) 794-2712 to learn how you can be a financial supporter, or click on the link below to go to the MHC website at www.okmhc.org/donate/.

Monetary donations, as well as gifts in kind, are tax deductible, subject to IRS regulations.



In this composite photograph, Lt. Colonel Bob Vance is posing with his one-year-old daughter, Sharon, next to his B-24 Liberator bomber, which he named for her: *The Sharon D*.

Leon Robert Vance, Jr., called Bob by family and friends, was born at Enid, Oklahoma, on August 11, 1916. He attended the University of Oklahoma for two years before entering the United States Military Academy in 1935. While still a cadet, he underwent flight training at Mitchell Field on Long Island. After graduation from West Point, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of infantry, but his first orders sent him to Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa for further pilot training. He received his wings at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas on June 21, 1940.

Vance's rise in rank was meteoric. By September 1943, he was a Lieutenant Colonel. So far, Vance had spent his career in the United States in training commands, but he yearned for combat. In December 1943, he was assigned to the 489th Bomb Group, Eighth Air Force, as Deputy Commander. He was tasked with preparing the Group's B-24 pilots and crews for action in support of the D-Day landings. On May 30, 1944, Vance got his wish for combat. He was assigned as the 489th's Group Leader for a raid on Oldenberg, Germany. It would turn out to be his only mission in *The Sharon D*.

On June 5, Vance led his Group on a mission to Wimereaux, in the Pas-de-Calais area of France. As Group Leader, he would ride, not fly, the bomber, *Missouri Sue*. On the initial bomb run over the target, the bombs failed to release. *Missouri Sue* was the lead bomber on whose mark all other bombers would drop their loads. If *Missouri Sue's* bombs didn't fall, the mission would be a total failure. Vance ordered Captain Louis Masure to go around for another run. The Germans were now fully alert and ready. On the second bomb run, *Missouri Sue* was hit multiple times by anti-aircraft fire, heavily damaging her and killing and wounding some of the crew, but all but one bomb was successfully released. Vance was seriously wounded and Captain Masure was killed; three engines were knocked out, and explosions began to wrack the bomber. Vance took the controls and struggled to keep *Missouri Sue* in the air. He ordered the crew to bail out, but he believed that one of the crewmen was too badly wounded to bail out. He decided to ditch in the English Channel. The bomber hit hard, trapping Vance inside as water filled the aircraft, but an explosion threw him free. He was pulled from the water by a British air-sea rescue team. He later learned that two of the crew had jumped with the seriously wounded man.

After nearly two months of treatment in England, Vance was ordered back to the United States for further treatment. The C-54, in which he was riding, disappeared with all aboard, on July 26, 1944. It was presumed to have crashed into the Atlantic between Iceland and Newfoundland. The recommendation for the Medal of Honor for the Wimereaux mission was confirmed on January 4, 1945, but his widow requested that the award ceremony be delayed until the Medal could be presented to their daughter. On October 11, 1946, Major General James P. Hodges, commander of the 2nd Bomb Division when Vance was assigned to it, made the presentation to four-year-old Sharon Vance at Enid Air Force Base. The base was renamed Vance Air Force Base on July 7, 1949.

Vance's military residence of record is New York, so he is accredited to that state in Medal of Honor records, but he is indeed a true Oklahoma hero.



Vance (second from the left, standing) with the crew of *The Sharon D*



Four-year-old Sharon Vance receiving her father's Medal of Honor





Bataan Death March Survivor

Phillip William Coon was born in Creek County, Oklahoma on May 28, 1919. On December 7, 1941, he was serving with the 12th Infantry "Philippine" Division. The following day, the Japanese attack on the Philippines began. Manila fell within a month, and the American and Filipino defenders of Luzon were forced to retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. For the next three months, U.S. and Filipino forces held out despite a lack of food, medicine and naval and air support. On April 9, 1942, with his forces crippled by starvation and disease, Major General Edward King, Jr. surrendered his command of approximately 75,000 troops. Thus, began the infamous Bataan Death March.

On November 19, 1944, Staff Sergeant Ruben Rivers was a tank commander in the 761st Tank Battalion, the "Black Panthers", an all-black unit (commanded by white officers) of Third Army. On that day, the 761st was approaching the Siegfried Line near Guebling in eastern France. Rivers had been severely wounded three days earlier in action near Vic-sur-Seille, for which he was later awarded a Silver Star. He refused evacuation, going so far as refusing morphine and disobeying a direct order from his company commander to evacuate.

On November 19, near the town of Bougaktroff, the Black Panthers encountered a well-positioned German anti-tank unit, which delivered extremely heavy fire. Rivers ordered the other tanks to withdraw while he remained with his tank to provide covering fire. With his position fully exposed, the Germans directed their fire at him, hitting his tank with two high-explosive shells killing Rivers and wounding the crew.

The next day, his company commander, Captain David J. Williams, submitted a recommendation for the Medal of Honor for Rivers. At the time, the Army wasn't awarding Medals of Honor to black soldiers, and the recommendation went nowhere. Over the years, Captain Williams continued to press for the Medal for SSGT Rivers. It was finally approved, and on January 13, 1997, President Bill Clinton presented SSGT Rivers' Medal of Honor to Ms. Grace Woodfork, one of his sisters. David Williams was in attendance at the ceremony. SSGT Rivers' Medal of Honor citation:

"... for extraordinary heroism in action during the period 15-19 November 1944, toward Guebling, France. Though severely wounded in the leg, Sergeant Rivers refused medical treatment and evacuation, took command of another tank, and advanced with his company in Guebling the next day. Repeatedly refusing evacuation, Sergeant Rivers continued to direct his tank's fire at enemy positions through the morning of 19 November 1944. At dawn, Company A's tanks began to advance towards Bougaktroff, but were stopped by enemy fire. Sergeant Rivers, joined by another tank, opened fire on the enemy tanks, covering company A as they withdrew. While doing so, Sergeant Rivers' tank was hit, killing him and wounding the crew. Staff Sergeant Rivers' fighting spirit and daring leadership were an inspiration to his unit and exemplify the highest traditions of military service."

Ruben Rivers was born at Tecumseh, Oklahoma, on October 31, 1918. When the United States entered World War II, Rivers and two of his brothers joined the Army. SSGT Rivers is buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, located just outside Saint-Avold, Département de la Moselle, France.



Retired Maj. General Rita Aragon, Oklahoma Secretary of Military and Veterans' Affairs, presents 94-year-old, World War II veteran Phillip Coon of Sapulpa, Oklahoma with a Bronze Star, POW Medal, World War II Victory Medal and Combat Infantryman's Badge at a ceremony at Tulsa International Airport. Mr. Coon's son, Michael, a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, is standing behind his father. Because of some unknown bureaucratic foul-up, the awards were not timely presented.

CPL Coon survived the Death March, wherein an estimated 21,000 American and Filipino soldiers perished, mostly murdered. He also survived three years of imprisonment in the Philippines and Japan, while enduring the worst conditions and brutality imaginable. He died on June 23, 2014, at age ninety-five, a year after receiving his World War II awards. He is buried in Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

Museum Hours and Admission Fee

Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 – 4:00; Saturday: 10:00 – 2:00
Closed Sunday and Monday and major Federal holidays

Adults – \$5.00

Members and Children under 18 – Free

For more information, call (918) 794-2712

www.okmhc.org

Horse Soldier to Guerilla Commander

The U.S. Army's last charge by horse cavalry occurred seventy-five years ago, on January 16, 1942, on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. It was tiny as cavalry charges go. Twenty-seven men of G Troop of the 26th Cavalry "Philippine Scouts" Regiment led by Lieutenant Ed Ramsey. The cavalymen (Filipinos except for Ramsey) were heavily outnumbered, but their audacious attack surprised the Japanese, who broke and ran. Ramsey and his men held their position for five hours under heavy fire before reinforcements arrived. Ramsey was awarded a Silver Star for this action.



Edwin Ramsey – 1937
OMA Cadet Captain



1LT Ramsey – 1941
Fort Stotsenberg, Philippines

Edwin Price Ramsey was born May 9, 1917, at Carlyle, Illinois. When he was two years old, his family moved to El Dorado, Kansas and ten years later to Wichita. He attended Oklahoma Military Academy (now Rogers State University) in Claremore, Oklahoma, from which he graduated in 1937. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Reserve. He enrolled at the University of Oklahoma but left in 1940 to go to California to be with his sister, a pilot, who had been severely injured in an airplane accident. After a year helping his sister recover, he entered the regular Army.

Ramsey was posted to the 11th Cavalry in California. He readily jumped at the opportunity, when volunteers were requested for the 26th Cavalry in the Philippines. After Bataan fell, Ramsey, along with his friend, Captain Joseph Barker, escaped into the jungles of Luzon where they joined the Luzon Guerilla Force, commanded by Lt. Colonel Claude Thorp. Thorp had been the Provost Marshall at Fort Stotsenberg. Thorp's guerilla group operated from Manila northwest to Lingayen Gulf – East Luzon Guerilla Area (ELGA). Thorp was captured in 1943 and killed by the Japanese while in captivity. Barker took his place, but like Thorp was captured and subsequently killed. Both men endured horrific torture for about a year, but neither divulged information about their guerilla operations.

Before Thorp's capture, he had recommended that Ramsey be jumped two ranks to Major, and Barker to Lt. Colonel, to which General Douglas MacArthur had concurred. After Barker's capture, Ramsey assumed command of the ELGA, which eventually grew to 40,000 men and women. In the beginning, the guerillas conducted low level sabotage and attacks on isolated Japanese patrols and outposts. They tried to be careful to conduct

their activities in such a way as to minimize Japanese retaliation on civilians.

Beginning in 1943, MacArthur ordered the Philippine guerilla units to concentrate on intelligence gathering for his anticipated re-conquest. In 1944, with the Leyte landings imminent, he ordered Ramsey to go all out with sabotage and other guerilla actions in order to maximize disruption within Japanese lines.

The ELGA guerillas were an important, if not the most important, factor in Japanese General Yamashita's decision not to defend Manila or the expected Lingayen Gulf landings. Instead, he chose to withdraw and establish a defensive line in the mountains of northeast Luzon. He realized that he would have 40,000 guerillas at his back if he defended the beaches.

After liberation of the Philippines in 1945, General MacArthur personally presented Ramsey a Distinguished Service Cross and promoted him to Lieutenant Colonel for his guerilla leadership. MacArthur credited Ramsey and his guerillas critical to the successful operation to retake Luzon. Ramsey's health was almost destroyed during the war. At liberation, he was down to ninety-three pounds and suffered from malaria, dysentery and acute malnutrition. Shortly after liberation, he suffered two nervous breakdowns. MacArthur ordered him to a hospital in the United States. His recovery lasted almost a year. Lt. Colonel Ramsey was medically discharged in 1946.

After his discharge, Ramsey returned to the University of Oklahoma, where he obtained a law degree. He got a job with Hughes Aircraft Corporation and subsequently served as a vice president in its Far East Division, headquartered in Japan. He later headed electronics and consulting firms in Taiwan and the Philippines. When he retired, he settled in California. In 2005, he published his wartime memoirs, *Lt. Ramsey's War, Horse Soldier to Guerilla Commander*, with author, Stephen J. Rivele.

Colonel Ramsey died in Los Angeles on March 7, 2013, age ninety-five, a remarkable feat considering his condition at the end of the war. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



LTC Edwin Ramsey – 1945

A documentary film of LTC Ramsey premiered November 13, 2016, at the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. The film is entitled "Never Surrender: The Ed Ramsey Story." The film's producers plan to enter the film in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscar nominations) in three categories: Documentary, Original Score and Original Song. The film will be premiered in Oklahoma on Friday, June 9 at the 2017 OMA Reunion in the Will Rogers Auditorium on the Rogers State University campus.

45th Infantry “Thunderbird” Division in World War II



Thunderbirds marching through Caltanissetta, Sicily.

Caltanissetta, Sicily – July 1943



157th Infantry Regiment (Colorado National Guard)
Reipertswiller, Germany – January 1945



Men of the 179th Infantry Regiment (Oklahoma National Guard) look
for German snipers at Caiazzo, Italy – October 1943



Soldiers of the 157th Infantry Regiment rescue a young Polish
Jewish boy, named Mieczyslaw, who survived the “Dachau
death train”, Dachau – April 29, 1945



The Thunderbirds going ashore at Anzio – January 22, 1944



Division Color Guard preparing for the victory parade
Munich – May 1945

This Month's Featured Exhibit



45th Infantry Division/Brigade Exhibit



45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducting a ceremony prior to deployment to Afghanistan – February 2011

During World War II, the 45th Infantry Division was awarded one unit award – French Croix de Guerre with Palm – and eight campaign streamers: Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe.

For service in Korea, the Division was awarded one unit decoration – Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation – and four campaign streamers: Second Korean Winter, Korea, Summer-Fall 1952, Third Korean Winter and Korea, Summer 1953.



“Lest We Forget”



Cambridge American Cemetery – Cambridgeshire, England

Cambridge American Cemetery, also known as Maddingly American Cemetery for a nearby town, was established in 1943 as a temporary cemetery on 30.5 acres donated by the University of Cambridge. After the war, it was selected as the only permanent American WWII military cemetery in the British Isles. About forty-two per cent of those temporarily interred in England and Northern Ireland during the war were reinterred at Cambridge Cemetery. The cemetery contains 3,809 headstones, with the remains of 3,812 servicemen, mostly airmen who died over Europe and sailors from North Atlantic convoys. Besides personnel of the United States armed forces, there are also buried eighteen members of the British Commonwealth armed services, who were American citizens serving chiefly in the Royal Air Force and Air Transport Auxiliary. The inscribed Wall of the Missing records the names of 5,127 missing servicemen, most of whom died in the Battle of the Atlantic or in the strategic air bombardment of northwest Europe. (wikipedia.com) Among the names on the Wall of the Missing are those of Captain Richard D. McMinn of Buffalo, Oklahoma, whose fighter plane crashed into the North Sea off England on April 15, 1943, Leon Robert Vance, Jr., Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. and Glenn Miller. The latter three were lost in aircraft mishaps over water.

Freedom is not free.



THANK YOU

3. SPECIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES





CITY OF BROKEN ARROW

Parks & Recreation Post Event Report

Event/Program: Nienhuis Disc Golf Tournament Date: January 21, 2017

DETAILS

<i>Location</i>	Nienhuis Park 3201 N. 9 th Street	<i>Attendance</i>	50 Players
<i>Event Organizer</i>	Jim Reed, Nienhuis Park Center Supervisor & Rouge Golf Organization	<i>How long has the event been going?</i>	1 st time

DESCRIPTION

- A \$10 registration fee per person was collected for this tournament.
- Registered participants played one round of disc golf, 18 holes.
- Prizes were awarded to 1st and 2nd place winners.
- Rouge Golf set-up 9 temporary holes in addition to the 9 permanent holes at the Park.
- We had a tie for 1st place therefore one extra hole was played to determine the winner.
- A "closest to the basket" challenge was also played. Additional prizes were awarded to three participants that landed closest to the basket.
- 50 participants for this type of event is considered high and a success.

TYPE OF PROMOTIONS USED

- Posters and flyers at Community Centers
- Posted on City Events Calendar
- Posted on Broken Arrow Parks and Recreation Facebook pages
- Posted on several disc golf Facebook pages
- City Website
- Parks and Rec Informer Newsletter

Our goals:

To bring awareness to the Nienhuis Park disc golf course. To offer a high quality event to the Citizens of Broken Arrow at the lowest possible cost.

Photos:

