From the City Manager's Desk

February 12, 2018

Capital Improvement Plan Bus Tour
Members of the City Council and neighborhood leaders rode on a Topeka Metro Bus to for the Capital Improvement Plan Bus Tour on Saturday, February 10th.

The purpose of the event is to educate the Governing Body and members of the public about past, current and future capital projects.

The bus toured twenty-two projects that included a renovation of a fire station, a drainage project at the zoo, rehabilitation of water pump stations and various road projects. Some of the projects were completed in the past year while others are still in development.

You can see what happened on the bus tour by following the tweet-a-long here:

https://twitter.com/cityoftopeka/status/962356155413684225
TPD Officer Darren Campbell honored by the Boy Scouts

TPD Officer Darren Campbell was honored by the Boy Scouts where he received the William H. Spurgeon III Award from our local Boy Scouts of America Council. This award is the highest recognition for an individual contributing significant leadership to an Explorer Program. Officer Campbell has been an Adviser for the Topeka Police Explorer Program for 6 years. Every Monday night, he brings his 21 years of experience to help instruct and mentor our Explorers.

In his time as an Adviser, he’s seen 10 of his Explorers hired as full time Police Officers.

If you know a 14-20 year old who would be interested in our program, we will be starting
interviews soon. Please call OFC Brandon Gogian at 785-368-9453 or email at bgogian@topeka.org

You can find more information about Officer Campbell and his work with the explorer program on the Topeka Police Department's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/topekapolicedepartment/posts/1540944659294566

Budget and Grant Priorities

The Grants Program Administrator presented the following information to the Governing Body at the February 6th Council meeting: The City of Topeka received approximately $7 million in grant funding during 2017 for a variety of projects and programs that impact several city priorities, including infrastructure and quality of life.
The Neighborhood Relations Department received about $4 million, mostly from federal dollars like the Community Development Block Grant, which funds many neighborhood assistance programs.

The Planning Department received a $300,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify and assess Brownfield properties in North Topeka. Once assessed, these properties will be poised for redevelopment. In addition, they received just over $1 million from the Kansas Department of Transportation to complete two projects that will enhance Topeka’s bikeways and encourage biking and walking to school at Quincy Elementary.
Stream City Council Meetings on Facebook!

City Council meetings will now be shown live on Facebook. A Facebook live stream will launch before every meeting and stream the meeting in its entirety. The meeting can also be streamed on the City4 page on the city's website and can be seen on YouTube.

Recent Updates

- The Topeka Police Department Citizen’s Academy kicked off on Thursday, February 8th.
- The Public Works Department has filled 2,149 potholes from Jan. 24-30. 3,377 pot holes have been filled in 2018.
- The Kansas Department of Corrections inmate crew is working on a brick repair project at 1935 SW Buchanan Street.
- The Property Maintenance Division of the Neighborhood Relations Department has had 470 code cases opened with 2257 inspections occurring for the calendar year 2018.
TPD Citizen's Academy

The first meeting for the Topeka Police Department Citizen's Academy took place on February 8th. Class participants will be exploring the challenges and problems faced by the Topeka Police Department and learn how the department meets those challenges.

The City of Topeka will be posting highlights from the Citizen's Academy each week. You can follow along on our Twitter and Facebook pages here:

https://twitter.com/cityoftopeka
Visual Appeal Survey

The Planning Department launched an on-line Visual Appeal Survey (VAS) as part of a comprehensive update to the City’s sign code and commercial building design standards. This is the first update of its kind that would apply to new signs/commercial buildings on a city-wide basis beyond Downtown and historic districts. This survey will help with the City’s goal to enhance Topeka’s quality of place and community aesthetic while also creating a more user friendly sign code for businesses.

You can take the visual appeal survey here:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COT-VAS
Coming up

- February 13th- Volunteers in Police Service Academy begins.
- February 21st- Coffee On Your Corner "Neighborhood Partnership Program."

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Brent Trout

This weekly report is presented to you from the office of City Manager Brent Trout.

For other weekly reports, visit the City's website.

This report was produced through our open data portal. We have several other open data portals to
help connect you with the work we do, including portals that let you:

- **Visualize Topeka's $270M budget**
- **See Topeka's expenses, one check at a time**
- **Navigate our major infrastructure projects**
- **Track departments' progress toward our goals**