Utilities Citizen's Academy

The City of Topeka recently finished their first ever Utilities Citizen's Academy. In April of 2018 the Utilities Department hosted the Wichita State University’s Work In Water Experience. This program is geared towards educating juniors and seniors in high school about water management in their city.
and all of the different careers that are needed to make that happen. We enjoyed the program so much that we asked if we could use their materials to do a similar program that would be open to all of our customers, the citizens of Topeka. They agreed which allowed us to kick off our Topeka Utilities Academy.

We weren't sure how much interest we would have being that this was our first go at it, but after 24 hours of advertising on social media we had to stop taking applications for the class. We started on February 16th and just finished on March 9th. The Academy took place on 4 Saturday mornings 8-11. Each week we taught them about a different area of the Utilities Department.

**Week 1:** they learned about water basics such as the water cycle, different drinking water sources, watersheds, and the Kansas River. We also taught them about the Utility Department's assets after which they received a virtual tour of the water treatment plant.

**Week 2:** we showed them everything about the city's water system like treatment, distribution, infrastructure repairs, metering and customer service.

**Week 3:** was all about water pollution control (WPC). They manage all of the city's wastewater and stormwater. They learned how we direct all stormwater back to the river and also prevent flooding with our levee...
system. Then the learned how wastewater is treated and cleaned before being discharged back to the river. This week also included a virtual tour of the WPC treatment plant (due to weather).

Week 4: we partnered with Topeka Metro for a bus tour. We took the class all over town to show them a variety of Utility facilities such as pump stations, levees and water towers.

With the overwhelming interest we have seen in this program we have decided to host a second session later this year, but no dates have been set at this time.

Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center Box Turtle Study

The Topeka Zoo is conducting a painted box turtle study over the next three years. This study will help determine how many painted box turtles are left in Kansas. Watch the video to find out more.
Recent Updates

- There have been 14 broken water mains in March with 116 breaks year to date. At this time last year there were 128 water main breaks.

- Public Works hosted the first public meeting on the SW 10th street project which is scheduled for 2020.

- Discussions on potential amendments to the CIP occurred at the March 12 City Council meeting and will continue at the March 19 City Council meeting with tentative adoption of the CIP on April 2. More information can be found at: https://www.topeka.org/finance/capital-improvement-projects/

- The Street Department filled 1,484 potholes in one week; 9,879 so far this year.

Pothole Heatmap and Performance Portal

Have you checked out the City of Topeka Performance Portal? The Performance Portal allows you to look at what the City of Topeka is
doing with infrastructure, public safety and in neighborhoods - along with several other initiatives.

The street department has been making data based decision making by creating a heat map of potholes. Crews use this heat map to find where the largest concentration of potholes are and fill them in a certain area.

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**National Geographic Educator Certification: Phase 1**

*Hosted by the Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center*

**How does it work?** Join the Topeka Zoo as they offer a unique professional development opportunity partnering with National Geographic! The zoo is hosting a workshop for area educators to complete Phase 1 of National Geographic's Educator Certification Program. Upon completion of Phase 1, educators are then invited to complete Phases 2 and 3 online.

**Date:** Saturday, March 23rd, 2019; **Time:** 10:00am-12:30pm

**Cost:** Free and includes admission into the zoo

**Who is this for?** PreK-12 formal and informal educators, preschool teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, and more

**Questions?** Contact Rachael at 785-368-9137 or RRost@topeka.org. To register or for more information, please visit [http://topekazoo.org/explore/for-teachers/](http://topekazoo.org/explore/for-teachers/)
Management Report

Planning released the February, 2019 Development and Growth Management (DGM) Report which can be found at www.topeka.org/planning

Highlights include:

• Total building permits are up 8% from this time last year.

• New residential units are projected to increase 57% from last year.

• Total building permit values increased 209% compared to this time last year.

• Total building permit square footage increased 122% compared to this time last year.

• The top 3 valued permits issued this month include:
o Wanamaker Hills Shopping Center, 1740 SW Wanamaker ($5.2M)

o Club Car Wash, 1834 SW Topeka ($1.95M)

o Blue Cross Blue Shield, 1133 SW Topeka ($1.17M)

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Team Up to Clean Up: East End

Team Up to Clean Up is coming to the East End neighborhood in March and April.

Check out how Team Up to Clean Up has helped other neighborhoods on the City of Topeka performance portal.
This week's updates include:

• Zoning inspections were performed for half of the neighborhood. Of the five potential violations cited, three were closed or remedied.

• Mike Haugen of Property Maintenance will be speaking about Team Up to Clean Up at the East End NIA Meeting, Thursday, March 14th

• Public works is prepping for two Team Up to Clean Up projects: traffic sign replacements and review of uncontrolled intersections; begin work.
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day at the Capitol

Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), in conjunction with the Kansas State School for the Deaf and the Museum of Deaf History, Arts & Culture, is proud to announce Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day at the Capitol. Come show your support for the deaf and hard of hearing at the Statehouse, hear speakers on various issues and view exhibits and presentation of resources from more than 10 organizations.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 6, 2019

WHERE: Kansas State Capitol, second floor

For more information on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day at the Capitol, contact KCDHH at 785-368-8034 Voice and 785-246-5077 Videophone.

Statehouse and rotunda tours will be available, with interpreters provided upon request. Dr. Bobbi Cordano, president of Gallaudet University, will join the event online as the special guest speaker. The complete program agenda will be provided on the day of the event.

Snow and Ice Removal Plan
Winter weather is here. Check out the city's snow and ice removal plan.

You can also see a map of all the streets in Topeka to see if they have been treated.

1. Priority 1: Primary Streets: Arterial Streets and Emergency Snow routes

   Service Level – Plowing will typically begin with 2” of snow accumulation. Complete snow and ice control within 24 hours of snowfall ending.
2. **Priority 2: Secondary Streets: Collector Streets**

Service Level – Plowing will typically begin with 4” of snow accumulation. Complete snow and ice control within 24 hours after Priority 1 completion.

3. **Priority 3: Residential Streets: Local Streets**

Service Level – Plowing will typically begin with 6” of snow accumulation to ensure that they are passable to emergency services and general public as necessary upon completion of Priorities 1 through 2.

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**Coming Up**

- City Council Meeting, March 19th at 6 p.m.
- Topeka Youth Commission press conference will be held on March 19th at 5 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
- Topeka Planning Commission will met Monday, March 18, to hold a work session on the proposed Sign Code Update.
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