



City of Topeka

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From the City Manager's Desk

April 15th, 2019



Team Up to Clean Up

The City of Topeka is working on this spring's Team Up to Clean Up event in the East End neighborhood. During March and April, city departments are focusing on East End and helping that neighborhood by inspecting properties, testing fire hydrants, and installing new street signs.



Last week the city held a resource fair for the East End neighborhood that let the neighborhood know about resources in their community.

You can find more about the Team Up to Clean Up initiative on the [City of Topeka Performance Portal](#).

Sound the Alarm

On April 27th the Topeka Fire Department and the American Red Cross needs your help to install 100,000 free smoke alarms and raise funds for lifesaving services during *Sound the Alarm* home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events in the Oakland and North Topeka neighborhoods.

Every day, seven people die in home fires, the Topeka Fire Department and the Red Cross want to do everything possible to prevent these needless tragedies. Volunteers work



alongside fire departments and other local groups, canvassing at-risk neighborhoods to install free smoke alarms, replace batteries in existing alarms, educate families about fire prevention and safety for this lifesaving mission.

You can sign up to volunteer to help install smoke alarms during the Sound the Alarm event [here](#).

Our Wildlife Heroes: Rach...



AZA Hero's

We need animal conservation heroes more than ever as the world is losing wildlife thousands of times faster than the natural extinction rate. A new public service announcement unveiled today by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) features four professionals who embody what it means to be a champion for wildlife and wild places including Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center's Rachael Rost. The winners of the AZA Find Our Wildlife Hero contest, who star in the ad, share



the unique paths they've pursued to help save endangered species. The full PSA and vignettes featuring each of the heroes may be viewed on [AZA's YouTube channel](#).

Last fall, AZA invited members of its 233-accredited facilities to submit personal stories of their passion for animal care and conservation. Over 100 entries were received, highlighting the diverse work of professionals at AZA-accredited facilities and the love they have for their jobs.

After deliberation from a panel of judges, as well as a public voting period, four members from AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums were chosen as Our Wildlife Heroes. These four heroes represent professionals at AZA facilities who play a hands-on role in the care and conservation of animals. Rachel Rost was one of four winners. Rachael is an educator who directly connects with thousands of students per year, engaging them in citizen



science and inspiring conservation
in the classroom.

Out and About with Trout

In an effort to reach out to citizens, City Manager Brent Trout is starting a mobile office. The mobile office will give citizens a chance to interact with the City Manager and share their concerns outside of city hall. The mobile office will take place once a quarter. Citizens can set up a fifteen minute meeting by calling the City Manager's office. Open hour timeslots will also be available for anyone wanting to drop in. The first mobile office will take place on April 15th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Juli's Coffee and Bistro on 110 SE 8th Ave. Citizens should contact the City Manager's office to make a 15 minute appointment for the mobile office at 785-368-3725 or email

kbaker@topeka.org



Topeka in Two: Performance Portal



Performance Portal

Check out the performance portal on the City of Topeka website! The performance portal takes data from six categories that includes street maintenance, public safety and property maintenance. Check out more here: <http://performance-topeka.opendata.arcgis.com/>





Road Construction

The City of Topeka Public Works Department is kicking off construction season. Each week, the weekly report will have updates on the road construction projects in Topeka.

Construction highlights:

- Work proceeding on schedule for SE Adams (33rd to 37th).
- Work proceeding and concrete being placed on SW Gage (25th to 29th).
- Work started on Chesney Park.
- Work started on Arvonina and Winding Road this week.

Recent Updates

- There have been 8 broken [water mains](#) in April with 130 breaks year to date. At this time last year there were 153 water main breaks.



- Post cards are being mailed out to last years weed violators reminding them of our code and asking them to team up with us to keep their neighborhood clean.
- The Street Department has filled 1,734 potholes; 18,943 so far this year.

Water Pollution Control Lab

Pictured are Becky Roeckers and David Moon of the Oakland Wastewater Treatment Plant Laboratory. They are both Chemists/Biologists and have a combined experience of over 40 years in our Laboratory. Becky is a graduate of Kansas State University and David a graduate of the University of Kansas. The Oakland WWTP's Laboratory is a NELAP (National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation program) accredited Laboratory which is the highest standard of certification in the U.S for environmental laboratories. In order to ensure that the Laboratory is complying with the highest standards in the



Industry, the Laboratory is audited by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment's Laboratory Certification program bi-annually to assure that it is in conformance with the latest accepted analytical methodologies in compliance with the permit requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Laboratory analyzes samples collected at the Oakland and North Topeka Wastewater Treatment Plants, and the Shawnee County {Sherwood} treatment plants which are under contract to assure that the plants are operating in full compliance with EPA and KDHE regulatory discharge requirements. The Laboratory also analyzes samples for the Storm Water program, the Industrial Pretreatment Monitoring program, the Fats, Oils & Grease program, the Biosolids Management program, as well as samples collected from rivers and streams.





EAST END NEIGHBORS

We are celebrating the East End Neighborhood by bringing Team Up to Clean Up to you. You are one of two neighborhoods chosen this year and we are excited to partner with you for full concentration on your neighborhood.

- Brent Trout, City Manager

During the months of March and April City of Topeka staff will be in the neighborhood assessing the needs. Opportunities for residents will include personalized DIY classes from Habitat for Humanity, Resource Guides, Fire alarm installations and much more.

RESOURCE FAIR | NIA MEETING
APRIL 11, 2019 - 6:30PM
RICE COMMUNITY CENTER



Look for us in the neighborhood and come say hi! We are here to help and see what we can do for you in the community.

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:

- Water Pollution Control Storm Water Inlet Cleaning.
- Meter change out program was completed 3/28.



- Public Works is installing new street signs in the East End Neighborhood.
- Property Maintenance is continuing to inspect and cite houses in East End.

Coming Up

- City Council Meeting, April 16th at 6 p.m.
- Finance staff is preparing to send budget instructions for the 2020 operating budget to departments. Budget discussions with the Governing Body will begin June 18, with two special meetings on Wednesday, June 19, and Tuesday, June 25.
- Safe Streets meeting at the Great Overland Station on 5/1/2019.
- East End NIA Pancake Feed & Walk-n-Talk, Saturday, April 27th





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](#)





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