



City of Topeka

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# From the City Manager's Desk

April 29th, 2019





# 21<sup>ST</sup> STREET ROAD CLOSURE

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Beginning on **Monday, April 29**, 21st Street will be fully closed to vehicular traffic and open to pedestrians and bike on the north sidewalk. There will be a **signed detour using 17th Street**. **I-470 off and on ramps will be fully closed on the east side of the bridge**, the west side ramps will both be open. Although through traffic will be prohibited, **local access to the businesses between Belle Avenue and I-470 will be maintained.**

## WHY IS IT BEING CLOSED?

- The **concrete pavement** was already showing signs of **significant deterioration** at the joints, and the situation was made noticeably worse by the harsh winter.
- **KDOT** will be starting their project to **overlay I-470 northbound** on or before June 15. The **City's project must be completed prior** to the beginning of that overlay work or wait until it is finished. It is our opinion that **21st Street cannot be adequately and safely maintained** until after the I-470 work, so **we have to act immediately.**
- **Worker and driver safety.** This is a high traffic location. In order to protect construction workers and drivers, full closure is a **safer alternative** than a complicated, ever changing maze of signs, cones and barricades.
- The full closure will allow the work to be finished in a much **shorter time period.** The Contractor is required to be finished on or before **June 1st** or they will face financial penalties.
- A full closure **costs significantly less.** The cost of maintaining through traffic while constructing roads is expensive.
- There are **several construction projects** already underway on the **west side of Topeka.** It is important that the 21st work be completed before these other projects begin to help with the inevitable inconvenience of multiple projects.



## 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.

You can check out the City of Topeka's [pavement condition index](#)



(PCI) and [street maintenance program](#) to see how the Public Works Department fixes our streets.

Construction highlights:

- Work proceeding on SE Adams (33rd to 37th)
- Work proceeding and concrete being placed on SW Gage (25th to 29th)
- Work proceeding on Chesney Park.
- Work proceeding on Arvonía and Winding Road.
- Work proceeding on permanent pavement repair on SW Fairlawn at 25th.
- SW Fairlawn at 25th will be open late this week if asphalt is available.



## Sound the Alarm

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help the Topeka





Fire Department and the Red Cross install smoke alarms at the Sound the Alarm event in Topeka on April 27th. 376 alarms were installed by 135 volunteers in the Oakland and North Topeka neighborhoods.

## Ash Street Force Main and Pump Station Project

The City of Topeka Utilities Department started construction on the Ash Street Force Main project on April 15th and is scheduled to be completed in April of 2020. The original station was constructed in 1928 with an expansion occurring in 1972. The project consists of construction and installation of a new 48" diameter force main as well as upgrades to the Ash Street Pump Station's existing pumps, gates, instrumentation and controls. There have been two failures in the existing force main, therefore this is a mandated rehabilitation



project as part of the Consent Agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Citizens in the area of the Ash Street Pump Station were notified of the construction by mail this spring. An open house and informational presentation was held on January 24th. The site of construction will have several pieces of large equipment working in the area. The City of Topeka asks that citizens be cautious around the construction work zone. Please follow all temporary construction work zone traffic control which will include detours for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. For more information please contact City Wastewater Engineer Michelle Neiswender at 368-4251.



## Topeka in Two: Performance Portal



# Performance Portal

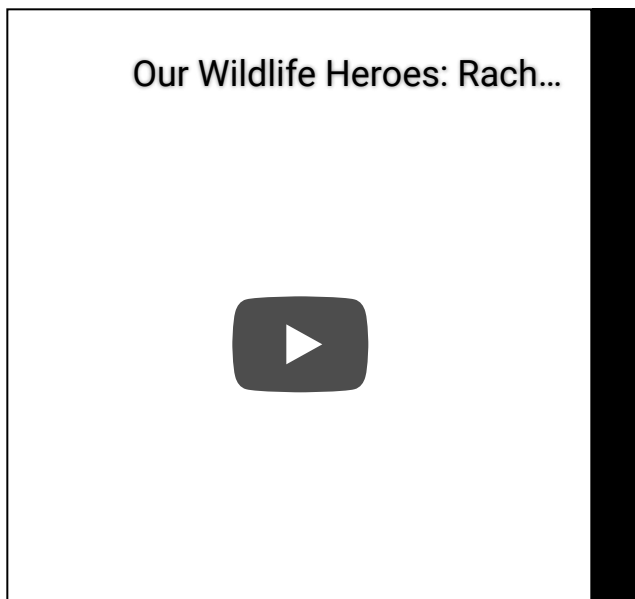
Check out the performance portal on the City of Topeka website! The performance portal takes data from six categories that includes street maintenance, public safety and property maintenance. Check out more here: <http://performance-topeka.opendata.arcgis.com/>

## Recent Updates

- There have been 22 broken [water mains](#) in April with 144 breaks year to date. At this time last year there were 164 water main breaks.



- The Street Department has filled 1,086 [potholes](#); 21,759 so far this year.
- The 2020-2029 Capital Improvement Plan was amended and adopted by the Governing Body at the April 16 City Council meeting. The adopted book can be viewed at <https://www.topeka.org/finance/capital-improvement-projects/>.



## 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 Heroes 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.







## 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:

- TFD spent 126 hours talking about fire safety, and installing reflective house numbers donated by Kansas and Ace Hardware for



emergency  
responders.

- Rock the Block event  
by Neighborhood  
Relations – Team Up  
to Clean Up East End  
NIA with Advisors  
Excel volunteers,  
Monday, April 25th

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## Coming Up

- City Council Meeting, May 7th at 6 p.m.
  - Safe Streets meeting at the Great Overland Station on 5/1/2019.
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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](#)





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