From the City Manager's Desk

July 30, 2018

Topeka Police Downtown Help Center

The Topeka Police Department is excited to announce the opening of the Topeka Police Downtown Help Center. The Help Center will be a centralized location in Downtown
Topeka where officers will work out of during special events and parades.

When the Help Center is open, citizens will be able to come ask officers questions or file reports. As Downtown continues to grow, so will the use of the Help Center.

The Topeka Police Downtown Help Center would not be possible without Capitol Federal’s gracious donation of the building.

Road Construction Update

The image on the right is a list of featured road construction projects for 2018.

Contractors are placing concrete starting as early as 6 a.m. because
the city shuts-down concrete placement on public projects in the early afternoon, once temperatures approach 95 degrees.

**Work continuing on:**

- 6th Street between Gage and Fairlawn. Contractor installed curb and gutter east of Westchester and is continuing to install storm sewers towards the west end of the project.
- 29th & Burlingame Intersection. Contractor continuing to place concrete in Phase II (SW quadrant).
- 21st & Kansas Intersection – The contractor is on schedule to reopen the intersection by August 10th. Work on the project will continue into October with placement of permanent traffic signals.
- SE Adams between 29th and 33rd – The contractor began paving on Wednesday.
- Huntoon/Arvonia/470. The contractor continues to install both the waterlines and storm sewer lines and are getting ready to pave the I-470 ramp.
- Clarion Woods. Curb & gutter placement continuing. A waterline was relocated this week to allow for storm sewer installation to continue.
- SW Gage from 21st to 25th. The contractor installed concrete curb this week along the east side (northbound). Work temporarily halted to allow new concrete to cure.
• Microsurface subcontractor began removing pavement markings ahead of microsurfacing project.

**Street Project Startup and Major Phase Changes:**

• SW Fairlawn Road – 28th to 29th.

• SW 29th – Fairlawn to I470.

• Central Park Phase II Waterline replacement to begin Monday 7/30/18.

• Microsurfacing – starting Monday, July 30th.

• Public Works will be hosting a work zone traffic control workshop on July 31, August 1, and August 2.

**You can find updates to all street projects on the Captial Projects Dashboard.**

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**Recent Updates**

• There have been 129 **water main breaks** this month with 437 breaks year to date. Last year at this time there were 208 total breaks.

• Central Park Phase II Waterline replacement to begin Monday 7/30/18.
Topeka is participating in the Northeast Regional Benchmarking Initiative (RBI). The Regional Benchmarking Initiative (RBI) consists of northeast regional cities and counties, and is hosted at the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) of Kansas City, MO. The purpose of this group is to discuss the importance of sharing data and benchmarking in the local region rather than with other areas of the country.

Fire Department
New Recruit Graduation

Four recruits graduated the 10-week fire academy and will join their companies on July 28, 2018.

Congratulations to our new firefighters!

- Firefighter III Jeremy A. Steimel
- Firefighter III John K. Bentler
- Firefighter III Craig A. Stevenson
- Firefighter III Jacob W. Pera
City Credit Rating

Standard and Poor’s has reaffirmed the City of Topeka’s AA and SP-1+ credit rating for the August General Obligation and Temporary Note Issuance. Read the full ratings report which is posted at https://www.topeka.org/finance/financial-reports/. The report speaks highly of the City’s management practices and economic development activity in the City, and reinforces the direction of the community. This is the second highest rating a community can achieve.

Political Signs

It is election season and political signs are appearing all over Topeka. Kansas State
law says that during the election cycle, political signs are allowed in the right of way forty-five days prior to an election and for two days after. Please see the FAQ to the right for more information.

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**Frequently Asked Questions**

**POLITICAL SIGNS IN CITY RIGHT OF WAY**

**Can I put political signs in city right of way?**

K.S.A. 25-2711 allows political signs in the unpaved right-of-way only during the 45-day period prior to an election and the two-day period following the election. Elections are August 7, 2018 and November 6, 2018.

**What is a political sign?**

A sign relating to a candidate, political party, ballot issue, or other political issue to be voted upon in a public election.

**Are there restrictions?**

Yes. Cities can regulate size and set-back distance for sight line safety.

**What are the restrictions?**

Signs cannot exceed 24 inches in height within the sight triangle. The sight triangle is the triangle created by measuring from the point of the intersecting curb lines 40 feet in either direction. Signs are measured from the ground to the top of the sign.

Signs are not allowed in paved rights of way such as street medians, sidewalks, crosswalks, curbs, and paved portions of streets.

Signs cannot be affixed to utility poles, fire hydrants, trees, street lights, bridges, benches or other structures within the right-of-way.

**When do I have to remove the signs?**

The second day after the election. (August 9, 2018; November 8, 2018)

**If I have questions, who can I contact?**

Sight triangle questions: Linda Voss, Engineering. 785-368-3842
Other questions: Becky Esopi, Zoning Inspector. 785-368-3012.

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**Budget Book**

Budget staff is finalizing the 2019 budget book, which will be available to the public at https://www.topeka.org/budget and on the budget portal at http://budget.topeka.org/#/year/default.
Coming up

- City Council Meeting, August 7th at 6 p.m.
- Public Works will be hosting a work zone traffic control workshop on July 31, August 1, and August 2.
- The next step in the 2019 budget process is hosting the Public Hearing on August 7th. Visit https://www.topeka.org/budget for the budget calendar and budget document.

Fire Department Survey

Topeka Fire is looking to get feedback on their services. They have created a short survey to post on social media which you can take here:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFDServices18
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