



July 2017

Upcoming: 2017 National Night Out

This coming Saturday, the 5th, will be the 2017 National Night Out, coordinated by [Safe Streets Coalition](#) in partnership with the Topeka Police Department, Shawnee County Sheriff's Office, and the Shawnee County District Attorney's Office. This event is a culmination of neighborhood block parties happening all throughout the city and is intended to reduce area crime by bringing families together and forming connections with local law enforcement. As of July 28th, 85 neighborhoods have registered to host events, which has already exceeded last year's number and this year's goal of 80 participating neighborhoods.

On Friday, there will be a [NNO Kickoff Party](#) with food, games, animals, and music hosted by Alpha Media (WIBW AM, 94.5 County, and Country Legends 106.9) from 5:30 - 7:30 at the radio station.

Find your neighborhood on [this registration list](#). Some events already registered include an outdoor movie screening at College Hill, pool parties at Raintree and Sherwood Apartments, and a live band at Quinton Heights neighborhood. Get updates on the [Facebook event page!](#)

Operation Pegasus Complete

Operation Pegasus kept much of Topeka and Shawnee County emergency responders busy in late July. The operation was an emergency management exercise designed to train and educate 60 different agencies in northeast Kansas including Topeka fire, police, traffic engineering, hospitals, as well as some military and volunteer organizations. CRC worked for more than a year on this project as the volunteer coordinator. This training drill received its namesake from an emergency evacuation of Allied troops in 1944 during World War II in Holland. Topeka's Operation Pegasus featured two controlled, mock evacuations in order to test the Shawnee County Hazardous Materials Plan, which was created last year using a grant. The first drill was a response to a plane crash at the 190th Air Refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard. The second drill was in response to a toxic plume of chemicals over the Shawnee County Department of Corrections.



Left: Paratroopers landing in Holland, Operation Pegasus 1944. Photo courtesy of [cjonline.com](#)

Right: Firefighters during a full-scale drill, Operation Pegasus 2017. Photo courtesy of Topeka Fire Department.



The Great American Total Solar Eclipse

August 21st will be a day of darkness for Americans across the country as we experience a total solar eclipse (when the moon completely covers the sun) in what has been coined the Great American Eclipse. The totality of this solar eclipse will only be visible within the continental U.S., hence the name, and has been a trending topic lately due to the rarity; the last total eclipse that crossed the U.S. from coast to coast was 99 years ago. Topeka will experience 98.9% of eclipse with just a few bright light rays, called Baily's Beads, peaking around the moon just after 1pm. The eclipse begins around 11:40am and ends around 2:35pm. *Please take necessary safety precautions - the sunlight is intensely bright during an eclipse and can harm you.* [This website](#) provides great information and [this one](#) lists all the cities that will experience the total eclipse.

Members

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