



# CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

“Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present, and Planning for the Future”

August 2017

## Contact Numbers

City Hall	405-390-8198
Public Works	405-390-8276
Code Enforcement	405-281-6869
Court Clerk	405-390-3333
Police (non-emergency)	405-769-3821
Fire (non-emergency)	405-390-8300
Police/Fire Emergency	911
Choctaw Creek Golf	405-769-7166
Waste Connections	405-745-2942

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## Recycling Pickup Schedule

Please remember that Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling will occur on the week of **August 7th & 21st**.

## Sprucing up Elmwood Cemetery

The Cemetery is a sacred place and we want to ensure it looks nice and presentable to the public. Soon we will be sending out notifications to those owners of plots that are not in compliance with the Cemetery standards. These include:

1. Flowers not attached to a vase on the headstone
2. Crosses/shepherd's hooks/flags/statues not attached to the headstone
3. Lights not attached to the headstone
4. Benches that are actually not the headstone
5. Fencing outlining the plot.

If you have any questions about what you can/cannot put on the grave plots at Choctaw Cemetery, please call the

Parks and Recreation director, Ryan Hill, at 405-281-6854 or email him at [rhill@choctawcity.org](mailto:rhill@choctawcity.org).



## Blue and Gold Extravaganza

The Touchdown Club will be hosting its 5th annual Blue and Gold Extravaganza on **August 12, 2017**. This Extravaganza, like previous years, will be a great community event that showcases the pride and community spirit of our City.

The event will begin with the “TeamUP Choctaw” trash pickup event starting at *7:45am through 10:30am*. Citizens will meet at the **Choctaw High School** for instructions and supplies including gloves and trash bags.

The community cleanup event will be followed by a carnival at the **Choctaw High School** from *3pm-7pm*. Come out and enjoy food from several food trucks, shop the local vendor booths and play the carnival games before the middle school and high school blue gold games. The carnival event is free to the public, please contact the Touchdown Club at [choctawhigh-schooltouchdownclub@gmail.com](mailto:choctawhigh-schooltouchdownclub@gmail.com) for more information.

Following the Carnival we will have the annual Blue Gold football game of the Choctaw Yellowjackets. This game marks the start of the Yellowjackets season under their new head coach, Jake Corbin. Support your hometown team, we hope to see you there!

## Free Square Dance Lessons

Fun Timers Square Dance Club is hosting Free Lessons beginning **August 15, 2017**. Lessons start promptly at *7pm and conclude at 9pm*. Comfortable, casual attire is acceptable. Lessons will be held on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of and every Thursday each month at the **MWC Senior Center, located at 8510 East Reno Avenue, Midwest City, Oklahoma**. The center is physically located east of the Midwest City library. No new students will be accepted after the third lesson. For more information contact **Bob Thomas** at **405-642-1832** or [bob@sdbob.com](mailto:bob@sdbob.com)



## Choctaw Senior Center

Come join us for a hot meal, coffee, Panera Bread sweets, dominos, cards, bingo, devotion services, knitting, crocheting and information.

Featured this month: Storytime-**August 11th** at *10:30am*, Sweepstakes and Other Scams-**August 28th** at *11:00am*.

For more information or to sign-up for any of these events, please call the Senior Center at **(405) 390-8040**, between 9:00am and 1:00pm.

## Shopping at Walmart – Tuesdays after Lunch (call for pickup)

For daily menu and activities, go to [www.choctawcity.org](http://www.choctawcity.org), click on “Living in Choctaw”, then click on “Choctaw Senior Center”. For transportation to the Senior Center or to Wal-Mart, call

Visit us online at [www.choctawcity.org](http://www.choctawcity.org) for more information.

**Board / Commission Meeting Dates**

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted)

**7 PM**

City Council Meeting followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **Special meeting Aug 3rd @ 6pm, Regular meeting Aug 15th**

Planning Commission Meeting: **Aug 3rd**

Public Recreation Board Meeting: **Aug 8th**

Board of Adjustments Meeting (as needed): **Aug 28th**

**4:30 PM**

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (at Old Germany Restaurant): **Aug 30th**

**390-8040.** We are located at **14653 Dean Street.** Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday **9:00am to 1:00pm.** We serve our meals at **11:30am** each day. Please call for a meal reservation, no latter than **12:00 noon** the day before you plan to attend. *We can't wait to see you!!*



**Events at the Choctaw Library**

The Choctaw branch of the Metropolitan Library System, located at **2525 Muzzy St.,** offers many excellent programs for patrons of all ages. You may register at the library or by calling **390-8418 ext 3.** For more information visit [www.metrolibrary.org](http://www.metrolibrary.org)

Eclipse Party with Science Museum Oklahoma—**August 12th 2-3pm**—all ages. Participants will receive free eclipse viewing glasses while supplies last.

Space Storytime—**August 15th, 10am** for ages 1-5

**City Manager Talk**

Hello Choctaw! We are continuing

this month with my management philosophy and style. My final, #3 management focus area is “Imagination and Innovation.” The definition of stuck in a rut is continually doing the same thing over and over and then wondering why you are not progressing. Sometimes we need a new perspective or quicker/smarter way to skin the cat. I truly believe the great ideas come from the people working the front line tasks, whether that be an employee or citizen. I know I am not the most creative of people so I am open to most all ideas or innovations people bring to me. Especially if it is something that can make a process or job better, or cheaper faster. The best ideas in organizations usually come from your frontline staff—taking a chance and bringing ideas to the City Manager or Department Head are the attributes I want instilled in the City of Choctaw Staff. It takes courage sometimes to bring the ideas and innovations forward as sometimes they are not adopted or even fail. We learn from failure. Failure is the impetus that moves us forward improving on the past.

As a recap my philosophical focus areas are: 1) Appreciate the power of Yes as it relates to Customer Service—I am big on Customer Service—communication is key to understanding what the customer needs and what the organization can provide. 2) Building Partnerships, or expanding your circle of influence. Good relationships and strong networking are important to cities. 3) Imagination and Innovation help to move stagnate organizations forward. The best ideas do not necessarily come from the boss but the front line worker.

With that as my backdrop, I must say I am having the time of my life as City Manager of Choctaw. The first 60 days have been an absolute whirlwind.

It is so refreshing to be able to interact one-one-one with staff and citizens, help people solve problems and actually see results. My initial assessment of the state of the City and Staff is this: “Choctaw is a city of 12K+ and growing; with an infrastructure, staff, procedures, processes, and resources sized to support about 5K—we are behind and need to close this gap so we can control the growth.” How do we close the gap? Closing the gap starts with implementation of the thoughtfully crafted City **COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN.**

Now, what does customer service, building partnerships, and imagination and innovation have to do with fixing my road, the waste water treatment plant, improved recreational opportunities, and strengthening the image of Choctaw? I am working my way from big concepts to the more detailed plans and processes. The place to start for understanding council vision and the cities plans for the future on such areas of concern is in the **COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN.**

The approved **COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN** is the council and citizens vision for the city through 2040. The City Manager uses the **COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN** to guide daily decisions on land use, budget, economic development, recreation, city image, etc. So, stay tuned for the next City Managers’ Talk next month.

**Employment Openings**

The City has many Employment Openings including Administrative Assistant, Firefighter, Street Equipment Operator, Water Laborer, Seasonal Parks and Golf Maintenance, and others. Visit [choctawcity.org/employment-openings](http://choctawcity.org/employment-openings) for a complete list.



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**Did you know?**

The City Council agendas as well as all of the back-up information is available on the City’s website at: [www.choctawcity.org](http://www.choctawcity.org)

**Check it out!**