



CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

"Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present, and Planning for the Future" February 2019

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



Recycling Pickup Schedule

Please remember that Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling will occur on the week of **February 4th & 18th**.



City Hall Closed for Holidays

City Hall will be closed on **Monday, February 18th**, in observance of Presidents' Day. Trash service will run as scheduled.



Shrek the Musical

Shrek the Musical is directed by Maryjane Burton and runs **Friday, Feb. 15th & Saturday, Feb. 16th @ 7:30p.m.; Saturday, February 16th, Dinner Theatre @ 6:00 p.m and Performance @ 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 17th @ 2:30**

p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 21st & Friday, Feb. 22nd @ 7:30p.m.; Saturday, Feb 23rd, Dinner Theatre @ 6:00p.m. & Performance @ 7:30p.m. All performances will be held at the **Choctaw High School Performing Arts Center**, located at 14300 NE 10th Street in Choctaw. Ticket prices are varied. For more information, contact **Maryjane Burton at (405) 390-6143.**



Choctaw Senior Center

The Senior Center has lots to offer including daily lunch, games, books, and music to enjoy, as well as plenty of company. Here are some of our weekly events:

- Mondays**—Classes
- Tuesdays**—Bingo@10:00
- Wednesdays**—Devotion@10:30
- Thursdays**—Bingo@10:00
- Fridays**—Games / classes

Monday, Feb. 18th, there will be a Blood Pressure Clinic at 10:30 AM. Every 2nd Monday we host SALT/TRIAD at 9:30 AM.

For daily menu and activities, go to www.choctawcity.org/senior-center.

The Choctaw Senior Center is located at **14653 Dean Street** and is open **Monday through Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm**. Lunch is served at **11:30am**. **Reservations are required for lunch, please call by noon the day before you plan to attend.**

For more information about these or any other activities, or for transportation services, please contact the Senior Center at **(405) 390-8040**.



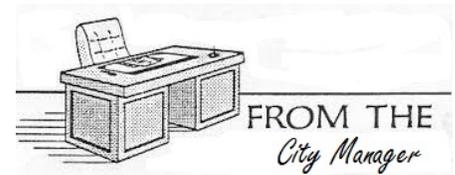
Events at the Choctaw Library

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 for any event at the library or by calling **390-8418, ext. 3**. For more information, including a calendar of events, visit www.metrolibrary.org **Harry Potter Book Night-Feb 7th, 6:30pm-8:00pm**, All ages; feel free to don your wizard robe or Muggle attire. **Book Buffet-Feb 10th, 2:00pm-3:00pm**, Adults; explore new titles while sampling sweet treats.

Miss Blues: Oklahoma's First Lady of Blues-Feb 19th, 7:00pm-8:00pm; Come watch Rhythmically Speaking present their show on Dorothy Ellis, aka Miss Blues, who sang the blues in Oklahoma and Texas from ages 6 to 82.

Full STEAM Ahead-Feb 27th, 4:00pm-5:00pm, Ages 5-12; Learn basic forensic science to help us solve a mystery!



It was a great year for the City—modernizing processes, equipment, hiring staff, adding new programs, executing our downtown plan, and much more. I believe the city is postured to manage the future projected growth with a solid base of improvements and changes, but we still have a long way to go. Many of the changes have been behind the scenes, very important, but frankly boring to talk about here—things like new billing/finance software, hiring of an Assistant Planner, a Finance Clerk, and renovation of the City Hall Annex to accommodate customers and staff. What I want to talk about is the exciting new direction Parks and Recreation has taken over the last 8 months. Parks and Recreation is a core function and major quality-of-life amenity to any city—something very important to Choctaw and the surrounding community. I ask your council members and my staff every month, "What good is going on in Choctaw?" Here are some examples:

A subtle but significant improvement, initiated by the Mayor, was a change to

Board / Commission Meeting Dates

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted)

7 PMCity Council Meeting followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **Feb 5 & 19**Planning Commission: **Feb 7**Public Recreation Advisory Board: **Feb 12**Board of Adjustments (as needed): **Feb 25****4:30 PM**Choctaw Economic Development Authority (at Old Germany Restaurant): **Feb 27**

the structure and focus of the Public Recreation Board. Now called the Public Recreation Advisory Board, and made up of Citizens from City Wards and the surrounding Choctaw/Nicomma Park School District, this group is to "advise" the Parks and Recreation Director on improvements to programs, park facilities, events, comprehensive planning, and coordination of resources to support city-wide events.

The Golf Course has made a complete 180-degree turn in both condition and finances. For a municipality our size, the definition of a successful golf course is one that breaks even. Going into January, we were pretty darn close to that goal, which is tens of thousands of dollars better than last year. We hired a new manager, made some changes in greens-keeping operations, and the course condition is improving daily. To top it off, the city now has a sit-down Steak and BBQ place in the clubhouse, giving residents yet another opportunity to stay in Choctaw.

The City took on full responsibility for running the Bouse Sports Complex this year. Missy Jennings and Tori White came on-board with an awesome plan and hit the ground running, putting on tournaments, leagues, and camps, and giving the city much more flexibility to respond to requests for use. This gave us the opportunity to take advantage of the financial aspects of running the park. We had church softball leagues, a kickball league, multiple tournaments, trail improvements, parking expansion, and general maintenance and clean-up

all happen at the park. We are booked through the next 4-5 years with tournament commitments from multiple organizations.

The Parks crew is changing the Farmer's Market stands, installing hard covers versus the cloth, tent-like material, which is expensive and hard to maintain. Multiple winter maintenance projects are underway to improve the quality of structures and experiences in the park, including new signs and tee markers for each hole on the disc golf course. The Scouts also built a soccer golf course, between City Hall and the soccer fields, near the 23rd Street Bridge.

To work on image, the Boy Scouts generously cleaned up the Caboose Park and painted and refurbished the Rock Island Caboose. New signs are getting installed for Optimist Park, Lloyd Williamson Park, Senior Center, Golf Course, Bouse Park, Veterans Memorial, and the Cemetery. We are pulling all pre-emergent and weed control in-house to better manage the impact of weeds and stickers in the parks. This will be a multi-year effort as the stickers are ornery.

We are working to phase out the old 1976 playground equipment and add new equipment to the mix. We had a brand new playground put in at Choctaw Creek Park, with expansion planned this spring, made possible by a donation. The Rotary Club donated exercise equipment, strategically placed around the trails at Choctaw Creek Park. New playground equipment was installed at Bouse Park near the Alexis Clark Splash Pad, as well as new walking trails around and throughout the park connecting to Ten Acre Lake Park. For future plans, we are executing the long-range comprehensive plan and mapping out costs for basketball courts, bathrooms, and parking at Optimist Park, and are working with a grant company to replace the aged playground equipment.

The City hired Tanner McGuire as your Parks and Recreation Director 7 months ago and he has been a "gold nugget" find, bringing fresh new ideas, concepts, and a vision of what Parks and Recrea-

tion can and should be for this community. He is the right person to harness the enthusiasm of the new Public Recreation Advisory Board and make significant, long-term improvements towards the quality of life of Choctaw residents.

Tanner introduced a number of new events for kids and parents wanting more time outside to experience our parks and city. In June, "Play 'N Park" events were held at each park. Great participation this year from the community in these events.

We changed up our 4th of July celebration and transitioned to Choctaw Creek Park, where we had games, inflatables, music, food trucks, a bigger and better fireworks display, and a great home-town celebration.

In September, we tried "Food Truck Fridays" on Main Street in an effort to entice citizens to stay in town for lunch. Food truck vendors were so interested we ended up with a waiting list. We expect to continue the concept this year, and will introduce evening events, based on great feedback from citizens, with plans for music at these events, too.

Upcoming, we have more new events planned! One that comes to mind is our "Rock the Park" event at Choctaw Creek Park. Tanner already has bands committed for music, food trucks, and games planned. I am anticipating the opportunity to experience the music, good food, beverages, and good company.

We are slowly but surely moving forward with improvements and modernization of the Parks and Recreation Program. We look forward to input from the new Public Recreation Advisory Board. We have a motivated team in place willing to take on the "because that is the way we have always done it" mantra and take a few risks with new concepts and programs that support our community. There are no single-issue crusaders on the team, as the Parks and Recreation program is much more than any single recreation issue or program. I admit it is frustrating, as moving forward takes time, results come slow, and money for the program is limited. We are excited about the future of Parks and Recreation in Choctaw. How about you?!



Choctaw City Hall

2500 N. Choctaw Road
P.O. Box 567
Choctaw, Oklahoma 73020

Phone: (405) 390-8198

Fax: (405) 390-8607

Email: citymanager@choctawcity.org

Web Site: www.mychoctaw.org

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.mychoctaw.org

Check it out and subscribe!