



CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

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

March 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

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



Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule

Every month Waste Connections provides a curbside pick-up of as much as 3 cubic yards. As always, cardboard must be broken down, all trash must be contained in some way, if possible, such as bagged, boxed, or tied. All limbs should be in tied bundles, cut no longer than 4 feet. Please see our website for a more detailed list of items allowed and not allowed. This monthly pick-up also takes the place of the extra bags outside the trash can

that used to be allowed on a weekly basis. Now you should *only* be putting extra bags out on your bulk trash day.

Your bulk trash pick-up is scheduled as follows: If your **regular** trash day is:

Monday = **1st Thursday** of the month
Tuesday = **2nd Thursday** of month
Wednesday = **3rd Thursday** of month
Thursday/Friday = **4th Thursday**



Spring Break Kids Camps

Choctaw/Nicoma Park schools are out **March 18-22** and we are proud to have 3 great camps going on during that time. We have a Golf Camp, a Magic Camp, and an Extreme Animals Camp. For ages 6-14, there is sure to be one your child will love! Each camper gets a t-shirt, so reserve yours now. Hours and fees vary so check out our flyer, and you can find out more on the website at mychoctaw.org/318/Spring-Break-Camps, or call us at **(405)-390-8198** for more information.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **April 20th** at Choctaw Creek Park. See our flyer in this bill for more information.



Choctaw Senior Center

The Choctaw Senior Center is located at **14653 Dean Street**. The Senior Center is open **Monday through Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm**. Lunch is served at **11:30**. **Reservations are required for lunch**. For more information or to sign up for a meal or an event, call the Senior Center at **(405) 390-8040** between **9:00 am to 1:00 pm**.

On the **1st** at **11:00am**, we will host a class called **“Medicare Changes & How to Manage Them in 2019.”**

For daily menu and activities calendar, go to <https://mychoctaw.org/255/Choctaw-Senior-Citizens-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:

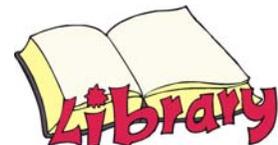
Mondays—Blood Pressure Clinic, **March 4th & 18th, 10:30am**;
SALT/TRIAD every **2nd Monday** at **9:30am**

Tuesdays—Bingo at **10:00am**

Wednesdays—Devotion at **10:30am**

Thursdays—Bingo at **10:00am**

Fridays—Games



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, including a calendar of events, visit www.metrolibrary.org.

Family Robotics—**March 7th, 4pm-7:30pm**, All ages; Whether you're an expert or beginner, join us as we code and build our own robots!

DIY Photo Canvas—**March 10th, 2pm-3pm**; Learn how to make your own décor out of your 8x10 photos. Pre-registration required.

Wiggle Worms—**March 25th, 9:30am-10:00am**; An excellent way to help children build social skills, promote learning, and discover the fun at the library! This month we're hosting an itty-bitty dance party!

Caturday--**March 30th, 1pm-4pm**, Join us “fur” a day of cat-astic fun, all about our favorite furry friends!

Visit us online at www.mychoctaw.org for more information.

Board / Commission Meeting Dates

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted)

7 PM

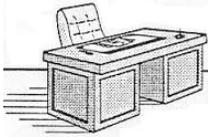
City Council Meeting followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **Mar 5th & 19th**

Planning Commission Meeting: **Mar 7th**

Public Recreation Advisory Board: **Mar 12th**

Board of Adjustments (as needed): **Mar 25th**
4:30 PM

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (at Old Germany Restaurant): **Mar 27th**



FROM THE
City Manager

What a great time for the City of Choctaw! I had the privilege to spend a day with the Choctaw Area Chamber Eastern Oklahoma County Leadership Program candidates. We talked about leadership, what it takes to run a city, what is going on good with Choctaw, swapped stories, presented a peek behind-the-scenes at professional public service, and talked about how to engage and participate in your municipality. I hope it was not overwhelming and the team was able to walk away with a better appreciation and understanding of the inner workings of their professional staff and city government. I believe programs like this help citizens understand their government and provide the impetus on how to engage positively in their communities. I thank the Chamber for giving me the opportunity to pass on some leadership wisdom and expand my circle of influence.

Although a slow process, we have started cleaning up and initiated a makeover of the Market Boulevard medians. You should have seen some

landscaping, irrigation, and sod-work during the month of January and going into February. I hope spring will bring good color and healthy greenery to the Market Boulevard entrance.

Mark your calendars. Council voted in December of last year, after recommendation from our Parks and Recreation Director, to hold a few evening events. The two big events scheduled are "Rock the Park" on May 18th, and a Food Truck "Friday Night Bites" event on October 25th.

"Rock the Park," a Saturday night event, is family-friendly with food trucks, local and out-of-town bands, and other family activities, and runs from 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM at the Choctaw Creek Park. The last Friday in October will be our Food Truck "Friday Night Bites." The preponderance of feedback to our Food Truck Friday's during lunch was very positive. We did have one comment about the hours and the suggestion that we look at a few evening events. We thought evening events were a fair idea—thus the new evening events scheduled with food truck participation.

The Parks and Recreation staff is working hard to repair and maintain current facilities. Yes, some of the facilities are very old and need repair. We have plans and are researching future funding to address the replacement of our failing restrooms in the park. Common practice for Choctaw over the years has been to winterize and close the bathroom facilities--there are a couple reasons we continue this practice. One is safety. As fall and winter months approach, days get shorter, and activity in the park goes way down. Historically, the restroom facilities in the park have been a haven for vandalism, after-hours hang-outs, and other nefarious activities,

causing safety concerns for the few that utilize the park in the winter months. The second reason, influenced by the first, is a pure maintenance reason. This is actually not an uncommon practice for such facilities in Parks. Not an optimum solution, but the city did move to have one more port-a-potty in the main park to accommodate trail use. Your Parks and Recreation Director is researching the best next step to replace these aged bathroom facilities. Our goal is to have a good solution in the next budget year.

We are getting quite a few calls regarding the Bulky Waste Pick-up. Mostly asking "when is my bulky pick-up day?" There have been a few calls regarding tree waste, especially after the frozen precipitation we had early on. When the monthly bulk waste pick-up was added to the contract, the thought was the requirement to rent the expensive claw trash truck would go away as there should be less bulky-waste items, due to a monthly pick-up versus every six months. We are finding citizens with large acreage and trees having issues with bundling and keeping the tree waste under the 3 cubic yards allowed for bulk waste pick-up. I can't promise anything, but I will raise the concerns with the vendor and explore potential solutions to help when citizens encounter such problems with trees and tree limbs.

As I say in most of my City Manager's Corner articles, I work for you and am available to answer any questions or help find solutions for any challenges you may encounter. Remember to ask yourself, "What is going good for the City of Choctaw?" Let us capitalize on the good so we can market our story. Take care!



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Did you know?

The City Council agendas, as well as all of the back-up information, are available on the City's website at: www.mychoctaw.org
Check it out and subscribe today!