



CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

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

July 2019

Contact Numbers

City Hall	405-390-8198
Public Works	405-390-1121
Code Enforcement	405-281-6869
Court Clerk	405-390-3333
Permits/Licenses	405-390-2999
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 in the weeks of: **July 8th & 22nd.**

Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule

Bulk trash is picked up monthly *based on your regular trash day*. Find your trash day to see what day each month your Bulk Pick-Up will occur:

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

Independence Day Celebration

Held at Choctaw Creek Park, activities kick off at 3pm with a Corn Hole Tournament (pre-register at 2pm), Fireman’s Obstacle Course, Touch-A-Truck display, inflatables, train rides, food trucks, local vendor booths, and music! We’ll end the day with a fireworks display at 9:45pm.

Fireworks Ordinance

On May 21, 2019, City Council approved a change to the hours fireworks can be set off. On **July 1st-5th**, 9:00am - 10:00pm on private property and on **July 4th**, because it falls on Monday-Thursday or Sunday, the cut-

off time is now 10:30pm. Be safe!

Movie in the Park

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, enjoy games, food, and a movie! On **July 19th**, the Choctaw Creek Golf Course will host the showing of “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” at 9:00 pm. See you there!

Choctaw Senior Center

Here are some of our weekly events:

Blood Pressure Clinic - **July 1st & 15th** at 10:30 am

SALT/TRIAD - **July 9th** at 9:30 am

Bingo-Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10:00am

Devotion - Wednesdays, 10:30 am

Games - Fridays

This month’s special presentations:

“Heat Stress/Silver Energy/OG&E Scams” - **July 5th** at 11:00 am

“Good Foods for Your Gut”-**July 19th** at 10:45 am

Secured Senior Health Services - **July 29th** at 10:45 am

Choctaw Library

Here are a few things going on this month:

Neighborhood Arts, Wednesdays in July, 2-3pm, all ages

Pollinators, July 11th, 6–8 pm, All Ages- If your family loves science, you’d

BUTTERFLY on over to the Pollinator Family Program. We’ll learn all about the amazing animals that we all rely on to produce the nuts and fruits we eat.

Tooth and Eye "Dentification", July 15th, 3–4 pm, Ages 5 to 12 - Skulls can tell us a lot, from what an animal eats to whether an animal is a predator or prey. Students will learn how to read eye placement to identify predator versus prey & read teeth to identify carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.

Bullet Journaling, July 23rd, 7–8 pm, Adults - Come bullet journal with us! We’ll teach you the basics & help you get started with a beautiful and creative new hobby. Participants need to bring their own journal. Registration required.

Van Gogh, Monet, Degas for Teens

with the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, **July 25th**, 4-5 pm, Ages 12 to 18 - Paint with watercolors, explore landscape art, Impressionism, & perspective. Join an OKCMOA teaching artist to learn about the summer exhibition and create your own Impressionist masterpiece to take home!

City Manager’s Corner

On behalf of the Choctaw team, I am pleased to present the FY 2019/20 Budget. Before getting into the new budget, I want to recap the execution of last year’s budget, as it impacts what we project for the future.

FY 2018/19 went very well. We continued the modernization of processes, procedures, equipment, and staff hiring. The team continues to work diligently to transition the City to new software that will streamline processes and free up Directors to focus on modernizing policies and planning for the future.

The Roads Assessment, completed last year, is a critical part of the Mayor’s Roads Committee. Members of this committee are tasked with forming recommendations and funding strategies that will be presented to Council to begin fixing our roads.

The Streets Dept. stretched its resources to the limit and completed the intersection of Choctaw Rd & SE 29th St., providing a much safer intersection that will endure the increasing heavy truck traffic as Choctaw grows.

Notable Accomplishments: City took over full operation of Bouse Sports Complex; improved the trail systems, traffic and parking management signs, fencing at the playground and splash pad, completed site housekeeping and clean-up, more programs offered in the form of intramurals, locally-run leagues, tournaments, and practice opportunities; Choctaw Creek Golf Course continued to improve; greens are in outstanding condition, the new manager and superintendent improved play and business operations with over \$100,000 improvement to the bottom-

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Board / Commission Meeting Dates

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted)

7 PM

City Council Meeting followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **July 2nd & 16th**

Planning Commission Meeting: **July 11th** (due to holiday)

Public Recreation Advisory Board Meeting: **July 9th**

Board of Adjustments Meeting (as needed): **July 22nd**

4:30 PM

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (Choctaw Creek Golf Course): **July 31st**

line, the addition of the clubhouse restaurant offering steak and barbecue options is an enhancement, not only to the course, but to the community.

Other Significant Accomplishments:

donation of playground equipment by the Mayor’s Charity Golf Tournament, completion of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant set for July, improvements to the Cemetery, park pavilion renovations, new events such as Food Truck Fridays, Rock the Park, Park N Play, Friday Night Farmer’s Market, and the 4th of July Celebration; upgrade of the city website, added IT modernizations, water extension to Anderson & 15th, engineering funding for extension of sewer service down 23rd St. to Hiwassee, sidewalk grant for Harper Rd., drainage and tin horn fixes, and a whole lot more.

What are we going to do next year? FY 2019/20 Budget will hold steady on new programs, projects, and personnel, as projections on Sales Tax remain flat. We are still short on personnel to support our population, however we will stay focused on the recommendations of the Comprehensive Master Plan. We programmed a modest 2% raise for non-bargaining unit employees, not including Dept. Directors, and put in place merit-based salary step systems for both our Police and Fire Departments.

This is the second year of using an IT

management service, and in order to relieve stress on the General Fund, will spread the cost across each department. We will increase funding for Parks & Recreation, from 3% to 5%. Our desired goal is 7%.

The Important Numbers: City budget is approximately \$8.1 million, and the Choctaw Utility Authority (CUA) budget is approx. \$2.7 million, for an overall budget of about \$11 million. Here are some particulars:

General Fund Highlights: Sales tax will be flat with increase in Use Tax; possibly open a Starbucks, improve current programs, added unfunded positions, Capital Budget will remain similar to last year, Golf Course, and Bouse Sports Complex transfers for stabilization, but less than last year.

CUA Fund Highlights: Carry-over fund balance projected for FY 2020, meet Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) requirements for debt, increase in revenue for anticipated new service, study new fee structure for Utilities to implement in 2021, well repair (3rd & Clarke), water loop (Harper Rd), sewer Lift Station repair (4th St), new Waste Water Treatment Plant (saves 2 positions)

Capital Outlay & Special Highlights:

Public Safety: Lease purchase of 5 new Police vehicles, upgrade public safety radios, critical maintenance to Police Dept. roof, A/C system, interior furniture; purchase of shotguns, purchase of 2 new Fire trucks, Fire Dept. facility repairs, reserves for future funding of gear, radios, weapons, body armor; establish a Siren Fund

Public Works: dump truck, large trailer for backhoe, cement drainage on 23rd St., cement turn lane at Bypass & Clarke, pave parking at Bouse, Golf Course, Choctaw Creek Park; increase to Streets Department dedicated fund transfer for repairs

Parks & Recreation: Lease purchase golf carts, funding for Special Events, fix fence at golf course along Hiwas-

see, safety improvements at Bouse & Golf Course, restore medium pavilion at Choctaw Creek Park, renovate restrooms at Choctaw Creek Park, playground equipment and basketball courts, Monument sign at Bouse, message boards at Parks

Administration: City Hall server upgrade IT project, City Hall phased image upgrade/repairs (Council Chambers, front office/customer spaces, furniture, flooring), reserves for phased upgrades to IT services, training

Planning & Development: elections (Special), Computer and Plotter

Personnel: no new funded positions, added 15 unfunded positions, 2% raise for non-bargaining employees, merit-based salary scale for Unions (FOP and IFFA)

As you can see, the City continues targeted spending while holding the line on projects requiring multi-year commitments. The focus this year is to complete current projects, work on policy improvements, develop our Professional Public Servants, and continue to modernize City processes to better serve the citizens of Choctaw.

One commitment we made this year was the decision to put money away for future projects. A Reserve Fund Ordinance was adopted providing policy to set aside significant funds for emergencies, infrastructure projects, and unforeseen down-turns. \$100,000 was set aside for emergency funds on things like roads and water repairs. Although not significant, it is a start. The goal is to build this reserve to between 10% and 35% of the carryover budget for future use.

The City continues to be under-staffed and the City Hall and Police buildings are showing their age. The eventual influx of sales taxes resulting from the closure of the TIF in 2023 will allow room for some of our bigger projects and staff requirements needed to better serve our growing City.



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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.mychoctaw.org

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