



CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

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

Please remember that Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling pick-up will occur in the weeks of: **Dec 9th & 23rd.**

Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule

Bulk trash is picked up based on your regular trash day. Find your *regular trash day* below 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

City Hall Closed

City Hall will be closed for the Christmas holiday on **Dec 24th & 25th**. Trash services will run one day behind for the rest of the week.

City Hall will also be closed on **Jan. 1st** for New Year's Day. Trash services will run one day behind for the rest of the week.

Spring Youth Sports Leagues

Sign-ups begin **Dec 2nd** and end **Jan 26th** for Youth Spring Baseball (ages 3-12) and Softball Leagues (ages 7-12) at Bouse Sports Complex. Cost is \$35/

player or \$350/team. You can register online at mychoctaw.org or in person at City Hall.

J.O.Y. Dinner

The Choctaw Church of the Nazarene will host the 4th Annual J.O.Y. Dinner, (Just Older Youth), a Christmas celebration for residents of southeast Oklahoma county on **Thurs. Dec 5th** at 6:30pm, for those 55 yrs. and older. This event is free and features food, entertainment, and door prizes. For more information or transportation, call Gloria Jones at (405) 413-4847 or the church at (405) 390-8403.



Christmas in Choctaw

Join us for Christmas at the Creek! It's our annual Christmas party for kids up to age 10. There will be entertainment, crafts, treats, and pictures with Santa! This family-friendly free event is hosted at the Choctaw Creek Golf Course, located at 2200 N. Hiwassee on **Dec. 7th** from 1:00-4:00pm. Then at 5:00pm we hope to see you at the corner of Main & Gilbert for the 3rd Annual Tree Lighting! Enjoy caroling & vendors with hot chocolate and snacks as we mark the beginning of the Christmas season in Choctaw.

Choctaw Senior Center

We are located at 14653 Dean Street and are open **Mon - Fri, 9:00am to 1:00pm**. We have lots to offer, including daily lunch served at 11:30am, games, books, music, & great company. 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**. For daily menu & events calendars, go to <https://mychoctaw.org/255/Choctaw-Senior-Citizens-Center>.

Here are some of our weekly events:

Mon, Dec. 9th-SALT/TRIAD, 9:30am

Tuesday/Thursday - Bingo, 10:00am
Tues, Dec. 17th - Alzheimer's Support Group, 12:00 - 1:00pm

Wednesdays - Devotion at 10:30am

Fridays - Games

This month's special presentations: "Oral Health," **Fri, Dec. 6th**

Kiwanis Christmas Dinner, **Sat, Dec. 14th** at 11:00am-1:00pm.

The Senior Center will be closed for Christmas on **Dec. 24th & 25th**.

Choctaw Library

The Choctaw branch of the Metropolitan Library System, located at 2525 Muzzy St., offers many excellent programs for patrons of all ages. To register for a program, call **(405) 390-8418 ext 3**. Visit their website to view a full calendar of events and more at www.metrolibrary.org. Here are a few of the events coming up:

Hour of Code, Dec. 4th, 4-5pm, Ages 5-12; Celebrate Computer Science Education Week! Anyone can learn the basics of computer science, which helps to nurture problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity. Chromebooks will be provided for an hour-long intro to computer science as we demystify what "coding" is. Registration required.

Family Game Fest: Dec. 5th, 6:30-8:00pm, Families; Get loud and get your game on! Bring the family and come play video, board games, and even learn some new games to play during the holidays.

Healthy Desserts: Dec. 8th, 2-4pm, Adults (Registration Required); Channel your inner Martha Stewart as we make personalized 3-D and pop-up holiday cards, and the more challenging light-up card!

Merry Mix & Measure Make & Take: Dec. 12th, 4-5pm, Teens; Wish your loved ones "season's eatings" with a beautiful, delicious homemade mix! Registration required.

Noon Year's Eve Party: Dec 31st, 11:30am-12:30pm, Ages 0-5; Kids want to celebrate the New Year, too! Stop by for a dance party, crafts, sen-

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

Board / Commission Meeting Dates

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted)

7 PM

City Council meeting followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **Dec. 3rd & 17th**

Planning Commission Meeting: **Dec. 5th**

Public Recreation Advisory Board Meeting: **December 10th**

Board of Adjustments Meeting (as needed): **December 23rd**

4:30 PM

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (@Choctaw Creek Golf Course): **no meeting**

sory bins, noise makers, and a noon countdown to a shower of balloons and confetti! Then stay and explore all we have to offer!

City Manager's Corner

From City Hall, we hope everyone enjoys an abundant Thanksgiving and Christmas and we look forward to another successful New Year. As you can read, the City has a few events focused on the holiday. Please take some time to enjoy Christmas in Choctaw.

Now is the time to talk about The Vision for Choctaw in the coming year: "Living in a great city is not just a right, it is a responsibility." What does this really mean, responsibility? There are many ways in which to exercise your responsibility, especially in local government.

It is your responsibility to participate—and work to improve Choctaw rather than drag it down. Find out what good is going on in your City. You may attend council, chamber, board, or commission meetings, they are great places to start—all open to the public—to see how your government works. You could get involved directly by volunteering, there are always openings. Your council, board, commission, and staff have made the choice of public service—service before self, to serve the community. This is a big deal, a great commitment, and should be recognized as such; it is not easy work.

At a minimum, if you do not have time to participate, stay informed. Informed voters are key to great cities!

Staying informed requires more than just your personal Facebook news feed. What newspapers or periodicals do you actually read? Think about where you get your news. Is your information from a primary source or from an entity interpreting the information, pleasing to your ears, or strictly agreeing with your point of view? Responsible citizens gather information from multiple sources to understand an issue before they exercise their right to vote. In today's society however, we can easily fall victim to negativity, contempt, and demonization, which is often divisive, instead of looking for some common ground that will make a city or local government better. High-performing cities have responsibly engaged citizens.

Finally, the most basic responsibility is to vote. Each vote at the local level carries a great deal of weight, in that just one vote can make the difference between a proposition passing or a candidate winning a race. In the last Choctaw election, Ward 1 was won by 2 or 3 votes!

It is also your responsibility to obey the law. I am not talking just the major stuff. Think about building code, municipal code, trash pickup, hazardous waste dumping, driving, etc. We all, even council members, obey the same laws and policies we implement. There can be no perception of special treatment anymore.

In regards to the Bulk Waste issue, the City of Choctaw implemented a monthly bulk waste pickup for residents in September 2018 for an additional \$1 per month to utility accounts carrying sanitation service. Previous to the change, bulk pickup was scheduled every 6 months, was very time consuming, and quite frankly, cost-prohibitive to continue.

Bulk Waste pickup is a fee-for-service program covered under the Choctaw Utilities Authority. Why is this important to know? It is funded strictly through revenue generated from the utility accounts alone, not from Sales Tax. The move to the monthly program is a great improvement over the semi-annual bulk service.

As with any program, there are growing pains, questions, and tweaks that can make the program better. We understand the issues such as missed pickups, bulk trash out on the wrong day or week, bulk waste in excess of the cubic yard guidelines, or not properly bundled. Most of these issues can be resolved by contacting City Hall. In the past, the carrier left a warning as to why the bulk waste was not picked up. Not picking up the bulk waste creates problems with trash in the right-of-ways and becomes a nuisance to neighbors and others. To address the issues of bulk waste in excess of the 3 cubic yards or unbundled tree waste not being picked up, the City adopted procedures similar to OKC and OK County. On September 16th, 2019, the Choctaw Utilities Authority adopted Resolution 19-33, amending the fee schedule to allow for the pickup of and the charge of fees for bulk waste exceeding the set pickup guidelines. The amended fee schedule allows for the fees to be assessed on a customer's regular monthly utility statement. Waste Connections Professionals will be responsible for ascertaining amounts to be charged and will communicate those assessments to the Utilities Department for inclusion on the next regular monthly statement. We understand residents have also reported unauthorized individuals dumping extra bulky waste on top of waste already placed. This is illegal dumping, and the City will work with residents on a case-by-case basis as they report such issues. For more information regarding Bulk Waste or the new Fee Schedule you can also always contact the Choctaw Utilities Department at 405.390.8198.



Choctaw City Hall

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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!