



# CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

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

June 2020

## 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 on the weeks of: **June 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

## Monthly Bulk Trash Pick-up

The Curbside Bulk Pick-Up resumed the week of **May 18<sup>th</sup>**. Any changes to the service will be posted on the City website as well as Facebook.

Find your *regular trash day* for your bulk pick-up day:

- Mondays - 1st Thursday of the month
- Tuesdays - 2nd Thursday of the month
- Wednesdays - 3rd Thursday
- Thurs / Fri - 4th Thursday

## Drive-Thru Farmer's Market

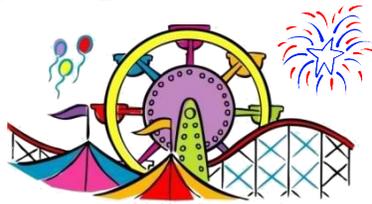
The Farmer's Market has been modified to allow vendors to take orders online or by phone and for you to pick them up at the Choctaw Creek Park Farmer's Market. Visit our web page for more information: [mychoctaw.org/340/Friday-Night-Farmers-Market](http://mychoctaw.org/340/Friday-Night-Farmers-Market). Please note this is not a place to shop but to pick up local favorites you've pre-ordered.

You can also contact Matt Floyd at 405-326-5708 or find all the vendors

and their contact information at: [www.facebook.com/floydfarmstead](http://www.facebook.com/floydfarmstead).

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

The City of Choctaw is hosting a collection event at the Large Pavilion at Choctaw Creek Park on **June 27<sup>th</sup>** of common household hazardous waste. Pre-registration is required and you must bring your I.D. and Choctaw utility/trash bill with your items for drop-off from **8:30am - 11:30am**. Items must be residential waste only. For all the details, including a list of accepted items and to register, see our webpage at [mychoctaw.org/246/Collection-Event](http://mychoctaw.org/246/Collection-Event). If you have questions or issues with the online registration, please call Development Services at 405-390-2999.



## Carnival & Independence Day Extravaganza

From **July 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>** there will be a carnival with rides, games, music, and food at Choctaw Creek Park, Large Pavilion. It's free to enter with ride & game tickets available for purchase. Times vary daily.

**July 1<sup>st</sup> - 5:00pm - 10:00pm**

**July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6:00pm - 10:00pm**

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6:00pm - 10:00pm**

**July 4<sup>th</sup> - 1:00pm - 10:00pm**

Then activities on the **4<sup>th</sup>** will begin at **9:30am** with the Corn Hole Tournament registration in the Farmer's Market area. The tournament, car show, and a lot more begin at **10:00am** at the Farmer's Market area. Free and open to the public, you're invited to come relax and enjoy the activities until the fireworks display at **9:00 pm**.

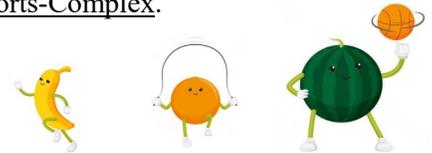
## Summer Sport Camps / Leagues

Summer Camps for kids ages 7-14 are beginning **July 6<sup>th</sup>**. We have a Baseball Camp **July 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**, followed by a Softball Camp on the **9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Then **July 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** we have a Football Camp followed by a Soccer Camp on the **16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**.

There's also a Golf Youth League for ages 6-14 from **July 6<sup>th</sup> - August 12<sup>th</sup>**.

For the adults we have a Co-ed Softball Tournament, a Co-ed Kickball Tournament, and a Co-ed Dodgeball Tournament. Get all the info, register, and pay at [mychoctaw.org/191/Bouse-Sports-Complex](http://mychoctaw.org/191/Bouse-Sports-Complex).



## Play 'N Park

Friday mornings in July we invite you to join us at a different park each week. From **10:00am - 11:00am** we encourage kids to get out and play, learn about nutrition, make new friends, and have fun! As an added bonus every child receives a free sno-cone at the end! Don't miss it!

**July 10<sup>th</sup>** - Choctaw Creek Park

**July 17<sup>th</sup>** - Ten Acre Lake Park

**July 24<sup>th</sup>** - Lloyd Williamson Park

**July 31<sup>st</sup>** - Bouse Sports Complex

## Choctaw Senior Center

The Choctaw Senior Center is located at **14653 Dean Street**. The Senior Center is **closed until further notice** by the direction of the Oklahoma County Health Department. When it is reopened we will post the information on the city webpage as well as Facebook.

## Choctaw Public Library

The Choctaw branch of the Metropolitan Library System, located at **2525 Muzzy Street**, is **closed to the public**. You may return materials to their external book drops, place holds online, and pick up using curbside service. Hours for curbside pickup are Monday-Thursday **9am-7pm**; Fridays **9am-6pm**; Saturdays **9am-5pm**; Sundays **1pm-6pm**.

In-person programs are suspended through **July 31<sup>st</sup>**, but many programs are available online. For more information, visit their website: [metrolibrary.org/coronavirus](http://metrolibrary.org/coronavirus).

Visit us online at [www.mychoctaw.org](http://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: **June 2nd & 16th**

Planning Commission Meeting: **June 4th**

Public Recreation Advisory Board: **June 9th**

Board of Adjustments (as needed): **June 15th**  
**4:30 PM**

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (at Choctaw Creek Golf Course): **June 24th**

### **City Manger's Corner**

Your Council and City Staff are in the throes of building next fiscal year's budget. In working with an independent analysis of the Choctaw Utility Authority Fee Structure, we have realized the utility rates are not set appropriately. What does that mean? There will be a utility rate restructure and increase for the coming budget year.

Did you know the Choctaw Utilities Authority is a business? What does that mean to you as a resident of Choctaw? As a business overseen by Trustees who happen to also be City Councilmen, fees are collected for services rendered. The fees collected should be set at a rate to pay for current operations, save for maintenance and replacement of equipment and supplies, save for future expansion and recapitalization, and provide a return on investment to the shareholders (residents of Choctaw). Having lived the budget cycle for 3 years and now in the process of building a fourth budget, I have become well versed in the mechanics of the financial ecosystem that provides funding for our City and Utility Authority. Last year I made a promise to Council, and they agreed, to do an independent, in-depth fee study of the Utility Authority before the next budget cycle. My hypothesis was "we are not charging appropriately for services rendered." Why is this important? Because fees should reflect

and cover the costs of running the business, set aside for repair, maintenance, recapitalization, and future expansion, with a Return on Investment to shareholders.

The current utility fee structure for Choctaw, set almost 6 years ago, is based on 95% of the current fees in the 5 surrounding cities, which has no bearing on the actual cost of running the business in Choctaw. Prior to 2014 there had been no significant increase in rates. Sewer fees were set in a similar way over the last 23 years. As we watched the numbers it became readily apparent the business of Utilities was not self-sustaining and currently does not provide for the items noted above to cover operations, recapitalization, and return on investment to the shareholders. What I observed was actually opposite—a portion of City tax dollars collected were and still are underwriting the Utility Authority business. We need to fix this disconnect.

The first step in fixing the issue is a proper fee structure. What does that mean to the customer? The utility fee structure will be set appropriately to support all the things I listed above to maintain service and a viable business. We need to save our tax dollars to run the City. We need to set use fees appropriately to run the Choctaw Utility Authority.

There should be nothing political about running the business or raising fees in the structure. It is our job not only to provide transparency, which there is plenty of, but also clarity, which we are lacking. By clarity I mean taking all the data we show you and communicating what the numbers actually mean in order to provide context and understanding.

While raising fees is never popular, we need to change our frame of reference—fees are not tax dollars. The Utility Authority is not tax driven but a business the shareholders expect to be run like a business. With that frame of reference we can get on with the business of utilities and a proper

funding structure to run the business. As the Executive Director of the Utilities Authority it is my job to point out issues and suggest fixes. I will be pushing your council to approve an increase in fees. I ask for your understanding as to the WHY, noted above. The fee structure will be presented to council and discussed over the next few weeks. The independent study shows the current fee structure does not sustain the business—fees have to increase. We will continue to do our level best to provide clarity to you, the stakeholders, as we work through the process.

Choctaw Utility Authority Executive Director, Ed Brown

The City website has many links to a wealth of information and contacts to help you navigate this national pandemic. We urge you to visit the **Public Safety** page under "Departments" on the home page, and find what works best for you. <https://mychoctaw.org/157/Public-Safety>.

From the World Health Organization,  
**DO THE FIVE:**

1. HANDS—Wash them often
2. ELBOW—Cough into it
3. FACE—Don't touch it
4. FEET—Stay more than 6 feet apart
5. FEEL sick?—Stay home

**OCCHD (Oklahoma City-County Health Department) phone bank hotline**, 405-425-4489, currently staffed **Mon-Fri, 8:00am to 4:30pm**. Outside of those hours please call the state hotline, which is operational **24 hours a day**:

COVID-19  
**CALL CENTER**  
**(877) 215-8336**



## **Choctaw City Hall**

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

Phone: (405) 390-8198

Fax: (405) 390-8607

Email: [citymanager@choctawcity.org](mailto:citymanager@choctawcity.org)

Web Site: [www.mychoctaw.org](http://www.mychoctaw.org)

### **Did you know?**

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