



# CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

“Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present, and Planning for the Future” **July 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 in the weeks of: **July 6th & 20th.**

## 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

## Bulk Trash in Excess

With the overwhelming amounts of bulk waste being put out for pick-up, Waste Connections has had to limit pick-ups to ensure everyone gets a collection. Anything over 3 and up to 9 cubic yards will be billed and collected. Waste exceeding 9 cubic yards will not be collected. There have been instances of 20 and even 40 cubic yards of waste, so we ask for your cooperation by saving anything in excess of 9 cubic yards for the next monthly pick-up. If you have a lot of yard debris, there are always other options, including a FREE burn permit from the Fire Department, 405-390-8300.

## Offices Closed

City Hall and its offices will be closed on July 3rd for the observance of the Independence Day holiday.

## Carnival & Independence Day Extravaganza

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

**July 1st - 5:00pm - 10:00pm**

**July 2nd - 6:00pm - 10:00pm**

**July 3rd - 6:00pm - 10:00pm**

**July 4th - 1:00pm - 10:00pm**

Then on the **4th** there will be a car show, registration is \$20 to enter, register day of, and then the show will begin in the Farmer's Market area at **10:00am**. Free and open to the public, you're invited to come relax and enjoy the day until the fireworks display at **9:00pm** by Rudy's Fireworks - don't miss it!

## Fireworks Ordinance

City Ordinance 712, Sec 1, Sec 9-607 states fireworks can be discharged on **July 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** between the hours of **9:00am & 10:00pm** on private property, and on **July 4<sup>th</sup>** only, between the hours of **9:00am & 11:30pm**. If the 4th falls on Monday-Thursday or Sunday, the cut-off time is **10:30pm**.

## Choctaw Senior Center

The Choctaw Senior Center is located at 14653 Dean Street. The Senior Center is closed until further notice by direction of the Oklahoma County Health Department. Re-opening information will be posted on the city webpage at <https://mychoctaw.org/255/Choctaw-Senior-Citizens-Center>.

## Choctaw Library

The Choctaw branch of the Metropolitan Library System, located at 2525 Muzzy Street, will be reopening in steps and phases for the safety of customers and staff beginning **July 6th, 2020**. You may still return materials to the external book drop, 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 31st, but many programs are available online. Registration is required to get the link for the class. For more information, visit their website: [metrolibrary.org/coronavirus](http://metrolibrary.org/coronavirus). The following are some virtual programs being offered in July:

**Zumba, Mondays, 6:45-7:45 pm, Adults.**

**Outlander Take-Home Kit, July 11-22<sup>nd</sup>, Adults.**

**Between the Covers Book Club, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-7:30pm, Adults.**

**Get Cooking: Quick & Easy Smoothies, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30pm, Adults.**

**Myth & Magic Extravaganza Take Home Kit, July 17-28<sup>th</sup>, Teens.**

**The Wonderful World of STEM Take-Home Kit, July 16-29<sup>th</sup>, Ages 5-12.**

**Online Storytime, Tuesdays, 9:30am & 6:30pm, Facebook Live; Wednesdays, 9:30am, Instagram Live, Ages 0-5.**

## Summer Sport Camps / Leagues

Summer Camps for kids ages 7-14 are beginning soon.

Baseball Camp: **July 6th-8th**

Softball Camp: **July 9th & 10th**

Football Camp: **July 13th-15th**

Soccer Camp: **July 16th & 17th**

Golf Youth League, ages 6-14, **July 6th - August 12th.**

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! It all begins **July 10th** at Choctaw Creek Park.

## City Manager's Corner

Hello Choctaw! This year's budget was one of the more challenging I have had in my 35 years working govern-

Visit us online at [www.mychoctaw.org](http://www.mychoctaw.org) for even more information.

**Board / Commission Meeting Dates**

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted; virtual attendance available via Zoom link, found in the agenda for the meeting)

**7:00 PM**

City Council Meeting followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **July 7th & 21st**

Planning Commission Meeting: **July 2nd**

Public Recreation Advisory Board Meeting: **July 14th**

Board of Adjustments Meeting (as needed): Special, **July 7th**; regular, **July 27th**

**4:30 PM**

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (Choctaw City Hall & Zoom): **July 29th**

ment budgets, and the most challenging since arriving in Choctaw in 2017. Earlier this year Choctaw staff developed a proposed 2020-2021 City and Utility Authority budgets and presented them to Council and the public on May 7th. Based on feedback from Council at that workshop, staff developed a final budget proposal and presented that on June 2nd. At that meeting, Council passed the City and Utility Authority budgets by a 7 – 0 vote.

Budget workshops are a great way for the public to get a peek at Council and Staff discussing the mechanics of funding for the City, and to be actively involved in the most important task your Council engages in each year. These meetings are always open to the public for comments and input. The public can review the minutes and/or watch the Zoom video for both meetings (as well as others) at <https://mychoctaw.org/AgendaCenter>.

The following are some important takeaways from this year’s budget process: 1) The City intends for there to be no furloughs or lay-offs this budget cycle, but did decide to freeze pay and positions, and to limit capital expenditures to emergency repairs only. 2) The City is planning for a 10% decrease in both sales and use tax in revenue over the last year. 3) All City departments had to cut expenditures appropriately to meet their respective funding goals and revenue projections. 4) With new financial software in place, Department Heads now have more control and say over their budgets, making for more accu-

rate management at every level of City governance. 5) An independent audit led to a proposed, and ultimately approved, update to the Choctaw Utility Authority (CUA) fee schedule (see previous City Manager’s Corner for audit details). 6) City staff will closely monitor and evaluate budget execution through December, and if the COVID emergency eases and revenues stay steady, staff will prepare a proposed budget amendment to present to Council at that time.

Here are a few examples of what the water bills will look like on **August 1<sup>st</sup>**. Remember, it is summer so there is more water being used this time of year.

<u>5,000 gal./month acct. Residential</u>			
	Current	Proposed	Change
Water/sewer	52.73	74.25	21.52
Stormwater	2.56	3.50	0.94
Drainage	1.56	2.50	0.94
Sanitation	15.64	19.00	3.36
	72.49	99.25	26.76

<u>10,000 gal./month acct. Residential</u>			
	Current	Proposed	Change
Water/sewer	91.23	118.00	26.77
Stormwater	2.56	3.50	0.94
Drainage	1.56	2.50	0.94
Sanitation	15.64	19.00	3.36
	110.99	143.00	32.01

<u>3,000 gal./month acct. Senior</u>			
	Current	Proposed	Change
Water/sewer	31.80	45.50	13.70
Stormwater	2.56	3.50	0.94
Drainage	1.56	2.50	0.94
Sanitation	11.73	15.00	3.27
	47.65	66.50	18.85

There are a lot of great things going on in Choctaw right now despite all the upheaval in the news. Even though the City portion of the Independence Day Celebration will be scaled back significantly this year to accommodate budget cuts, Parks & Recreation came through with something new this year. Tanner McGuire and his team coordinated a Car Show, a Carnival in the Park, and it’s all topped off by fireworks from Rudy’s. For more times and details check out

the City Facebook page and website. Chief of Police Kelly Marshall has started some community outreach through a program called “Coffee with the Chief.” She will make herself available to Choctaw residents to chat and have coffee at places around Choctaw. The first “Coffee with the Chief” will take place at 7:00am on **June 30th** at Harley’s Café. Stay connected to the City Facebook page for future dates and locations.

I have received many inquiries about when the Best Western Plus, under construction next to Walmart, will be open for business. I am pleased to report after recently speaking with the Project Manager it is projected to be complete in September and open for business in October. This business will be a great addition to Choctaw and important in supporting the Eastern Oklahoma County Tech Center and other City activities.

It is great to see that citizens are taking advantage of the Bulk Waste Program that we transitioned to the last year! I think the secret is out--even if you place more than 3 cubic yards of bulk (tree trash), the surcharge is cheaper than a tree service coming out and hauling it away for you. Program use has become so great the sanitation contractor is asking customers to put no more than 9 cubic yards at a time, and to save anything above that for your next pick-up. The drivers are having trouble keeping up with the extra demand. Thank you for using the service to the full extent!

We recently had a small but impactful change at City Hall. You’ll notice new awnings at the entrance to the Main building and Annex. These awnings will provide a bit of shade and cover for some of the extreme weather conditions we have in Choctaw and, as an added bonus, the front lobby will not flood during torrential downpours.

Have a Happy 4th and enjoy the hot weather. Please remember, the City is still under a state of emergency due to COVID-19. Protect yourself when in public with a mask and physical distancing.

Respectfully,  
Ed Brown



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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](http://www.mychoctaw.org)

**Check it out and subscribe!**