



CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

"Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present, and Planning for the Future" **September 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



Offices Closed

City Hall and its offices will be closed on September 7th for the observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Recycling Pickup Schedule

Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling will occur in the weeks of: **Aug. 3rd, 17th, & 31st.**



Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule

Bulk trash is picked up monthly *based on your regular trash day*. Find your trash day to see when 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

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 mychoctaw.org/255/Choctaw-Senior-Citizens-Center.



Choctaw Library

The Choctaw branch of the Metropolitan Library System, located at 2525 Muzzy Street, is not open to the public for the safety of customers and staff. 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, 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.



Storm Water Management Tips

Nutrient pollution is the process where too many nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus, are added to bodies of water and can act like fertilizer, causing excessive growth of algae. Fertilizer over-application causes harmful algae blooms in our creeks, streams, and ponds, making them unsightly and unsafe for recreational use! Mixing fertilizer according to the manufacturer specifications can make an enormous impact on the health and quality of our waterways.

Fertilizer and herbicides should never be applied before a large rain event. Instead of being utilized on our lawns, most of the nutrients that are applied before a large rain event will wash into storm drains and creeks.

Over-use of dye in our fertilizer mixtures causes a noticeable color change in our storm water runoff. This can cause an increase in turbidity to our creeks, which affects the Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), light penetration, and visibility. The sediments and nutrients that reduce clarity are

harmful to aquatic ecosystems by smothering nearshore habitats, burying benthic communities and changing algal growth patterns.

Clearer water allows more sunlight to reach submerged aquatic vegetation. The vegetation, in turn, produces oxygen, provides habitat for fish and shellfish and provides food for waterfowl, fish and mammals.

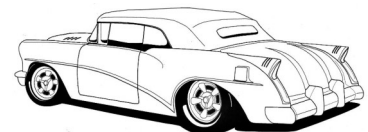
What we do on land affects our storm water. If it's on the ground, it's in your water. Please do your part and help keep it clean. For more information, contact Development Services at (405) 390-2999.



Parks & Recreation Events

The Friday Night Farmer's Market is going strong at Choctaw Creek Park. Remember to practice physical distancing, wear a mask, and use hand sanitizer when washing hands with soap and water is not possible.

Food Truck Fridays are back beginning **Sep. 4th**. Join us **Fridays** for lunch from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Choctaw Creek Farmer's Market, located at 2001 N Harper Rd, for some great food, music, and fun!



Labor Day is **Sep. 7th** and you want to be at Bouse Park, the site of the Fall Classic Car Show! Join us from 9:00am to 1:00pm for this free family event. There will be food, music, and multiple awards given for all kinds of show vehicles.



Finally the Kids Fishing Derby is here! Join us **Sep. 19th** at Ten Acre Lake for this free family event. Registration begins at 7:00am and the fishing begins at 8:00am. Prizes will be awarded for each fish caught with a specialty

Visit us online at 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, followed by Choctaw Utilities
Authority: **Sept 1st & 15th**

Planning Commission: **Sept 3rd**

Public Recreation Advisory Board: **Sept 8th**

Board of Adjustments (as needed): **Sept 28th**

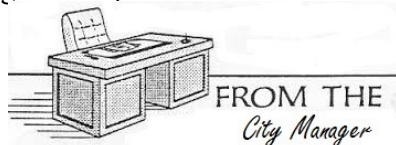
4:30 PM

Choctaw Economic Development Authority
(Choctaw City Hall & Zoom): **Sept 30th**

tag, regardless of age. Raffles will also be drawn for other prizes. Bait is provided, so break out the rods, and while the event ends at 11:00am, you can always stay as long as you want! For more information about any event, call 405-281-6854.

**Resources**

Need help with healthcare, housing, food, clothing, or utility assistance? Call 211. It's a 24-hour resource to provide referrals to community-based services for everyday needs or in times of crisis or disaster. Talk to someone who cares and knows where to go for help - Call 2-1-1.

**City Manager's Corner**

Hello Choctaw! Fall is coming on quick and I hope everyone is taking advantage of the Friday Night Farmers Market in the Park. We really appreciate Matt Floyd and team for bringing the idea to Parks & Recreation and laying the foundation for its success. Please take time to come experience the Farmers Market, Friday evenings through September. Local goods, food, and friendship at Choctaw Creek Park!

As a reminder, the Choctaw Utilities Authority Trustees commissioned an

independent study of rates earlier this year. The rate study included a review of the Authority financial performance, identification of future revenue requirements, and proposed utility rates and charges necessary to provide sufficient revenue to meet operational costs, debt service requirements, reserve requirements, and a return to the citizens of Choctaw through the City General Fund. The trustees approved a utility rate increase in June and the new rates were effective 1 August (rates found at <https://mychoctaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/1883/FY-2020-2021-Fee-Schedule-Water-Sewer-PDF>). The new rates will be captured in your August usage and reflected on your September bill. The bottom-line on the study revealed the Authority's margins were too small to provide for operating expenses, recapitalization, repair & maintenance, and debt service. In other words, the Authority was just covering the cost of getting the water to the meter and nothing else. As you know this is an enterprise fund and rates should cover all the elements in running the enterprise—repairs, maintenance, development, future expansion, recapitalization, and a small return for emergencies. We will closely monitor the performance of the rate structure through this year to ensure the return meets tested projections. With that said, we had our first major issue with the above-ground storage tank on Reno. We discovered a major leak and had to pull it out of service. We will take this opportunity to get it fixed as well as repainted. Taking the tank out of service should have no impact on pressure in the short term, but does obviously impact our storage capability for firefighting. We should be up and running within the next 90 days or so as we work through the contracting channels for bids and repair. Parks & Recreation recently sponsored the first Intramural Softball league. Six teams participated, including a team from City Hall. Organized sports are a great way to get to know each other in a venue outside the workplace. We are going to try again in the Fall if anyone out there is

interested in some friendly competition. Bouse Park will also host their first Youth Flag Football league as we continue to expand recreational opportunities to the community. Please sign your teams up through the Bouse Sports Complex tab of the City website.

We are cautiously optimistic regarding the budget as we move forward through the COVID situation. Sales Tax for the City is holding steady and performing better than projected. Choctaw's mix of local restaurants, retail, and on-line shopping have fared well during the pandemic.

Please check the City website often under the COVID-19 Alert at the top to get the latest information for Choctaw and the State. Keep in mind City Council passed an ordinance requiring face coverings when in public facilities. The ordinance takes effect on September 6th. The CDC recommends face coverings to assist in mitigating the spread of the virus.

Your City Manager,
Ed Brown



From the World Health Organization:

1. FEET—Stay more than 6 feet apart
2. HANDS—Wash them often
3. AVOID---Crowded, enclosed areas
4. MASK---Wear a mask where recommended
5. FEEL sick?—Stay home

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

**Choctaw City Hall**

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

Phone: (405) 390-8198

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!