



CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

“Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present, and Planning for the Future” **November 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: **Nov. 9th & 23rd**.

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



City Offices Closed

City Hall and its offices will be closed in observance of Veterans Day on Wednesday, **November 11th**. Trash services will not be affected.

City Hall and its offices will also be closed Thursday and Friday, **November 26th & 27th** for the Thanksgiving holiday. Trash service will run one day behind for those customers on and after the holiday only.

Choctaw Senior Center

The Choctaw Senior Center is located at 14653 Dean Street. The Senior

Center is currently closed due to COVID-19 Health Department & CDC guidelines. During this closure, Senior Center members are still receiving meals and there are some curbside activities. Whether it is open or closed, there are planned acknowledgment activities for Veteran’s Day and Fall Harvest. 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 is located at 2525 Muzzy Street. All Metro Library locations are in the "Grab & Go" stage. In this stage, customers can come into a library to use a computer, print/copy/fax/scan, and briefly browse the shelves. Masks are required. 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.

Fall Festival Kit, pick up **Nov. 2nd-15th**, Ages 5-12; “Leaf” summer behind and rake in the fall with this take home craft kit! Make a leaf sun catcher, decorate an owl, create a windsock, and more!

Family Story Times, Tuesdays, Nov. 10th & 24th, Ages 0-5; Join us for story time on Zoom as skilled librarians introduce little ones to the library and show parents and caregivers invaluable information on reading readiness and create excitement about reading. **Macramé Plant Hanger Kit**, pick up **Nov. 9th - 23rd**, Adults; Macramé? Don’t mind if I do! Each kit will show you how to make an easy plant hanger (with pot included) without reliving the knotting frenzy of the 70s. **Fitness Kits**, All Ages; Get fit with the Library! Check out a fitness kit containing DVDs, equipment, and more for you to exercise at home. Available kits include Zumba, Yoga, Tai Chi, Chair Fitness, Pilates, Medi-

tation, and many more! Call 405-390-8418 for more information.

Registration is required for all kits as supplies are limited, and please register to get the link for the Zoom class. For more information, visit the website: metrolibrary.org/coronavirus.



Parks & Recreation

Join us **December 5th** at the Choctaw Creek Park Farmer’s Market for Christmas in the Park! Santa will be here for pictures and wish discussions, and there will be food trucks, vendors, and music, too! The Christmas Markets will appeal to every sense, where vendors will offer crafts, festive baked treats, and other specialties just in time for gift-giving. We’ll have a Candy Cane Hunt, a bicycle give-away, and the Third Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. All activities are free so come celebrate with us from *3:00 pm to 7:00 pm*. To be a vendor or sponsor, contact Tanner McGuire at 405-390-8198.



Environmental Suggestions for Fall

Garage Clean Out - Recycle those cardboard boxes, old newspapers, cans, and plastics. Old household and automotive chemicals can be processed at the Midwest City Household Hazardous Waste Center, just call ahead for an appointment at 405-739-1049.

Leaves - it’s best to rake and mulch or bag your leaves. Do not blow them into the street as this clogs storm drains, traps debris, and causes water quality issues.

Auto Maintenance - Check vehicle maintenance schedules, tire treads, and fluid levels. When you top off fluids, check for leaks and make repairs before winter. Tire blow-outs and fluid leaks become road pollution that usually ends up in a local stream or tributary.

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: **Nov 4th & 17th**

Planning Commission: **Nov 5th**

Public Recreation Advisory Board: **Nov 10th**

Board of Adjustments (as needed): **Nov 23rd**

4:30 PM

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (Choctaw City Hall & Zoom): **Nov 18th**

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! As I write this today the cold rain is falling and potential for Winter weather is very high. Ice, Sleet, and believe it or not, snow—before Halloween. What comes to mind with this weather is drainage and natural flows of storm water in Choctaw. Winding down my fourth year in Choctaw I am now accustomed to the seasonal weather patterns and the issues they cause around the City. One of the more complicated issues is drainage and storm water run-off. Every City struggles to deal with the water when extended rains or “frog strangler” rains hit. Choctaw is no different. Currently, a professional hydrologist is conducting 3 drainage studies of known problem areas around the City. Drainage is more complicated than one would think and it involves more than just rerouting water, clearing bar ditches, or clearing trees in creeks. There are a multitude of environmental, federal & local laws, tributary, drainage patterns, and impacts to other property to consider. Merely rerouting or plugging up a drainage issue, while it might mitigate one problem, always creates a bigger

issue somewhere else. Therefore a study of the development, drainage, and flow pattern are required upstream and downstream of any ponding or flooding problem. The mitigation, or fix, to the problems usually involve an engineered solution taking into consideration all the laws, flows, and impacts to up and downstream structures. The City must then prioritize projects to fix drainage issues based on costs, impact, and urgent need. This requires long-range planning in budgets—as drainage projects are very expensive. Eventually the City will need a comprehensive drainage study which will help inform potential development, bar ditch maintenance, road maintenance, tributary maintenance, and other culvert improvements needed in and around the city.

And we have the holidays to look forward to as we move into November! The Parks and Recreation Team have some unique programs set to celebrate Christmas and the holidays. Stay connected with us on Facebook and the City Website for the latest information.

Your City Manager,
Ed Brown

Storm Debris

Moving forward city crews will focus on clearing Section Line road debris and ensuring major road vegetation is safe and trimmed back so OG&E and cable companies can do their job and get power/internet restored. For the short-term, below are some initial disposal options for citizens concerned about debris on their property. The disposal of debris due to storms is the property owner's responsibility. We are assessing what can be done and what resources will be available to assist with disposal after the current situation stabilizes. This will take time and could take months—Cities around the region are communicating similar efforts.

Initial property owner options for storm debris removal:

1. Obtain a burn permit from the Choctaw Fire Department and dispose of debris via burning; or

2. Place storm debris curbside for Bulk Waste Collection.

The standard Waste Connections bulk waste rules apply.

- Limbs should be cut into 4-foot lengths and bundled.
- Citizens are allowed to place 9 cubic yds of bulk waste curbside. Waste Connections will collect 3 cubic yds of bulk waste at no additional charge to the customer.
- Any curbside debris collected over 3 cubic yds and up to 9 cubic yds will be charged \$15 per cubic yd and added to the customer's utility bill.
- If debris is unbundled, an additional charge of \$30 will also be added to the customer's utility bill.

Questions about bulk waste collection can be directed to the Choctaw Utilities Department at 405-390-8198.

The Governor declared a disaster and the Choctaw Mayor has declared a disaster which postures the City for federal assistance should that opportunity arise through FEMA. The options for collection could range from curbside pick-up to centralized drop-offs. This effort will take many months as we work through the situation.

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:

COVID-19
CALL CENTER
(877) 215-8336



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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!