



CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

“Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present, and Planning for the Future” February 2021

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

..... HAPPY



Recycling Pickup Schedule

Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling will occur in the weeks of: **Feb. 1st & 15th.**

Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule

Bulk trash is picked up monthly *based on your regular trash day*. Find your trash day to see when your monthly 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 President's Day on **February 15th**. Trash services will not be affected and will run as scheduled.

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 members are still receiving meals and there are some curbside activities. Information will be posted on the city webpage at mychoctaw.org/255/Choctaw-Senior-Citizens-Center. For more information contact Lorna Harper at 405-390-8040.



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. 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 in addition to pre-made kits.

Family Storytimes, Tuesdays, **Feb. 19th & 23rd**, *10:00-10:30am*, Ages 0-5; Join us 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. Connect with others while enjoying the stories, songs, and more! Registration required for the Zoom link.

Pollinator Gardens, Tue. **Feb. 23rd**, *6:30-7:30pm*, Adults; Pollinators are essential for many flowers to produce fruits and vegetables. Master gardener, Sandra Rode, will discuss the most common pollinators found in Oklahoma, plants that attract pollinators, and food for pollinator offspring. Join us and learn ways you can "bee-friend" native pollinators in your garden. Registration required for Zoom link.

Novels at Night, Thur. **Feb. 25th**, *6:30-7:30pm*, Adults; Calling all readers! Looking to meet new people and discover entertaining reads from the comfort of your couch? Look no fur-

ther and join us for a virtual book club! We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month and this month we are reading *The Safe Place* by Anna Downes. Registration required for Zoom link.

Fitness kits, All ages; Did you know the library can get you fit? Check out a fitness kit that contains DVDs, equipment, and more to use at home. Available kits include Zumba, Yoga, Tai Chi, Chair Fitness, Pilates, HIIT, and more! Kits check out for 3 weeks.

For more information visit the website, metrolibrary.org/locations/choctaw, or call 405-390-8418.



Storm Water Tips

As storm water flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Storm water flows into storm sewer systems or directly to a pond, lake, stream, river or wetland. By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of storm water.

Pet waste contains potentially harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause illness in people and animals. Practicing the following guidance will help protect our valuable water resources. Pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it properly. You can flush it down the toilet, bury it in your yard, or bag it and put it in the trash. Bathe pets indoors in a bathtub or sink using less toxic shampoos or consider having your pet professionally groomed. Shampoos and soaps, even biodegradable, can have toxic chemicals. Flea dip solutions should not be poured onto driveways or streets. Also, apply insecticides for flea control in a manner avoiding rainfall runoff.



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: **Feb 2nd & 16th**

Planning Commission: **Feb 4th**

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

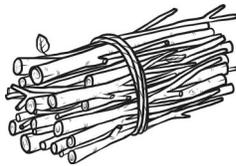
Board of Adjustments (as needed): **Feb 22nd**

4:30 PM

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (Choctaw City Hall & Zoom): **Feb 24th**

Resources

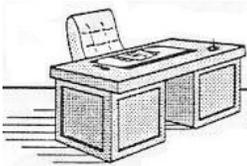
Need help with healthcare, housing, food, clothing, or utility assistance? Call 211. It's a 24-hour resource to provide referrals to community-based services for everyday needs or in times of crisis or disaster. Talk to someone who cares and knows where to go for help - Call 2-1-1.



Storm Debris removal approved

During the regular City Council meeting held Jan. 19th officials voted to approve a contract for storm debris pickup.

Remaining debris from the October ice storm should be placed near the curb in lengths no greater than 10 feet. The contractor will start pickup in the next 30 days and will only collect storm debris. There will be only one pass through Choctaw for the storm debris with this contract.



*FROM THE
City Manager*

City Manager's Corner

Hello Choctaw, I cannot believe it is already February 2021! Soon we will start the municipal budget process. Please look for information on Coun-

cil Workshops and budget discussion/ approvals in the near future. Meetings will take place in April and May for approval of budgets in June. The budget is the most important task your city staff and council undertake each year.

As of this writing I am attending a virtual City Manager Association of Oklahoma Conference. There are over 100 managers from around the state in attendance. It is a great time for us to trade stories, network, mentor, get the latest trends and legal changes, and get new ideas or perspectives that might work in our city. The theme of the conference is "The Infinite Money Game." The Key Note Speaker this year was from Simon Sinek's staff and his talk centered on Simon's new book, "The Infinite Game." Very apropos for the theme of the conference. The main focus is "Just Cause," a specific vision of the future that does not currently exist. What are you willing to sacrifice to make the vision happen? Something that will stand the test of time, like "A great place to live and work." Sound familiar? What is the City of Choctaw's "Just Cause"?

Your Council approved the award of the storm debris pick up contract on January 19th. Staff is in coordination with FEMA at the moment to ensure prompt reimbursement of funds and the proper process to monitor the contract to ensure Full Reimbursement from the Federal Government. This process is taking a bit of time as FEMA is working virtually and through website requests only. Many cities have had to go back and amend contracts or justify contract choices and we are working to avoid such issues. We expect to have the contractor working in the next 30 days or so. The contract bid to the City was much lower than the first FEMA estimate in November. Many thanks to the Citizens of Choctaw that took advantage of the alternative disposal options of their tree debris, it really made a difference. I spent hours in my own backyard burning tree limbs from my damaged trees.

The Best Western Plus Hotel will be opening in March. The owner hired a manager and he is currently training staff and readying the last-minute touch-up items before opening. They are all very excited about providing this service to our community, as well as the EOC Tech Center and ball teams that travel long distances to play at Bouse Park. Look for the ribbon-cutting ceremony through the Chamber of Commerce advertisements.

On December 15th, your Council called for a City election for Wards 2, 4, and 6 to be held on April 6, 2021. The City Council is responsible for setting City Policy for Staff in the execution of day-to-day duties. Council members are non-partisan and focus on policy issues serving in the best interest of the citizens of Choctaw. It is about community building. What is your "Just Cause" for the City of Choctaw? The City also still has vacancies on a few boards and commissions. Anyone interested can call the City Clerk at 390-8198 and ask for openings and details. Take Care, Your City Manager Ed Brown



From the World Health Organization:

- FEET—Stay more than 6 feet apart
- HANDS—Wash them often
- AVOID---Crowded, enclosed areas
- MASK---Wear a mask where recommended
- 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!