



# CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

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



## Recycling Pickup Schedule

Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling will occur in the weeks of: **Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**.



## Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule

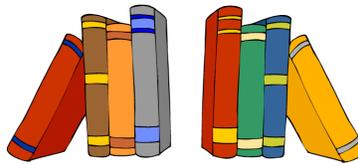
Bulk trash is picked up monthly based on your regular trash day. Find your trash day to see when your monthly Bulk Pick-Up will occur:

- Monday**=1st Thursday of the month
- Tuesday**= 2nd Thursday of month
- Wednesday**=3rd Thursday
- Thursday/Friday** = 4th Thursday



## 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 receiving meals and there are some curbside activities. Any re-opening information will be posted on the city webpage at [my-choctaw.org/255/Choctaw-Senior-Citizens-Center](http://my-choctaw.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.

**Backyard Birding, Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:00pm, Adults;** Enjoy nature in your own backyard! Join retired ornithologist Dr. Jeff Cox of the Tulsa Audubon Society on a virtual backyard birding adventure. Dr. Cox will teach you to identify common Oklahoma birds through sight and sound, create a bird-friendly backyard space, and answer your burning birding questions. Handouts will be provided, registration required for the Zoom link.

**Family Storytimes, Tuesdays, Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

**Storytime On Demand Kits**, kit pick-up starts **Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Ages 0-5; Storytime kits come with our pre-recorded storytimes and a related craft or activity so you can continue the storytime exploration at home. Supplies are limited and are first come, first serve.

**Dementia Conversations, Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30pm, Adults;** Get tips for having honest and caring conversations about things like: deciding when to stop driving, going to a doctor, making legal and financial plans. You can watch the discussion on Facebook Live or register to join via Zoom to participate in the Question & Answer session.

**Get Cooking: Instant Pot, Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30-7:30pm, Adults;** If you have an instant pot or pressure cooker and aren't sure how to use it, join Taylor Conner with Oklahoma County Extension and make a recipe right along with her. We'll provide the recipe ahead of time so you can get the ingredients. Registration required for Zoom link.

**Novels at Night, Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 further and join us for a virtual book club! We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month and this month we are reading *The Big Door Prize* by M.O. Walsh. 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](http://metrolibrary.org/locations/choctaw), or call 405-390-8418.



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, followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **Mar 2nd & 16th**

Planning Commission: **Mar 4th**

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

Board of Adjustments (as needed): **Mar 29th**

**4:30 PM**

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (Choctaw City Hall & Zoom): **Mar 31st**



### Choctaw Round-Up Club

The Choctaw Round-Up Club is hosting an Outdoor Family Fun Day on Saturday, **Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>** from **11:00am to 2:00pm**. Everyone is welcome to enjoy \$5 hot dog meal deals, fun games and activities. #familyfunday  
Also the Choctaw Round-Up Club is looking for future royalty to represent the club and compete for prizes, deadline to sign up is **Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>**. For more information visit their site at [choctawroundupclub.com](http://choctawroundupclub.com) or email [choctawruclub@gmail.com](mailto:choctawruclub@gmail.com).



### Easter Egg Hunt

This year's Easter Egg Hunt has been planned for Saturday, **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The Easter Bunny will be there along with inflatables, train rides, face painting, arts & crafts, food trucks, and more! Join us at Choctaw Creek Park from **10:00am to 1:00pm**, Saturday **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

### City Manager's Corner

Hello Choctaw! What an eventful few weeks we have had to begin 2021. Though I am happy to say that, as of this writing, our record low temperatures and snow have given way to 70+ degree temperatures. I want to begin this month's Corner by thanking the Utility and Streets Departments for the yeoman's work they performed in keeping our utilities running, snow routes passable, and dangerous intersections cleared. I know that working in sub-zero temperatures, with equipment not meant to run in such severe weather, is extremely taxing. We thank you. Compared to other towns in the Metro area, utility outages were kept to a minimum in Choctaw. And even though water pressure may have been low for a time, they were able to keep the system running to serve residents. As more evidence of the great work performed by our streets crew, Choctaw was the only city for which Waste Connections assessed as being navigable for trash collection following the storm, out of the nine Metro area cities they service. Our streets crew managed this despite the multiple maintenance issues encountered with primary equipment, which forced them to improvise by using skid steers and backhoes. This is truly a testament to their hard work, expertise, and ingenuity. There is, of course, always room for improvement and the team is already reviewing current procedures to ensure equipment is ready prior to future significant storm events. Oklahoma is the only State in the Union where municipalities must rely on sales tax revenue alone to fund all services. This funding model forces Oklahoma municipalities to place a heavy focus on Economic Development. Economic Development is akin to you getting a job so you can make money to live. As a municipality working within this model, Choctaw established the Choctaw Economic Development Authority (CEDA) many years back. CEDA operates to generate the revenue necessary for Choctaw to fulfill its municipal responsibilities – including roads, personnel, equipment, emergencies, etc.

CEDA does this largely by enticing development and increasing retail sales for the city. Did you know that 50% of the sales tax generated within Choctaw comes from people residing outside the City? Continued development does lead to a bit of a conundrum for cities like Choctaw, however. On the one hand, the City's functionality depends upon continued development, which generates the needed revenue all residents need to continue receiving the services they depend on. On the other hand, we also want to protect our "small town" feel and enjoy our wide-open spaces. Thankfully, we have a device to balance these seemingly conflicting ideologies. The City of Choctaw Comprehensive Master Plan is a detailed and systematic tool in which the community can find an equilibrium between the needs of today, while planning for our future. The Comprehensive Master Plan focuses on "managed" growth in targeted locations. Plainly, it is a vital mechanism which helps guides us toward the development we need to keep our community functioning, while also maintaining the "small town" feel we all love in Choctaw.

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:**

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



## Choctaw City Hall

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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 is available on the City's website at: [www.mychoctaw.org](http://www.mychoctaw.org)

**Check it out and subscribe!**