



# CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

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

March 2016

## Contact Numbers

City Hall	405-390-8198
Public Works	405-390-8276
Code Enforcement	405-281-6869
Court Clerk	405-390-3333
Police (non-emergency)	405-769-3821
Fire (non-emergency)	405-390-8300
Police/Fire Emergency	911

## Board / Commission Meeting Dates

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted)

### 7 PM

City Council Meeting followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: Mar 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> (15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be @ 6:30pm)

Planning Commission Meeting: Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>

Public Recreation Board Meeting: Mar 8<sup>th</sup>

Board of Adjustments Meeting (as needed): Mar 28<sup>th</sup>

### 4:30 PM

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (at Old Germany Restaurant): Mar 30<sup>th</sup>

## Community Bulletin Board

If you have an event or item of community-wide interest occurring in **April**, please submit it to [citymanager@choctawcity.org](mailto:citymanager@choctawcity.org) before **March 10<sup>th</sup>** and, if there is space available, we will include it in the next newsletter. Please limit your submission to 200 words.

## Recycling Pickup Schedule

Please remember that Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling will occur on the week of **March 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**.

## Spring Swing by the CNP Public

### School Foundation

(Community Submission)

Choctaw Nicoma Park Public School Foundation is having its annual Spring Swing **Friday, April 22** at **Choctaw Creek Golf Course**. The foundation supports the Choctaw Nicoma Park schools thru grants and donations.

Lunch will be served at *noon* followed by a *1:00* shotgun start. Door Prizes and raffle! If you would like to play, sponsor a hole or donate door prizes contact **Doug Russell** at **390-1555** or **823-7687** or **Christina Barnes** **640-2553**.

## Choctaw Senior Center

The Senior Center is open **Monday through Friday 9am to 1pm**. Lunch is served at **11:30** and **reservations are required**, please call in advance. We offer many wonderful services and opportunities on a daily basis. Here are some additional activities we are offering this month:

Tai Chi—**Every Tues & Thurs @ 12pm**

Devotion—**Wednesdays @ 10:30am**

St. Patrick's Day Celebration—**Mar 17<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Celebration—**Mar 28<sup>th</sup>**

Knitting/Crocheting Group (Beginners & Advanced)—**Every Mon @ 10:00am**

Bingo—**Every Tues & Thurs @ 10:00am**

Indoor Walking Group **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays @ 9:30am**

For daily menu and activities, go to [www.choctawcity.org/senior-center](http://www.choctawcity.org/senior-center).

For transportation services call the Senior Center at **(405) 390-8040**, between the hours of 9am and 1pm Monday thru Friday. Choctaw Senior Center is located at **14653 Dean Street**.

## Events at the Choctaw Library

The Choctaw branch of the Metropolitan Library System, located at **2525 Muzzy St.**, offers many excellent programs for patrons of all ages. You may register at the library or by calling **390-8418 ext 3**. For more information visit [www.metrolibrary.org](http://www.metrolibrary.org)

## Toddlers (ages 1-3):

Toddler time **Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am—10am**

123! Play with Me! **Mar 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> @ 10am—11am**

Playtime **March 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am—11am**

## PreSchoolers (ages 3-5):

Storytime **Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am—11am**

Playtime **March 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:30am—11am**

## Gradeschoolers (ages 5-12):

Book Club **Mar 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> @ 10am—10:30am**

Children Reading to Dogs **Mar 12<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm—4pm & Mar 16<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm—5pm**

## PreTeen (ages 9-12):

LEGO Robotics **Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm—5:30pm**

Pi Day **Mar 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm—5pm**

## Teen (ages 12-18):

Teen Service Team **Mar 13<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm—5pm & Mar 31<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm—7pm**

Teen Book Club **Mar 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 11am—12pm**

Video Game Design **Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm—7pm**

Maker Space **Mar 14<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> during library hours**

Read the Movie **Mar 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm—8pm**

Minecraft Club **Mar 7<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm—5:30pm**

## Adults

Knitting Club **Mar 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10am—12pm**

Beginning Crochet **Mar 19<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm—3pm**

Yoga **Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:15pm—7:15pm**

## All Ages:

Gem and Mineral Demo Day **Mar 5<sup>th</sup> @ 10am—3pm**

LEGO Club **Mar 30<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm—5:30pm**

Irish Dancers **Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7pm—8pm**



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



# OKLAHOMA Choctaw

## Why High Speed Transportation?

We have been asked why the City Council supports high speed transportation. Surveys of our citizens routinely come back recommending more shopping opportunities, better roads and infrastructure and other public amenities. Without transportation and the economic benefits this brings, the desires of our citizens cannot be met. Our business community has also been asking for this so that they can have better access to markets and customers. But there are other significant reasons to have access to high speed transportation. We are charged with providing not only a great place to live but also a safe environment and protection. As we found out with the wildfires of 2009 and 2011, we are woefully underserved with infrastructure to protect our citizens. Getting emergency service assistance from other cities was very difficult and time consuming. Fires don't wait. When they occur we need to get fire trucks and water to save lives and property. In the same manner, we do have unfortunate things happen to our citizens. Accidents occur, children fall into ponds or pools, heart attacks and other medical emergencies happen and when they do, seconds count. In these instances we will save minutes. Ambulances and other emergency vehicles have to slow down every mile to avoid collisions until they get to either the state highway or interstate. The ability to get to hospitals, especially hospitals that specialize in strokes or children's hospitals will be vastly improved and may be the difference between a poor outcome and recovery.

A large share of Choctaw residents are tied to Tinker Air Force Base. In the last round of BRAC reviews the BRAC committee noted the need for an alternate high speed road in Eastern Oklahoma County. This will be part of the next BRAC review and evaluation. Protecting Tinker and the impact on Choctaw is always a consideration for us.

Safety on our roads is another major concern and has been identified in the need for a high speed reliever road to assist with I-40 and I-240. We have an accident nearly daily at I-40 and Choctaw Road and other crashes along the corridor between Shawnee and I-35. We all travel these roads for work, shopping or other services routinely. As the population continues to grow, these safety issues have to be addressed.

We have consistently been in favor of high speed transportation for our area and well before the Turnpike announcement. We have attended many meetings including public forums held in Choctaw and legislative meetings at the capitol with the intent of doing what is best for our citizens. For those who are fearful that we will lose our small town "feel" please rest assured that the City Council and the citizens that serve on the Planning Commission and other boards are not changing their commitment to what makes Choctaw special.

While many are concerned because we do not know the exact route, please keep in mind that the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is doing its best to avoid negatively impacting our citizens. We all fear the unknown, but it's time to let the process work for us. We should always be planning for the future. Unfortunately, Eastern Oklahoma County has been neglected and underserved for years. When viewing a map of infrastructure east of I-35 compared to the rest of the Metro, Congressman Tom Cole remarked that it was similar to looking at North Korea in an intelligence committee meeting "Dark". It's time for us to embrace bringing light and safety to Choctaw.

On behalf of the City Council,

Randy Ross  
Mayor  
City of Choctaw

Roger Malone  
Vice-Mayor  
City of Choctaw