



# CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

“Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present, and Planning for the Future” November 2018

## Contact Numbers

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| City Hall              | 405-390-8198 |
| Public Works           | 405-390-1121 |
| 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          |
| Choctaw Creek Golf     | 405-769-7166 |
| Waste Connections      | 405-745-2942 |



## Recycling Pickup Schedule

Please remember that Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling pickup will occur on the weeks of: **November 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.**



## City Hall Closed for Holidays

City Hall will be closed on **Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** to honor Veterans Day. Trash service will run as regularly scheduled. City Hall will also be closed **Thursday and Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>** to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, trash service for Thursday and Friday will run one day behind.



## Christmas in Choctaw

The City presents our annual Christmas in Choctaw, Saturday, **Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** from *1pm-4pm* at the Choctaw Creek Golf Course, located at 2200 N. Hiwassee. Bring the kids to meet Santa and share in some holiday entertainment with storytellers, a magic shows, arts & crafts, and a Candy Cane Hunt.

After your visit with Santa, head over to the corner of Main Street and Gilbert for our 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at *5:30pm*. There will be caroling, hot chocolate, and plenty of holiday spirit as we light the Christmas tree on Main Street.

Both events are free to the public, we hope to see you there!



## Holiday Market

Westfall Winter Wonderland at Westfall Elementary, **December 1<sup>st</sup>**, from *9:00am-3:00pm*.



## Get the Latest Updates

For up-to-the-minute updates on City events, notifications on short-notice road closures, or other issues that affect the City, follow us at [www.facebook.com/cityofchoctawok](http://www.facebook.com/cityofchoctawok) and sign up for our Emergency Notification System. You can also sign up

through the city website at <https://mychoctaw.org/180/Choctaw-Emergency-Notification-System>.

For more information and links, please visit our new website at [www.mychoctaw.org](http://www.mychoctaw.org).



## Choctaw Senior Center

There are so many reasons to attend your local senior center! If you're sitting home alone with no one to talk to, you can come to the senior center and have meaningful conversations with your peers, join in the different activities, or stay in the loop, because attending the senior center is a great way to stay informed about issues, legislation, services, and programs.

There are changes being made to the military retiree dental plan. If you need more information, call TAFB Retiree Activity Center (737-8236) or the Senior Center.

This month there will be a Military Retiree Appreciation Day, at Tinker, on **Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>** at *8:00am*. You must RSVP at (405)739-2795.

We have Quante Metoyer offering information on Rehab & Community Resources on **Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>** at *11:00am*.

If you don't feel like cooking, or you find it difficult to cook or grocery shop, come enjoy delicious and nutritious meals, served Monday thru Friday at *11:30am*. Please call for a meal reservation, no later than *12:00 noon* the day before you plan to attend. *We can't wait to see you!!*

The senior center will be closed **Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>** for Thanksgiving break. We Wish Everyone A Wonderful Thanksgiving!

For daily menu and activities, go to <https://mychoctaw.org/255/Choctaw-Senior-Citizens-Center>.

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

**Board / Commission Meeting Dates**

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted)

**7 PM**

City Council Meeting followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **Nov 5th & 20th**

Planning Commission Meeting: **Nov 1st**

Public Recreation Board Meeting: **cancelled**

Board of Adjustments Meeting (as needed): **Nov 26th**

**4:30 PM**

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (at Old Germany Restaurant): **Nov 28th**

We are located at **14653 Dean Street**. Our hours of operation are **Monday through Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm**.

For more information, or to sign-up for any of these events, please call the Senior Center at **(405) 390-8040**, between **9:00am** and **1:00pm**. Ask about transportation to the center or Wal-Mart!



**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**.

**Tuesdays** at **9:30am** is Toddler-time, followed by Storytime at **10:30am**.

**Nov. 5th**, come stargaze with us at the Star Party with the Lunar Sooners, from **6:30pm-8:00pm**.

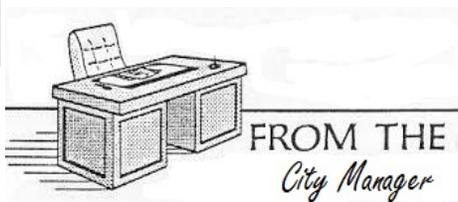
**Nov. 8th** at **6:00 pm** is Totally Tubular 80's Murder Mystery Night, for teens, and you must pre-register to get your character assignment!

New - join us Saturday, **Nov. 10th** at **10:00am** for Family Storytime, ages 1 to 5.

Then **Nov. 18th** from **2pm-4pm** is Puppy Bake and Take, where we will learn how to make homemade dog treats that are both healthy and budget-friendly! Bring your own mug and take one home.

**Nov. 27th** at **7:00pm** we host Get Cooking: One Dish Meals, a class on getting those tasty, healthy recipes on the table during the busiest times.

For more information visit [www.metrolibrary.org/choctaw-library](http://www.metrolibrary.org/choctaw-library).



I am fresh back from the International City Managers Association Conference, themed "Courageous, Resilient, Smart—Leading in Turbulent Times," full of new ideas and enthusiastic about discussing with City Staff. Over the 3 days of seminars, I purposely focused on topics dealing with Civility in Government, social media/misinformation/citizen engagement, and Development (Annualized Depreciation). All topics were on point and situation-appropriate for what we are seeing in government today. Civility and social media seemed to be intertwined, in that social media does not provide the space for people to act/react on a human level—no connection other than through an anonymous means, which tends to lead to misinformation and uncivil discourse. With all that said, at the local level, municipalities are positioned to revive civility and civil discourse. One of the main reasons I am in Choctaw today and love this job, is the chance to engage daily in one-on-one discussions with citizens, listening and trying to solve problems. Bottom line take-away from the conference was just

that—"analog" engagement with citizens is one element that will help change the anonymous culture of incivility.

The other topic I really focused on for ideas and trends was Development and impacts to municipalities. I most likely bored you in the beginning with "Annualized Depreciation," but there is big meaning behind the two words in how we need to look at current developments in our community. Annualized Depreciation literally means "our current responsibility for future liability," directed at our infrastructure, in particular, when accepting new development. Will the City be able to take on the new infrastructure maintenance, annualize costs, and afford to pay for it over the life expectancy through replacement? As you may recall, after we completed our Choctaw streets assessment, the liability for replacement, repair, and upgrades came to a whopping \$400M. This is applicable not only to streets, but to water and sewer. More to follow on this topic as we include such analysis in considering new developments.

The SE 29th Street & Choctaw Road intersection will get the well-needed milling soon, to smooth out the north to south portion of Choctaw Road, as well as any other areas that may need attention. We found the proper piece of equipment and will be smoothing out the intersection over a period of several days.

Events on the horizon: We hope to open a new Steak and BBQ place at the Golf Course in the month of November—stayed tuned for an opening date, as small renovations and coordination continues. And Santa will visit the Golf Course for a kid's afternoon, followed by caroling and a Christmas Tree lighting on Main Street in December.



**Choctaw City Hall**

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**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!**