



Letter from Mayor Robert Armstrong

What a summer!

From our “Movies in the Park” series at Fuqua Park, done in partnership with The Palace Theatre and First Bank & Trust Co., to “Red, White & Boom” at Abe Raizen Park, done in partnership with The Chickasaw Nation’s Chisholm Trail Casino, to the inaugural Dog Days of Summer in partnership with Stephens County Humane Society, to the water spray event with One True Light that provided appreciated “cool downs” from the Duncan Fire Department, to the upcoming Family Fright Night in Fuqua Park, we appreciate all our citizens and visitors who attend these quality-of-life events as well as our dedicated team for making it all happen.

Summer has flown by and our team at City of Duncan is busy in so many ways that I can only highlight some of what this great team has done in this season. It is an exciting time for our community as I, along with your Councilmembers and city leadership, continue to focus on upgrades in many areas.

I am pleased to tell you that not only did the city meet the 2024 goal of 70 blocks of roadwork improvements, including 40

blocks of the CDBG Small Cities grant, the team exceeded it. In 2024, our City of Duncan Public Works team replaced/repaired/overlayed over 100 blocks of roadway.

We worked on several critical infrastructure improvements, many of which you will see as you peruse this newsletter, with more planned for the last quarter of this year.

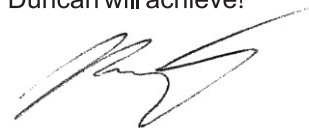
We saw a new gazebo with new benches and picnic tables placed in Fuqua Park East, with work currently underway to place new equipment at Douglass and Olen Sledge Parks as well.

The El Rancho Elevated Storage Tank project is underway, and we look forward to its completion in the new year. The Oklahoma Water Resource Board water line improvement project continues. Staff has submitted grants for the T and L-docks at Lake Humphreys which, if awarded, will assist in their replacement.

Our team set a goal for blight removal of 30 properties for 2024. To date, 22 demolition permits are issued plus an additional 9 permits issued to property owners wanting to save their structures. This brings the total to 31 properties that have/or are being addressed for blight removal with several other properties in consideration that we hope to address this year.

The Meter System upgrade is nearing completion, and while this has been a difficult project for both our team and our community, I know that the new system, with leak detection technology that identifies water loss, will translate into savings to your household and to our utility in the long run. Check out the Spotlight section of this newsletter for more information about the “Get My Meter” Customer portal now available for monitoring your water consumption.

I close by thanking each of you who voted to extend the dedicated ½ cent sales tax for infrastructure improvements and economic development. We appreciate your support, and we look forward to showing our community what being FOR Duncan will achieve!




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Duncan City Newsletter is published by the City of Duncan to keep our citizens up-to-date on all of the exciting things happening in our community.

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Chris Deal

I am honored and excited to serve as your new City Manager. As I step into this role, I want to express my gratitude for the warm welcome and support that I have received from the community, Mayor and Council, and the City of Duncan team. It is my privilege to work alongside our dedicated city team, our elected officials, and engaged citizens like you.



Our team at City of Duncan is committed to our community and strives to make a positive impact by working each day to build upon the foundation laid by our predecessors so we may chart a course for a vibrant and prosperous future.

Every resident plays a vital role in our city's success, and we appreciate your engagement in our community. Our heartfelt gratitude to each of you who participated in the June Sales Tax election for the continuation of the ½ cent dedicated sales tax. Your support ensures that our community can continue to thrive while addressing critical needs and infrastructure improvements. These dedicated funds will be used for more street repairs, continued water and electrical system improvements, community economic development and quality of life enhancement projects.

We continue to work on improving and maintaining our infrastructure to provide sustainability. There are, and will continue to be, many projects you can “see”-road repairs/rebuilds as well as many projects you may not “see” -enhancements of our electrical grid and water systems. City leadership is prioritizing many smart investments that benefit both current and future generations. We will continue to invest in parks, recreational facilities, and cultural programs that enhance our quality of life.

We believe in transparency and communication and know that open dialogue is essential. If you have not attended one of our Quality-of-Life Forums, you should consider attending because our city's success hinges on the well-being of its residents. We believe in fostering a business-friendly environment to attract new industries while supporting local businesses, so we can create jobs and strengthen our economy.

I am proud each day of the dedicated individuals in all our departments who do their best for our community. It takes each of us doing our part to make Duncan a better place to live, work and play. Together we can shape the future of Duncan as we build upon our city's strengths and address its challenges. From enhancing public services to fostering economic growth, our collective efforts will shape the future our community envisions.

With gratitude,



Chris Deal



**Get Your
App Today!**

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Regular meetings of the City Council are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:15 pm at the City Council Chambers. Citizens are invited and encouraged to attend.

Holiday Fire Safety Tips

The upcoming holiday season brings the need to be mindful of Holiday Fire Safety. Thanksgiving Day and Christmas are two times of the year that most home fires occur due to cooking, candles, Christmas lights and Christmas trees.



Did you know that nationwide 1,200-1,500 cooking fires are reported annually on Thanksgiving Day? This is approximately a 300% increase over the normal daily average.

Firefighters across the US respond to approximately 200 Christmas tree fires per year and on average, one of every 22 home fires started by Christmas trees result in a fatality.

Holiday Cooking Tips “Cook with Caution”

- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven
- Keep kitchen clutter and loose clothing away from the stove's heat
- Turn pot handles in, away from a child's reach
- Use potholders to prevent burns
- Never throw water on a grease fire! Cover the burning pan with a lid
- Keep all appliances in good working condition
- Never overload electrical outlets
- Never leave cooking food unattended
- Keep decorations away from direct heat
- If you have any doubt, get out and when you leave, close the door
- Call 9-1-1

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

- Place Christmas trees and decorations at least three feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, heaters, and candles
- Keep your real tree fresh by placing in a stand with water
- Make sure artificial trees are flame retardant
- Only buy electrical lights that are national lab tested
- Always unplug lights before leaving home or going to bed for the night
- Never run electrical cords through doorways or under rugs
- Keep candles in sturdy holders and never place near combustibles
- Never burn paper in a fireplace as it is a major cause of chimney fires

Smoke alarms save lives-install a smoke alarm near your kitchen, on each level of your home, near sleeping areas and inside bedrooms.

The Duncan Police Department has investigated 283 motor vehicle collisions in the first nine months of 2024. Our goal is to reduce the number of injury accidents each year through education and enforcement by asking operators to follow some simple rules of the roadway:



- Avoid distractions such as cell phones or other electronic devices while driving
- Avoid eating as it requires taking eyes off the roadway
- Wear a seatbelt-it has proven to save lives if involved in a traffic collision
- Be courteous and patient-which sometimes requires you to slow down- it is always better to make it to your destination even if it takes a little longer
- Be observant of school zones, citizens in crosswalks and cyclists in roadways. Drive the speed limit in school zones and watch for pedestrians in crosswalks. Vehicles should stop and allow pedestrians to cross the road safely. Slow down and make sure the roadway is safe when passing cyclists
- Plan the trip ahead of time, allowing plenty of time for breaks and always making sure the vehicle is in good working order
- Finally, drive sober! Every year our officers prevent accidents by arresting those operators that are impaired. Plan ahead and have a sober driver, Uber, taxi or a family member do the pick up. Family and friends would rather come get you, instead of law enforcement knocking on their door letting them know you have been involved in a fatality accident

If we all work together and implement these safety measures, our roadways will become much safer, reducing the number of accidents and operators being injured every year.



Public Works Airport | Streets | Water

Airport

Construction of a new Taxi lane is complete as well as a portion of the new T-Hangar apron project.



Water Projects

Construction on the new El Rancho Elevated Storage Tank's new foundation began in July.



OWRB Water Line projects continue with Project #2-line replacement on Walnut Ave in progress. Road repairs to take place once all final tie-ins of meters are complete. Contractor will move to Willow Ave next. Project #3 is at 90% Design Deliverable pending Storm Drain replacement.

Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project's Phase One, Two and Three construction are complete.

Phase Four of the Infiltration & Inflow project is in the bid phase.

Studies continue at Water Treatment Plant.

Chlorination and de-chlorination project is underway, which will provide an new improved process for treating wastewater.

Clarifier project continues, with new metal troughs placed and the basin being sealed.

Citywide Tank Inspection is in progress.

Streets

Crews completed 103 blocks of asphalt overlay this season. Of that, 40 blocks were completed because of the dedicated ¼ cent sales tax match City of Duncan provided for the CDBG Small Cities Grant that was awarded, leaving additional budgeted funds available to do 63 more blocks in areas like the Odom and Tanglewood Additions.



Duncan Power & Emergency Management



Duncan Power, like many providers, continues to deal with delayed, canceled and back-ordering of everyday materials in every price range.

Transformer delivery is only minimally improving. Our Crews have removed good, but

un-used transformers from inactive accounts to ensure that there are enough transformers for our community's needs.



The specialized training of newer employees continues both in-house and through participating in out-of-town schools.

Our Crews built new service in the North Industrial Park for a customer who is expanding their business.

A local Tree Trimming Service was hired to perform Hot Spot Tree Trimming along the power lines that serve the Wastewater Plant on Fuller Road and the Filter Plant on Waterplant Road to improve reliability to these critical facilities.

OMPA Field Services Crew based out of Marlow and Fairview, came to Duncan through the mutual aid program. Work included:

- Replacement of 1 street light pole (wood)
- 8 old poles, with 6 of these enabling our customers to better use their property
- System Hardening Work which involved replacing 2 poles in east Duncan and adding 1 anchor at an industrial customer in the southern part of our system
- Planned work for the remainder of the year for our crews still includes switch and breaker upgrades at Plato Substation as workload allows

We continue to work through equipment and integration delays in our automated electric meter reading re-fresh and upgrade. Duncan Power meters continue to be upgraded along with the wireless system that moves the meter readings from the meter to City Hall.



Red, White and Boom, City of Duncan's fireworks celebration held in partnership with The Chickasaw Nation's Chisholm Trail Casino was a safe and successful celebration.

EM arranged the planning meetings, contracted for inflatables, portable restrooms, cooling stations, drinking water, a helicopter landing zone, emergency power, drone observation, lighting control, communications, as well as the set up of the launching area.

In July EM helped coordinate a Surgical Extraction Team drill at Abe Raizen Park. This exercise was a "life over limb" medical emergency. An actual 911 call gauged response of 911 communications and emergency services. First responders were dispatched to the simulation as they would be in a real emergency. The drill was designed to gauge interoperability of a multi-jurisdictional emergency response and was highly successful.

In August, we provided emergency assistance to the Town of Ryan. The EM Water Buffalo, a potable water trailer, was deployed to provide 500-gallons of potable water for their community to help provide much needed water. The Water Buffalo can deploy potable water to areas without access due to natural disaster, equipment failure or other cause of water service interruption.

Improvements to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at City Hall continue with the addition of new antennas. These antennas provide two-way radio communication capability via cell phone which enables police and fire officials, as well as Emergency Management to have emergency communications no matter location. A third antenna provides the cellular data that provides internet failover in the event of an emergency or internet failure. This ensures internet connectivity to internet dependent equipment in the EOC.

In September, another outdoor warning siren was installed at Beech and Rice Rd. As part of the Outdoor Warning System it will broadcast voice messages and siren warnings for approaching lightning, tornado warnings including an All Clear, and is capable of public address for emergencies.



Lakes

As of October 1, 2024

Lake Name	Current Capacity (acre ft)	Current Capacity (million gallons)	Normal Capacity (acre ft)	Percent Full (Current)
Fuqua	18,240	5,107.67	21,100	86.4%
Humphreys	11,060	3,097.09	14,041	78.8%
Waurika	161.031	45,092.86	188,760	85.3%

Clear Creek Lake Dam Embankment project completed all OWRB requirements, held a pre-construction meeting and began construction in July.



Grants applied for to assist with the replacement of the L and T docks at Lake Humphreys. Accessways to these docks removed earlier this year and we ask lake visitors to not access them for safety reasons.

Vandalism continues at our area lakes, with street signs being stolen at Clear Creek Lake and Lake Humphreys. If you see vandalism or theft, please report it.

Parks

Fuqua Park Gazebo renovation is complete, and new benches and picnic tables placed on concrete pads. Additional concrete pads will be done to add new benches and picnic tables to Douglass and Olen Sledge Parks as well.



FAMILY FRIGHT NIGHT at Fuqua
OCTOBER 24, 2024

Bring the whole family in costume for a Spooktacular time!

TRICK OR TREAT 6-7 P.M.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

MOVIE AT 7:15 P.M.

CITY OF DUNCAN OKLAHOMA

PALACE THEATRE

Community Development and Library



Community Development and Code Enforcement

2024 has been an exciting year for the Department of Community Development as we continue to host community planning forums where citizens have been given an opportunity to provide input on Destination Duncan: A Quality-of-Life Plan.

Citizens started the process of sharing their dreams and concerns with our team and that information has evolved into fourteen separate goal statements covering the topics of: Transportation, Alternative Transportation, Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, Environment, Social Services, Health and Nutrition, Economic Development, Education, Arts and Culture, Neighborhood Engagement and Housing.

Beginning in July, citizens actively engaged in discussion with "key stakeholders and leaders in their fields" to begin establishing Work Plan Priorities, or project objectives, that will help guide future budget considerations and decisions being made by our community leaders to make Duncan a better place to live, work, and play. The first major goal for this project is to have a completed document in front of the City Council for consideration in January 2025.

Destination Duncan Planning Meetings continue. If you would like to share your thoughts and visions for Duncan's future, you may contact Community Development at 580-251-7711. Upcoming meetings include October 28th, November 18th, and December 16th. All meetings are located at City Hall and begin at 5:30pm.



Duncan Public Library



The Duncan Public Library had a wild summer! The theme was "Adventure Begins at Your Library," and we had all kinds of adventures with our amazing community.

Our opening event was at Kiddieland, with over 250 people attending. For eight weeks, there was something to do every day we were open. We issued 187 new library cards, gave out 24,540 meals through the Impa'Chi Meals for Kids program, and signed up 704 people of all ages for reading challenges. You all checked out 26,320 physical and digital items this summer! Our teens clocked in 1,014 hours of volunteer time. We had visits from Snider Family Exotics, Hooplahoma, and Wichita Wildlife Refuge. We had a foam party and got to play in the mud, paint, and water for our Messtival, where kids got to pie librarians in the face. Our new crane game did more for literacy than anything else all summer with kids completing their reading challenges in record time to play for prizes!

Many community partners and businesses helped with making this summer successful, but no one helps more than our Friends of the Duncan Public Library, as the primary funders of our programs, performers, and prizes.

Despite this exceptionally amazing summer, the biggest news is that the library has a brand-new air-conditioning system! Thank you to the City of Duncan and the City Council for keeping us cool!

We hope you're ready for our fall and winter events. Already starting is our "Cain's Jawbone" book club. The mysteries of this book have only been solved 4 times since the 1930s, but our book group is going to try! We will have Cart o' Treat again so you can bring your kids to trick or treat at the library. We'll also have a "Season's Readings" holiday sign lighting, and we'll participate in the NEA Big Read. Author and illustrator Thi Bui will be at the library for a discussion of her book "The Best We Could Do." The newest Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma book series will start in January. Watch our Facebook, Instagram, and website for details of these events.

Finally, our Stephens County Genealogy Library branch has access to resources to help you research and preserve your family's history. Yearbooks, name books, obituaries, 8mm and VHS to DVD transfers, the genealogy library can help you with your exploration of the past. All free!



Water Meter Customer Portal is launched!

City of Duncan water customers now have online access to their water usage information via the Get My Meter Info web portal.

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve services to our Customers, City of Duncan now offers a portal to help you monitor your water usage, offering you direct and secure access to your water usage data.

The Get My Meter Info portal and smartphone app allow you to review and analyze your water usage patterns. With these tools, you are now able to view your usage activity and gain greater understanding and control of the amount of water you use. You are also able to establish alerts, including identifying potential leaks and abnormal increases in your water usage. To access your smart meter data and notifications, please visit <https://GetMyMeter.info> and register for an account today.

