



## Letter from Mayor Robert Armstrong

Dear Citizens,

I am excited to share some important updates on the progress happening throughout our community. These improvements are a direct result of careful planning, responsible budgeting, and exceptional fiscal management, all of which have positioned us to take on these ambitious projects without burdening taxpayers.

As part of our continued commitment to maintaining and improving our infrastructure, re-paving projects are underway for the 2025 asphalt season. We have kicked off a \$5 million project to install new waterlines downtown, which will significantly enhance the water system's reliability and efficiency for both businesses and residents. In addition, we are making critical upgrades to our Wastewater Treatment Plant that will support the growing needs of our community and to protect the environment for future generations.

Our investments do not stop there — we are upgrading the electrical grid to meet the demands of a growing population, and the El Rancho area is seeing the addition of a new water tower to strengthen our water infrastructure. We are working to clean up

the shorelines of our lakes to ensure they remain beautiful and accessible to all, and we have the rehabilitation of the dam embankment project completed at Clear Creek Lake to better manage water resources and provide long-term benefits to the area.

We are pleased to announce the construction of a new Fire Station at Camelback and Highway 81, which will ensure that our emergency responders are even more equipped to serve our community quickly and efficiently. For our sports community, Abe Raizen and Jess Welch Sports Complex is receiving a new master plan, with the renovation of the concession stand in progress just in time for baseball season to kick off. Lastly, we acquired Resthaven Memorial Gardens and are making substantial improvements to ensure that it remains a peaceful and dignified place for families to honor their loved ones.

The ability to fund these projects stems from our strong fiscal management practices. Thanks to careful oversight and a commitment to financial responsibility, we have built a solid foundation that allows us to invest in these essential projects while maintaining a balanced budget and avoiding tax increases. This progress would not be possible without your continued trust and support.

Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient community, and I could not be more excited for the future.

FOR Duncan,



Mayor Robert Armstrong



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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.

## Chris Deal

With the arrival of spring, it is a pleasure to share with you updates and opportunities that are shaping our vibrant community. This season is a time of renewal and growth, and we're excited to see these values reflected in our city's progress.

**Enhancing Our City Together:** From ongoing infrastructure improvements to new community initiatives, we're working hard to make our city an even better place to live, work, and enjoy.

Last year's Quality of Life forums had citizens connect and discuss ways to continue developing and improving our community. For 2025, our team is working hard to implement many of the ideas that came from those discussions.

We are starting design work for the Heritage Trails TAP Grant #2 and were awarded a 3rd TAP Grant that will add additional miles for all to use and enjoy. Funds from the citizen approved dedicated ¼ cent sales tax for infrastructure will be providing upgrades and/or repairs to our streetlights citywide, including the revitalization of the decorative streetlights on Main Street, in our efforts to enhance public safety and foster economic development.

We are in the planning and engineering phases of a new fire station on Camelback Road, the creation of retail development districts, and recreational districts that will include continued investment into Abe Raizen and Jess Welch Sports Complex.

With City of Duncan having well over 100 agreements, contracts, and memorandums of understanding with organizations in our community, we continue to invest each year in our nonprofit service sector by aiding many organizations including Stephens County Historical Museum, Stephens County Humane Society, The Simmons Center, Duncan Senior Citizens Center, ASCOG, Main Street Duncan, and others.

**Public Works Updates:** Planning for economic development requires us to consider our infrastructure. Continuous upgrading and maintaining roads, bridges, facilities, and utilities are vital to our future. As part of our commitment to improving our city, several projects are underway.

Partnerships are important in building infrastructure. We are currently working with The Chickasaw Nation on the full replacement of Gatlin bridge, and we thank The Chickasaw Nation for being a great partner to City of Duncan.

One of our strongest economic development strategies revolves around building resilience and sustainability in our infrastructure. You'll notice progress on street repairs, overlays, and rebuilds, city park enhancements, electric power grid infrastructure improvements, waste water treatment plant facility and fresh water treatment upgrades, as well as a clean water line project (a \$5.5 Million Project financed by Oklahoma Water Resource Board to be completed this year), El Rancho water tower construction, improvements to Duncan Municipal Airport, Lake Humphreys and Clear Creek Lake improvements (cleaning shorelines), plus the completion of the Clear Creek Dam Project. All of which will enhance accessibility and quality of life for our residents. We hope to develop a quality of life second to none. For us, economic development is community development. We appreciate your patience as these improvements take shape!



**Looking Ahead:** Spring symbolizes new beginnings, and we're inspired to keep building a brighter future for our community. Our goal is to continue to serve citizens by expanding and building upon the solid foundation of fiscal management and work toward our mission to enhance the overall quality of life of our citizens. We will engage in community economic development that retains and expands employment in the area, attracts major investments, enhances the tax base, stimulates economic growth, and strengthens the community. We remain committed to effective investments in our infrastructure and public safety.

Your voice and involvement continue to shape our city's growth, and I encourage you to reach out with ideas, feedback, or simply to share your thoughts. Together, we can work hand in hand.

Wishing you a joyful and prosperous spring,

*Chris Deal*

Chris Deal, City Manager

## City Council

### MAYOR

**Robert Armstrong**

[rarmstrong@duncanok.gov](mailto:rarmstrong@duncanok.gov)

### WARD ONE

**Jimmy Peters**

[jpeters@duncanok.gov](mailto:jpeters@duncanok.gov)

### WARD TWO

**Nick Fischer**

[nfischer@duncanok.gov](mailto:nfischer@duncanok.gov)

### WARD THREE

**David Leonard**

[ward3@duncanok.gov](mailto:ward3@duncanok.gov)

### WARD FOUR

**Gene Brown**

[gbrown@duncanok.gov](mailto:gbrown@duncanok.gov)

### CITY MANAGER

**Chris Deal**

[cdeal@duncanok.gov](mailto:cdeal@duncanok.gov)

## New Fire Station

With dirt work and concrete work in progress on Camelback Road, Duncan Fire Station #4 will have an official groundbreaking ceremony in Summer 2025. The new station will be a welcome addition to our Fire Department as it will assist in improving our community's ISO rating from a 3 to a 2, quicken response times for the northern section of the city and the four city lakes, and will ensure that your firefighters continue to deliver services efficiently and effectively.



## New Engine

The new Engine #2 is here, and with outfitting done in April, the engine should enter rotation around May 1. This new engine will replace the former 2011 Sutphen International 4400 fire engine #2.



Did you know that Sparky is available for special community events? For more information, contact Fire Administration at 580-252-0250.



Your Duncan Police Department not only patrols the city, responds to emergencies, and stays active by community policing, but also provides these services at all four City of Duncan lakes. With summer approaching, our officers are preparing for increased crowds so whether you are camping, boating, fishing, playing disc golf, or enjoying the equestrian trails, please keep in mind that our officers are out there enforcing laws to make sure your family and friends have a safe and enjoyable experience. Here are helpful tips to remember:



- Permits are required for fishing, camping, and boating with daily or annual rates available to purchase at City of Duncan City Hall, Murf's Guns, The Bray Store, and kiosks located at each lake. Reservations of lake pavilions are required and must have a permit. The fees collected help keep the grass mowed, the bathrooms cleaned and stocked, as well as all the other campsite and lake maintenance that our Public Works-Lake team does such a wonderful job taking care of so all can enjoy.
- Be courteous and neighborly while camping. Whether you are camping in tents or recreational vehicles, be aware of the rules and regulations. A camping permit must be properly displayed. We recommend keeping permits in the window of your RV or in a bag attached to the outside of your tent in case you leave in your vehicle. A stay is for a maximum of 21 days at any campsite so please make plans to leave that specific campground for a minimum of 7 days before returning. You can move to any other campground, but it is not permitted to just move camping spots within the same campground. Respect the quiet hours. There is no dumping of any wastewater at any campgrounds except at the approved dumpsite located at each lake.
- Boats are required to have state decals and registration as well as city permits. Any child under the age of 12 must wear a life jacket while boating. Kayakers must also always wear a life jacket while on the lakes. A vessel must have a life jacket (personal floatation device) for each person in the vessel, at least one throwable floatation device, and a fire extinguisher. All four lakes are directional and must only be traveled in the counterclockwise direction. No one under the age of 16 may operate a boat or jet ski unless accompanied by an adult over the age of 18. Vessels must not come closer than 200 feet to any shore, anchored vessel, or manmade structure unless coming into dock. When coming into dock within 200 feet of shore or structure, boats must be at idle speed.
- While fishing at any of the lakes, please make sure you follow all the rules and stay aware of max bag limits, minimum fish lengths, and permit requirements. Children under the age of 16, seniors over the age of 64, and disabled veterans with a disability rating of 60% or more are not required to purchase fishing permits.
- There are no offroad vehicles allowed on any of the city lakes. Do not drive offroad at any time in any vehicle and do not leave any of the roads or beaten paths. Refrain from bringing any glass food or beverage containers and utilize the trash cans provided to help keep our lakes clean and safe.
- For your safety, no swimming is allowed near boat ramps, docks, crappie houses, or further than 50 feet from the shoreline, and there is absolutely no jumping off any docks, dams, or towers.

For further information visit [duncanok.gov](http://duncanok.gov). If you have any issues or concerns, please contact City of Duncan during regular business hours at 580-252-0250 or contact our Lake Officer by calling the non-emergency dispatch line at 580-255-2112.

### Asphalt Completed in 2024

103 blocks resurfaced last year due to the citizens' renewal of the dedicated ½ cent sales tax that provided the city's match required for the CDBG Small Cities Grant, ensuring an additional 63 blocks could be completed citywide with average cost per city block approximately \$14,000-16,000.00.

12th Street between Highway 7 and Bois D'Arc Avenue

42nd Street between Elk Avenue and Plato Road

Plato Road between 42nd Street and Highway 7

Tanglewood Drive between 5th Street and Odom Drive

Odom Drive to Walnut Hill Drive

Redwood Drive

Day Street to Osage Road

Blackjack Lane between 5th Street and Day Street

Ponderosa Road to Camelback Road

Walnut Hill Drive

Woodside Drive

Fawn Brook Drive

Cox Street

Allen Street

Duncan Avenue between 8th Street and 11th Street

Stephens Avenue between 8th Street and 10th Street

Woodlawn Avenue between 8th Street and 10th Street

Jefferson Avenue between 7th Street and 9th Street

9th Street between MLK Jr. Avenue and Highway 7

8th Street between MLK Jr. Avenue and Stephens Avenue

7th Street between Park Avenue and MLK Jr. Avenue

Duncan Avenue between 13th Street and 15th Street

Woodlawn Avenue from 8th Street west

Park Avenue between 8th Street and the railroad

Stephens Avenue between 8th Street and Bois D'Arc Avenue

14th Street between Park Avenue and Highway 7

10th Street between Woodlawn Avenue and MLK Jr. Avenue

Washington Avenue between 10th Street and 11th Street

Resthaven Cemetery- roadways

### Asphalt Projects for 2025

E Street between Main Street and Ash Avenue

F Street and Beech Avenue

K Street between Chestnut Avenue and Fir Avenue

H Street between Chestnut and Fir Avenue

Demolay Avenue between I Street to G Street

Pine Avenue between C Street and D Street

Fir Avenue between D Street and B Street

Cedar Avenue between B Street and D Street

Hackberry Avenue between B Street and 2nd Street

Hickory Avenue between 2nd Street and E Street

Beech Avenue between 3rd Street and 5th Street

11th Street between Stephens Avenue and Duncan Avenue

Cypress Avenue between 12th Street and 13th Street

Poplar Avenue between 13th Street and 15th Street

5th Street between Main Street and Oak Avenue

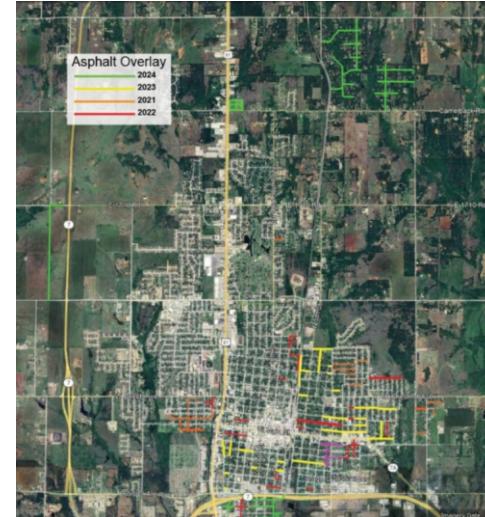
13th Street between Peach Avenue and Peck Avenue

Grand Avenue between Elk Avenue and Stewart Avenue

Stewart Avenue between Grand Avenue and Crescent Avenue

Stewart Avenue

Bridge repairs on Gaitlin Road bridge are projected to begin Summer 2025.



### Asphalting Overlay 2022-2024

### Water Projects

El Rancho Elevated Storage Tank replacement project is projected to be substantially completed this summer.



OWRB Project #2 in downtown Duncan is planned for completion, with Walnut Ave concrete patch in progress and the contractor moving onto Willow Ave. Additional Phases #3 and #4 are in design phases.

Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project Phase Four of Infiltration and Inflow has begun.

City tank inspection completed; repairs to begin.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant awarded 2024 Plant of the Year- Category 2** by The Oklahoma Environmental Association for Recognition of Outstanding Performance and Dedication to the Water/Wastewater Industry.

### Airport Projects

New roofing being done on the Airport Maintenance Hangar plus a new coating on the T Hangar roofs is planned.

Updates to the airport lighting system are underway.

Progress is being made to follow City of Duncan's Hangar Development Plan, which is located on our website - Services - Municipal Airport.

# Duncan Power & Emergency Management



It continues to be a challenging time for many utility providers, Duncan Power included. Back-ordering and delays of everyday materials in every price range continues. To give some context to equipment delays, new electric meters are being delivered approximately 12 months after placing the order. Transformer delivery is improving slightly; however our team still cannot seek bids to our specifications, we must select from what is available on the market.

One of our goals in system hardening is to not only make outages few and far between but also to be able to recover from an outage faster. We do our best to have zero outages, but we must be ready to act as fast as possible when they do happen. Last summer, one of our planned and completed system improvements was to relocate older-style single-phase switches used for maintenance, or emergency repair shut offs, with fast operating ground-controlled 3-phase switches. These relocations sped up maintenance work from Day One, but within nine months of the improvement being made have already been used on two large scale unplanned outages. Each time the new switches shaved approximately 45 minutes off the total time to restore all customers' power.

Planned work for 2025 includes switch and breaker upgrades at Plato Substation, substation security measures being implemented, maintenance at Elder Substation, continued underground primary cable replacement by contract boring, and continued upgrading of the automated distribution systems.

Annual System-wide tree trimming and removal will start soon, and a large-scale street light project for fixture replacements will be bid out. Duncan Power purchased two "new to us" bucket trucks in April and both are in rotation, ensuring quick, reliable responses to outages and easier maintenance.

Specialized training of newer employees continues both in-house and through participating in out-of-town schools. We have one employee starting a 4-year Lineman Training Program and one employee that is beginning their fourth year. All of our Linemen are certified and can be relied on to perform highly skilled linework on our system which means better service to our customers!



Emergency Management, assisted by Duncan Power, installed additional Outdoor Warning Sirens at Fuqua Park West, Simmons Center, and Abe Raizen and Jess Welch Sports Complex. As part of City of Duncan's Outdoor Warning Siren System Lightning Detection Network, in addition to alerting a sirens also sound a warning for approaching lightning to alert people who may be outside enjoying daytime or evening activities. The sirens are strategically placed to provide warnings for the areas around our schools, walking trails, Fuqua Pool, and sports fields, and were made possible with 90% of the cost funded by FEMA through a Hazard Mitigation Grant.

How do they operate? When the system detects lightning within a 10-mile radius, the sirens will sound a 20 second Hi-Low siren sound followed by a voice message that says "Lightning Warning. Cloud to ground lightning is expected in the area. Seek shelter. Lightning Warning." This will be repeated once after a short delay. The messaging, operational only during official city park hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. is to notify of a possible lightning strike and the need to stop outdoor activities and take shelter.

When caught outdoors with no shelter, get inside a vehicle, a business, or some form of covered shelter. Do not seek shelter under trees, in open fields, or near any tall object. Remember, lightning does not have to strike you directly to cause injury or death as it can travel through the ground to you or an object close to you. Do not return to outdoor activities until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or thunderclap and be aware that a clear sky can still produce lightning. Lightning may travel many miles from the cloud source to the ground. Last year a storm over Lawton produced a lightning strike that hit the ground in Ninnekah, 30 miles away by air. With Oklahoma ranked 6th on the list of states where lightning is most likely to occur, precautionary measures like a Lightning Detection and Warning System reduce the yearly number of deaths.

Be more weather ready! Sign up for Emergency Alerts at [duncanok.gov](http://duncanok.gov). and ensure your phone settings for Public Safety Alerts are enabled. For information contact Emergency Management at [EMDuncan@duncanok.gov](mailto:EMDuncan@duncanok.gov) or (580) 251-7757.





# Parks | Lakes | Cemetery

## Lakes

As of April 3, 2025 (for updated data visit our website)

Lake Name	Current Capacity (acre ft)	Current Capacity (million gallons)	Normal Capacity (acre ft)	Percent Full (Current)
Fuqua	18,540	5,191.68	21,100	87.9%
Humphreys	10,720	3,001.88	14,041	76.3%
Waurika	164,321	46,014.15	188,760	87.1%

## Parks

Be sure to mark your calendars for the exciting events planned. From family friendly "Movies in the Park" to the fireworks extravaganza "Red, White, & Boom," these gatherings are a wonderful way to connect with neighbors, celebrate the spirit of our city, and enjoy all that the summer has to offer.

### Movies in the Park at Fuqua Park East:

June 12th and July 10th with the PG rated movies beginning at dusk. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs as City of Duncan provides the popcorn and The Palace Theatre sponsors the movies!

Family Fright Night/Trick or Treat and Movie in the Park is on October 23rd.

NEW to 2025! Christmas Movie in the Park will be December 5th in partnership with Chisholm Trail Kiwanis Club's Kiddieland Holiday Express.

(Events may be cancelled or rescheduled due to inclement weather).

Reservations for a park or one of the pavilions/gazebos may be made by calling Public Works- Parks at 280-252-0250.

A concession remodel at Abe Raizen and Jess Welch Sports Complex is underway, with planned improvements in 2025 at city parks to include additional practice areas for baseball, soccer, basketball and outdoor pickle ball courts, budget permitting.

Red White and Boom, in partnership with The Chickasaw Nation's Chisholm Trail Casino, will be held on July 3rd in celebration of Independence Day at Abe Raizen and Jess Welch Sports Complex. Family fun for all.



**Clear Creek Dam Embankment Project** is complete, with the embankment seeded for grass.

### Fuqua Pool

City of Duncan contracts with Simmons Center to operate the pool. To make reservations for parties and special events call Simmons Center at 580-252-2900. We recommend making reservations early to avoid disappointment.

Opens Saturday, May 24th, 2025

Hours are Monday-Sunday 1 – 6pm

\*12 years and under supervision by a guardian

### Simmons Center Swim Lessons

June 3-13th and July 22-31st

Contact Simmons Center at 580-252-2900 to reserve.

### Kiwanis Swim Lessons

June 16-26th and July 7-17th

Contact The Simmons Center or Chisholm Trail Kiwanis Club directly for further information, available times and to register.

\*Pool closes for inclement weather, accidents, or any other unsafe swimming conditions.

### Splash Pad Hours

Monday through Sunday 9:00 a.m. to sunset.

\*Not operational during inclement weather.

### Cemetery

Cemeteries cleanup is held quarterly on the second Tuesday in February, May, August, and November.

Cemetery rates apply to Duncan Municipal Cemetery, Henderson Harris Cemetery and Resthaven Memorial Gardens.

The newly acquired Resthaven Memorial Gardens roadways are improved and work on the grounds continues. New fencing and an entrance gate are in progress.



# Community Development and Library



## Community Development and Code Enforcement

Community Development is thankful for our citizens that shared their thoughts and visions for a better Duncan during the "Destination Duncan: A Quality of Life" planning process last year. Your voices were heard, and action is taking place! The completed planning document was officially accepted by our City Council in January and information within it is already being used when submitting multiple grant applications for beautification, parks and recreation, and community resiliency projects.

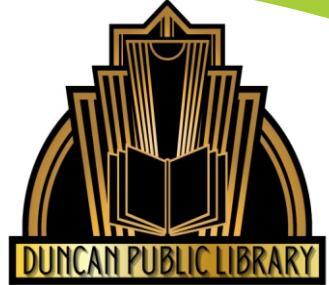
Additionally, regional transportation planners and national site selectors have also received copies of "Destination Duncan: A Quality of Life" with the intent to bring new development opportunities to our community. We encourage you to save the dates of the next scheduled public forums: June 23, September 22, and December 15, 2025. These forums will continue discussions on making Duncan a more vibrant community.

The first round of bid packets for blight removal will be presented to council, with the goal of removing 25 to 30 dilapidated and unsafe structures around the community in 2025. Our team is currently also working with local developers and home builders towards infill residential development that will bring new affordable housing opportunities to Duncan. Infill development revitalizes existing urban areas with new construction on vacant or underutilized land. This helps reduce community sprawl, improving walkability, and boosts the local economy. We will be reaching out to local Habitat for Humanity programs to see if there are any opportunities for community partnerships.

With the spring and summer months in full swing there is yard work to be done, and we would like to remind everyone that while mowing your yard please do not blow the grass clippings into the street. These clippings can create a dangerous situation for motorcyclists traveling on our city streets and may potentially also cause blockages in our drainage infrastructure that could result in area flooding during rain events.



## Duncan Public Library



With last year's theme of "Adventure Begins at Your Library," we had a lot of adventures with our community partners and patrons. This year, the theme is "Color Our World." We are shifting from adventure to artistic endeavors, which can also be adventurous. We will be recruiting artistic spirits of all kinds in the Duncan community to instruct each child, teen, and adult ways to color their world. If you are one of those spirits, please contact us as we would love for you to share your skills at the library.

Our Summer Reading Program begins Tuesday, May 27th. It will feature Music Mondays, where we will have music in the evenings, and a Tuesday book-and-build program where Miss Darbie will teach caretakers and parents how to use the books they read to their children to make activities that help with comprehension while having fun. There will be crafts for various ages on Wednesdays, which will accommodate different learning levels and incorporate various aspects of art. During election season, kids voted for an animal experience, so DT Ranch will bring a petting zoo.

Some of our classics will also be back, such as the Annual Chalk Art Contest, the Foam Party, and the Sugar Free Allstars concert plus we will have our usual movie days, Lego days, Storytimes, Minecraft, and coding. The crane game will also be back!

Our Volunteer program provides teen volunteers work during the summer, which offers them the opportunity to develop skills and gain work experience in a fun environment. Watch our social media and look on our website, [www.duncanlibrary.com](http://www.duncanlibrary.com), for applications. Check out all the programs and challenges for teens and adults, plus the kids.

Lastly, we have a revitalized program to mention: Miss Millie is back! If you are someone, or know of someone, who is homebound but who still likes to read or listen to books, sign up for the Miss Millie delivery program. Library staff will gather items for you, then a volunteer or your own designated person will deliver them. Maybe you would like to help deliver items? Applications to sign up for both may be found online at our website and in the library. We hope this helps expand our reach to more people in the community who need us. We are here to help.

Thank you for being a supportive community - we appreciate you greatly!



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## City SPOTLIGHT



## New Master Plan for Abe Raizen & Jess Welch Sports Complex!

Exciting news! Duncan City Council approved Planning Design Group to develop a master plan for the park which will include new baseball and softball fields, pickle ball and basketball courts, a new playground, and a splash pad for all to enjoy. The plan will bring more sports activities and tournaments to our community as well as provide recreational opportunities for citizens.

Planning Design Group is a licensed landscape architecture firm with over 40 years of industry knowledge and a bevy of project experience across the Midwest and Southwest regions of the country. Armed with decades of national experience, PDG, has cultivated a reputation for a collaborative approach, growth-driven design and the creation of breathtaking spaces that embrace a site's individuality and honor its history.