



## Letter from Mayor Robert Armstrong

Lastly, it's no secret that a few months ago City Council and I approved a request for funding to replace every water meter in the City of Duncan. Being good stewards of our resources, staying within the confines of our limited budget as a city, and leveraging the low interest rate environment we were in, we borrowed the \$10+ million dollars at less than a 2% fixed rate for 30 years. As current loans mature and those payments go away, the new payments for this will kick in, therefore we are staying within our budget and being as financially responsible as possible. This decision came about after a diligent process was completed and we look forward the reliability and peace of mind it will bring for years to come.

I hope you can see the amount of effort, time, energy, and resources we are pouring into making our utilities better. It's an area of focus, and will remain one, for me as the Mayor. I appreciate each and every one of our customers and we will never stop looking for ways to make ourselves better as a utility provider and as a city!

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Armstrong

It's hard to believe we are already in Spring and approaching the summer months of the year.

I would like to start out by thanking you for being a customer of ours. We appreciate and value your business. I wanted to take a quick moment and give you an update on what we are focusing on to continuously improve our utilities and infrastructure, and to invite your participation at our council meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:15 pm.

We, as your Council, are focused on improving infrastructure and continuing to move forward with projects as, like most of the country, we have an aged utility system. For the last several years we have been working on replacing that older infrastructure to improve the reliability and the quality of our services. There probably isn't a month that goes by that Council and I are not looking at requests to buy new transformers, improve electrical lines to neighborhoods, replace water lines, and consider sewer rehabilitation projects. Some of the pipes that we are replacing have the dates they were made stamped on them and they are 100 years old! In the last year alone, we have replaced almost 16,000 feet of pipes and over 199 manholes. As you see, there is a continued focus on improvements that will continue into the years ahead.



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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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**Kimberly Meek**  
CITY MANAGER



As we enter Summer, many anticipated projects are in planning, in progress or about to start as we move Duncan forward and make it a wonderful place to work and live.

A new website and app, DunCAN Connect, launched in January. Both provide city staff with the opportunity to inform and engage with you, so please access both when you have a question or concern. Our app is free to download to your smart phone from your app store and we appreciate everyone who has used it thus far and encourage you to download it if you have not already done so. As always, we are happy to answer your questions at 580-252-0250 during regular business hours and 580-255-2112 during after hours.

Asphalt season is here, and Public Works is milling roads to prepare for the laying of the asphalt. We have high hopes to complete several phases this season, including a phase that will be partially grant funded to make street repairs for the area described as being south of Highway 7, east of 13th Street, north of Martin Luther King, and west of railroad tracks. These grant funds, if awarded, will be matched with local funds approved in the City of Duncan capital improvement budget.

We will welcome Ferguson Waterworks, Inc. to our community to exchange water meters with new AMI meters beginning in July. This new system will deliver improved customer service, transparency and increased customer participation through the utilization of new technology.

And in closing, I thank all our Duncan Power customers that have utilized the Apogee Energy Advisor Calculator that is available at no cost. As a member of the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, we appreciate our citizens' efforts in energy savings and carbon reduction. Together, DunCAN.

Have a wonderful Summer!



**Get Your  
App Today!**

## City Council

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**WARD ONE**

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**WARD FOUR**

**vacant**

**CITY MANAGER**

**Kimberly Meek**  
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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.

## Fire Pit Safety

Can you have a recreational fire pit in your backyard? Absolutely! But always keep fire safety in mind.

### Firepit tips for a safe summer:

1. Maximum firepit size of three feet (3') wide, three feet (3') in length and two feet (2') high.
2. Firepit must be at least fifteen feet (15') from a structure other than those located on the property and three feet (3') from combustible material.
3. Never leave a burn pit unattended until the fire is completely extinguished.
4. Only burn dry, natural vegetation (sticks, logs) NO leaves, garbage, synthetic materials.
5. Always have a method to extinguishment in case of emergency (water hose, fire extinguisher).
6. Always check for state and local burn bans prior to burning.



	2021	2022
<b>Response Time</b>	<b>0:05:38</b>	<b>0:05:34</b>
(National response time average standard is 0:06:00)		
<b>EMS responses</b>	<b>2,869</b>	<b>2,807</b>
<b>Fire responses</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>1,244</b>
<b>Mutual Aid responses Avg</b>	<b>4-6/mth</b>	<b>4-6/mth</b>

### Trainings this Year to date:

<b>EMS Refresher</b>	<b>HazMat Operations</b>
<b>Hazmat Decontamination</b>	<b>Apparatus</b>
<b>Engine Pump Testing</b>	<b>Equipment</b>

### New Equipment Purchase: 20 new bunker gear sets

#### Station 2

Since it was built in 1964, this station has not been updated. A remodel is now in progress, including the addition of a new drive-thru apparatus bay, new siding on building, improved parking lot and refreshed living quarters for firefighters.



As the weather heats up, the number of car burglaries tends to go up as well.

A friendly reminder to remember to lock your cars and take all valuables inside your home. Please don't leave wallets, purses, cash, or keys (keys to the vehicle, keys to another vehicle, keys to your home or business) inside your car. The most important item to remove from your vehicle is a gun if you carry.

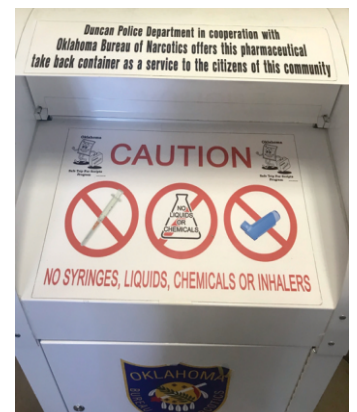


The Duncan Police Department supports gun ownership by legally qualified citizens; your right to bear arms and protect yourself and your family is encouraged. However, a stolen gun may end up with a person who may not be legally qualified to have a firearm. A person must be 21 years of age to purchase a handgun by legal means and 18 years of age to buy a rifle or shotgun. The people that steal your gun do not care if the person they sell it to is of legal age and they do not care if they have a restriction that would keep them from buying the gun legally. The truth is, the buyer is willing to pay more for a gun purchased this way than someone would pay for a gun at a gun store, because they do not have to go through a background check.

Another thing to consider is that many car burglars are too young to buy a gun legally. As law abiding gun owners, we have to do everything we can to keep guns out of the hands of those who are not allowed to have them. According to Duncan Police Department records, there have been 23 guns stolen from cars within the city limits of Duncan in the last year.

Did you know that Duncan Police Department is a drop off location for all doctor prescribed medications including prescription narcotics? Done in partnership with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, who collects and disposes of all medications dropped off. The drop box is located inside the lobby of the Duncan Police Department and is available 24/7.

\*Please note that inhalers, vitamins and over-the-counter medications are not included.





## Public Works Airport | Streets | Water

The Public Works Department has many projects ongoing in all areas of the City.

### Streets



Asphalt street work has begun in preparation for overlay in all areas of town, while concrete street patch and repair work continues.

Crews have been performing bridge maintenance in various locations.

The new street sweeper continues to run on city streets daily.



### Water Distribution



Clean Water State Revolving Fund from Oklahoma Water Resource Board (OWRB) was used for Water Line Package #1 for 28th/29th Streets and Chisholm Trail Heritage Center water main improvements, now in progress.

El Rancho Pump Station design phase is complete and the prebid meeting is in early May.

OWRB Water Line Package #2 designs are 60% complete for the new lines on W. Elder, N. 13th Street and W. Beech Avenue.

### Our Public Works Street Department Crews Have Begun Milling! What is Milling?

Milling is the process of removing the top layer of asphalt to a specified and even depth without disturbing the underlying subbase. This allows for new asphalt to be laid down without increasing the height of the road. Milling is performed by a cold planer, or milling machine, which uses a large rotating drum to remove and grind the road surface.

### Water Treatment Plant

- Raw water tank inspections are being made for repair planning
- Settling ponds repair/maintenance let for bids end of May
- Clarifier and Underdrain site assessment for developing plans for repair

### Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Chlorination and Dichlorination Project is approved by ODEQ and bid documents are being prepared
- Construction Phase 1 of the Inflow & Infiltration Project is nearing completion and Construction Phase II is in construction design





# Duncan Power & Emergency Management



In 2022 Duncan Power contracted with Novinium™ for underground electric cable improvements in housing developments throughout Duncan. The following additions were completed: Maytubby Heights, Williams

West and Elk Plaza Shopping Center. More locations were submitted for approval by the city Council in April. Novinium workers utilize state-of-the-art processes to inject a liquid insulation within the older buried power cables that rejuvenates the insulation of the underground electrical cables to make them last longer without failures. By using this process we can give existing cables a new start on life expectancy with only minimal digging, boring or trenching in your yards. This does not mean there will never be another power outage, but it does mean that we were able to complete rebuilding parts of our underground electric system in a few months, instead of a few years. We plan to treat as many cables as possible until all approved funds are exhausted.

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

Elder Substation sustained damage when PSO Metering equipment overheated and began arcing on March 7th about 9:15. An emergency outage was taken to prevent further damage to the substation and was restored by 11:00 am. Permanent repairs were completed by our crews on March 20th, the substation was returned to service on the 23rd.

A section of underground primary cable was replaced on Martin Lane.

We are still dealing with delayed, canceled and back-ordering of everyday materials in every price range. Transformer delivery is not improving.

The February 26th Derecho Winds devastated our system with 53 broken or damaged poles, wires and cables knocked down or torn loose from poles and homes; streetlights knocked to the ground, pulled up anchors. Our crews spent most of March working on storm recovery.



## Active Shooter

An active shooter is an individual engaged in attempting to kill people in a confined space or populated area. Active shooters typically use firearms and have no pattern to their selection of victims.

The United States has seen over 160 mass shootings in 2023 so far this year. Would you know what to do or where to go if an incident took place at your place of work, school, or church?

What to do: **RUN. HIDE. FIGHT.**

- RUN**
- Getting away is your top priority!
  - Leave behind all belongings.
  - Help others if you can, but you must escape!
  - Warn others to stay away!
  - Call 9-1-1 when you are safe.

- HIDE**
- Stay out of the shooter's view
  - Lock and Block entrances and turn off lights
  - Groups of people should spread out when hiding
  - Silently text others to communicate (silence electronic devices to avoid attention)
  - Stay in Place until Law enforcement gives you notice the danger is over

- FIGHT**
- Fight as a last resort
  - Commit to your actions. Fight! Do not hesitate!
  - Be prepared to inflict severe injury to shooter
  - Throw objects or improvise weapons (staplers, scissors, chairs, etc.)

## Additional Safety Measures

- If you see suspicious activity, let an authority know right away
- When you enter buildings take time to identify TWO ways out
- Look for places where you could hide
- Get in the habit of doing this, it will help you to act quickly in an emergency situation
- Ask about plans for the places you spend a lot of time at like school, work or church
- Participate in active shooter drills
- Have that uncomfortable conversation with your kids, teach them what to do

For more information visit

<https://community.fema.gov/ProtectiveActions/s/article/Active-Shooter>

## Lakes

Clear Creek Dam Embankment Project continues with plans to repair the slopes. Maintenance of City Lake dams continues, along with burning off brush/tall grass, clearing shorelines and routine maintenance on docks. Recently new roofs were put on restrooms and pavilions at Lake Humphreys and Clear Creek.

### 2022 Lake Elevations

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Fuqua	1,076.47	1,076.25	1076.41
Humphreys	1,175.93	1,175.79	1175.95
Waurika	951.39	949.95	950.07

### 2023 Lake Elevations

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Fuqua	1,074.67	1,074.82	1,075.04
Humphreys	1,173.86	1,174.76	1,174.83
Waurika	948.97	949.09	949.53

#### 100% Full Elevation

Fuqua	1,076.0	= more than 100% full
Humphreys	1,178.0	
Waurika	951.4	

## Parks and Cemetery:

Spraying for weeds and trimming shrubs has begun. Crews have also started summer mowing/weed eating in the parks and cemeteries every day. Crews have been working on derecho storm damage in the cemeteries and will continue until all the storm damage is removed.

Our staff collected 10,192.90 cubic yards of storm debris or 2,752.08 tons. It's the equivalent of half of a football field, including the end zone, to the height of the 10 ft goal post!



## Duncan Pool

City of Duncan has contracted with The Simmons Center to operate Fuqua Pool for Summer 2023. Simmons Center members receive free entry.

Contact the Simmons Center to make reservations for parties and special events at 580-252-2900. Make them early for the entire summer to avoid disappointment.

Opens May 27th, 2023  
Hours Monday- Sunday 1-6 pm  
(12 yrs and under supervised by guardian)

### Simmons Center Swim Lessons

June 5-15th and July 24th-Aug 3rd

### Kiwanis Swim lessons

June 19-29th and July 10-20th

Contact Simmons Center or the Kiwanis directly for further information and available times.



Enjoy a fun evening with your family at **Movies in the Park!**  
Fuqua Park,  
**June 8th**  
**July 13th**  
**August 10th.**  
Bring blankets, lawn chairs, etc.  
Movies start at dusk.  
(PG)



# Community Development and Library



## Building Department

The Department of Community Development and Code Enforcement issued 137 permits from January 1, 2023, to March 31, 2023, and collected \$31,547.23 in permit fees. These permits included two new homes and 23 commercial projects. The Building Department also adopted the 2020 National Electric Code, bringing our community in line with other communities.

## Code Enforcement

An additional code enforcement officer was hired in an effort to assist more citizens with community concerns. The additional staff will focus on code enforcement and preparing specialized reports.

There has been an increase in the number of cases being processed in 2023 versus previous years. Through March, 335 violations have been processed which is up 129 as compared to the same time period of 2022. The bulk of the cases processed this year have focused on trash/debris, dilapidated structures, and residential outside storage.

We requested and received Council approval for 10 properties proposed for consideration of demolition orders. Many of these properties are abandoned, damaged by fires/storms, and are an attractive nuisance for potential squatters traveling through our community.

## Community Development

We apply for several grants each year requesting supplies for community clean-up days to larger grants exceeding several hundred thousand dollars to make Duncan a better place to live, work and play.

We are in the process of closing out the 2022 CDBG Covid-19 grant. This grant provided utility billing assistance to 444 citizens with over \$150,000 in electric and water bills. These funds were made available through the Federal Government as part of the Covid-19 relief package. The awarded grant also provided funds to supplement nutritional needs to our senior citizens.

Currently, the department is working on a grant proposal that, if awarded, will bring \$228,335 to the community and used to make street repairs for the area south of Highway 7, east of 13th Street, north of Martin Luther King, and west of railroad tracks. These funds will be matched with local funds approved in the City of Duncan capital improvement budget.

The past few months at the Duncan Public Library have been picking up the pace! Most of our numbers are up over last year's, including checkouts and visits. Thank you all so much for coming in to see us for all your various reasons. We are here to help you find whatever you are looking for, whether it be books, a computer, information, or experiences! In 2023, our focus will be on the community with the theme "All Together Now," which we think works perfectly with the City of Duncan's DunCAN Together initiative. We will be doing a lot more outreach and partnering with groups and people in the community for all kinds of things including trivia nights, crafts and storytimes, donation drives, and more. If you're a local business or club and want us to do an event with you or come speak, contact us!



Now that it's spring, we are in the final stages of planning for our busiest, most exciting time of the year: Summer Reading Program! We'll have our big kickoff party on Tuesday, May 30, starting with games and fun at the library all day, then a party at Kiddieland that evening! Everyone who comes will get a bag of goodies, including a calendar of events and reading challenges. We'll have events all June and July for all ages, including storytimes, Legos, reading challenges, game days, crafts like friendship bracelets, shrinky dinks, solar s'mores, free movies, a PJ party, blanket forts, sports, our annual chalk art contest, and so much more! Adults can even get in on the fun with a movie night, bingo, cookies and painting, and DIY ice cream. We'll also have special guests Will Hill, the storyteller, and the famous Sugar Free Allstars!

You can watch for all these activities on our new digital sign, courtesy of the Friends of the Duncan Public Library. Your book donations and purchases from the book sale and membership in the Friends help support special projects like the sign, but also all of the prizes and events for summer.

Thank you, citizens of Duncan, for your continued support of our mission to help connect our community with ideas and support lifelong learning and fun!





## Ferguson Water Meter Project



City of Duncan will begin the process to upgrade your water meter to an Advanced Meter communications device.

Duncan has partnered with Ferguson Waterworks, Inc. to conduct the Advanced Meter installations. They have been authorized to upgrade your water meter. You will see uniformed employees and their vehicles with this logo.



Advanced Meter installations will occur Monday–Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and will take place July 2023 thru February 2024 and will typically take 20 minutes to complete. Customers will receive door tag notifications before and after the meter has been installed.

Customers don't need to be home during the installation. This project will require that water service is temporarily disrupted.

Customers with medical conditions should call Duncan Public Works at 580-470-2095 to make arrangements, if necessary. Duncan will continue reading your water meter while the communications networks are integrated. There will be no interruption in meter reading service.

For general information or to report a water emergency, call 580-252-0250 Monday through Thursday, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM and after hours at 580-255-2112.

### BENEFITS OF ADVANCED METER COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Utilize newer technology for reading water usage
- ◆ Reduction in costs associated with manual meter reading (staff time and vehicle fuel consumption)
- ◆ Immediate identification of leaks, to reduce system water loss
- ◆ Improved customer service and increased customer participation
- ◆ Extended life/use of meter