



## Letter from Mayor Robert Armstrong

- Replacing the El Rancho Water Tower
- Cleaning Out Settling Ponds
- 275 Water Main Repairs
- Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation - 12 Creek Crossings
- Replacement of Electric Poles
- 140 Upgraded Electrical Insulators
- A completely new Water Metering System

As the summer winds down I'm looking forward to cooler temperatures in the weeks ahead. I hope you were able to enjoy all the summer activities around town, including the newest event, Movies in the Park at Fuqua Park. We appreciate the partnership of the Palace Theater in making that a success!

Since the last newsletter, there continues to be focus on a few areas in our community that I would like to highlight. The first being the wise use of your taxpayer monies. I, along with your Council, take our duty to our fellow citizens seriously and want to ensure we are getting the "biggest bang for our buck" on projects and expenditures while being transparent, open, and honest. For instance, as we have been approving infrastructure projects, we have been following our budgets, bidding processes, and securing funding at the most competitive loan rates. Our new Water Meter System replacement project is secured as a 15-year loan for 1.49%! Being financially responsible allows the City of Duncan to secure that kind of financing, allowing us to make some badly needed improvements to our infrastructure.

In order to continue to provide safe drinking water and an ever more reliable electrical infrastructure, some of our infrastructure improvements that we are focusing on are:

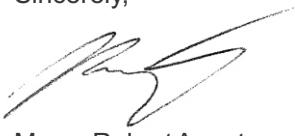
- Oklahoma Water Resource Board-3 phases of waterline improvements



Our new water meter system installation began in August. Recognizing the problems with the aging metering system, your council acted and are replacing the entire meter system in the City of Duncan. You will see workers around town doing that work, flyers will be placed on your door a week to 10 days prior to work beginning in your area. This transition has challenges, simply due to the scope of the project and all the "moving parts" however, if you have any questions about your bills, please contact our customer service team for assistance, 580-252-0250.

We will continue to be transparent, open, and honest with you always. If you are curious about more details on the activities of your local government, the financial details about the money we collect and how we use it, infrastructure projects and more please review our most recent Annual Report. It is full of all information in an easy to digest format. You can pick one up at City Hall, or online at [www.duncanok.gov](http://www.duncanok.gov).

Sincerely,

  
 Mayor Robert Armstrong



## What's Inside

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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.

## **Kimberly Meek**

CITY MANAGER



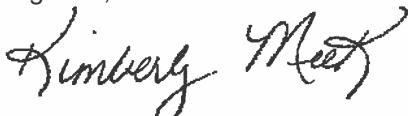
It has been a busy summer and I hope that you and yours made memories at our inaugural Movies in the Park and the Red, White and Boom celebration held in Abe Raizen Park on July 3rd. My thanks to all who made these events happen, including my staff and our wonderful partners, The Palace Theatre and The Chickasaw Nation's Chisholm Trail Casino.

Summer is filled with activities, and your City of Duncan departments were no different as you can see as you peruse this newsletter. I am proud each and every day of the dedicated people in all our departments who do their best for their community amid all the challenges we have faced this year from supply chain shortages to staffing shortages to inflationary pricing for materials and supplies. They are making it work and I appreciate them all.

The past six months have seen a rise in vandalism. It is community wide, and it has touched your City of Duncan departments as well. From break-ins at park restrooms, to sink vanities being ripped from the walls at the municipal pool, to toilets being smashed at area lakes, to damages to playground equipment, to stolen street signs and barricades, to a lake kiosk being damaged, it sometimes feels as though each time improvements are done it is one step forward and three steps back. It is disheartening, for myself and for my team.

Every time vandalism occurs, the repairs or replacements take monies away from doing new projects. This is affecting quality of life for us all, and as a citizen, I would rather see a pavilion or gazebo refreshed than pay for repairs caused by vandals. Please be a good steward of our City of Duncan parks and lakes. If you see vandalism occurring, contact our Duncan Police Department at 9-1-1 to report it. It takes all of us to join together to stop these crimes.

Together, DunCAN.



**Get Your  
App Today!**

## **City Council**

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### **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.

Our annual Sound the Alarm campaign, in partnership with The American Red Cross, occurred in May. Our firefighters installed 59 smoke detector alarms to make Duncan homes safer.



To schedule an appointment, please call 1-833-498-2092 in the first quarter of 2024 to sign up.



Duncan Fire Department competed in the Swiftwater Rescue competition in Oklahoma City in September and took home some top honors on the day, being awarded First Place in the Rescue Boat Medley, Third Place in the Raft Race and Second Place overall for the Combined Serpentine/Rescue Boat Medley. We appreciate the time and efforts our firefighters committed to competing this year!



Annual testing of aerial and ground ladders and hoses took place as well as Emergency Management training in preparedness and disaster mitigation.

Annual fire and safety school drills completed for day cares and schools within city limits.



Station 2 remodel is complete, with a new drive-thru bay, new siding on the building, improvements to the parking lot and refreshed living quarters for firefighters.

As the summer comes to an end and fall is right around the corner, local schools are beginning a new school year and it is important to be aware of your school zones. Speed limits will decrease in these areas and traffic will increase in the mornings and the afternoons. The DPD will have patrol units in these areas enforcing speed, inattentive driving, and seatbelt violations. When you're behind the wheel – alone or with passengers – driving safely should always be your top concern. We're more distracted than ever, so it's crucial to know the basics of safe driving and practice them every time you're on the road in order to drive responsibly. Here are some safe driving tips:



### Focus on driving

Ignoring distractions while driving and maintaining focus on the road is key to driving safely. To keep focused while driving, you should follow these steps:

- Keep 100% of your attention on driving at all times – no multi-tasking.
- Don't use your phone or other electronic device while driving.
- Slow down. Speeding gives you less time to react and increases the severity of an accident.

### Defensive Driving

What is defensive driving? Defensive driving is when motorists use accident-preventing techniques with a focus on driving safely. Be aware of what other drivers around you are doing and expect the unexpected. Keep a 2-second cushion between you and the car in front of you. Make that 4 seconds if the weather is bad!

### Practice Safety

- Secure cargo that may move around while vehicle is in motion.
- Don't attempt to retrieve items that fall to the floor.
- Have items needed within easy reach.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Don't allow children to fight or climb around in your car – they should always be buckled in their seats. Too much noise can easily distract you from focusing on the road.
- Avoid driving when you're tired. Be aware that some medications cause drowsiness and make operating a vehicle very dangerous.
- Always use caution when changing lanes. Cutting in front of someone, changing lanes too fast or not using your signals may cause an accident or upset other drivers.

Please remember to call the Duncan Police Department at 580-255-2112 with any questions or concerns.

Keep calm and drive safely.

### **Streets Completed This Season**

3rd St. from Martin Luther King Blvd. to Carver Ave.  
 King Pl. from Martin Luther King Blvd. to Carver Ave.  
 Sharp Ave. from King Pl. to 4th St.  
 Pecan Ave. from 5th St. to King Pl.  
 Elm Ave. from 2nd to 6th St.  
 Pecan Ave. from 7th to 8th St.  
 Mulberry Ave. from 7th to 8th St.  
 Main St. from D St. to I St.  
 Walnut Ave. from D St. to 3rd St.  
 F St. from Main St. to Ash Ave.  
 Beech Ave. from F St. to 1st St. and B St. to F St.  
 Oak Ave. from B St. to D St.

#### Almost completed:

Ash Ave. from B St. to D St.; B St. to 2nd St.; 2nd to 3rd St.

More asphalt is planned depending upon fall conditions and the street sweeper runs daily, weather permitting.



### **Airport**

Construction of a Taxilane, reconstruction of T-Hangar apron and rehabilitation of the Terminal Apron, as well as a Federal Aviation grant offer of \$987,000, for the projects approved by city council on September 12, 2023.



### **Water Distribution**

August 2023 treated 137,404,000 gallons of water  
 August 2022 treated 120,063,000 gallons  
 Increase of 17,341,000 gallons

Oklahoma Water Resource Board Water Line Package #1 is complete. Package #2 is currently at 60% Plans and Specifications and Package #3 Preliminary Design is pending final survey.

El Rancho Pump Station pump replacement approved  
 Clarifier Rehabilitation construction anticipated to begin in last quarter of 2023.



### **Water Treatment**

Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Phase II engineering approved by council for the 12+ creek crossings.

Four of the five settling ponds are cleared, with the final pond to be completed by end of year.

**Before**



**After**



# Duncan Power & Emergency Management



Duncan Power contractor, Novinium™, continues to make underground electric cable improvements in housing developments throughout Duncan. Completed to date are Millrun Ct., Willows Apts., Duncan Village Apts., The Winds of Oak Forest Apts., Harville Road area, Stagestand Addition and Red River Technology Center. More locations were submitted for approval by the city council in April. With state-of-the-art processes that inject liquid insulation within the older buried power cables, rejuvenating the insulation of the underground electrical cables is making them last longer without failures and with minimal digging, boring or trenching in residents' yards. We will continue to treat cables until all approved funds are exhausted.

On June 15th a powerful windstorm devastated parts of our system causing heavy damage to poles and wires. This was followed by another storm on the 18th and 19th. Again, the weather system knocked down poles, wires, service lines and streetlights. All power to customers was restored by the 20th, with an OMPA Field Serve Crew located in Marlow assisting in setting poles and completing repairs started by our crews that were exhausted by the evening of the 19th.

A new distribution system was installed for a section of Magnolia Manor Apartments, undergoing major renovation, an expanding local manufacturer got a new heavy electrical service built for their new building and our crews constructed new 3-phase service to the City's new Vehicle Maintenance Facility. We constructed Family Dollar Distribution Center's new service to new HVAC System, constructed a new underground service for the new Domino's and adjoining new office suites. All planned system upgrades were done in the Whispering Hills addition; this was a multi-year project.

Future work includes switch and breaker upgrades at Plato Substation. Our annual tree trimming & removal by Davey's Tree Service, will run September 11th - October 31st. Electric meters will be upgraded/refreshed along with the wireless system that moves the meter readings from meter to City Hall. Duncan Power has had the same electric rates since 2017, even with the cost of transformers, poles and wire rising in the same period, higher staffing costs and wholesale electricity cost using up our reserve funds, an adjustment in cost must be done. However, none of this was passed to our customers.

Duncan Power is still dealing with delayed, cancelled and/or back-ordering of everyday materials in every price range resulting in longer than typical repair lists for streetlights. Most of March was spent working on storm recovery.



## Prevention, Mitigation, and Response.



### Home Fire Campaign

In May of this year Duncan Emergency Management teamed up with The Red Cross to improve home safety by bringing the Home Fire Campaign to Duncan. The Home Fire campaign strives to make communities safer and more resilient by installing smoke alarms, providing fire safety education, and developing escape plans. With the help of the Duncan Fire Department, we were able to install 59 smoke alarms in homes that were either lacking an alarm or had outdated smoke alarm systems that needed to be replaced. With approximately 3,700 deaths in the United States each year due to fires, the need for initiative-taking measures to protect our citizens is of utmost importance.

### Storm Shelters

In 2022, Oklahoma saw 63 tornadoes, one of which touched down in the city limits of Duncan. Tornadoes are often unpredictable so the best thing to do is to be prepared for the worst. With the goal of saving lives in future tornadoes and severe storms, Duncan Emergency Management has worked with Oklahoma Emergency Management to secure FEMA funding for a safe room rebate grant. This grant helps Duncan residents cover the cost of constructing safe rooms by offering a rebate of 75% of the cost up to \$2,000. Currently in its second round, this program has helped over 80 residents install individual safe rooms at their home and receive a rebate of approximately \$2,000. There are still 25 more residents that have been approved to install their shelter by the end of the year. We intend to continue applying for this grant to create a safer community for future generations.

### Building Resiliency

The City of Duncan was awarded two 50% reimbursement grants through the American Rescue Plan Act. The purpose of the grant was to help jurisdictions build their resiliency capabilities and to ensure they are able to sustain initial emergency response operations for up to 72 hours following disaster. This grant opportunity allowed Duncan Emergency Management to purchase a 500-gallon portable water trailer and a 25KVA portable generator.

## Lakes

Clear Creek Lake Dam Phase 2 Embankment project's specifications and bid documents are being prepared, environmental permitting activities are in progress and testing on soil borrow site is complete.

Lake Name	Pool Elevation (ft)	Current Capacity (acre ft)	Normal Elevation (ft)	Normal Capacity (acre ft)	Percent Full last Month	Percent Full this Month
Fuqua	1,073.43	17,050.00	1,076	21,100	84.5%	80.8%
Humphreys	1,172.86	10,170.00	1,178	14,041	76.5%	72.4%
Waurika	947.66	152,744.00	951	188,760	84.8%	80.9%

## Parks

New sunshades and restrooms project finished at Abe Raizen & Jess Welch Sports Complex.



Save the date for some family fun at the inaugural Family Fright Night! Truck or Treat will have City of Duncan department vehicles to explore and our team handing out treats, so break out your best Halloween costumes, bring chairs or blankets for popcorn and movie time and celebrate the season with us.

Thank you to our partner, The Palace Theatre, for sponsoring the PG rated( 8+) movie "Casper" (1995).

Please note that the event may be cancelled or rescheduled due to inclement weather.

**Red, White and Boom Celebration** held on July 3rd in celebration of Independence Day in partnership with the Chickasaw Nation.



With **Fuqua Pool** swim season closed for the 2023 season, City of Duncan appreciates the sponsorships provided by Connection Church, New Hope Baptist Church, Farmers Insurance - DeCarlo Agency, Don Jose's, Impact580 Church, Bonnie's Hope, Freedom Biker Church and Bethel Church.

Transportation Alternative Program Public Safety(TAP) grants awarded for Heritage Trails Part B of Phase 1 AND Safe Routes to Schools' engineering design firm met with Public Works.

## Cemetery

Cemetery Clean Up is held every quarter on the second Tuesday in February, May, August, and November.



# Community Development and Library



## Community Development and Code Enforcement

2023 is an exciting year with a strong focus on improving the quality of life for our citizens.

The third quarter of this year saw the completion of a federal grant that assisted 521 households with over \$185,000.00 in utility billing assistance. We recently signed an agreement for a \$228,335.00 matching CDBG Small Cities Grant to be used toward road reconstruction on the south end of Duncan. We are in the process of writing a \$50,000.00 grant and a \$10,000.00 grant for improvements to structures within our existing parks, if awarded.

The Department recently ordered the demolition of 10 residential properties considered detriments to the health and well being of their neighborhoods. Working within the approved 2023 budget, the Department is proposed an additional 15 residential structures be torn down and will take the list to City Council for approval. The demolition efforts not only removed neighborhood blight, but helps to reduce neighborhood crime and help to stabilize property values.

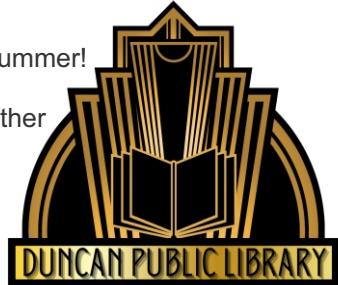
Demolition efforts is only a small portion of our the daily activities. Code Enforcement, as of August 31, wrote 2,003 violations for grass/weeds, trash/debris, inoperable vehicles, and violations to the zoning ordinance. These efforts make Duncan a more attractive environment for future commercial and industrial development. Developers looking to expand into new markets, or existing developments looking to make new investments in the community, quality of life is an important component in their decision-making process. An attractive community, free of litter and other public nuisances has a better chance of catching the attention of new businesses.



2023 has already set records for commercial permits issued, and we are actively trying to recruit new businesses to Duncan. Community Development is also engaging in discussions with several commercial entities looking to develop in several classifications including hospitality, retail and eating and drinking establishments. 2023 looks to be exciting and full of opportunities as we work to highlight Duncan.

## Duncan Public Library

Thanks to you, we had a huge summer!



This year's theme was "All Together Now," which inspired us to have lots of group events and create partnerships with various businesses and nonprofits in town. In June and July, we had 212 programs with

3,546 people attending! These programs included our usuals, like Storytime's and Minecraft, but also included wild events like the Sugar Free Allstars concert, the foam party, library forts, and a really fun field day! Adults even had their own fun with a Bingo night and Cookies and Canvas.

We welcomed 239 new library card holders and circulated a whopping 27,146 items. Thank you for checking out our books, DVDs, video games, cake pans, board games, and more. Signups for the reading challenges totaled 576 people, but you did not have to sign up to get some benefits. About 2,000 scratch-off tickets were redeemed for prizes, free checkouts, free books, and more. Plus, twenty-five teen volunteers worked a total of 1,475 hours helping us with programs and learning job skills!

In other news, the library received several generous donations as well. We received tables, study carrels, and chairs from Cameron University – Duncan. This furniture will be used for decades to come. We also received dozens of boxes of art supplies and hundreds of children's books from Life's Hope, distributed to us by Christina Brook of Ava Lane Designs and the Duncan Public School system. We were able to hand out free books all summer and still have plenty for fall programming. And we will have come-n-go art projects and take-n-make art available all Fall! Thank you!

Start getting hyped for the NEA Big Read and the other local events we will be participating in. If you want us to come to your event and do crafts, Storytime, or a talk, we are always looking for new ways to spread the word about the Library!

Before you move on, remember our Stephens County Genealogy Library. This library branch is specialized and provides access to a vast number of resources to help you

research and preserve your family's history. Whether you need to see an old yearbook, find your ancestry, or transfer an old 8mm movie to a DVD, the genealogy library can help you with your exploration of the past.





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## The "City SPOTLIGHT" logo. It features the word "City" in red inside a yellow circle, and "SPOTLIGHT" in large, bold, blue capital letters inside a dark blue horizontal bar. The background of the entire graphic is a light blue gradient with green and yellow wavy lines at the bottom.

### Are you a residential customer of Duncan Power?

Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, of which Duncan Power is a member, is conducting a survey for customer satisfaction and we hope our residential customers provide feedback that will assist us in building customer satisfaction. This year the annual Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority Customer Service survey will be done online only and not over the phone as in previous years.

To fill out the survey visit  
<https://surveys.greatblueresearch.com/s3/OMPA-2023-Residential-Satisfaction-Survey-Duncan>  
with the deadline being November 1, 2023.

#dunCANtogether



Scan here  
to fill out  
your survey!

