

District 1 News

*A Public Service Communication
From the Office of...*

Logan County Commissioner Mark Sharpton

Volume 1, No. 2

Jan. 2004

An Update From Your Commissioner....

Dear District 1 Residents:

Happy New Year! All of us at District 1 wish you the very best for 2004.

In this newsletter, I'd like to offer an overview of some of our work here at District 1 during the past year and also insight into what we hope to accomplish in coming months. First, however, I thank you for your positive response to the previous newsletter of October 2003. We appreciated those who called to express pleasure at receiving it and to offer valuable feedback.

I hope you can tell a difference in the service we've tried to render throughout the past year. While we do have limited resources and equipment, we try to make the most of it to meet your needs.

First and foremost, we emphasize courtesy and responsiveness. We feel that we are here to serve YOU. We take seriously the concerns of those who call. On occasion, when we are out of the office and you leave a message, we try our best to get back with you and do what we can to satisfy your requests. We appreciate those who take the time to update us about roadway needs, such as missing stop signs or other matters about which we may be unaware. We encourage you to continue to contact us as concerns arise.

The Beginning...

The first accomplishment of 2003 was setting up a functional office in the District 1 shop. As we entered on Jan. 2, a few sticks of furniture, an antiquated fax machine and a map on the wall

were about all we had to work with. We had no information on what additions we were permitted to work in, and no records to rely on for any operations.

We began with the basics, (a broom and mop), and brought in a personal computer and two typewriters just to get up and running. We've now progressed to a fully operational office, complete with internet access and e-mail, and are currently in the process of painting and improving the interior and exterior of the building.

Safety Improvements...

Part of our focus during the past year was to begin clearing right-of-ways. Removing trees and foliage, especially near intersections, has been a priority. Overgrowth on rural roads tends to crowd drivers to the center of the lane, creating safety concerns. County workers have been busy mowing and using chainsaws and a chipper to clear vegetation and improve visibility. This takes time, but we hope you notice gradual improvements.

Sign and Bridge Improvements...

Another focus this year has been to improve signage. Since Jan. 2003, we have placed a total of 96 signs throughout the district, including street, regulatory, and warning signs. In the interest of public safety, and as school districts have provided us information on placement, we have installed 32 highly visible fluorescent yellow/green bus stop signs.

Bridge improvements have also been made, including the new decking on the Charter Oak Bridge, between May and Pennsylvania, and the installation of guard rails and other safety improvements on the bridge at Industrial, between Pennsylvania and Western Avenue.

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Road Maintenance...

Grading, hauling gravel, and patching potholes are also ongoing tasks. As of January 2003, we have distributed 611.1 tons of asphalt, and 6,837.95 tons of rock on various section line roads and in the additions which we are allowed by law to maintain.

Education...

Another area of focus this year has been on education. OSU, through the Center for Local Government Technology, offered a series of classes called "Roads Scholar Courses." This instruction covered such subjects as soil testing, traffic control, aggregate road maintenance, plan reading, equipment maintenance, surveying, welding, chip sealing and a CDL course. District 1 employees have been attending these classes in order to increase their knowledge and improve performance of services to District 1 residents.

Reaching Out...

One of my goals upon entering office in January 2003 was to establish contact with organizations and officials throughout the state who might prove helpful to Logan County.

Progress has been made toward that goal by regular attendance at meetings of the Association of County Commissioners, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, and with other officials in a position to assist the county.

It has been meaningful to meet with members of the Workforce Investment Board, whose decision-making directly affects Logan County Youth and Family Services. We've also had the privilege of becoming acquainted with those locally who oversee the Youth Shelter and the Adult Basic Education Program. Working together benefits us all.

Becoming a Part...

One accomplishment which may directly benefit travelers in Logan County was brought about by a decision of the Commissioners at the Dec. 31 meeting to officially become a member of Circuit Engineering District #5. The CED is a co-op including Logan, Oklahoma, Garvin, Cleveland, Payne and McClain counties. It gets its money from auction proceeds, and the money is used for whatever purpose agreed upon by members of the co-op. District #5 recently used their auction proceeds to purchase a striping machine which can be scheduled for use by all counties in the co-op.

We applaud the decision of the other Logan County Commissioners for their willingness to join the co-op. At CED meetings, I will do my best to represent the interests of the entire county.

What does it cost to pave a road?

Sometimes we receive calls from constituents inquiring about the cost of paving roads. According to our research, it costs approximately \$25,000 to chip-seal a mile, or \$75—\$85,000 to pave a mile, depending on road width.

This cost is in addition to preparing the roadway, and is based on contractor estimates. Unfortunately, District 1 does not have the equipment we need to do all of the work ourselves, so we must rely upon contractors to complete certain tasks.

Our goal, by budgeting, is to gradually save enough from our operation and maintenance fund to purchase the equipment needed to build and improve roads. We are presently in the process of reviewing bids for a new bottom dump trailer and will soon be soliciting bids for a trackhoe excavator. Once obtained, we will do our best to maintain the equipment for long-term use and benefit to the citizens of Logan County.

Funds to Improve Council Road

District 1 has learned that it will receive Industrial Access Funds to pave 1 1/2 miles of Council Road by the ONEOK plant. This includes \$100,000 from the state, and \$68,000 from ONEOK. Work is scheduled to begin in early spring.



Grant Money Denied

In July, 2003, District 1 learned of the availability of Community Development Block Grant reuse funds through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The grant for which we were applying was allowable only for resurfacing existing blacktop.

We did the door-to-door surveying and other work necessary to meet the application guidelines, with a project in mind to resurface Simmons from Broadway to Sooner Rd. We were hopeful until receiving a letter dated December 11, notifying us that our request had been denied.

The letter stated that the Department of Commerce had received one hundred fifty-five applications and was only able to fund forty-two.

We appreciate those of you who responded so courteously to our survey as we worked to apply for this grant. The plus side of this is that the information we gathered will still be useful as we reapply during the regular application cycle.



Question and Answer Column

Q: How long will it take to receive my storm shelter rebate check through the FEMA Storm Shelter Program?

A: Once storm shelter administrator, Clifford Frick, inspects the shelter, we send the paperwork to FEMA. After FEMA processes the request, (which is sometimes delayed) a check is sent to the County.

The Board of Commissioners then approve the check, the county clerk issues individual checks and the commissioners' secretary mails them out.

We estimate the process to take 60-90 days, but this is totally dependent on FEMA. On Jan. 9, we learned FEMA issued Logan County a check for \$235,000. This means many who participated in the program should soon receive their rebate.

Q: Can the county maintain the roads in my addition?

A: District 1 uses a legal advisement from 1997 as a guide for this. It states that subdivisions filed and approved before Sept. 24, 1975, with roads accepted and dedicated for public use, are eligible for county maintenance as time and money allows.

Q: The roads in my subdivision have been accepted as approved. How often will the county perform maintenance on them?

A: District 1 will help with maintenance in the additions as time and money are available. However, there are ways that residents can help. Some Homeowners' Associations collect dues and use the money to purchase materials, such as rock or asphalt. The county then uses its manpower and equipment to haul and spread the material. In fact, according to Title 60, O.S. § 390, citizens may

donate money to the County to be used for purchasing asphalt for a specific portion of a public road. The Board of County Commissioners, however, has the discretion upon how it agrees to accept the donation.



Inmates Provide Help to District 1

Since August 2003, District 1 has been utilizing inmate labor to benefit the county. Under the supervision of District 1 employees, inmates have assisted with a variety of projects, including that of cleaning and painting the interior of the District 1 shop. Over 1000 hours of productive labor have been used this way, at no additional cost to the county.

BUSTED!



On December 30, 2003, District 1 employees working on county roadways caught sight of three individuals tossing large amounts of trash onto Charter Oak Road.

A citizen's arrest was made and a deputy from the Logan County Sheriff's office was dispatched to deal with the situation. Tickets were issued, a court date set, and the offenders ordered to retrieve their trash from the sides of the roadway.

We mention this to remind you that dumping debris along county roads is not just an eyesore. It is also costly, not only in fines, but in time, equipment and in the manpower required to remove the debris. This is time county employees could otherwise have spent improving roads.

**If you spot someone dumping trash,
report the incident to
Logan County Sheriff's office at 282-4100.**

----- Improving Your Road Is a Process! -----

Getting that gravel on your road requires considerable effort. The 1 1/2" crusher run that we use on District 1 roads comes from quarries in either Cushing or Pawnee, and weather plays a big factor in determining which.

When wet weather sets in, the Cushing quarry is often closed. This means our drivers must travel to Pawnee.

The drive time to Pawnee and back is approximately 3

hours compared to the 90 minute round-trip to Cushing. However, it can require a half-day of waiting at Cushing for a 23-ton truckload of rock. The wait in Pawnee is less lengthy.

Our drivers can average 3 loads a day from Cushing or 2 loads a day from Pawnee. While each truck can bring 2 to 3 loads a day to the yard, we can transport 6 loads per day from the yard to a drop site. One load will cover about 230 feet of roadway.

It requires much more time to transport rock to the District 1 shop than to spread it on county roads.

From January of 2003 through December 2003, District 1 delivered 6,837.95 tons of rock, at the cost of \$6.30 per ton from Cushing and \$5.25 per ton from Pawnee. Add in manpower, fuel and equipment maintenance, and you can see rocking county roads is quite a process.

**FAIR BOARD ELECTION
FEBRUARY 4, 2004**

Registered voters in District 1 who wish to vote in the Fair Board Election may do so at the County Courthouse Annex on February 4, 2003, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Courthouse Annex is located at 312 E. Harrison, and is across the street and north of Logan County Courthouse.



"Sooner" Than Expected

The STP (Surface Transportation Program) which would have resurfaced Sooner Road in fiscal year 2006 has officially been moved forward to fiscal year 2005.

The estimated cost for this project, from federal and local funds, is \$450,000, and will cover the cost of resurfacing 5 miles of Sooner Road from Waterloo to Seward.

District 1 is currently awaiting plans from Brawley Engineering in order to begin the work.



Just a reminder about the...

Boundaries of District 1

Logan County is composed of Districts 1, 2, and 3. If you live south of Highway 33, west of I-35, east of County Line Rd., and north of Waterloo Rd., chances are you are a District 1 resident.

There are a few exceptions to this rule, due to last year's redistricting, so if you need clarification, feel free to call our office.

Commissioner Mark Sharpton
Logan County District 1
2315 S.W. 19th
Guthrie, OK 73044
(405) 282-3581

**Get Involved
in YOUR Government in
2004!**

Citizens of Logan County have the opportunity to attend Board of County Commissioners' Meetings. These are held at 10 a.m., three times a month, at the Courthouse Annex, 312 E. Harrison, (across the street and north of Logan County Courthouse) in the Commissioners' Conference Room.

Time is set aside during the first meeting of each month for citizens to be heard. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

January	February	March
Mon. - Jan. 5	Mon. - Feb. 2	Mon. - Mar. 1
Tues. - Jan. 20	Tues. - Feb. 17	Mon. - Mar. 15
Tues. - Jan. 30	Fri. - Feb. 27	Wed. - Mar. 31



County Offices Will Be Closed

Monday, Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King Day
 Monday, Feb. 16 - Presidents' Day

District 1 News... is published by the office of Commissioner Mark Sharpton. Commissioner Sharpton's office is located at 2315 S.W. 19th, Guthrie. An "open door" policy is in effect. Constituents are always welcome to drop by to discuss district concerns, or to call 282-3581 to speak with Mr. Sharpton or staff. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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