

District 1 News

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



Logan County Commissioner Mark Sharpton

Volume 1, No. 1

Oct. 2003

A Letter From Your Commissioner....

I'd like to bring you up to date on progress in District 1. First of all, we have transformed an office with little more than a map on the wall (when I took office in January 2003,) into a functioning system to serve you, the residents of District 1.

One of our primary goals has been to make our office at 2315 S.W. 19th, accessible to the public. By that I mean - we do our best to answer the phone! And when for one reason or another we're out on county business and cannot be here, we're set up to receive your messages through call notes. With time, we hope to enact even more changes (such as e-mail) in order to efficiently meet the needs of District 1 residents.

Another change...

In the past, Logan County has not fully participated in the various entities we rely on for funding. This has been to our detriment. In an effort to learn all I can about how to better assist our county, I have become active in the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, and the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma. These organizations are vehicles for planning and funding. While it requires time and involvement in them to earn respect and to develop a working relationship with officials from around the state, it is time well spent,— time which may ultimately pay off in benefits to you through grants and other county improvement opportunities.

Ongoing Improvements...

In District 1, we are working to improve services to you in a variety of ways. We are busy mowing and clearing right-of-ways, grading and

patching roads, creating bar ditches and posting signs. These and other on-going projects maintain and better the quality of district residents.

If you have yet to see us out your way, don't give up. We are coming as quickly as we can. Though limited in funding and personnel, we will do our best to offer quality service to the hard-working taxpayers of District 1.

With warm regards,

Mark Sharpton

More Railway Improvements Coming Your Way!

Soon after taking office, Commissioner Sharpton followed up on an opportunity to coordinate efforts between District 1, ODOT and BNSF, to improve the safety of crossings at Simpson Rd., Forrest Hills, and Academy.

Improvements at these locations will include pedestal flashing signals with gates, and full-depth concrete surfaces. Railroad and federal funds in the amount of \$750,000 will be used to jointly fund these improvements, tentatively scheduled for 2004.

Residents of District 1 have probably already noticed the improvements BNSF made on railroad crossings at Broadway and Charter Oak. We're pleased that more upgrades are on the way.

STORM SHELTER PROGRAM UPDATE INSIDE

about...

\$ Money Matter\$

According to a 2003 survey of Oklahoma's 77 counties, 68 appear to divide funds equally. This means that in most cases, the three districts in each county receive 33% of available monies. The counties which do not divide money equally usually face special circumstances, such as municipal urban sprawl or Indian Lands.

Some History...

On Nov. 18, 2002, prior to Commissioner Sharpton taking office in January, 2003, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution changing the equal division of monies in Logan County. They voted that 50% would go to District 3, 31.7% would go to District 2, and District 1 would be given a mere 18.3%. As you can imagine, this substantially crippled the ability of District 1 to provide services to its residents. The inequity seemed especially apparent when District 1 received their funds for February and discovered they would be acquiring only \$38,418.76, as opposed to District 2's \$66,550.52 and District 3's \$104,969.28.

An Effort for Equity...

At both the Jan. 6 and 21 Commissioners' meetings, a motion was made by Commissioner Sharpton to seek a return to equal distribution of funds. The Board rejected this proposal, and it was not until Feb. 28, 2003, that funds for District 1 were increased to 28.3%. While this improved the situation for citizens of southwest Logan County, it still fell short of a full return to previous funding.

Now you know...

Coping with the Shortfall...

We share this information so residents of District 1 will better understand the operational handicap which we have faced in providing services, especially at the beginning of the year. However, this handicap has made us look more intently for other forms of funding, including that of grants.

Read on.....

REAP GRANT APPLICATION APPROVED FOR COUNTRY HOME ESTATES



Thanks to the effort of District 1 resident Debbie Houck, in conjunction with the Country Home Estates Homeowners' Association and Commissioner Mark Sharpton, residents of Country Homes Estates should soon benefit from road improvements.

Houck compiled the information required to apply for a Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grant, and was successful in receiving approval for full funding in the amount of \$50,000. District 1 is now in the process of planning the improvements.

and there's more...

In July, District 1 learned of the availability of Community Development Block Grant reuse funds through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. These one-time \$200,000 revitalization grants are for resurfacing existing blacktop.

what we did...

We began a project that, had it been successful, would have resurfaced Western, from Waterloo Rd., 2 and 1/2 miles north. However, after conducting a survey, we found that income levels of residents in that area prevented us from qualifying for the grant.

One of the requirements was that 51% of those who would benefit from the proposed improvement had to be in the low to moderate income range. Survey results left us with a figure of 45%.

what we're doing...

Our next effort, presently underway, is to apply for funds to resurface Simmons, from Broadway to Sooner Rd. We are again conducting a survey to obtain the required information to qualify for this grant.

We appreciate those of you who have responded to our questions by mail or phone regarding income levels and the number of people in your household.

Your cooperation helps us help you!



Storm Shelter Approval Letters Mailed

A Storm Shelter Rebate Program offered by FEMA and implemented in Logan County on June 4, 2003, had over 270 residents in Dist. 1 responding before the cutoff date.

The program allows 166 qualifying applicants per district to obtain a maximum shelter rebate of up to \$1500.

Mailout of approval letters for those who qualified for the program began August 15. Recipients of the letter are required to submit a progress report every 90 days to the Office of County Commissioners, 312 E. Harrison, Guthrie, OK 73044. The report must state your progress toward shelter installation.



Condolences

District 1 employees wish to offer their heartfelt sympathy to the family of former District 1 Commissioner Vance Kellogg, who passed away August 22.

Road Reclassification Sought

District 1 has submitted a request to ODOT to upgrade Western, Santa Fe and Forrest Hills. Should these roads be approved for reclassification, they will receive more aid in case of disaster, and will also be eligible for STP funds that could result in resurfacing.

At present, Western needs resurfacing, with a traffic count averaging 1460 each day. Improving this road would ease traffic on Santa Fe, where an average of 3700 cars a day travel north of Waterloo.

Dispelling the Myth

True or False?

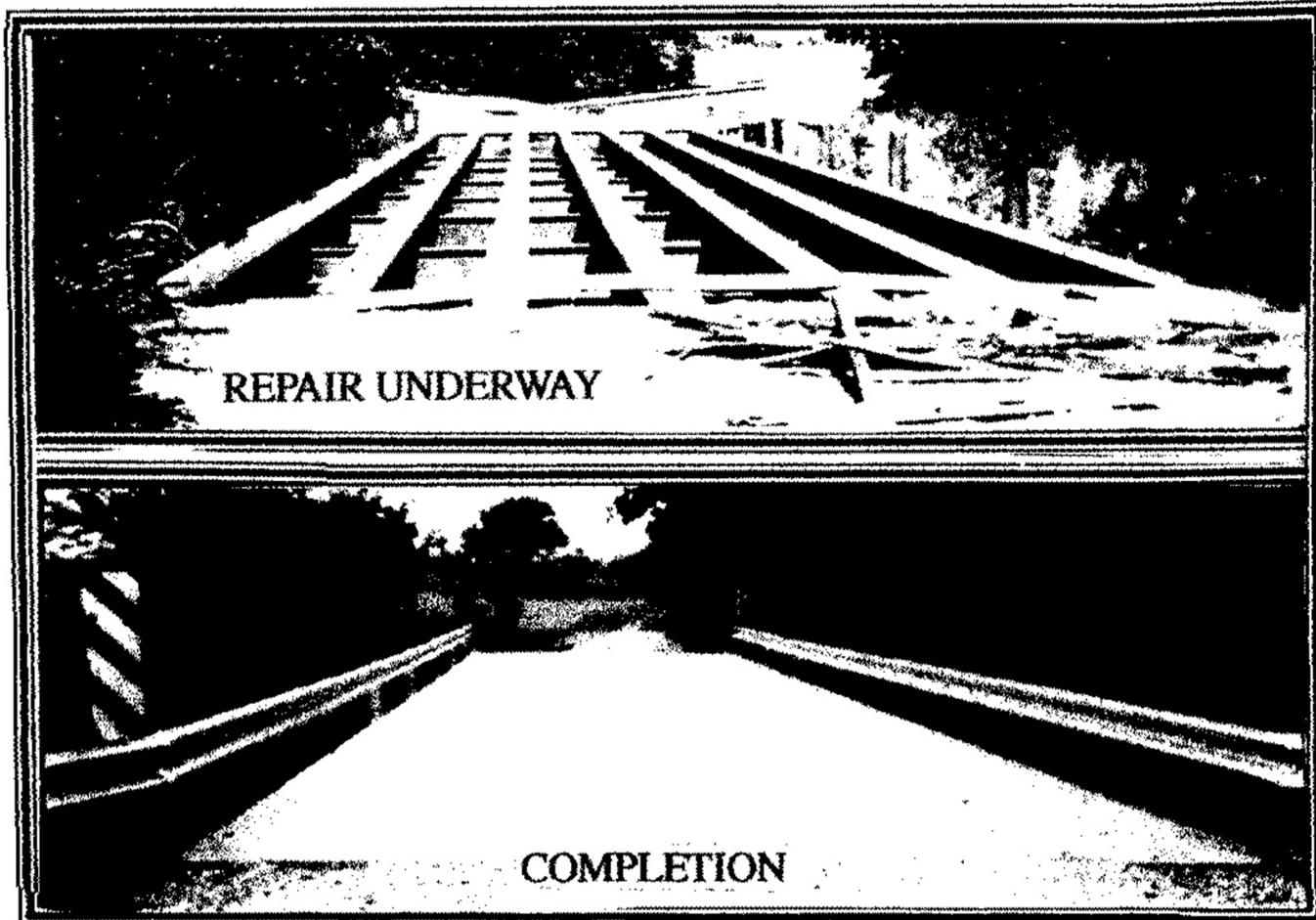
"Where I buy my gasoline determines where my tax money goes."

Answer: False!

Tax credit is returned to the county according to where you REGISTER your vehicle. It does NOT matter where you purchase fuel. Registering your vehicles in Logan County means more tax revenue returned to us for maintaining and improving roads.

BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT

Due to the deterioration of the Charter Oak Bridge, it was closed in July for repairs. The old rotten wooden beams were replaced with steel-reinforced concrete, which should require less maintenance. By doing the work ourselves, District 1 saved thousands of dollars. The bridge reopened in late August.



For Your Information...

Maintenance of Subdivisions

The Logan County Board of Commissioners continue to operate under a legal advisement from 1997 which indicates some subdivisions may be maintained by the county while others may not.

The general rule is...

Any subdivision approved and filed before September 24, 1975, with roads in the addition dedicated to the use of the public, may be maintained by the county. However, maintenance of such roads is dependent upon availability of time and money.

If a platted subdivision was created and recorded after Sept. 24, 1975, and the plat contained a dedication of the streets as public highways, the Board of Commissioners must find that the streets meet established minimum standards for county roads, prior to the streets being accepted for maintenance.

Do You Know 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

**Get Involved
in YOUR Government!**

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:

October	November	December
Mon. - Oct. 6	Mon. - Nov. 3	Mon. - Dec. 1
Mon. - Oct. 20	Mon. - Nov. 17	Mon. - Dec. 15
Fri. - Oct. 31	Wed. - Nov. 26	Wed. - Dec. 31

An attempt was made by Commissioner Sharpton at the August 18 Board of Commissioners' meeting, to institute a 7 p.m., "roving meeting," to be held in each district on a rotating monthly basis, so working people could attend and be involved in county government. Unfortunately, this resolution did not gain approval of the Board.

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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