

District 1 News

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



Logan County Commissioner Mark Sharpton

Volume 2, No. 2

September 2005

Improvements Coming to District 1

Western Avenue To Receive Asphalt Overlay

Due to increased traffic in recent years, the chip and seal surface on Western Avenue has deteriorated. Traffic counts in the area, as of February 2005, average 1576 vehicles per day. Keeping up with needed road repair is a constant challenge.

In an effort to improve the situation, District 1 plans an overlay of asphalt from Waterloo to Simpson Road, at a cost of \$151,500. The improvement is scheduled for early fall of this year.

Preparation for overlay includes marking underground lines, grading shoulders, clearing vegetation and cutting ditches. Deep patch work will also be necessary in a few areas before asphalt is applied.

Your courtesy in driving with caution while work is underway will be appreciated.

Charter Oak Improved Through Citizen/County Cooperation

District 1 was pleased at the recent offer of a citizen to pave one mile of roadway on Charter Oak between Pennsylvania and Western, if the county would assist by preparing the road base. This involved cutting ditches, grading shoulders and clearing

vegetation. Work was slowed by heavy rains, but the county completed its work and paving began on August 26.

We welcome cooperative efforts between the county and its citizens. Gifts to the county are authorized under Oklahoma Statute Title 60, Section 390, and may be tax-deductible.



Sooner Road Project Goes to Bid

Through persistence and planning, improvements to Sooner Road are about to become reality, in spite of a surprising setback.

Initially, we were told the cost for an asphalt overlay on Sooner Road, from Waterloo to Seward, would be \$450,000. This price was projected prior to Commissioner Sharpton taking office in 2003.

You can imagine our dismay when in May, 2005, we received word through ODOT that the cost had increased almost 82% to a whopping \$818,000.

This meant the original paving plan had to be modified to meet our budget.

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Since the average monthly amount we receive for maintenance and operations is \$44,500, major projects like the one on Sooner Road require careful financial planning.

In fact, the Sooner Road improvement would not be possible without \$360,000 from the Federal Highway Administration. This money is distributed to District 1 through the Surface Transportation Program (STP).

What's the outcome?

On August 18, Commissioner Mark Sharpton attended the bid opening for the Sooner Road project at ODOT in Oklahoma City.

Three companies bid on the project, which specified a 2-1/2" asphalt overlay on the south 1/2 of Sooner, and a 3" overlay on the north portion. The bid also specified that one lane of Sooner must remain open to traffic while the project is underway.

The low bid came in at \$679,567. It will now be up to Transportation Commissioners at ODOT to award it.

After that, there are 45 days to issue the work order and sign the contract. The contractor then has 30-45 days to complete the project. Work could be finished by year's end, depending on weather and the contractor's schedule.

**Voters to Decide
State Question 723**

On September 13, voters go to the polls to determine the outcome of State Question 723, which if approved, increases fuel tax.

Those who support the issue say it will provide needed funding for roads and bridges, but specifically, where will the money go if the measure is approved? With the aid of others, we've researched the issue, and here's what we learned.

If SQ 723 is approved, the current 17 cents per gallon gasoline tax will increase to 22 cents over three years. The current 14 cents per gallon diesel tax will increase to 22 cents over four years.

If the tax is approved...

—Tribes will receive an estimated 3.6 million from the increase in gas tax and an estimated 2 million from diesel tax. *Tribes can use the money for anything that has to do with improving roads and bridges, as well as law enforcement, education or health. Other entities, however, are restricted to using the tax for road and bridge use alone.*

—Cities will receive 10% of the gas tax increase, but none of the diesel tax.

In Fiscal Year 2003, cities received 5.4 million. If the tax passes, they will receive an additional estimated 8.6 million, which means a funding increase of 166%.

—Counties will receive 10% of the gas tax increase but none of the diesel. Most counties will receive between \$50,000 and \$179,000 yearly, with the exception of Oklahoma and Tulsa counties, which gain an estimated \$456,000 and \$396,000, respectively.

Logan County would receive approximately \$98,000 during the course of the year, to be divided among the three districts. At this rate, it would require 10 years for each district to build one bridge.

"An organization begins to die the day it begins to be run for the benefit of the insiders and not for the benefit of the outsiders."

—Peter Drucker

Commissioner Meeting Dates

Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Tues. - Sept. 6	Mon. - Oct. 3	Mon. - Nov. 7
Mon. - Sept. 19	Mon. - Oct. 17	Mon. - Nov. 21
Fri. - Sept. 30	Mon. - Oct. 29	Wed. - Nov. 30

The Logan County Board of Commissioners meet in the conference room of the courthouse annex at 312 E. Harrison, Guthrie. Meetings are open to the public.

Those who have an issue to bring before the board may do so during the first meeting of the month when time is offered for citizens to speak. Meetings begin at 10 a.m.



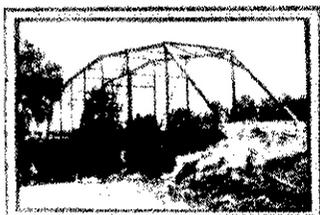
REAP UPGRADES IN PROGRESS

Residents of Timber Lake Estates will soon enjoy a 1-1/4 mile upgrade from gravel to asphalt, courtesy of a \$35,000 REAP grant and additional funding from their Homeowners Association.

May Avenue, a section line road, will receive a 2" asphalt overlay from Whitehouse Road to Highway 33, thanks to \$50,000 of REAP grant money and additional funds from Cedar Valley.

A road project in Davis Glenn Estates, made possible through a REAP grant awarded in 2004, is near completion. The grant provided \$24,891 of gravel for building a road base, which we hope to improve upon in the future.

Academy Bridge Goes to Bid



On the same day that Commissioner Sharpton attended the bid opening for Sooner Road, bids were opened for the replacement of Academy Bridge over the Cottonwood.

Five contractors submitted bids, ranging in price from \$422,692.33 to \$719,286.00.

Transportation Commissioners will award the bid on September 6th. After the work order is issued and the contract is signed, 90-120 days are allowed for project completion.

Contact Numbers for Logan County Officials

District 1 Commissioner Mark Sharpton	282-3581
District 2 Commissioner Kevin Leach	282-3405
District 3 Commissioner Monty Pearcey	969-3388
Election Board Secretary	282-1900
Sheriff	282-4100
County Assessor 282-3509	County Clerk 282-0266
Court Clerk 282-0123	County Treasurer 282-3154

Courthouse Hours

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

Education Corner

Your County Government



1. There are 77 counties in Oklahoma.
2. Counties and county government are created by the Constitution of Oklahoma.
3. All county officials are elected to staggered four-year terms, except for the Election Board Secretary, who is appointed by the local state senator.
4. Counties are made up of the following elected officials:

Commissioners

- governing body of the county
- have direct control over county highway system
- audit accounts of all officers handling county money
- make general financial plans for the county, including the county budget
- audit and approve claims
- issue calls for bond and special elections
- organize and direct "911" services
- approve county payroll
- approve bids
- develop personnel policies
- make appointments to county boards
- sell or purchase public land or buildings for the county
- responsible for improving efficiency of county government

County Assessor

(Has the duty and responsibility to determine the true worth of real and personal property for the purpose of taxation)

County Clerk

(Acts as custodian of records, registrar of deeds and purchasing agent for the county)

County Treasurer

(Acts as tax collector and banker for county)

County Court Clerk

(Maintains all proceedings of the Court of Record in the county)

County Sheriff

(Preserves the peace, suppresses unlawful disturbances, protects life and property)

Coming Your Way...

Social Services Hotline

As a member of ACOG, (the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments), Commissioner Sharpton recently became aware of a service which will soon be available to citizens in the Central Oklahoma region.

The service is...2-1-1

Every day, hundreds of families in Central Oklahoma search for emergency assistance, food and shelter. Many times, they do not know whom or where to call. 2-1-1 has been designated by the FCC as a telephone number to help these families in need.

Using a database of thousands of governmental and community service agencies, trained specialists will help identify the right resource to address a caller's needs.

By the end of 2005, the 2-1-1 system in Central Oklahoma is expected to be on-line.

**Wireless 9-1-1 Vote
Goes to the People**

Informational Update

Counties throughout Oklahoma have been authorized by the governor to hold elections for voter approval of a 50 cent service fee to pay for improvements to the 9-1-1 system.

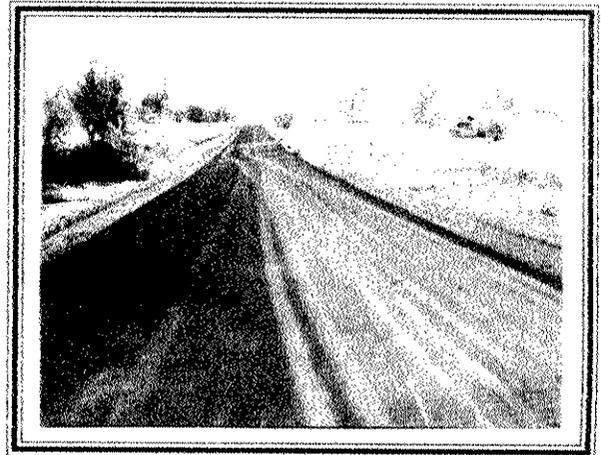
Nearly half of all 9-1-1 calls are made from wireless phones. The problem is, public safety agencies are given no information about the location of the caller. Sometimes, this means

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the difference between life and death.

If voters approve the 50 cents service fee, it will pay for system improvements that locate wireless users when they make an emergency call. 9-1-1 organizers in Central Oklahoma hope to schedule countywide elections in late 2005.

A view of Charter Oak between Pennsylvania and Western, improved through the joint effort of a citizen and District 1. (See page 1).



By year's end, exactly 20-1/4 miles of paving improvements will have been made since Commissioner Sharpton took office in 2003.

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 and visitors are always welcome. To speak with Mr. Sharpton by phone, call 282-3581, or e-mail marksharp@sbglobal.net. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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