NEWS and BRIEFS

October 2019 Edition 350





(L to R) 1st VP Dick Herrin watches as Trustee (Retired Municipal Judge) Gerald R. Hayes swears in new Trustee Mike Love

ASCOG WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE MIKE LOVE

MIKE LOVE, Mayor of Apache, was sworn in as Caddo County's mayoral representative at ASCOG's Board of Trustees' meeting on September 19.



ASCOG will be hosting the 2019 Senior Appreciation Day on October 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Indian Tacos will be served and information bags as well as door prizes will be available. For more information please contact Kris Manriquez by phone at 580.735.7976, by the Senior Information Line at 1.800.211.2116, by email at manr_kr@ascog.org, by fax at 580.252.6170 or by visiting our website at www.ascog.org.

RURAL FIRE NEWS



Hastings VFD has completed building their brush truck and has obtained a completed inspection. They will receive the truck title soon. Amber and Doyle VFD are working on equipment for completion soon. Training has occurred throughout the ASCOG area. Many departments have completed refresher or initial instruction. Money for some of the classes is provided

by a grant from OSFA or legislative monies provided to the Career Technology Centers for training volunteers in their school districts.





ASCOG TOWN ADVISOR SERVICES

Dues-paying members of the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG) are entitled to basic services. This program is designed to fill the needs of communities that need more than basic services including preparing and administering grants, guiding local staff to ensure statutory requirements are being met, strategic planning, asset identification and mapping, bookkeeping, billing, capital improvement planning, etc.

After you determine what you can afford and the level of services you desire, we will provide a program tailor-made for your community.

Why would you need the help of a town advisor?

It costs nothing but a little of your time to discuss what you want and what ASCOG can offer. Your call to us might well prove to be the smartest decision you will ever make - especially when you consider the benefits and reassurance available for those community leaders who do not have the time to cross every "t" and dot every "l" necessary to minimize risks and stave off financial or punitive legal actions for board members and communities. Save money and avoid unnecessary frustrations that come with consent orders from ODEQ, missing funds, or fines.

Setting Town Priorities>>

Too many communities have trouble identifying and prioritizing projects needed to keep their community safe and vibrant prioritization of projects is one of the first steps for grant applications and fiscal planning. Professional services are often based on how large the project is - the bigger the project, the more they get paid. ASCOG staff can help identify alternatives and options that can potentially save your community millions!



Grant Writing and Administration >>>



ASCOG's certified grant writers are well-versed in all the major grant opportunities including REAP (Rural Economic Action Plan), CDBG (Community Development Block Grants), Oklahoma Water Resource Board (OWRB) and USDA-RD (Rural Development). With contacts in several state and federal agencies, we can help you find money for your project including identifying how you can make your grant application more viable.

ASCOG TOWN ADVISOR SERVICES (continued)

Budget and Finance Assistance >>>

With most Mayors and Board members serving as volunteers, BUDGET many communities only have one full-time employee, and that normally is the clerk. We can help assist the clerks in all aspects of budgeting, billing, ordinances and finance assistance. Our staff can be the checks and balances to minimize problems. especially for new clerks.



Assistance for Board Meetings>>>



Beginning with identifying board meeting dates, times, and and filing them with the County Clerk's office to locations preparing agendas, ensuring they are properly posted, to assisting in the Board meetings and being available to assist in answering questions, our Town Advisor staff members can help every step of the way. Guidance on Open Meeting laws and how to conduct meetings can minimize risks for challenges and lawsuits. Tailor-made is the byword. We can do as much or as little as your municipality desires.

TOWN ADVISOR COST ESTIMATION

ANNUAL CONTRACT

\$2,400 annually (\$200 month)

Includes 40 hours of Staff time annually

Time over 40 hours is billed at \$60/hr. (quarter hour billing)

Mileage at the state rates (Right now \$.50/mile)

AS NEEDED

ASCOG staff can provide limited assistance as part of your dues. However, many requests for help require more time than can be provided without additional cost and remain fair to other dues-paying members and have time to do everyday tasks. To be fair to everyone, time-consuming tasks will be \$85/hr. plus mileage at the state rates (Right now \$.50/mile) unless you have an annual contract.

You determine what your budget can afford and how much you need assistance. We can assist by project, by board meeting, or at whatever interval is best for you.

If you are interested in exploring what we can offer. CED contact Tom Zigler, and ASCOG Director **Town** Advisor Coordinator at (580)736-7971 or zigl to@ascog.org.

"There are lot of smaller communities in our area that really need someone to help them with meetings, grants, municipal activities. This is really a great idea." Dick Herrin, Fletcher Mayor



Advertise here



Promote your business! Advertise coming special events! Tell people what you have to offer. Each month our News 'n Briefs are emailed to hundreds of people in our 8-county area. Many are state and local politicians, businesses, and community leaders. The numbers are continually growing since all anyone has to do is to request to be added to our mailing list and provide ASCOG with a working email address.

To help defray the cost of writing and publishing our newsletters, website pages, resource directories and other items, ASCOG is now selling ads to be printed in the News 'n Briefs. Ads start at \$32.50 for a banner. For more information, please contact **KEN JONES** at 580.736.7972 or <u>jone ke@ascog.org</u>. Due to contract limitations, ASCOG cannot accept advertisements from insurance companies or long-term care facilities.

Volunteer Fire Department fundraisers and Community tourism events will continue to be advertised at no cost.

LOVE OUR ELDERLY

Generation after generation we have heard the term "Respect our elders", but each generation is different than the other. The word "Respect" has now got a different meaning to some generations. The meaning of the word "Respect" to some generations seems to mean to just listen but not obey. The true meaning of "Respect" is to honor, to have consideration for. The best meaning of the word "Respect" is admire; have a high opinion of. To admire is to love and to love is to respect.

So not only should we respect our elders, but we should love them as well. Showing our elderly how much we love them can be done in so many ways. There are some elders that do not receive the love from some generations, because some generations are not listening like they should be. Listening to the heart that speaks and understanding it is showing love. Being there for an elderly person and helping them as much as you can is a lot for someone who is unable to do so themselves.

ASCOG Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman Program can help you love our elderly. The Ombudsman Program is a program that assists the elderly in nursing homes, assisted living, and residential care facilities. The Ombudsman Program can help you become an Ombudsman Volunteer in one of the areas needed. Ombudsman Volunteers can change the way that some generations may be thinking, by showing how to love our elderly.

For more information about the Ombudsman Program or how to become an Ombudsman Volunteer, contact the Ombudsman Supervisors Dacia Nix at 580.736.7975 or Kim Rhodes at 580.736.7974 or Senior Info. Line 1.800.211.2116 or write to them at P.O. Box 1647, Duncan, OK. 73534. Ombudsman Supervisors are available to speak to your group or organization upon request. Flexible training schedules are available.



2020 REAP SCHEDULE

November 14 – Applications scored.

December 13 – Awardees announced on ASCOG Website.

State Legislators substantially increased REAP funding for 2020. ASCOG will have \$1,247,047.62 to award from new state funding (\$285,000 more than last year) plus whatever interest has accumulated on funds already allocated and in the bank waiting for project completion plus any deobligated funds from previous projects. This is a Please remember to thank your state legislators for

substantial increase. Please remember to thank your state legislators for continuing to fund REAP that benefits only rural communities and areas! It is the lifeblood for all small communities!

IT IS TIME TO START ON CDBG APPLICATIONS !!!

While the first applications are not due until the end of February, every community having a CDBG eligible project should start preparing now. Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Surveys may be necessary to qualify. If federal funds are to be used for engineering, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process is mandatory. Engineering plans and specs take time so you should be talking to engineers now. Make sure that you have



your Audit completed if you plan to apply for a CDBG grant. If you have questions or need help, please contact Tom Zigler (580) 736-7971 or Mike Dixon (580) 736-7965.

Census 2020

2020 CENSUS - GET 'EM COUNTED!

Every community should be communicating with their residents about the upcoming census. An accurate count is vital for each community because it helps determine where to locate schools, day-care centers, roads, public

transportation, hospitals, and other facilities. Census information is used to determine grant eligibility criteria as well as determining the numbers for how many seats Oklahoma will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is used to determine what has to be done for redistricting of state legislators, county and city officials as well as voting districts. Each community should consider adopting a proclamation of commitment for a 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT! Be sure your community receives all of the benefits it deserves by encouraging everyone to provide accurate information to the census workers. If you

to provide accurate information to the census workers. If you would like a draft copy of a proclamation, please contact **KEN JONES** at jone_ke@ascog.org or **TOM ZIGLER** at zigl_to@ascog.org.



REPORTING ABUSE IN NURSING HOMES AND CARE FACILITIES FOR THE AGING

Unfortunately, most people have no idea how to respond when they learn of abuse occurring in a long term care facility. This article is intended to provide advice on what actions need to occur to properly protect our elderly and to prevent recurring incidents

Oklahoma laws require you to report suspected potential abuse, neglect or exploitation of nursing home residents once you become aware of it. You are required to report this information to Adult Protective Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, or to local law enforcement if you have reason to believe abuse has occurred. One phone call and you are covered. Once you have done this, you have fulfilled the minimal action required by the law. However, moral compunction requires more.

- 1. Call Adult Protective Services AND local law enforcement. Calling one or the other may not be enough to ensure proper follow-through is taken. APS' job is to protect vulnerable adults, investigate complaints and report their findings to district attorneys. As of six months ago, there were only four APS Nursing Home (Long-Term Care) investigators in the entire state of Oklahoma. Neither local law enforcement agencies nor DHS' Adult Protective Services (APS) receive sufficient funding to fully investigate every reported abuse. Reporting to both agencies is not only reasonable, it often results in more thorough investigations since the load can be shared.
- 2. Call the nursing home administrator. Believe it or not, most nursing home administrators care deeply about their residents, but they cannot be aware of everything that goes on in their nursing homes. Call them. Tell them you already called APS and local law enforcement as required by law, but you want them to know about it so they can take care of it right away. Follow-up with the nursing home administrators. While APS and local law enforcement cannot tell you about an ongoing investigation, nursing home administrators are at liberty to share most of the actions they take to address your complaint. While they may not be able to release details of personnel actions, they are often able to address your concerns and protect their residents. By the way, nursing home administrators are mandatory reporters, too. Upon hearing your report, they must immediately turn around and report your allegations to Adult Protective Services and local law enforcement. They are also responsible for the care and safety of residents in their facilities.
- 3. Call the Oklahoma Department of Health Long-Term Care Service. The Long-Term Care Service "oversees the health and safety of residents living in licensed long-term care facilities." (https://www.ok.gov/health/Protective Health/Long Term Care Service/). They are responsible for licensure of nursing homes

REPORTING ABUSE IN NURSING HOMES AND CARE FACILITIES FOR THE AGING (Continued from Previous Page)

and conduct annual surveys to ensure compliance with state law and Health Department policies. They conduct complaint investigations. They conduct follow -up visits to ensure corrections to compliance related deficiencies. They conduct provider trainings for nursing home staff. They are responsible of the regulatory oversight of long-term care facilities.

- 4. Call the ASCOG Area Agency on Aging and ask to speak to an Ombudsman Supervisor to report the allegations. AAA Ombudsmen report to the Office of the State Ombudsman through a separate division of DHS. They are responsible for advocating, stopping abuse of, and empowering residents of long-term care facilities. They can be invaluable guides to you in directing you on whom to call and report your concerns. While they can investigate complaints, their main role is to represent and advocate for the resident.
- 5. Call the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office. Charging Medicaid to treat a resident while at the same time abusing the resident is considered Medicaid Fraud. This special unit "utilizes a team-based approach to identify, investigate and prosecute Medicaid Fraud, abuse, neglect and exploitation of patients committed by...health care facilities." (http://www.oag.ok.gov/medicaid-fraud-unit) That is their job.
- 6. Last but not least, advocate. Advocate for new policies to streamline the process of filing complaints so that multiple agencies can immediately be informed and act. Advocate for the right amount of funding for Adult Protective Services to investigate all cases of abuse in long-term care facilities in a timely manner. Advocate for more funding for local law enforcement to address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Advocate for the right amount of funding for long-term care facilities to always adequately staff their facilities. Together we can make a difference.

Here are a few helpful numbers:

Oklahoma Adult Protective Services – Look up local DHS office number here or call 800.522.3511 or 405.521.3660. You can also complete a public intake form here.

Local law enforcement – 911 for those at imminent risk of harm or look up nonemergency numbers in your local phone directory.

Long-Term Care Service of the Oklahoma Department of Health – 405.271.6868 or Itc@health.ok.gov.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman – search for local ombudsman supervisors here or call State Ombudsman at 405.521.6734.

Oklahoma Attorney General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit – 405.522.2963 or complete online form here.



MONARCH WATCH AT HACKBERRY FLAT CENTER October 1-7, 2019 22468 CR EW 189 Frederick (405) 990-4977

Celebrate the incredible migration of the monarch butterfly during Hackberry Flat Center's Monarch Butterfly Watch.

Held the first week in October, this family-friendly and free event features a short discussion of butterfly basics and tagging during the morning activities. Evening activities includes a tour to watch the butterflies come to roost in a stand of soapberry trees. Children must be at least 8 years old to participate in the evening tour. Please check on the daily status of the monarch migration on the Friends of Hackberry Flat Facebook page before traveling to event.

A Wildlife Conservation Passport is not necessary for this event, but participants are encouraged to call ahead to check the migration progress and bring a collapsible chair and light jacket for comfort for the evening activities.

Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area offers over 7,000 acres of wildlife recreational opportunities. This legendary wetland features a vast mosaic of habitats for prairie waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent birds. Upland areas of native sunflowers, mesquite stands and cultivated fields have all come together to create a favorite dove-hunting destination in the state.



WALTERS CAR CRUZ & CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE October 5, 2019 116 N Broadway Street Walters (580) 875-3335

Each October, Walters welcomes fall with its annual Car Cruz & City-Wide Garage Sales.

Clean out your closets in advance, and come peruse others' discarded treasures. This family-friendly festival also features plenty of kid-oriented fun, from the bounce house to games. Guests are also invited to view tricked out rides on display at the car show before watching the town's queen crowning ceremony. Attend the Walters Car Cruz & City-Wide Garage Sales, and usher in fall via family-friendly fun.



BUGLING ELK TOURS

October 5,6,12,13,19 & , 2019 Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge & Visitor's Center (580) 429-2197

Take a guided tour of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge & Visitor's Center in the hopes of spotting a bugling elk during the height of the elk mating season. Tour participants will meet their guide at the Lawton refuge's Visitor Center

before loading up on the bus. During this special three-hour tour, visitors can look out for bull elks making high-pitched bugling sounds in bursts of aggression and frustration. Guests may also witness bison, white-tailed deer and wild turkey from their tour bus seats. To book a reservation on a September or October tour, call the Visitor Center. Reservations are limited and are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

SPIRIT OF SURVIVAL

October 5-6, 2019 Elmer Thomas Park Lawton (580) 536-2121

Gather your friends and family to participate in an exciting weekend during the Spirit of Survival event in Lawton. This two -day racing extravaganza supports cancer victims and their families throughout southwest Oklahoma. On Saturday, join bicycle tours of varying lengths through the towns of Elgin, Fletcher, Cyril and Sterling. Sunday's events include a USA



Track & Field-certified half marathon, quarter marathon, 5K, kids' marathon and a one-mile spirit walk. Challenge yourself to a race and make memories during this inspiring weekend.



MEDICINE PARK FLUTE FESTIVAL AND ART WALK

October 12-13, 2019 Medicine Park (580) 529-2825

The Medicine Park Flute Festival is a two-day event held to celebrate Native American flute music. On Saturday from 10am-6pm, check out

the works of talented local and regional artists in a juried art show. Throughout the weekend, enjoy live performances by flute players, browse arts and crafts vendor booths and handmade instruments on display, and spend some time exploring Medicine Park.



KIOWA BLACK LEGGINGSWARRIOR SOCIETY CEREMONIAL

October 12-13, 2019
Indian City Ceremonial
Campgrounds
Anadarko (405) 247-8896

The annual Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society Ceremonial honors those who are currently serving or have served in the military. Held on the grounds of Indian City

USA in Anadarko, this American Indian event includes ceremonial dance festivities like traditional dancing, a presentation of colors and the singing of a war mother's song. The Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society, known as the Ton-Kon-Gah, was established many generations ago to honor veterans. This historic event dates back to over 200 years ago.

There are multiple theories as to how the Kiowa Black Leggings received their name. Some conclude that it was the dust from trails that caused their legs to turn black, while others say their legs became blackened while running back into battle after an enemy force blackened the surrounding area with fire to repel an attack. The name Black Leggings stuck, and the society became one of the best horse-mounted forces on the plains.

Today, society members wear authentic regalia that includes a black string shawl on the waist, a red cape draped over the shoulders, a decorated lance or spear and black paint or leggings used to darken the legs from the knees down. The adornment each member chooses to place on their lance represents their individual military experience.

Come to the Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society Ceremonial to witness traditional events including a special dance that re-enacts an early 1800s battle. During the dance, visitors to this event will see pistol and rifle fire, war hoops, raised lances and the beating of ceremonial drums.

Visitors to the ceremony will also enjoy keynote speakers and a free lunch at noon each day of the event. Videotaping is not allowed at the event, and although photography is allowed, permission must be obtained first.



FESTIVAL OF THE WICHITAS

October 12, 2019 19792 NW Cache Road, Cache (580) 429-3940

Gather the family and head to Cache for the Festival of the Wichitas this October. Throughout the day you can participate in free hayrides, a petting zoo, pumpkin patch, face painting and

more. Watch as your little ones play in the corn pit and bounce houses. Stroll through craft fair booths and grab an Indian taco from food trucks on-site. Slow down and relax with lawn games, live music and more fun for the entire family during the Festival of the Wichitas.



Annual Fundraiser and Taco Dinner

Where: Hulen Fire Department When: Sunday October 13th 11 to 3pm



Raffle for a Del-Ton DT-15 Caliber 5.56 Tickets:\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00 Donated By: Ares State Armory



COMANCHE FALL FEST October 12, 2019

Main Street Comanche (580) 351-8426

The annual Comanche Fall Fest is the perfect place to celebrate the fall season with fun, family-friendly activities. Children can participate in many games and activities while adults can check out the many different crafts

and vendor booths. There will also be live entertainment from local musicians and a Turkey calling contest for youth and adults alike. There will also be a corn hole tournament. Find all of this and more at the Comanche Fall Fest.

PRCA PRAIRIE CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO

October 17-19, 2019 Stephens County Expo Center Duncan (580) 656-3701

Visit Duncan's Stephens County Expo Center for endless action at the PRCA Prairie Circuit Finals Rodeo. Watch as the top cowboys and cowgirls from Oklahoma,



Kansas and Nebraska compete for top honors in events like bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling, team roping, tie-down roping and bull riding. This fun, three-day event will also feature vendors offering unique clothing, gift items, saddles, tack and more.



OK FREEWHEEL FANDANGO

October 18-20, 2019 The Plantation Hotel Medicine Park (918) 344-5987

OK Freewheel Fandango is a three-day bicycle event in Medicine Park that is packed full of adventure, food and fun. This exciting event features two gravel and road loop options per day that average 30-50 miles. There is also free access to the mountain bike trail around Medicine Park and the

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy a relaxing weekend of riding at your own pace through beautiful scenery in southwest Oklahoma.



STREET ROD, MUSCLE CAR & CLASSIC CAR SHOW

October 19, 2019 143 E. Lake Dr. Medicine Park (580) 529-6262

Gather at the Old Plantation Restaurant in Medicine Park for the annual Street Rod, Muscle Car & Classic Car Show. Car aficionados will bring their best rides by in the hopes of taking home the Best of Show car and truck titles. As a spectator and tricked out car fan, come on by and cast your vote for top car to help judges award the People's Choice title. Motorcycles can also compete along with muscle cars and street rods at this car and motorcycle event.

FAMILY FALL FEST October 25, 2019 Simmons Center Duncan (580) 252-2900

Duncan's Family Fall Fest beckons visitors with outstanding autumn festivities for the entire family. From spooky to friendly, this celebration has something for everyone. Kick



off the entertainment at 5pm with the fall carnival featuring games, rides, inflatables and food vendors boasting all your favorite fair foods. Afterwards, view or participate in a fun-filled costume contest. Winners will receive cash prizes, so dress to impress. Top it all off with a trip through the haunted house. Enter if you dare and prepare to be scared by whatever may jump out at you during your stroll through the spooky home.

Bark in the Park

BARK IN THE PARK October 26, 2019 Fuqua Park Duncan (580) 641-0067

Come join Stephens County Humane Society for a tailwagging good time at Bark in the Park, a pet and family-friendly event held at Fuqua Park in Duncan.

You and your pet will have a doggone good time with obstacle courses, pet photos and more. This fun-filled event features many pet contests including owner look-a-like, longest tail, best trick, best bark and best costume. Wiener Bobbing and Weenie Dog Races are local favorites along with a Strut Your Mutt pledge walk and even a Cutest Cat Photo Contest. All contest winners will receive fantastic prizes, so bring your family and furry friends to Bark in the Park.

Be sure to stop by the check-in table to receive a goodie bag filled with petrelated items. Grab a snack from the on-site concession and check out demonstrations, a bark boutique and a meow mart at this pet-friendly festival. The Humane Society will also have several dogs on site available for adoption and although the event is free, donations of \$5 or more will be accepted.



BOO REVIEW ON MAIN STREET

October 26, 2019
Main Street
Duncan (580) 252-8696

Bring your little ones to the Boo Review in Duncan, a Halloween celebration featuring a children's costume contest, fun activities and plenty of treats. Boo Review invites children

to cruise Main Street, partake in age-appropriate programs and collect candy in a safe environment. Line up at the Palace Theatre to sign up for the costume competition with a wide range of categories, or watch the festivities and follow the crowd down Main Street. This event will also feature a pumpkin carving contest, bounce houses, a haunted house and music.

DUNCAN ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW October 31-November 2, 2019 Stephens County Fair & Expo Center Duncan (580) 255-3231

Enjoy a whole weekend of handmade wares at the Duncan Arts and Crafts Show. Centered at the Stephens County Fair and Expo Center, this one of a kind arts and crafts show spotlights local and regional



crafts people. Not just anyone can sell their wares at this show, in order to exhibit, most of a vendor's product line has to be handmade. Come early and stay late, handcrafted door prizes will be given out all day.



SAFE STREETS TRICK-OR-TREAT

October 31, 2019 Main Street, Anadarko (405) 247-8231

Celebrate Halloween in a fun, familyfriendly environment during Safe Street Trick-or-Treat in downtown Anadarko. Bring out your little ghouls and gremlins to Main

Street for trick-or-treating adventures at local businesses. Participating businesses will have pumpkins displayed in front of their doors. Take advantage of this great opportunity to connect with the Anadarko community while enjoying a safe Halloween experience for children.

WISDOM QUOTES

- 1. You can do anything, but not everything.
- 2. Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.
- 3. The richest man is not he who has the most, but he who needs the least.
- 4. You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take.
- 5. Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear.

This Halloween Season,

Trick or Treat Word for little ones in the street II

