

ASCOG OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Due to COVID-19 concerns, ASCOG's office will be closed to the public until further notice. We will still be working, so please call us if you need anything. Our main number is (580) 252-0595 or toll free (800) 211-2116. The Senior Information Line is (580) 736-7036 or toll free, (800) 211-2116. Please be patient with our response time as we are receiving a higher than normal volume of calls due to the novel coronavirus.

HOW EXPENSIVE CAN \$1,675.00 BE?

United States
**Census
2020**



No one would want to forfeit that much money each year unnecessarily. Right? Try multiplying that number by 10. Every person not counted in your community will cause a loss of approximately \$16,750 over 10 years (if not longer) in potential federal funding and grants. Just a 5% undercount in Comanche County alone (6,205 people) over 10 years will potentially cost the county \$247,327,314.00 - yes, that's more than \$247 million! You do the math! These funding dollars are crucial to Oklahoma's rural communities! Please join ASCOG in making every person count.

Blaine H. Smith, Jr. Re-Appointed as Director of South Central Oklahoma Community Development Foundation

The South Central Oklahoma Community Development Foundation owns the buildings ASCOG occupies at 802 and 804 W Main in Duncan. The Foundation has three directors who are appointed to their positions by ASCOG's Board of Trustees on rotating three-year terms. One position is due for re-appointment annually. Blaine H. Smith, Jr. will be re-appointed this year as one of the directors. Officers of the Foundation are: **J. R. Gibson**, president, **Ray Friedl**, vice president, and **Blaine H. Smith, Jr.**, secretary.





2019 REAP COMPLETION DEADLINE NEARS

All 2019 REAP contract recipients have three months to spend your REAP funds. The deadline is June 30, 2020. If you are having difficulty in completing your project or if you have any questions, please contact **Tom Zigler** (580) 736-7971 or e-mail ziglto@ascoq.org.

CDBG WATER/WASTEWATER CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 1, 2020

If you are planning to apply for a water and wastewater construction or engineering grant, please contact, **Tom Zigler** (580) 736-7971, **Shannon Yarbrough** (580) 736-7965 or **Ron Peel** (580) 736-7024 by March 13, 2020.



HUD and ODOC rules mandate NO application will be considered unless it includes a copy of the completed FY 2019 Audit or Agreed Upon Procedures.



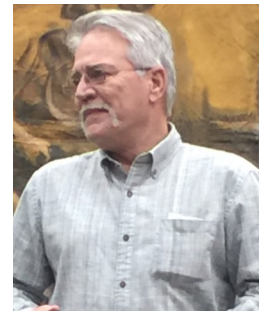
APRIL IS
FAIR HOUSING
MONTH

Just a reminder - Fair Housing is a law. HUD and ODOC requires all local governments to enact annual resolutions every April supporting Fair Housing whether you have an open CDBG or not. Make sure your local government body is in compliance.



OPERATIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS DUE

Time is running out for fire departments to turn in their run reports, complete the re-certification grant form, and finalize their contract with forestry. Please contact **Perry Brinegar** at brinpe@ascoq.org or (580) 736-7023 if you need assistance. Don't delay or jeopardize your operational funds. Let's "git'r done."



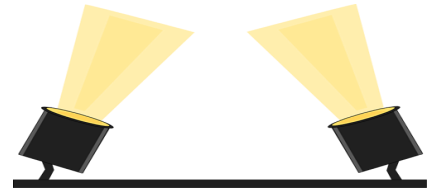
SENIOR MEDICATION SAFETY

Expired, outdated, or unnecessary medicines kept after switching drugs or at the end of treatment can pose health and safety risks for seniors and their family members. ASCOG Area Agency on Aging has FREE medication disposal packets to safely dispose of medicine in household trash. Medicines should never be flushed down the toilet, regardless of city sewer or a private septic tank. Seniors who are concerned with the safety of sensitive medicines can also sign up to receive a FREE medication lockbox. These boxes are 12" by 9" by 6" and can offer peace of mind when young grandchildren visit or while seniors are away from home. We can also assist you in finding local resources like pharmacies or sheriff offices that will take back large quantities of medicines if needed. Contact the AAA office at (580) 736-7036.



REAP PROJECT SPOTLIGHT FALLS ON THE TOWN OF DAVIDSON

(History of Davidson comes from Oklahoma Historical Society Website.)



Originally called *Texowa*, the town of Davidson is located at the junction of U.S. Highways 70 and 183 in southwestern Tillman County. This area was opened for homesteading by a lottery held in 1901. That year the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway began construction from Texas north across the Red River into Davidson. On June 20, 1903, the name was changed to Davidson, honoring A. J. Davidson, a railroad director from St. Louis, Missouri.

One of Davidson's notable features was a long, wooden bridge that spanned the Red River. Completed in 1924, the structure was damaged by floodwaters in 1934 and destroyed by fire in 1936. A concrete bridge completed in 1939 served until a new one was constructed in the 1990s.

The town's population peaked at 572 in 1930. At one time five cotton gins and three grain elevators operated. As automobiles made traveling easier, the lure of larger towns became the downfall of many Davidson businesses as well as the decline in population. Rail service was discontinued in the 1980s. The 2010 census counted 315 in Davidson.

Like many rural communities throughout Oklahoma, Davidson officials struggle to keep their infrastructure in good repair. The old fire hydrants no longer worked, and something had to be done to provide better protection to its citizens. Davidson town officials decided to apply for a 2019 REAP grant to fund new hydrants throughout town as well as the addition of two strategically placed shutoff valves to ensure the whole town would not be without water when needed repairs were made. The pictures below show some of the new hydrants that were installed with REAP funding. Congratulations to the citizens of Davidson! Please remember to thank your rural legislators who continue to ensure REAP funding continues. REAP funding truly is the lifeline for some communities' existence.



CORNER OF
GRAND & VINE
STREETS



CORNER OF
C.R. 191 & ELM STREET



CORNER OF
GRAND & EAST
STREETS

ASCOG UPDATING FOUR YEAR AREA PLAN ON AGING

Area Plans are viewable public documents found on AAA's websites. These documents detail how Title III services will be accessed and distributed throughout the service areas.

The plan addresses four goals:

- Goal 1: Support availability, flexibility and sustainability of Older Americans Programs.
- Goal 2: Expand, enhance, and ensure the sustainability of gap-filling respite services to Oklahoma family caregivers across the lifespan and disability spectrum.
- Goal 3: Support a person-centered approach to outreach services to meet individual and diverse needs.
- Goal 4: Ensure the rights of older Oklahomans are respected and prevent their abuse, neglect and exploitation.

If you would like to provide input into our area plan, please contact AAA Planner, **Jazmin Shipley** at ship_ja@ascog.org or (580) 736-7029.



There has always been the old saying “April showers bring May flowers.” When this statement is repeated, it seems to bring a smile to people’s faces. This statement has been used for many years and has been used by our elders for so long that most of them live by it. Our elders have experienced many different statements throughout their lives and live by them. When talking to our elders about things and statements that were made while they were growing up, it makes them smile inside and out.

Since we are coming to the end of April and starting a new month, let’s end April showers and bring May flowers to our elders by spending a couple of hours with them. By spending time with our elders that are in the nursing home you can brighten their lives and yours too. Those that are in the nursing home would always love to have company from people out in the community. Seeing a warm, loving and caring face from someone can always bring a smile to a person’s face.

To learn more about how to bring a smile to our elders that are in the nursing home by reminiscing old statements like “April showers bring May flowers” or to just visit with them for a couple of hours become an Ombudsman Volunteer. Ombudsman Supervisors are always looking for Ombudsman Volunteers. To learn more on how to help others or becoming an Ombudsman Volunteer, contact **David Sexton** or **Malcom Hutchinson** at ASCOG Area Agency on Aging at (580) 736-7036 or Senior Information Line (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 to become an Ombudsman Volunteer.

EVENT ADVERTISEMENTS MISSING IN NEWSLETTER

Everyone undoubtedly knows by now, most area planned events have been canceled, postponed, or re-scheduled. Please check with event organizers before traveling to any activities in the near future. ASCOG encourages everyone to use common sense and take every reasonable precaution. We hope for a rapid resolution to the health crisis gripping most of the world and changing how day-to-day business and activities occur. When things stabilize, we will start including news of activities in our area. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

"When something bad happens you have three choices, you can let it define you, let it destroy you, or you can let it strengthen you."

THIS TOO WILL PASS!

Quotesaday.com