

NEWS N' BRIEFS

Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Spotlights the Town of Devol

The **Town of Devol** requested \$40,500 for a total sewer main replacement and repair. The total cost was \$35,000. With the balance they were able to clean the rest of their sewer lines.



(Before)



(During)



(During)



(After)

Please remember to thank your legislators for their continued support of the REAP program. Funding for projects like this would be difficult, if not impossible, for small communities. The result would likely result in Consent Order and or Fines until repaired.

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Public Safety Update

80/20 grants have been turned into forestry for approval, hopefully will know by mid-October. Equipment is coming into forestry at this time but is still limited. Should you need please call so you can be on the list (rotation) for available equipment. Truck builds are continuing when time allows for the departments, but the time frame is still there. Please call the rural fire coordinator office for an extension or an update. Operational funding should have been deposited into the accounts for the cities, towns or departments. Should you not show a deposit, please contact please call or email **Perry Brinegar** at 580.736-7023 or brin_pe@ascog.org.



ASCOG Employment Opportunities

ASCOG is hiring for an [Area Agency on Aging Planner](#) as well as a [Regional Disaster Economic Recovery Coordinator](#). Interested parties can apply online - <http://www.ascog.org/employment-opportunities/>.



ASCOG Receives EDA Grant to Help Local Impacted Communities

Deal with COVID-19

ASCOG received a grant from the Economic Development Administration to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic or respond to economic injury as a result of coronavirus. Our Community and Economic Development planners are ready to help find economic development grant-eligible projects with state and federal resources for locally- impacted communities to ensure our communities take full advantage of available funding opportunities. To learn more, contact one of the following planners: for Caddo, Comanche, and Cotton counties – **Shannon Yarbrough** at 580.736.7965; for Jefferson, Grady, and McClain counties – **Ronald Peel** at 580.736.7024; for Stephens and Tillman Counties – **Danielle Carpenter** at 580.736.7969.



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Medicare Open Enrollment Begins

The AAA is gearing up for Medicare Open Enrollment which runs from October 15th through December 7th yearly. This is expected to be an interesting year as we will be practicing social distancing and following CDC guidelines for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response per ASCOG policy. We are conducting public education campaigns and will be



engaging the Older Americans in our service area in ways which will keep both our clients and our staff safe and healthy in all our programs at this time. The AAA has been awarded a contract from the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority for the “Living Choice” program which will assist seniors who are currently in long term care facilities to live independently with support in our communities and allow them to age in place with dignity. For more information on our programs including Caregiver and

Respite Programs, Certified Medicare Counselors, Information and Assistance, Living Choice, Ombudsman, Outreach, Senior Nutrition and much more please contact **Kristina Manriquez**, by phone 580.736.7976 or by email at manr_kr@ascog.org.

COVID 19 Scams and Healthcare Fraud -- Self Defense Tips

Do not give out your Medicare number, social security number or other personal information in response to unsolicited emails, calls, texts, home visits or booths at health fairs

- Know that Medicare will never call you for your Medicare # or Social Security #
- Beware of door-to-door solicitors, robocalls selling virus test kits, supplies, vaccines or treatments
- Watch out for fraudulent cures, therapies - Check with www.ftc.gov
- Ignore offers for vaccines and scam “contact tracing” calls
- Be cautious when ordering medical supplies
- Do not give your Medicare # to strangers
- Refuse equipment, supplies received from unknown sources
- Beware of telemarketers selling health plans

Check out the videos on <https://www.oid.ok.gov/consumers/events/hoodwinked/or> call the ASCOG Medicare Assistance Program at 580.736.7036 for assistance.



KEEP CALM and Avoid Coronavirus Scams

Here are **5 things** you can do to avoid a Coronavirus scam:

- **Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits.**
Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.
- **Hang up on robocalls.**
Scammers use illegal sales call to get your money and your personal information.
- **Watch out for phishing emails and text messages.**
Don't click on links in emails or texts you didn't expect.
- **Research before you donate.**
Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. Get tips on donating wisely at ftc.gov/charity.
- **Stay in the know.**
Go to ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams for the latest information on scams. Sign up to get FTC's alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.

 Federal Trade Commission

If you see a scam, report it to ftc.gov/complaint