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First American Mortgage Ribbon Cutting

Owner Dale Bogle holds the scissors for a Yukon Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at the new First American Mortgage office, 1501 S Ranchwood. First American Mortgage's new 9,000 square foot office is located on a 1.4 acre lot at the southeast corner of the Legacy Lakes Addition. The thriving mortgage company had outgrown its previous location.

Revenue

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marked for capital improvement programs and city employee salaries.

"This month, we had our first sales tax collection in our TIF (tax increment financing) district," City Manager Grayson Bottom said at Tuesday night's City Council meeting. "It amounted to about \$30.

"We're very pleased to get that process started in our TIF district. Certainly, we anticipate those collections to be up (moving forward)."

Ward 4 City Council Member Mike McEachern asked the city manager, "Where are you going to put that 30 bucks?"

To which Bottom quickly replied, "I'm sure we can find a place."

On a more serious note, Councilman McEachern added, "It's also very pleasing to me so see the district

has now started. Some of the building is going on there. Of course, we're anticipating that's going to be something very important to the future of Yukon."

TIF districts allow communities or areas to finance development through the sale of revenue bonds.

Projects are funded based on anticipated increased revenue generated by the development.

The revenue stream to support the City of Yukon's bond issue will be sales tax from a substantial mixed-use commercial development.

The City Council created its new TIF district to fund a new Interstate 40 interchange at Frisco Road and to widen Frisco Road from Highway 66 to N.W. 10th.

These improvements will serve the anticipated major development on a 170-acre property south of I-40 west of Integris Canadian Valley

Hospital to Frisco Road.

More than one million square feet is expected to be developed on the site, including some 750,000 square feet of retail space.

Cities receive sales tax collections from the state Tax Commission two months after retailers report their sales.

Yukon's use tax collections actually were down 73.54% this month compared to the same reporting period a year ago.

Use tax is paid in lieu of sales tax, generally for Internet and catalog sales.

"The volatility in use tax collections is the very reason why we do not try to budget any increase or decrease in use tax," Bottom said. "Last month, it was up 43 percent; this month it's down 73 percent."

The City has started the new fiscal year "a little above" a five-year trend of growth in sales tax collections, the city manager added.

City

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Services staff.

"We are out of space."

After vendors submitted remodel bids, City officials selected Carpet Direct for carpeting (\$8,903), Lopez Construction for construction alterations (\$5,400), Honor HVAC for duct work and grills (\$1,100), Keef Enterprises for a five-ton heat and air unit (\$4,421), Lopez Construction for painting (\$5,700), Brakefield Plumbing for plumbing (\$1,695), and OKC Office Furniture for office furniture (\$5,900).

City staff will provide electrical work (\$6,500) and information technology services (\$11,615).

"Within two months we could be in the building, with what needs to be done," Yukon Development Services Director Mitch Hort advised City Council members.

Parking is quite limited for the City's Development Services Department at 10 S 5th, the former Lingo Con-

struction Building.

"We only have four or five spaces there that we share with the adjoining property owners; it's been a hassle for people to come in and out," Hort said. "We need a place where the contractors can bring their backhoes with them and their trailers with them."

The 334 Elm site, in Old Mill Plaza, will provide ample parking for both City staff and contractors.

The building will offer ample space for the department's code enforcement officers, inspectors and other personnel; and allow the stormwater department and city's grant writer to be in the same office.

With ultimate plans for a new City Hall complex on Main Street, the City of Yukon will lease the Old Mill Plaza office for three years (at \$800 per month) to house the Development Services Department. The City could renew the lease after three years or pursue another option for office space.

The former Snyder's grocery store building at 10 W

Main will soon be demolished "in anticipation of building a new City Hall," Bottom told Council members this week.

The move of Yukon Development Services to 334 Elm will prompt a chain reaction of sorts.

The City's Human Resources Department will then move from crowded space inside City Hall next door to 10 S 5th. This also will free up office space for a new public information officer.

Yukon's future Development Services office at 334 Elm formerly housed a state driver's license exam station.

The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety closed the driver's license exam location in September 2013 due to significant maintenance issues and damages to the site.

DPS had occupied the 6,000 square foot space inside the Old Mill Plaza shopping center for about three years, and the City of Yukon paid rent to allow the department to operate the DL exam site free of charge.

Safest

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The Movoto real estate blog has researched each state to determine which cities, towns and places are safer than the rest, by way of an objective analysis.

The City of Yukon ranked No. 1 on the list, followed by Mustang at No. 2 and Sapulpa at No. 3.

Other "top 10" cities are: 4. Edmond, 5. Owasso, 6. Guthrie, 7. Broken Arrow, 8. Elk City, 9. Claremore, and 10. Guymon.

Here is how Movoto's Natalie Grigson describes Yukon in her "Safest Places" report: "This Canadian County city is known as something of a bedroom community for people who work in Oklahoma City, and in looking at these numbers, it is no wonder why people are willing to make the commute.

"In 2012, Yukon had a total of just 2,637 crimes per 100,000 people, including 2,497 property crimes and 140 violent crimes per 100,000.

"To break that down further, the property crimes included 123 vehicle thefts, 1,938 thefts, and 436 burglaries per 100,000, and the violent crimes included no murders, no robberies, 13 rapes, and 127 assaults per 100,000.

"Compared to nearby Oklahoma City, where there were 6,859 crimes per 100,000 people, including 14 murders, we can see why Yukon was the safest place overall."

CREATING THE RANKING

In its ranking, Movoto used the FBI's 2012 Uniform Crime Report to find crime data reported to the bureau for all places in Oklahoma with populations of 10,000 or more.

These 40 places were analyzed in terms of: Murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft, and vehicle theft.

These crimes were divided into four categories: Murders, violent crimes, property crimes, and total crimes.

"We calculated all of these crime rates based on crimes per 100,000 residents, in order to compare larger and smaller cities fairly," according to Grigson. "Then, each place was ranked with a score from one to 40 in terms of all of these categories (murders, violent crimes, property crimes, and total crimes) per 100,000, with one being the best and safest possible score."

Murders, violent crimes and property crimes each counted more heavily; each making up 30% of the overall score.

The total number of crimes accounted for a smaller portion of the final score (10%).

Repaint

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Repainting and striping the ladder truck "will make our fleet match and give us a much more professional image," Chief Jones wrote in a July 7th memo to City Manager Grayson Bottom.

Industrial Truck Equipment's quote was just under the \$27,000 budgeted in the capital improvement account for this project.

YFD's ladder one is 12 years old, and Chief Jones said he expects "another 13 to 15 years front line service."

In other business at Tuesday night's meeting, the City Council approved:

* Installing two 25 miles per hour speed limit signs on Garden Grove.

* Applying to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for a \$64,567

community development block grant to install and repair infrastructure.

* A collective bargaining agreement between the City of Yukon and Frater-

nal Order of Police Lodge 173 for fiscal years 14-15 and 15-16.

* A revised pay scale in the collective bargaining agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2055 reflecting a 2.5% cost of living adjustment.

Teen

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Overbey "rolled off the truck hitting her head on the drainage ditch (and) then continued to roll," according to the traffic collision report.

Brakebill reportedly laid down "40 feet of skid marks before (the) impact" with Overbey. Overbey was

transported by EMSA ambulance to Presbyterian Hospital with serious injuries.

This week's auto-pedestrian collision was the second reported to police this year. Two people, ages 19 and 20, were hurt on the evening of Jan. 6 when they were struck by a vehicle while crossing Cornwell near the Vandament intersection.