

# CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## 9-1-1 Call Takers Able to Pinpoint Cell Phone Location

Cell phones save lives! This has been a mantra for wireless service providers for years, but in two separate events during the past several weeks, the mantra became reality in the CAPCOG region.

What was to be an exciting and fun trip for a father and his two sons turned into a frightening and dangerous time when the canoe the father was attempting to take through some swift white water on the Colorado River south of Austin overturned and trapped him. While his sons watched from the bank, where he had instructed them to wait while he paddled the canoe through the rough waters, he was unable to extract himself and swim to safety. The eldest of the two sons dialed 9-1-1 from his cell phone, frantically asking for help. The call taker determined the emergency by quickly asking questions of the young caller and using the equipment and procedure in place in all 33 CAPCOG Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and was able to establish the longitude and latitude of the wireless phone's location. Relaying that information to first responders, life-saving personnel were able to pinpoint the location of the emergency and pull the father from the swift water.

In mid-May an individual was driving between Kyle and Wimberley when he began to feel ill. He dialed 9-1-1 from his cell phone and was connected to the Hays County Sheriff's Office. When the call taker began questioning the caller, she noticed his slurred speech and had difficulty understanding him at times. Since he was unaware of his surroundings, the call taker instructed him to pull over and stop. Using the equipment and procedures established for processing wireless Phase II calls, the call taker was able

to obtain a location that plotted on the map, and first responders were dispatched. Paramedics and Deputies were able to locate the caller, exactly where he was (*See 9-1-1, p. 4*)



CAPCOG's 9-1-1 training class

### Request for FY09 Solid Waste Grant Applications

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG), in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), announces availability of \$450,747 in municipal solid waste implementation grant funding for fiscal year 2009 and issues a Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA and the application instructions and forms can be obtained by visiting [www.capcog.org](http://www.capcog.org) or by contacting Kelly Freeman, Solid Waste

Coordinator, at 512-916-6040 or [kfreeman@capcog.org](mailto:kfreeman@capcog.org). All applications must be received by 5 pm, Fri., June 13, 2008.

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# Preventing Falling in Older Adults

An astounding 1,086,600 older Texans were estimated to fall during 2007, while 891 Texans age 75 and over were estimated to die from complications associated with falls (HHSC, 2007). Nationally, falls account for the large majority (70%) of all emergency room admissions among older adults (National Safety Council, 2007) and are the leading cause of accidental death among adults age 65 and over (CDC, 2007). Given these grim consequences, as many as one-third to one-half of older adults experience a *fear* of falling. Falls among older adults are frequent causes of morbidity and mortality, oftentimes creating a downward spiral. For these reasons, the Texas Association of Area Agencies (T4A) created the Texas Fall Prevention



Coalition through a grant from the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to prevent falling among older adults within the state of Texas in 2007.

The Texas Fall Prevention Coalition is comprised of 17 area agencies on aging and their community partners. The overarching goal of the coalition is to build fall prevention capacity by disseminating an evidence-based fall prevention program within existing and new part-

ners who are not-for-profit, faith-based, local government, public health, and for-profit throughout Texas. The coalition is replicating Maine's Partnership for Healthy Aging evidence-based activity program, *A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls*. This program is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity levels of older adults who have concerns about falls. The program utilizes volunteer coaches to teach eight two-hour sessions over a four or eight-week period. The content specifically focuses on viewing falls as controllable, setting goals for increasing activity, making changes to reduce fall risks at home, and increasing strength and balance through exercise. Reuben Parrish, MPH, CHES, the new Health and Wellness Coordinator for Capital Area Council (See *FALLS*, p. 4)

## CAPCOG Launches New Solid Waste Mapping Tool

Finding nearby recycling or waste facilities has never been easier for Capital Area residents. The CAPCOG Solid Waste Program has developed an easy to use mapping tool (using Google Maps and Google Earth) to find the most convenient facility for you to drop off your recycling, household hazardous waste (HHW), or just about any household waste product.

To find this tool, simply visit the CAPCOG website and click on the article posted on the front page (or access it via the Maps section of our Information Clearinghouse). From there you will find a map with various place marks. Locate the place mark

closest to you, and you have found the nearest recycling center or waste drop-off location. It's that easy! By clicking on the location, more important information is provided. Take a moment to visit [www.capcog.org](http://www.capcog.org) and give it a try! (See *MAPPING TOOL*, p. 4)

## CAPCOG Says Goodbye to Scott Huckabee

After six-and-a-half years, Scott Huckabee hung up his hat as the Director of CAPCOG's Regional Training Academy to pursue other interests closer to home. On Tues., April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Scott was presented with a cake and a plaque to commemorate his time with CAPCOG. Mike Jennings will assume the director position effective June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike has over 30 years of law enforcement experience and has worked extensively with basic peace officer and basic jailer course curriculums. Please feel free to contact Mike at [mjennings@capcog.org](mailto:mjennings@capcog.org) if you have any training-related questions or if you just want to say hello.

## Basic Jail Certification Course Graduates 13

CAPCOG's Basic Jail Certification Course (BJCC) graduated 13 new officers for the new Lee County Jail. This accomplishment will enable the Lee County Jail to open with a full staff.

CAPCOG began the BJCC with the mission to provide training of the highest possible quality to jailer candidates. It is the intent of this academy to provide a climate wherein maximum training benefits may be attained, discipline may be evaluated, and leadership may be instilled within each student.

Congratulations to all of the graduates!



Scott Huckabee (left) and new Regional Training Academy Director, Mike Jennings



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for approval. The 8-O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program is

## Regional Rideshare Program Connects Commuters in 22 Counties

CAPCOG's Air Quality Planning Section, in collaboration with Alamo Area Council of Governments, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and a number of other regional partners, is working to implement an inter-regional web-based rideshare matching and transportation options information program. This program, entitled River Cities Rideshare (RCRS), covers 22 counties around and between San Antonio and Austin, including the CAPCOG ten-county region. The goal of RCRS is to supply Central Texans with the resources necessary to facilitate the use of transportation alternatives to drive-alone commutes within the Austin and San Antonio urban areas and throughout the 22-county region it covers.

RCRS, [www.rcride.com](http://www.rcride.com), is a web and map-based one-stop commuting information site offered free of charge to all users.

Users can access map-based rideshare matches with similar commuting preferences, as well as bus-route and biking or walking information. The program provides users with a template email to send to prospective ride matches and an email notification feature if matches are identified in the future. The program allows users to track and quantify miles and dollars saved, emissions reduced, and calories burned (when using bicycle or walking alternatives).

In addition to being an inter-regional effort, RCRS is a key initiative of the five-county Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (A-RRMSA) 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program (8-O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program) which has been submitted to the

a voluntary program entered into by A-RRMSA local governments in cooperation with TCEQ and EPA to implement voluntary emission reduction measures to assure continued attainment of the federal 8-hour standard for ground-level ozone. RCRS is important for the 8-O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program because of the significant impact that transportation-related emissions, such as nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), have on the formation of ground-level ozone.

While the 8-O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program mainly focuses on the benefits of RCRS to air quality, there are many additional benefits that can be realized from this (*See RIDESHARE, p. 4*)



## Regional Communications Asset Utilized During Storms

A lightning strike in downtown Marble Falls demonstrated the value of the CAPCOG region's approach to communications interoperability. During one of the severe thunderstorms that brought widespread damage across the region in May, the Marble Falls Police Department (MFPD) was struck by lightning on the evening of May 9th. The MFPD's Communications Division received the most impact as the lightning bolt zapped computers, routers, Motorola radio consoles, and phone lines. Because of its multiple protective systems, the 911 system was not affected and remained operational. Since all outgoing telephone lines were unavailable, 911 calls were transferred to the Burnet County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center.

Due to the importance of radio communications between the dispatch center and emergency response personnel, MFPD was able to set up a makeshift radio communications system with the assistance of the regional mobile communications platform maintained by Williamson County which is designated RMC3 (for Regional Mobile Communications 3) and includes a trailer and support vehicles, all of which were funded through the 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program. RMC3 was designed to be used as a back-up 911 radio dispatching center, mobile incident-based communications platform, and incident command post.

Marble Falls Police Chief Mark Whitacre evaluated the success of this regional cooperative effort, "The communications issue was seamless in the eyes of the public." RMC3, three support vehicles, and four personnel were on site in approxi-

mately two hours after the initial request was made. Once on site, Williamson County RMC3 support staff met with MFPD to determine the best course of action in reestablishing essential communications.

According to Patrick Cobb, Director of Emergency Communications for Williamson County, "The RMC3 generator and radios were powered up, consoles reprogrammed for Marble Falls-specific agency radio channels, and tests were performed. The dispatchers were able to use these two consoles from within their 911 Center without occupying the trailer." MFPD staff members were trained on operation of RMC3 and maintained the vehicle in operational status until it was demobilized at noon Mon., May 12th.

For more information about communications interoperability, contact Robin Wiatrek at (512) 916-6014 or [rwiatrek@capcog.org](mailto:rwiatrek@capcog.org).

**9-1-1** (*cont'd from p. 1*) shown on the map, and begin medical assistance.

The current equipment in place in all 33 PSAPs is Plant/CML Vesta Pallas or DMS. This equipment is state-of-the-art and includes a mapping application that uses maps developed and maintained by local Database Coordinators in each of the ten counties. Anytime a new subdivision or addition is added in a County, the Coordinator updates the map information and the update is then sent out to all 33 PSAPs.

In addition to the equipment, the procedure for processing 9-1-1 calls is for the call taker to "re-bid" the 9-1-1 database approximately 20 seconds after receiving the 9-1-1 call. The re-bid sends a request back to the 9-1-1 database and wireless provider's information to retrieve the latest longitude and latitude. Upon receipt of the new information, the equipment then turns the longitude and latitude into a point on a map, which helps the call taker/dispatcher determine which first responders to send to the caller.

**FALLS** (*cont'd from p. 2*) of Governments (CAPCOG)/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of the Capital Area, has been hired to help disseminate the program in each of the ten CAPCOG counties.

Reuben and Ray Glenn, also of the Capital Area Council of Governments/Area Agency on Aging of the Capital

Area, are both certified master trainers of this program, which enables them to teach volunteers to become coaches. Reuben's responsibility with the agency is to develop, facilitate, and support working partnerships with other area agencies on aging, state and local agencies, and community-based organizations in their efforts to implement this program and other evidence-based prevention and health promotion programs in the areas of chronic disease self-management and physical activity.

If you have questions about the Texas Fall Prevention Coalition, would like to host a class or become a volunteer coach in implementing the evidence-based fall prevention program, *A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls*, in the CAPCOG area, please contact Reuben at (512) 916-6182 or [rparrish@capcog.org](mailto:rparrish@capcog.org).

**MAPPING TOOL** (*cont'd from p. 2*) This is the first running model of our map, and for now only includes recycling facilities that are owned by cities or counties in the ten-county CAPCOG region. If you know of any recycling or waste collection points that are missing from our map, please let us know by contacting Regional Environmental Task Force Coordinator Mickey Roberts at [roberts@capcog.org](mailto:roberts@capcog.org). Locations of privately owned recycling and waste facilities in our region are coming soon!

**RIDESHARE** (*cont'd from p. 3*) type of ride-share program. Regions across the country in 15 states have implemented rideshare programs using the same system as RCRS and are not only reaping benefits of reductions in air emissions, but also seeing co-benefits of increased fuel savings and reduced roadway congestion. The EPA reports that in California, ridesharing is "currently the number-one alternative to single occupant vehicle use for California's nearly 14 million daily commuters." The California "...regional ridesharing agencies attracted 160,000 commuters, resulting in estimated average reductions of 419 million vehicle miles, 20 million gallons of fuel, and 7,000 tons of air pollutants, statewide."

The RCRS program has the potential to offer benefits similar to those seen in other states where such programs have been in place longer. Since the RCRS program inception in May, 2007, 829 users have signed up on the RCRS website; 68,672 miles of travel have been saved; and an estimated 0.03 tons of VOC and 0.04 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> have been reduced. The increased use of the resources offered by RCRS is important to the future benefits of the program. As gas prices increase, congestion continues to be a problem, air quality becomes an ever more pressing issue, and the benefits of programs like RCRS become increasingly important to the economic vitality and environmental health of the region.

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