

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Falls Prevention Awareness Week Observed at Capitol

The Texas Falls Prevention Coalition kicked off the observance of Falls Prevention Awareness Week 2009 with a press conference in Austin at the Capitol. This observance is in response to the passage of House Bill 703 that Representative Patrick Rose and Senator Jane Nelson sponsored in the 81st Legislative Session. This is a milestone in getting the word out about falls prevention awareness to Texans.



Pictured from left to right at the Capitol: Vicki Parsons, Reuben Parrish, Jim Hine, Rep. Patrick Rose, Penny Redington, Glenda Rogers, Carlos Higgins.

In attendance at the press conference were individuals from the community, coalition members, and invited guests.

Representative Patrick Rose, Jim Hine, former Commissioner of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, and Carlos Higgins, Texas Silver-Haired Legislator, spoke on the importance of making Texans aware of the consequences of falls and the importance of prevention. Each speaker provided startling statistics on the price we pay nationally and as a state for hospitaliza-

Solid Waste Grant Applications Due

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG), in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), announces the availability of \$442,000 in municipal solid waste implementation grant funding for fiscal year 2010, and has issued a Request for Applications (RFA).

The official RFA, FY10 Application Instructions, FY10 Application Forms and reference materials are posted at www.capcog.org. You may also request a hard copy of the application packet by contacting Kelly Freeman, Solid Waste Program Coordinator, at 512-916-6040.

All applications must be received by 5 pm, Wed., Oct. 14, 2009.

Please contact the following CAPCOG Solid Waste Program staff if you have any questions or if you would like assistance in preparing your application: Kelly Freeman, Solid Waste Program Coordinator, (512) 916-6040, kfreeman@capcog.org or Ashley Fisher, Regional Environmental Coordinator, (512) 916-6185, afisher@capcog.org. CAPCOG Solid Waste Program staff are glad to review your draft application prior to the submission due date.

Inside this issue:

Region Shows Attainment of the Federal Ground-Level Ozone Standard	2
PSAPs BETA SIP	2
Training Academy Still 100%	2
Law Enforcement Agencies Exercise Crowd Control	3
Greenprint Aids Planning for Growth	4
8th Annual Caregiver Conference Held	5
CAPCOG Emergency Notification System Goes Wireless	5
CAPCOG's Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon	5

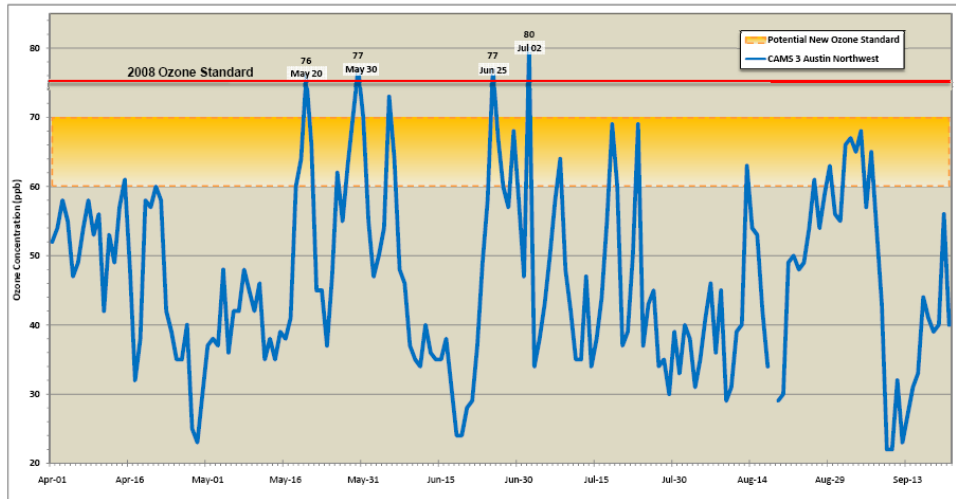
Region Shows Attainment of the Federal Ground-Level Ozone Standard

As the 2009 ozone season (Apr. 1 – Oct. 31) comes to a close, monitored ozone levels during the past two months have been low enough to move the three-year average for the region back into the attainment category. However, recent news from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicates that changes are underway in the federal standard that may put the region back into the position of facing a nonattainment designation.

Over the past eight years, local governments in the five-county Austin Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area have engaged in substantial air quality planning activities under the coordination of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition to achieve compliance with the federal ground-level ozone standard. The most recent efforts, the Early Action Compact and the 8-hour Ozone Flex Program, have proven

successful in reducing ozone levels measured at local air quality monitors.

Efforts were redoubled during the 2009 ozone season in an initiative known as the Big Push to accomplish sufficient emission reductions to bring



the three-year average down to a level meeting the 2008 ozone standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb). Local governments, industrial facilities, Clean Air Partners, and citizens who committed to become “Ozone Action Heroes” have all contributed to the reduction in emissions during this critical ozone season. These efforts appear to have been successful, as indicated on the attached monitoring data chart showing lower ozone levels than usually experienced during the peak of the season.

In a new challenge, however, EPA has recently announced that they have been reevaluating the ozone standard based on an analysis of health impacts studies and recommendations from science advisory committees. EPA plans to make a proposal in Dec. of this year to change the ozone standard to a more stringent level, likely to be somewhere between 60 to 70 ppb. It is probable that the change will again put the area in jeopardy of being designated nonattainment.

Such a designation brings with it increased financial burdens to local businesses and restrictions on industrial and transportation system growth. (See *OZONE*, p. 6)

Three Year Average (*Design Value)			
2007	2008	2009	75
76	74	76	

PSAPs BETA SIP

No, CAPCOG does not have a new sorority or fraternity. Two of its 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) have begun to BETA test the PlantCML Vesta Pallas SIP application. **Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)** is a signaling protocol, widely used for controlling multimedia communication sessions such as voice and video calls over Internet Protocol (IP). Other application examples include video conferencing, streaming multimedia distribution, instant messaging, presence information, and online games. SIP is part of the Next Generation of applications that 9-1-1 is moving toward in order to add new services. In the future,

emergency calls via text messages and calls with video may be sent to 9-1-1 for help via the SIP application. This cannot be done with the current 9-1-1 architecture.

The San Marcos Police Department and Hays County Sheriff's Office are currently testing the PlantCML Vesta Pallas SIP capable equipment. These two PSAPs are the first to be connected via a new Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network. After the testing is completed, other PSAPs will be added to the ATM network that will be the foundation for the CAPCOG Emergency Services network (ESInet) for Next Generation 9-1-1 services and other emergency services such as radio interoperability, traffic monitoring, and health services. (See *PSAPs*, p. 6)

Training Academy Still 100% on Testing

With the most recent Cadet Class # 52 graduating on September 18th, CAPCOG's Regional Training Academy continues to boast a 100% pass rate for graduates taking their first TCLEOSE test! This BPOC was a night class conducted at the Williamson County Sheriff's Department in Georgetown, Texas, with 37 cadets and was the third BPOC class conducted this year.

A new night class began in September at the Pflugerville Police Department with 23 cadets who will spend the next nine months covering subjects such as the Texas Penal Code; Arrest, Search and Seizure; Patrol Procedures, Defensive Tactics; and Firearms. (See *RTA*, p. 6)

Law Enforcement Agencies Exercise Crowd Control

Law enforcement agencies in the ten-county Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) region have formed a committee to identify, develop, and coordinate specialized teams of law enforcement resources designed to successfully respond and assist in any mutual aid situation. This group, called the Law Enforcement Standards, Equipment, and Training (LE-SET), serves as a subcommittee to the CAPCOG Homeland Security Task Force Technical Response Committee. The goals of LE-SET are to develop training programs based on core training requirements, standardize equipment used by both tactical and strike teams used on large scale events, standardize tactics, conduct an exercise annually, implement a regional SWAT coverage plan, and identify other regional law enforcement issues.

The group participated in their first joint mobile field force (crowd control) exercise in August at the Round Rock Athletic Complex. The objectives of the exercise were coordination of personnel and equipment, command and control, and communication. The exercise simulated a crowd in the stadium that began rioting which law enforcement had to curtail.

The morning and afternoon simulations involved law enforcement officers from over twenty Central Texas agencies. Cadets from the CAPCOG Regional Training Academy, as well as other police officers from various agencies, played the role of the rioting crowd.

For more information, contact Ed Schaefer at 512-916-6026 or eschaefer@capcog.org.



Greenprint Aids Planning for Growth

The Texas State Data Center predicts that 1.5 million people will be moving to the Capital Area over the next 25 years; the Capital Area continues to show signs of growth that outpace the rest of the country. Many of these new residents describe the 'quality of life' as the reason for moving their families and businesses to Central Texas. Welcoming new neighbors while maintaining the region's unique identity is the goal of the recently completed Central Texas Greenprint for Growth (the Greenprint).

The Greenprint is a tool for balancing sustainable conservation goals with the infrastructure requirements of this rapidly urbanizing region. It's about preserving the natural identity while satisfying the water, transportation, housing, and schooling needs of a growing population. To do this, CAPCOG partnered with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), Envision Central Texas, the University of Texas, the Federal Highway Administration, and county stakeholders to develop a regional Greenprint for Travis, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell Counties.

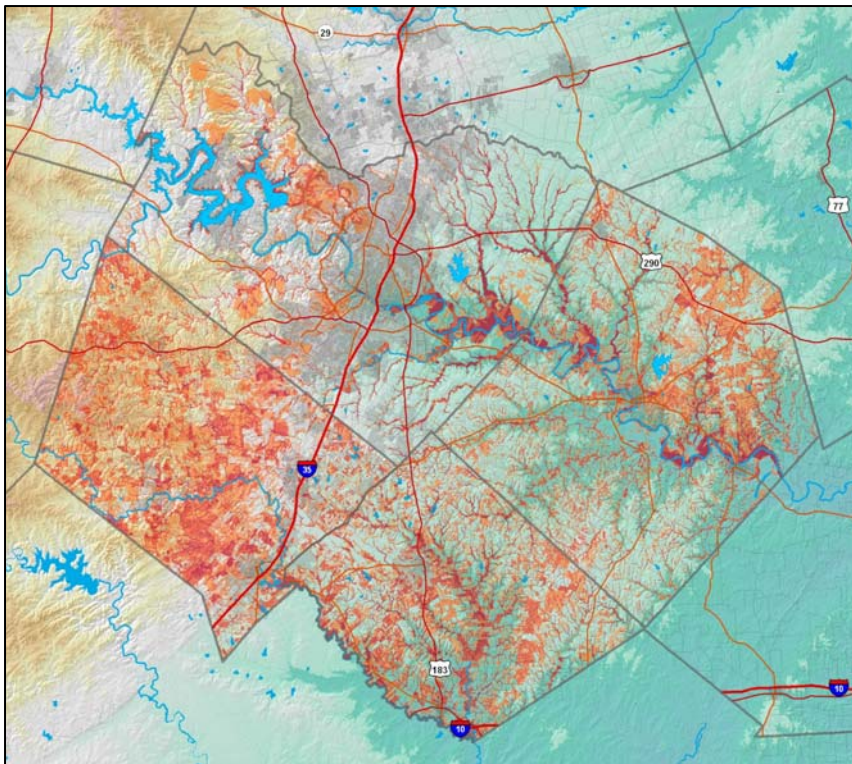
The process utilizes stakeholder input, automated polling, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to identify conservation priorities that

reflect each community's diverse interests and values. Stakeholders in each county first listed their interests (e.g., preserving water quality, creating recreational opportunities, etc.) and converted them to mappable layers (e.g., aquifers, floodplains, underserved populations, etc.). Next, they used automated polling to value, or prioritize, their interests. Lastly, the Greenprint Team utilized GIS to combine each County's prioritized interests into a single composite map that represents their Greenprint.

The final report and map can be used to identify:

- infrastructure corridors which support growth while minimizing the impact on our conservation priorities;
- new parks and recreational facilities that satisfy the needs of our growing population;
- concentrations of farm and ranch lands; and,
- a Greenprint for sustainable growth that preserves our region's unique identity.

The Greenprint report, brochures, maps, and data will be available via the CAPCOG Information Clearinghouse at www.capcog.org by the end of October. Please contact David Fowler at dfowler@capcog.org for more information.



*The Central Texas
Greenprint for Growth*

8th Annual Caregiver Conference Held

The 8th Annual Striking A Balance Conference was held at Norris Conference Center in North Austin in September with over 130 family caregivers who gathered for a day of education, sharing of information, resources, and personal experiences. These caregivers are caring

ily members and loved ones over the age of 60.

Dr. Jerald Winakur, a geriatrician and family caregiver from San Antonio, was keynote speaker. Dr. Winakur is the author of *Memory Lessons*. He shared his experiences of caregiving through both personal and professional experiences. Tam Cummings, local practicing gerontologist and Alzheimer's disease expert, also presented. A panel of experienced family caregivers held a Q & A session. Vendors were on site and available to share resources with the participants. (See *CONFERENCE*, p. 6)



Dr. Jerald Winakur

CAPCOG Emergency Notification System Goes Wireless

Residents of the ten-county Capital Area Council of Governments region are now able to receive notification on their cellular telephones of emergencies that affect their homes and businesses. These notifications are made possible through a new addition to the CAPCOG regional Emergency Notification System (ENS).

In 2004 CAPCOG used a combination of homeland security grant funds and funds from participating local governments to implement the ENS which allows public safety personnel in participating jurisdictions to relay critical emergency information to their citizens when human life or property is in danger. Originally, the system could contact only those people who had landline telephone service since it relied on the 9-1-1 database that is managed by CAPCOG.

With the rise in popularity of cell phones, an increasing number of people no longer maintain traditional landline telephone service and rely exclusively on their cell phones as their residence telephone. To address the need to extend the availability of emergency notification to people without landline telephone services, CAPCOG's staff

worked with a programmer to develop a web-based interface that allows people to locate their residences on a map and thus receive emergency notifications. This interface was designed to extend the functionality of the CAPCOG ENS to cell phones.

An additional benefit of this service is that people may link their cell phone numbers to one or more locations, such as their place of business or the homes of relatives. If a participating local government activates the system for an area that contains a location that has been registered to a particular cell phone number, the system will attempt to send the emergency message to that phone.

The addition of this service is part of CAPCOG's ongoing efforts to ensure that the ENS is the most capable telephone-based notification system possible. Earlier this year, the capabilities of the system were expanded to include the ability to deliver emergency messages to the hearing-impaired who rely on Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) technology. CAPCOG's implementation was among the first in the country to have this capability.

For more information about ENS, contact Ed Schaefer at 512-916-6026 or eschaefer@capcog.org.



Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon Will Be December 9th

CAPCOG will host its Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon on Wed., Dec. 9th, at 11:30 a.m. at the Marriott Austin Airport South Hotel, located at 4415 South IH 35, on the east side of the IH 35 frontage road between Stassney and Ben White.

The Jack Griesenbeck Leadership in Regionalism Award, named after (See *GENERAL ASSEMBLY*, p. 6)

FALLS (*Cont'd from p. 1*) due to falls. One alarming statistic highlighted is that in 2007, approximately \$1.9 billion was spent in Texas for fall-related hospitalizations for adults over the age of 50 years.

The press conference was a great beginning for this important week. Each day of Falls Prevention Awareness week focused on a specific topic which included increasing physical activity, home safety, falls prevention classes, information for caregivers, and medication management. Following the press conference, Linda Gibson and two of her colleagues demonstrated a form of Tai Chi on the south steps of the Capitol. Tai Chi is one of many physical activities that can increase balance to help prevent falls.

The Capitol press conference was one of many successful activities conducted around the state of Texas during this first Falls Prevention Awareness Week.

OZONE (*Cont'd from p. 2*) While measures included in the area's 8-hour Ozone Flex program coupled with the impacts of federal standards on lowering emissions from new on-road (cars and

trucks) and off-road (construction equipment) vehicles will continue to provide emission reductions, a more restrictive ozone standard will be difficult to achieve in the time frame EPA is expected to set out for the region. To assist local officials in making sound policy decisions for the region regarding developing changes in air quality regulations, CAPCOG's Air Quality Program will continue to provide the technical analysis of ozone data, emission control strategies and costs, and the impacts of new state and federal rules.

PSAPs (*Cont'd from p. 2*) When all of the CAPCOG regions' PSAPs are connected with SIP trunking and have SIP-capable equipment installed, the PSAPs will be able to transfer calls among each other without using the current telephone company provided Tandem switches. In the future, CAPCOG's ESInet will connect to the State of Texas provided network, thus allowing calls to be transferred to any PSAP in the state that is connected to a regional network. This will greatly enhance the ability to process calls during disasters such as hurricanes or tornados.

RTA (*Cont'd from p. 2*) Texas peace officers are required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) to acquire 40 hours of mandatory training every two years. Mandatory classes include Special Investigative Topics, Cultural Diversity, and Intermediate Crisis Intervention. In 2009, CAPCOG's RTA held 33 in-service classes to meet the needs of regional law enforcement officers and has sponsored 22 in-service classes for various departments throughout the CAPCOG region.

CONFERENCE (*Cont'd from p. 3*) This annual event is organized and staffed by Aging Division staff and staff from AGE (Austin Groups for the Elderly). Participation in this event has increased every year and gained popularity among the Austin-area caregiving community.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (*Cont'd from p. 5*) former Bastrop County Judge Jack Griesenbeck and first chairman of CAPCOG, will be presented in recognition of outstanding work performed to benefit the entire ten-county region.

Invitations will go out early November.

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