

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

40th Anniversary

1970-2010

CAPCOG Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

The Capital Area Council of Governments will celebrate 40 years of service to its member governments this year.

Executive Committee members have been asked for input on how CAPCOG should celebrate its 40th anniversary; and, at the April Board meeting, CAPCOG staff will give a presentation on various special logo designs created to be used on marketing materials as well as highlighted on the CAPCOG website during the year. It is anticipated that the major celebration will be held during the annual membership meeting in December.

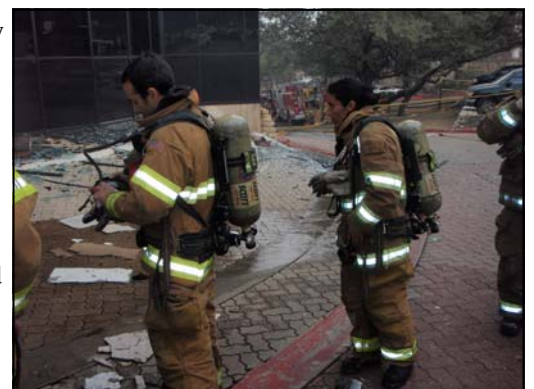
Regional Partnerships Demonstrated During Echelon Building Plane Crash

On the morning of Feb. 18th, no one expected a man to deliberately fly his single-engine plane into the Echelon Building in North Austin.

By a twist of fate, the Travis County CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive) Team was conducting its monthly training at the shopping center at Dave & Buster's at the intersection of US 183 and MoPac. The Travis County CBRNE Team, which includes Lake Travis, Pflugerville, Westlake, and Oak Hill fire departments, is one of four CBRNE teams in the ten-county CAPCOG Region. The four teams (City of Austin; Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties) were formed based on existing hazardous materials response teams and enhanced with equipment and training through Homeland Security Grant Program funds to ensure the capability to respond anywhere in the Region.

That morning, the Travis County CBRNE Team was just setting up its personal protective equipment to test its common procedures when they heard the plane hit the Echelon Building. Since they were close to the scene, they determined that they could provide mutual aid to the City of Austin Fire Department (AFD) and quickly packed up and headed over to assist with life safety efforts.

Lake Travis set up Fire Engine 604 at the impact site of the building on Hwy 183 and began using a blitz attack on the fire while other members of the Travis County Team began helping people out of the building and conducting search patterns. Oak Hill/Westlake (See *PARTNERSHIPS*, p. 6)



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Workshop for Veteran and Newly-Elected City Officials to be Held in April

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) will host the Workshop for Veteran and Newly-Elected City Officials on Tues., April 27, 2010, in the CAPCOG Pecan Room at 6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165, Austin. The workshop will be conducted by Thomas Yantis, AICP, Vice President - Community Planning for BWR; Trish Carls, Carls, McDonald & Dalrymple, LLP; and Laura Brewer, Assistant Director of Finance at the City of Georgetown. The cost of the workshop is \$60.00 per person. You may register at Workshop for Veteran and Newly-Elected City Officials.

According to Yantis who has taught similar courses for

CAPCOG, this workshop is designed to help elected officials navigate the world of city government and discusses the knowledge and tools necessary to become an effective policy maker. "This course will help you better understand your role as an elected official and the tools and techniques to help you get things done. We will explore some of the basic characteristics and powers of city government and then get in depth about how to effectively work with your city staff, citizens, and other elected officials to advance your policy objectives," explains Yantis. "Whether you ran to keep taxes low or to expand the city's parks system, this course will show you how to take your ideas and put them into action."

The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. with welcome and orientation remarks by CAPCOG's Executive Director, Betty Voights, followed by several topic discussions and will wrap up at 4 p.m.; lunch will be provided with the course fee. In addition to being helpful to the elected officials, these workshops have proven to be very valuable to members of boards, committees, and commissions such as planning and zoning commissions and economic development corporations.

For more information, contact David Partlow, Regional Services Coordinator, at dpartlow@capcog.org or at 512-916-6045. The workshop is limited to 30 attendees.



Find Us on Facebook!

Most of us know how useful Facebook is in our personal lives; with just a few clicks we can see photos of anyone in our friend's list or get caught up on their recent events. But what about incorporating this social network media in our day-to-day professional lives?

Emergency Communications launched the first CAPCOG Facebook page, CAPCOG 911, in late February with fantastic results. Not only does the website provide professional networking opportunities for the public safety agencies across the ten-county region, it also serves as an additional venue for CAPCOG to share information on training and educational opportunities, professional standards, and other information pertinent to the efficient operation of a 9-1-1 entity.

CAPCOG is able to share access to regional and national resources via online links that the local PSAP staff may not normally detect.

Fans of the CAPCOG 911 Facebook page have access to a *Tip of the Week* which relates to PSAP operations; links to public safety-related news articles with relevant teaching points; upcoming CAPCOG 9-1-1 events and training; a discussion forum; and even some fun photos of public safety events submitted by PSAPs across the region.

To become a fan or just to see what is happening in Emergency Communications, sign-in to Facebook and search for CAPCOG 911.



Report on Law Enforcement Training

The Regional Training Academy currently has three Basic Peace Officer courses in progress; the day academy is being held at CAPCOG's training facility and the night classes are hosted at the Pflugerville Police Department and Williamson County Sheriff's Office. Class 54 and 55 are in their final two months of the Basic Peace Officer Training and will graduate

this spring at the State Capitol.

The Regional Training Academy recently completed a Basic Jailer's Training which was held at the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office. The new corrections officers were from Bastrop, Caldwell, and Lee Counties. All of the new officers passed the required TCLEOSE testing on their first attempt. This marks the second time in which the

Bastrop County Sheriff's Office staff has accomplished a 100% first-attempt pass rate on the TCLEOSE testing.

The Pflugerville Police Department recently honored a former cadet of CAPCOG'S RTA class #47, Zoila Perez. Officer Perez was nominated by her peers to receive Pflugerville's first ever *Rookie of the Year* award.



Cadet Training

In-Service Classes

Forensic Hypnosis class was held in February with a total of 18 students who were investigators from Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Portugal. This class is designed to aid investigators in interviewing victims and suspects and also requires passing a TCLEOSE test in order to become a certified Forensic Hypnotist; Forensic Hypnosis has been recognized and accepted in courts of law. Upcoming training can be located on our training page.

New Transportation Option Available to Older Adults

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) recently announced that the area agencies on aging will have a new option for the purchase of transportation service beginning Oct. 1, 2010. Individuals who are clients of the Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area (AAACAP) may be able to use vouchers to meet their transportation needs. In recognition that older individuals in the rural areas of the state have transportation challenges, DADS is allowing the use of vouchers to purchase rides. "It is often difficult for rural older adults to find rides to important appointments or activities due to the lack of public transportation. Even when public transportation is available, the schedules or accommodations might not match the need. Transportation vouchers will give them a welcome, flexible option," says Glenda Rogers, CAPCOG Director of Aging Services.

The transportation voucher service is part of the client-based programs designed to meet the need of the older adult (over 60) and their informal caregivers. With a consumer-directed voucher service the older individual, their caregiver, or representative:

- Recruits individuals to provide the service (including, friends, neighbors, and family members not living in the same household)
- Negotiates the rate for the service
- Tracks the amount of service provided and the cost
- Submits the voucher for payment to the service provider each month

Currently, the AAACAP, a program of CAPCOG, offers two other consumer-directed services: respite and homemaker vouchers. When it comes to managing services, everyone has different needs and preferences. With voucher services, if the individual is able and willing to take more responsibility, they have more options from which to choose.

The AAACAP is participating in the statewide pilot to test the use of the transportation voucher for their current and future care coordination and caregiver support coordination clients. The pilot will conclude at the end of the fiscal year, and a report of the findings will be

able in the region. "This is another tool to help older adults stay as independent as possible, have a choice in the services designed to support them, and to assist caregivers in their caregiving duties," says Rogers.

If you would like more information on the Care Coordinator or Caregiver Support Programs or any of the consumer-directed services offered to clients of these programs by the AAACAP, please contact Jill Findlay, Program Manager, at 512-916-6060.



submitted to DADS. The agency is pleased that the initial success of the pilot through work in the Panhandle and Tarrant County area agencies on aging has resulted in additional consumer choice being avail-



CAPCOG Will Host Texas Notary Law and Procedures Seminar

CAPCOG will host a three-hour Texas Notary Law and Procedures Seminar on Thur., April 8, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. for current, new, and non-notary participants who would like to receive their Texas notary public commission.

Dixie Lucey, Director of Education for State Notary Commission in Austin, will teach the seminar at CAPCOG's Pecan Room, 6800 Burleson Rd., Bldg. 310, Suite 165, Austin. The cost of the seminar, including the course manual, is \$150 per person. The state application and bond fee for non-notaries or those who would like to renew their commissions is \$105 for a four-year term.

Included in the seminar is a special update on any state legislative changes, which is recommended every two years for all Texas Notaries Public. The course will cover:

- the state application and renewal process
- acknowledgement and oath procedures

- state record keeping requirements
- certifications and protests
- affidavits, jurats, and verifications
- overview of changes in notary laws from the 81st legislative session
- liability protection answers to your notary public questions. "Notary public training protects the notary and the public from liability and protects the long-term validity of documentation," says Dixie Lucey. To register for the seminar, contact: Dixie Lucey, Director of Education, State Notary Commission, PO Box 10141, Austin, TX 78766 dixielucey@prodigy.net, phone (512) 497-2253.

To register: 1-512-497-2253 or for immediate registration by e-mail please contact: dixielucey@prodigy.net



Post Your Job Openings on the CAPCOG Website

CAPCOG can now post job openings for its member governments on its website and is pleased to offer this free service.



For more information on posting your open position, contact Ruth Ann Delaney, HR Coordinator, at radelaney@capcog.org or phone 512-916-6175.



New Regional Services Director Hired

CAPCOG has hired Mark Sweeney as the Director of the Regional Services Division, an expanded version of the former Regional Planning Division that included GIS, transportation (CARTPO) and land use, and general planning functions. Regional Services will also include the Solid Waste and Criminal Justice Programs and will be focused on adding new services and training for cities and counties. Mr. Sweeney's background includes 14 years at the city government level, 13 years with the East Texas Council of Governments, and two years in consulting. His experience includes economic and community development, planning and zoning, air quality planning (including oversight for the East Texas Clean Cities Coalition), CDBG, transit/transportation planning, and housing; he is also a certified planner. Mr. Sweeney's first day will be April 1st.

PARTNERSHIPS (cont'd from p. 1)

Fire Chief Gary Warren, a member of the CAPCOG Homeland Security Task Force, set up a Command Post while AFD units and public safety officials arrived on the scene. The City of Austin quickly took over the Command Vehicle using their Command Trailer. Incident objectives were established and Unified Command was well organized. The Travis County team members continued to assist AFD until they had to return to their respective jurisdictions.

According to George Blackmore, City of Austin Assistant Fire Chief and member of the CAPCOG Homeland Security Task Force, "Partnerships paid off. The regional collaboration among agencies and jurisdictions is an example of jurisdictions and government working together to better serve the citizens during

stressful incidents that can have potential catastrophic consequences."

Preparedness planning and partnerships in the Capital Area Region were evident in other ways as well. The City of Austin Emergency Operations Center received calls from neighboring jurisdictions, including Williamson and Hays Counties, ready to offer support if needed. The hospitals geared up to receive additional patients through their radio roll call. Dave Reimer, Executive Director of the Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council, also received calls from neighboring Regional Advisory Councils for assistance in hospital bed capacity if needed. The Travis County Medical Examiner's Office had also geared up to receive fatalities.

In addition to the quick response, several factors helped keep casualties down. According to fire officials, the plane did not penetrate the building which reduced the impact of fire. The sprinkler system in the building was operating correctly and made a difference in slowing the fire progression. Since this was federally-leased office space, the federal employees maintained an active emergency management plan and instituted evacuation procedures. The practice of emergency drills added to life safety of the day as they were able to account for the employees in the building.

For more information about preparedness and response activities in the CAPCOG Region, contact Ed Schaefer at (512) 916-6026 or eschaefer@capcog.org.

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