

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Census 2010

The slogan for the upcoming U.S. Census is *It's in our hands*, and in a few weeks, around the middle of Mar. 2010, the Census forms will be at your door. Is your community ready to respond?

A robust national media campaign and local efforts of Complete Count Committees, local leaders working at the community level to increase awareness of the Census, will help ensure that most people hear about the Census. But, getting a response from every address in the nation is not assured. Some folks may never feel comfortable answering a Census questionnaire, but perhaps hearing the Census message through a trusted community, political, or faith leader may help to alleviate response concerns.

Here are some highlights of the core message for the Census. More information can be found at the Census Bureau's site <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>.

**The Census is Safe,
Important, and Easy.**

Safe

All responses are protected by law and individual responses can only be accessed by Census Bureau employees who are responsible for tabulating the data into statistical areas. Names and other identifying information are stripped from the responses and data is never released that would allow an individual's responses to be identified. Information collected from the Census cannot be used to enforce laws against a respondent.

Important

Census data is used to plan our communities and to distribute over \$400 billion in funding each year nationwide. As a fast growing region, it is important that the Capital Area get counted completely, so that our communities and the region receive their share of funding. Additionally, political representation is determined using Census data. If the Census counts follow current projections, Texas will gain additional Congressional seats.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Easy

Census 2010 consists of 10 questions including only the most basic information such as age, race, Hispanic origin, whether your residence is owned or rented, and how each person is related to the householder. There is no "long form;" however, important socioeconomic data is collected annually from a small sample of the population through a survey called the American Community Survey.

Householders who do not return the first completed questionnaire will receive a replacement questionnaire in

Census 2010 Key Dates

Mid-March 2010	Questionnaire Delivered
April 1, 2010	Census Day
April 2010	Replacement questionnaire delivered
Apr—May 2010	Group quarters enumeration
May—July 2010	Non-response follow-up
December 2010	Apportionment counts for U.S. House of Reps.
May—June 2011	Local Census data products released

April. Residents not responding to the replacement questionnaire will be visited by a Census worker sometime between May and July 2010. People living in group quarters, i.e., college dorms, assisted living facilities, correctional facilities, and other managed facilities providing housing and services, will be counted, in April (*See CENSUS, p. 6*)

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Capital Area Communities Receive Solid Waste Grants

Twenty-two local governments have been selected to receive \$442,000 in solid waste grants from the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) for support of recycling, household hazardous waste management, illegal dumping enforcement, and clean-up efforts, including related education and outreach. The funds are provided by the Regional Solid Waste Management Grant Program through funding provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

In November, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met to review 36 applications for a total of over \$1.02 million in

requests. The SWAC recommended 22 projects for funding; those projects were approved by the CAPCOG Executive Committee during its December board meeting.

This year's awardees include Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, and Travis Counties and cities of Austin, Cedar Park, Hutto, Jarrell, La Grange, Llano, Lockhart, San Marcos, Smithville, and Sunset Valley. CAPCOG was also awarded a grant to fund support of the Regional Environmental Task Force which provides environmental law training to combat illegal dumping and other environmental crimes. The Lower Colorado

River Authority and Manor Independent School District also received grant funding.

Project applications were sought from eligible cities, counties, school districts, and special districts with solid waste responsibilities. Funds for these projects are generated by solid waste disposal fees collected by TCEQ. They are the only state funds available for solid waste projects to local governments. The solid waste funds are intended for local and cooperative activities consistent with the strategic objectives of CAPCOG's Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Help for Dementia Patients: CAPCOG 9-1-1 Centers Accept Calls from Locating Devices

A new tool designed for the rapid location and recovery of dementia patients and others who have a tendency to wander is now available on the market. 9-1-1 centers throughout the ten-county CAPCOG region and around Texas are poised to receive calls from the new device. The device, manufactured by EMFinders, is worn on the body and is essentially a small wireless telephone that is difficult to remove by the individual and looks like a piece of jewelry.

The device utilizes existing Phase II wireless technology, which allows 9-1-1 centers to locate wireless callers. When a person wearing the device wanders off or is unable to be

located, their caregivers can call the operations center of the company, and through a tightly controlled sequence of events with law enforcement, the operations center will send a message to the device and activate a 9-1-1 call.

When the 9-1-1 call is received in the PSAP, the 9-1-1 operator receives a brief prerecorded message with instructions and a number to call for further information. The 9-1-1 center can use its existing mapping application

to locate the caller and dispatch law enforcement, and, if necessary, medical teams to aid the missing person. The Travis



County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 center participated in the initial testing of this unique service, which is now available to the public.

Holiday Projects Benefit Clients

For the second year, clients of the Aging Services Division were on the receiving end of two holiday projects organized by departments from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS).

The first project was sponsored through the DADS staff of the Budget and Management Services department. This department *adopted* eleven seniors from Travis, Williamson, and

gratitude were priceless and will remain in the hearts of everyone involved. All eleven seniors were identified and nominated by the Care Coordination staff (Aging).

A tree-decorating contest was the kick-off for the second project. The Access and Intake/Area Agencies on Aging division of DADS staff set up and decorated trees in the main lobby at the Winters Building. Large moving boxes were placed next to them.

These recipients range from a single elderly man residing in a trailer in rural Caldwell County to a nursing home resident in Lee County.

Client intake takes place daily in the Aging Division, so the benefits of this project will continue into the future and until all of the items are distributed. A gentleman in rural Burnet was expressing gratitude when, with tears in his eyes, he said, "I can't remember the last time someone delivered a gift to me." He is 91 years old. A sweet 83-year-old who resides in Bastrop County expressed her thanks to the delivering staff member by insisting that she join her inside for a cup of tea. During the brief visit, the statement, "Thank you" was expressed between every other word.

The generosity displayed in response to both of these projects was remarkable. The far-reaching effects in the region can never be calculated, but the kindness shown to these senior members of our communities will forever be in the hearts of all who participated.



Bastrop Counties. Through personal donations and proceeds from a family golf event, this group of co-workers and their families provided and delivered everything these isolated seniors needed for a cheerful holiday season. When one client was asked what he might enjoy for a holiday meal, he replied, "A ham." After some more prompting, he added, "A can or two of cranberries would be nice." Six days before Christmas, a pantryful of groceries, along with several needed gift items, were delivered to him. His smile and expressions of

Voting was done by placing donations into the boxes. The list of donations was compiled by the Care Coordination staff and included such items as: lotions, soaps, calendars, handkerchiefs, gloves, fleece blankets, slippers, etc. After the contest, all of the boxes were brought to CAPCOG. Items were separated and organized by the Care Coordination team for distribution to seniors in the entire ten-county area. The donations were so generous that distribution is still taking place. Packets of these much-needed items have been delivered to approximately 30 clients to date.



EPA Publishes More Stringent Standards for Ground-Level Ozone

Just when our region breathed a sigh of relief after The Big Push resulted in keeping ozone monitors from forcing us into NonAttainment status, the Environmental Protection Agency has raised the bar. Following their intent previously announced last fall, EPA has proposed to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone is a primary component of smog.

The proposed revisions are based on scientific evidence about ozone and its effects on people and sensitive trees and plants. EPA is proposing to revise the level of the primary 8-hour ozone standard from the current value of 75 parts per billion (ppb) to somewhere within a range of 60-70 ppb, and pro-

posing to establish a separate cumulative secondary standard within a range of 7-15 parts per million-hours. EPA will be accepting comments on this proposal through Mar. 22, 2010. EPA is particularly interested in comments as regards what discreet value they should select for the final standard within the proposed range. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/actions.html>

While the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos urban area saw ozone monitoring data fall within the levels needed to demonstrate attainment of the 2008 ozone standard of 75 ppb, it will be a much

greater challenge to have the level fall to 70 ppb or lower within the one-year time allowed by EPA to avoid a nonattainment designation. Area officials, faced with the more stringent standard likely to lead to a nonattainment designation, have begun making plans to submit comments to EPA expressing concerns with aspects of how the standard will be applied and making recommendations for improving effectiveness of implementation requirements. Officials have continued their expression of support for air quality standards shown to contribute to improving public health and to point out all the region has already done voluntarily to reduce harmful air pollutants.

Expected Dates for the 2010 Primary Ozone Standard*

Action	Date
Proposed Standard Published in F.R.**	January 19, 2010
Propose Implementation Rule**	Spring 2010
Final Standards Adopted	August 31, 2010
Final Implementation Rule Adopted	November 2010
State Designation Recommendations to EPA	January 2011
EPA Proposes Designations**	April 2011
Final Designations and Classifications Made by EPA	August 2011
State Implementation Plans Due	December 2013
Attainment With Standard Required	2014-2031 (depends on severity of problem)

*EPA is proposing an accelerated schedule for designating areas for the primary ozone standard. Also, EPA is taking comment on whether to designate areas for a seasonal secondary standard on an accelerated schedule or a 2-year schedule.

**Opportunity for Public Comment

ENS Helps Capture Round Mountain Robbers

The Emergency Notification System (ENS) allows public safety personnel in CAPCOG participating jurisdictions to relay critical emergency information to their citizens when human life or property is in danger. To those who reside in the rural community of Round Mountain, a small town 12 miles north of Johnson City in Blanco County, ENS provided beneficial assistance after an attempted armed robbery at the Cattleman's National Bank.

At approximately 7 a.m., three male subjects ambushed a bank employee who was opening the bank for the day. As they entered the building, the bank's employee managed to discreetly trip the security system, tipping off law enforcement. The intruders were caught off guard at the prompt arrival of law enforcement and fled the scene on foot. The three suspects were considered armed and dangerous. Blanco County Sheriff's Department secured a perimeter and coordinated with other agencies in the manhunt. With the extreme wet weather hindering

the search and no results in the manhunt for several hours, the citizens in the area had to be notified of the growing threat posed by the armed criminals. The first ENS message was sent to residents of Round Mountain at 10:46 a.m. The message, automated by ENS using the 9-1-1 database, warned the public to use every precaution, to lock their cars and homes, and to report any suspicious activity to the Blanco County Sheriff's Office. One arrest in the late morning left the two remaining suspects unaccounted for.

As the search continued with assistance from many surrounding agencies, nightfall began to set, and it was imperative to notify residents in the area who would be coming home from their day jobs.

The second ENS message was acti-

vated at 7:20 p.m. updating residents of the most current situation and how to proceed with caution. Blanco County Judge Bill Guthrie stated, "The advantage of engaging in ENS is being able to get a message to all the residents in a timely fashion so they could take steps to ensure their safety, to know what to look for and report anything unusual." Residents played a critical role in helping local area law enforcement catch the two remaining suspects the next day.

ENS is available in the ten-county CAP-

COG Region and was purchased using a combination of Homeland Security Grant Funds and funds from participating local governments. For more information about the ENS, contact Ed Schaefer at 512-916-6026 or eschaef@capcog.org.



New Leadership Elected for CAPCOG

New officers were elected during CAPCOG's first Executive Committee meeting of the year in January. Elected were City of Bee Cave Mayor Caroline Murphy, Chairman; Hays County Commissioner Will Conley, 1st Vice-Chairman; Burnet County Judge Donna Klaeger, 2nd Vice-Chairman; and Round Rock Mayor Alan McGraw, Secretary. Travis County Judge Sam Biscoe is now the Past Chair.

Previously during its Dec., 2009, annual membership meeting and luncheon, the CAPCOG General Assembly elected the 2010 Executive Committee,

the board charged with overseeing budgeting, auditing, and operations for CAPCOG. There were no changes to be made on the Executive Committee this year.

Elected to serve for the 2010 calendar year were: **Bastrop County:** Judge Ronnie McDonald; Mayor Marc Holm, City of Elgin. **Hays County:** Mayor Susan Narvaiz, City of San Marcos; Judge Elizabeth Sumter. **Blanco County:** Judge Bill Guthrie; Mayor Kermit Roeder, Johnson City. **Lee County:** Commissioner Maurice Pitts. **Burnet County:** Commissioner Bill Neve. **Llano County:** Judge Wayne Brascom. **Caldwell County:** Judge H.

T. Wright; Mayor James Bertram, City of Lockhart. **Travis County:** Judge Sam Biscoe; Commissioner Karen Huber; Councilmember Chris Riley, City of Austin; Mayor Jeff Coleman, City of Pflugerville. **Fayette County:** Judge Ed Janecka; Mayor Janet Moerbe, City of La Grange. **Williamson County:** Judge Dan A. Gattis; Mayor Pro-Tem Pat Berryman, City of Georgetown; Commissioner Cynthia Long; Councilmember Scott Mitchell, City of Cedar Park.

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and May, through visits by Census workers.

For more information about the Census, check out CAPCOG's website, <http://www.capcog.org>, and the CAPCOG Census Coordination Blog, <http://www.census-capcog.blogspot.com/>, which will be used to post any information about Census 2010 pertaining to Central Texas. We encourage you to submit any Census activities or information you would like to share with others throughout the region. To provide material for this site, contact Chris Ramser at 512-916-6184 or cramser@capcog.org.

You may also contact a Census Bureau partnership specialist. To figure out the Census partnership specialist assigned to your county, visit <http://census-capcog.blogspot.com/2009/06/partnership-specialist-areas.html>.

CAPCOG will also be providing media releases for local governments in its region to use in their areas.

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