

# CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## Request for Solid Waste Grant Applications

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG), in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), announces availability of \$442,000 in municipal solid waste implementation grant funding for fiscal year 2008, and issues a Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA, and the FY08 application instructions and forms can be found on the main page of the CAPCOG web site at [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). There will be a grant application workshop on Tues., Dec. 5th, 2007, from 9-11 am in CAPCOG's Pecan Room. Please RSVP to Kelly Freeman. **All applications must be received by 5 pm, Tues., Jan. 8, 2008.**

## CAPCOG to Hold Annual General Assembly December 12th

CAPCOG will host its Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Marriott Austin Airport South Hotel, located at 4415 South IH 35, on the east side of IH 35 frontage road between Stassney and Ben White.

The General Assembly membership will be asked to elect CAPCOG's Executive Committee for the 2008 calendar year; the Nominating Committee elected by the General Assembly in August will recommend a slate but nominations may also be made from the floor. The Jack Griesenbeck *Leadership in Regionalism* award, named after former Bastrop County Judge Jack Griesenbeck and first chairman of CAPCOG, will be presented during the meeting in recognition of outstanding work performed to benefit the entire ten-county region. (see *GENERAL ASSEMBLY* p. 4)

## CAPCOG CBRNE Strike Team Joint Exercise

The CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive) Strike Teams in the CAPCOG region conducted a joint exercise Nov. 8th at LCRA's Sim Gideon Power Plant near Bastrop. Teams from the City of Austin, Hays County, Travis County, and Williamson County were joined by personnel from more than a dozen local, state, and federal agencies in a day-long simulation of their response capabilities.

Based upon existing hazardous materials response teams, the CBRNE Strike Teams were formed to ensure the capability to respond anywhere in the 10-county CAPCOG region to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. The teams have worked cooperatively



*Members of Williamson County's team simulate the decontamination of a victim during one of the scenarios included in the November 8 CBRNE Strike Team exercise.*

to develop common procedures, ensure common capabilities and training, and obtain compatible equipment. Much of the equipment used by these teams has been purchased with Homeland Security Grant Program (See *CBRNE* p. 4)

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# AISD is First School District in Texas to Purchase Hybrid Bus

In November the Austin I.S.D. accepted delivery of a new plug-in hybrid school bus at a special event held at Gus Garcia Middle School in northeast Austin.

The bus is the first to be purchased by any school district in the state of Texas and is one of only 18 in the United States.

Gathered for the event at the middle school, one of Austin's newest solar-powered schools, were Austin



*Photo courtesy Austin Independent School District*

City Council Member Lee Leffingwell; representatives of Senator John Cornyn and Representative Lamar Smith; Austin I.S.D. board members Vincent Torres and Cheryl Bradley; Pat Forgione, Austin I.S.D. Superintendent; and the manufacturer's representatives. Accepting delivery of the bus also occasioned a number of remarks from the gathered officials about the potential beneficial significance to the environment

of increased use of such technologies as the plug-in hybrid bus. From remarks prepared by Mayor Will Wynn and read by Council Member Leffingwell, "The City of Austin prides itself on our good environmental stewardship. This partnership highlights the way the City and the Austin School District can work

with private partners to develop innovative ways to protect the environment." A.I.S.D. Superintendent Forgione added, "This is one more way the District is working in the community to help keep the environment clean and safe. This also sends an important message to our students, who we want to model good environmental behavior."

"Bringing this plug-in hybrid bus to Austin is a good example of how, when organizations like those listed here work in partnership, great things can be achieved," noted Hazel Barbour, Program Manager of the Clean School Bus Program of Central Texas which is a partnership program of Capital Area Council of Governments

and the CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas. The program was able to help AISD purchase the plug-in hybrid bus through a grant from the EPA Blue Skysways Collaborative. Additional funding was provided by Austin I.S.D. itself, Advanced Energy, and Austin Energy.

Private companies, Advanced Energy, Enova, and IC Corporation, partnered in the development of the new plug-in hybrid electric school bus. The plug-in hybrid uses a charge-depleting lithium-ion battery system, which means it should be recharged overnight for optimal fuel economy. The cost of recharging the battery pack is approximately 60 cents per equivalent gallon of diesel fuel, according to Ewan Pritchard, hybrid program manager at Raleigh, N.C.-based Advanced Energy. It is expected that the bus will get (*See BUS, p. 4*)

## Basic Peace Officer Course Class 47 is Underway

CAPCOG's Regional Training Academy kicked off its 47<sup>th</sup> Basic Peace Officer Course in October with the largest number of students in the RTA's history. The 45 students include 28 already hired by local law enforcement agencies who are paid while receiving their 788 hours of training to become licensed peace officers. The other 17 students hope to find a police job after graduation, which is planned for April 4, 2008.

Those 17 students represent 38% of the class membership and may signify a trend which has typically had 75% of the daytime BPOC classes

composed of civilians. And while only 25% of previous classes have been students who are already hired by law enforcement agencies, 62% of Class 47 are sponsored. This trend could be attributed to the continued growth coupled with a high number

of retirements, and seems to be forcing local governments to recruit officers from areas outside Central Texas. Fortunately, the region's agencies tend to provide attractive pay and great lifestyle opportunities for those interested in moving to the Austin area.



*Left: Class 47 in training*

## Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding

Each year, states and territories receive VOCA funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, to support community-based organizations that serve crime victims. Approximately 5,600 grants are made to domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, child abuse programs, and victim service units in law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, hospitals, and social service agencies. These programs provide services that include

- Crisis intervention
- Counseling
- Emergency shelter
- Criminal justice advocacy
- Emergency transportation

States and territories are required to give priority to programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Additional funds must be set aside for underserved (*See VOCA, p. 4*)

## Is Your Jurisdiction Ready for the Census?

Although Census 2010 is more than two years away, one decision local governments will make within the next couple of months could affect the accuracy of the count. By participating in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA), a local government gets the opportunity to review and update the address list used to deliver the Census questionnaire.

If the Census Bureau (Bureau) does not know that a particular housing unit exists, then they are neither able to mail a questionnaire to the household, nor send an enumerator or canvasser to look for the unit. In this case, unless the family within the house proactively requests a questionnaire, then this family would not be counted. The potential implication of a local government not reviewing and updating the address list could result in an undercount of the population, affecting political representation, funding allocations, and public and private demographic analysis for the next ten years.

Arguably Central Texas has more to lose than other regions in the country because several of our communities have experienced a high rate of population growth. Addresses that are less likely to be included in the Bureau's list are newly constructed units, new subdivisions, zoning conversions to residential or mixed use, and new or unidentified group quarters. In practice, the Bureau updates their address list from the postal service; however, if the analyst who inputs the data is not able to locate the address geographically, then that housing unit does not make their address list.

Local governments have three options for participating in the program. Option one, the participant may add, delete, and correct the city style address list, challenge address counts in census blocks, make map updates, and appeal results from the Bureau's address canvassing. Option two, a participant may review the address list, but may only submit a list of new (*See CENSUS, P. 4*)

### Region 12 VOCA Funding Awards for July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Congratulations to all agencies that received VOCA funding.		Original CJAC Recommended Amount	APPROVED Revised Funding Recommendation	CJD Award Amount
Name of Applicant	Project Title			
Hays County Women's Center	<i>Comprehensive Services to Victims of Family Violence, Sexual Assault &amp; Abuse and Child Abuse</i>	\$422,103.00	\$382,011.00	<b>\$382,011.00</b>
Williamson County Crisis Center	<i>Victims of Family Violence &amp; Sexual Assault</i>	\$179,310.00	\$162,279.00	<b>\$162,279.00</b>
Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center	<i>Child Abuse Intervention</i>	\$87,361.00	\$79,063.00	<b>\$79,063.00</b>
Bastrop County Women's Shelter	<i>Victim Assistance Program</i>	\$296,619.00	\$268,446.00	<b>\$268,446.00</b>
Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center, Inc.	<i>Family Violence/Sexual Assault Services</i>	\$83,225.00	\$75,320.00	<b>\$75,320.00</b>
Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center	<i>Crime Victim Assistance</i>	\$126,065.00	\$93,943.00	<b>\$93,943.00</b>
Children's Advocacy Center Serving Bastrop, Lee, Fayette Counties	<i>Child Abuse Intervention &amp; Treatment Program</i>	\$95,473.00	\$80,000.00	<b>\$80,000.00</b>
Travis Co. Dom. Vio/Sexual Assault Survival Center	<i>Sexual &amp; Domestic Violence Victims Services</i>	\$431,186.00	\$390,232.00	<b>\$431,821.00</b>
Austin, City of **	<i>Comprehensive Victim Services Program</i>	\$331,551.00	\$300,060.00	<b>\$0.00</b>
Center for Child Protection	Project Connect	\$76,994.00	\$76,994.00	<b>\$76,994.00</b>
Austin Children's Shelter	<i>Emergency Shelter for Victims of Child Abuse</i>	\$96,636.00	\$96,636.00	<b>\$96,636.00</b>

\*\*The City of Austin's FY 2008 VOCA application was awarded \$302,244 out of discretionary State Fund 421 funding.

**\$2,370,950      \$2,149,411      \$1,746,513**

*(GENERAL ASSEMBLY cont'd from p. 1)*  
The General Assembly Guest Speaker will be Mr. Larry Eblen, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service in New Braunfels. Mr. Eblen will talk about the evolution of meteorology with regard to disaster planning and response. A complimentary lunch will be available for General Assembly representatives; there will be a \$19 charge for each luncheon guest who is not a General Assembly representative or Advisory Committee member. Please RSVP to Brenda Henderson at 512-916-6000.

*(CBRNE cont'd from p. 1)* funds that are administered by CAPCOG.

For more information about the CBRNE Strike Teams, contact Ed Schaefer at 512-916-6026 or [eschae-](mailto:eschae@capcog.org)

*(BUS cont'd from p. 2)* approximately 12 miles to the gallon, which would represent an increase of 100%, as most school buses get about 6 miles to the gallon of diesel. The bus will carry 71 passengers, and it uses the same technology employed by popular hybrid cars such as the Toyota Prius. When the bus driver brakes, the energy from the action of braking is converted into electrical power that is stored in the bus's batteries. When the bus is not in use *(cont'd)*

and not braking, the batteries can be charged by plugging into a standard electric power outlet. Since there will be an estimated 70-100% improvement in fuel economy compared to the traditional diesel counterpart, school bus plug-in hybrid electric technology significantly reduces fleet management costs, dependence on diesel fuel, and harmful diesel particulate matter emissions which may lead to asthma and lung cancer.

*(VOCA cont'd from p. 3)* victims, such as survivors of homicide victims and victims of drunk drivers.

In Texas, the administrative agency for VOCA funding is the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD). Each year, CJD contracts with the 24 regional councils of governments (COGs) to facilitate CJD's grant application process within each region, provide planning and prioritization for local governments within their regions, distribute information to potential grant applicants about CJD's application process and deadlines; facilitate local community planning groups; and provide technical assistance throughout the grant year. CJD announced the VOCA funding awards for CAPCOG Region 12 in October. The table on p. 3 contains the VOCA funding distribution for CAPCOG Region 12.

*(CENSUS cont'd from p. 3)* addresses, make map updates, and appeal the results from canvassing. Lastly, option three, the participant submits only a list of new addresses and makes map updates, and does not review the address list or challenge the results from canvassing.

CAPCOG encourages local governments to register as participants, especially if your community has experienced significant growth since 2000. After all, if you sign up for the program, you are under no obligation to do any work. Just by providing a list of new addresses or by challenging the number of units within a census block, you will have helped the Bureau to accurately count the Capital Area residents.

The last day to register for the program is Dec.31, 2007, while the deadline to finish a LUCA review is April 4, 2008. For more information on the LUCA Program, please visit the Census website at <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca.html> or contact Jon Bartlett, US Census Bureau Geographic Specialist, at (214)253-4470 or toll free (866)511-5822.

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