

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



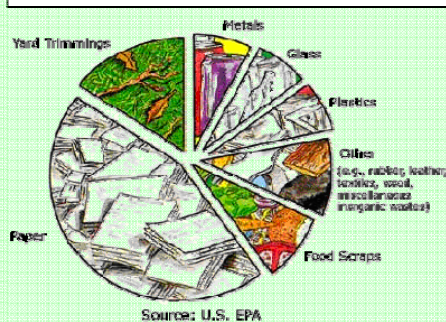
A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CAPCOG to Host Recycling Roundtable

The Capital Area Resource Recovery Roundtable (CARRR), CAPCOG's first quarterly regional forum on recycling, waste reduction, and resource conservation, will be held at CAPCOG offices on Thurs., Feb. 21, 2008, 1 pm -4 pm. A focus topic will be chosen each quarter; this forum will focus on plastics recycling.

The Feb. 21 CARRR will feature keynote speaker Alan Watts, Recycling Specialist with the TCEQ, whose topic will be "Recycling: The 21st Century Imperative." Rick Cofer of the *Bag the Bags In Austin* Coalition will lead a discussion on efforts to reduce usage and increase recycling of plastic bags. Melissa Martinez of the City of Austin will discuss *Zero Waste*, what it means, and the City's new initiative. There will also be a discussion of the many types of plastics and markets for recycled plastic materials.

If you are interested in recycling, materials reuse, waste reduction or resource conservation, we hope that you will be able to join us for this engaging and informative Roundtable. For additional information or to RSVP, please contact Kelly Freeman at 512-916-6040 or kfreeman@capcog.org.



2008 Executive Committee Elected

The General Assembly conducted its annual meeting in December to elect the 2008 Executive Committee, the board charged with overseeing budgeting, auditing, and operations for CAPCOG. Elected to serve for the 2008 calendar year were: *Council Member Pat Berryman, Mayor James Bertram, Judge Sam Biscoe, Judge Wayne Brascom, Commissioner Will Conley, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty, Judge Dan A. Gattis, Judge Bill Guthrie, Judge Ed Janecka, Council Member Jennifer Kim, Judge Donna Klaeger, Commissioner Cynthia Long, Judge Ronnie McDonald, Mayor Pro-Tem Alan McGraw, Mayor Janet Moerbe, Mayor Caroline Murphy, Mayor Susan Narvaiz, Commissioner Maurice Pitts, Mayor Kermit Roeder, Judge Elizabeth Sumter, Judge H. T. Wright.*



Commissioner Maurice Pitts, Immediate Past Chair, Executive Committee.

Officers for the same period were also elected: San Marcos Mayor Narvaiz will serve as Chair; Travis County Judge Biscoe, 1st Vice Chair; Bee Cave Mayor Murphy, 2nd Vice Chair; Hays County Commissioner Conley, Secretary; and Commissioner Pitts will serve as Immediate Past Chair.

Inside this issue:

Criminal Justice Funding Opportunities	2
Basic Environmental Law Training	2
ENS Train-The-Trainer	3
Hypnosis Course at RTA	3
BPOC Sets New Record	3
BPOC to be Held in Williamson County	3

CAPCOG Criminal Justice Funding Opportunities Available

The Capital Area Council of Governments' (CAPCOG) Criminal Justice Program assists local governments and non-profit entities with the development of programs and projects designed to address particular crime-related community problems. The program also coordinates the grant application review and priority setting process required by the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office (CJD), which provides funding for the program. In addition, applicants for CJD grant funds receive assistance with the development of Community Plans, designed to allow local governments the freedom to examine their own problems and develop their own solutions with CJD funding assistance.



Oversight Responsibilities

CJD develops guidelines and rules, monitors grant program operations and fiscal compliance, and administers the grants awarded by the Governor. At the regional level, CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) provides overall policy guidance to the Criminal Justice Program. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing and setting priorities for all criminal justice funding requests. The Committee is composed of local professionals in the criminal justice, juvenile justice, social services, and substance abuse fields, elected officials, and interested citizens. Committee members are appointed by CAPCOG's Executive Board.

State Funding

Criminal Justice Planning Fund (421). The source of the 421 fund is a biennial appropriation by the Texas legislature from court costs and fees collected by the State. Funds may be utilized for a wide range of projects designed to reduce crime and improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems. **Application due date: 2/29/08**

Federal Pass-Through Funding

Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA). The VOCA crime victim assistance program (Victims of Crime Act of 1984, as amended, 421 USC 10601 et. seq.) provides funds that operate projects with the primary mission of providing services directly to victims of crime. **Application due date was 1/31/08.**

Violence Against Women Act Fund (VAWA). The VAWA program (Sections 2001 through 2006 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended by Title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994) provides funds to operate projects with the primary purpose of reducing and preventing violence against women. **Application due date: 2/29/08.**

Safe and Drug-Free Schools & Communities Act Fund (SDFSC). The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (Public Law 103-382, title IV), establishes the program and provides an annual formula grant to Texas through the U.S. Department of Education. Funds are awarded to address the common goals of drugs and weapons-free neighborhoods, individual responsibility, respect for others' rights, and promotion of school attendance, discipline and learning. **Application due date: 2/29/08.** (see *Pass-Through* p. 4)

Regional Task Force Hosts Basic Environmental Law Training Events in 2008

The illegal disposal of waste along highways, at dead-end streets, in parks, along watersheds, creeks, and rivers is a dangerous and growing problem in the Central Texas region. Illegal dumping is serious business, and Texas laws punish dumpers with fines, jail time, or both. Fines range from a Class A Misdemeanor to State Felony (including jail time). For example, the illegal disposal of lead acid batteries is a Class A Misdemeanor and the penalty can be imposed for each battery for every day of the offense. Fines can be up to \$4,000 and/or one year in jail.

Enforcement of illegal dumping laws is often difficult. Regional efforts are often necessary to address the growing problem of rural dumping.

A Regional Environmental Task Force (RETF) is in place in the Capital Area to fight illegal dumping on a regional scale. The RETF functions as a network of resources and services such as assistance with environmental cases and equipment for investigations. In addition, quarterly environmental law trainings are held to educate enforcement officers, judges and prosecutors on how to properly enforce and prosecute environmental laws. (See *Task Force* p. 4)



CAPCOG Launches New Train-the-Trainer Course for ENS

CAPCOG has developed a new train-the-trainer course for the region's Emergency Notification System (ENS). The new course is designed to enable Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) supervisors, emergency management staff, and communications staff to train their own staff on how and when to use ENS. CAPCOG Homeland Security staff conducted the first class on Tues., Jan. 22, 2008.

ENS was purchased by CAPCOG three years ago with homeland security grant funds. This type of system uses a "reverse dialing" telephone method to notify communities or public safety forces of

critical emergency information in situations where property or human life is in danger. ENS includes a web-based mapping application that is drawn from data in the CAPCOG 9-1-1 database.

Local administration of the system is based in jurisdictions with Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and, therefore, ENS is available for use across the CAPCOG region. Since its inception, users of ENS have been required to go through a day of training to become certified users of the system. CAPCOG provides this training free

to participating jurisdictions, but shift schedules, limitations on backfill for staff, and turnover have presented challenges to PSAPs in keeping staff trained in ENS. Having additional trainers in the region will help to ensure that there are certified users available in all of the participating jurisdictions. CAPCOG staff will continue to provide regular ENS classes.

The Train-the-Trainer course is limited to personnel officially designated to be trainers for their jurisdiction. Potential trainers also must have completed training as a certified user.

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

Forensic Investigative Hypnosis Course Draws Attendance from Across the Nation

CAPCOG's Regional Training Academy (RTA) held its annual Forensic Investigative Hypnosis Certification Course at the RTA campus on Jan. 22, 2008. The course was taught by Inspector Marx Howell (DPS Ret.), Texas Ranger Sergeant Frank Malanak and Lieutenant Mark Riordan (DPS Ret.) and Scott Huckabee, CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Director.

Inspector Howell spearheaded the legislation that allowed investigative hypnosis to be used by law enforcement in the investigation of criminal cases and required law enforcement personnel to be trained, tested and certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Inspector Howell, formerly chairman of the DPS Investigative Hypnosis Oversight Committee, also developed

the investigative hypnosis program for the Texas Department of Public Safety. Ranger Sergeant Frank Malanak and Mark Riordan actively use investigative hypnosis in major cases throughout the State. Ranger Malanak is a Past Chair of the Texas Association of Investigative Hypnosis. Forensic Investigative Hypnosis is a technique used to help witnesses recall information from a criminal episode. In Texas, this technique can only be used when an investigation is at a stand still and the witness cannot recall any other critical information about the crime. (See *Hypnosis* p. 4)

Basic Peace Officer Course #45 Sets New CAPCOG Record

On Jan. 19, 2008, the CAPCOG Regional Training Academy (RTA) held a graduation ceremony for the evening Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) Class #45 at the Pflugerville Police Department. The keynote address was given by the Pflugerville City Manager, David Buesing. Travis County Sheriff, Greg Hamilton, dropped by and provided advice to the graduates during the ceremony.

This class, which ran from May

2007 through Jan. 2008, set a new CAPCOG record at the TCLEOSE licensing examination. Twelve graduates made a 90% or higher on the exam and the remainder scored within the 80 percentile. The highest grade was a 96 making this class' average on the State Peace Officer Licensing Examination a 91.4% and the highest Licensing Examination test average of any past CAPCOG class. The daytime BPOC, which began in October, will end Mar. 31, 2008 with graduation planned on April 4th in the Senate Chambers of the State Capitol. The class is expected to graduate 28 students who have already been (see *New Record* p. 4)

Nighttime Basic Peace Officer Course to be Held at the Williamson County Sheriff's Office

On Feb. 18, 2008, the CAPCOG RTA, in cooperation with the Williamson County Sheriff's Department, will be providing a nighttime Basic Peace Officer Course in Georgetown, Texas. The 704-hour training course will take place at the Williamson County Sheriff's Department's training facility. This course will meet M-Th, 6-10 pm, and most Saturdays, 8 am-5 pm. This course will graduate Oct. 17, 2008.

The nighttime BPOC class is designed to accommodate working individuals who desire to go (See *Course* p. 4)

(*Pass-Through* cont'd from p. 2)

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Fund (JJDP).

The JJDP Act (Section 5601 et. seq. of title 42, U.S. Code) provides to Texas an annual formula grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Eligible programs must address one or more of the "need statements" included in the "Governor's Criminal Justice Plan for Texas." **Application due date: 3/14/08.**

FY 2009 Criminal Justice Related Funding Availability

Agencies interested in applying for the following funding opportunities must contact Michelle Casanova, Assistant Director, Criminal Justice Division, at mcasanova@capcog.org for information on how to proceed through CAPCOG's application review process. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

(*Task Force* cont'd from p. 2)

These training events not only provide a wealth of information regarding environmental offenses, they also provide six hours of continuing education credit for TCLEOSE, Code Enforcement and Sanitarians as well as four hours credit for On-Site Sewer Facility inspectors.

The next RETF Basic Environmental Law training will be held on Feb. 4th, 2008 at LCRA's Buchanan Dam Western District Complex. The cost is \$25 and includes a lunch with RSVP. To register for this course, please visit our website: <http://www.capcog.org/Training/viewCat.asp/catid/5>, or if you would like to attend a future training, email the RETF Coordinator, Mickey Roberts, at mroberts@capcog.org for more information.

(*Hypnosis* cont'd from p. 3)

Investigators certified in the use of Forensic Investigative Hypnosis are rare; of approximately 60,000 law enforcement officers in our State, less than 300 are active in this technique. Because of a lack of credentialed instructors, this course is difficult to conduct.

Provided annually by the RTA, this intensive 50-hour course prepares the student to take the certification test at the Commission on Law Enforcement. This course, required for certification, was attended by students from Oklahoma, Hawaii, Maryland, California, throughout Texas and within the CAPCOG region.

(*New Record* cont'd from p. 3)

hired by regional law enforcement agencies and 17 self-sponsored students who plan to compete for jobs in the CAPCOG region.

(*Course* cont'd from p. 3)

into the law enforcement field. It provides the required knowledge to successfully complete the State Peace Officer Licensing Examination in order to compete for law enforcement jobs within our region.

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