

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CAPCOG Emergency Notification System Gets Tested

CAPCOG's Emergency Notification System (ENS) passed its most severe operational test during the flood event that affected much of the region in June and July. In the early morning hours of June 27th, heavy rainfall near Marble Falls in Burnet County caused severe flooding across the area. The flooding damaged and destroyed scores of homes and businesses throughout the area, closing roads and putting the City of Marble Falls' water treatment plant out of service. Flooding along the Colorado River led the Lower Colorado River Authority to initiate floodgate operations at several of its dams.

In response to this flooding, the CAPCOG ENS was called into service. Installed just over a year ago as a cooperative project of CAP-

COG member jurisdictions and CAPCOG's Homeland Security and Emergency Communications departments, the ENS provides emergency management personnel a mechanism to telephonically notify a large number of people about potentially dangerous events.

The LCRA used the system to notify people downstream of its dams about impending floodgate operations. Williamson and Burnet county officials used ENS to provide critical information to citizens in flood-prone areas. The City of Marble Falls and the LCRA used the system repeatedly to notify their water supply customers of the need to boil tap water due to possible water system damage.

In the period that began when the rain started falling and (*See ENS p. 4*)

2007 Jack Griesenbeck Leadership in Regionalism Award

Regional cooperation is becoming increasingly more important to our communities as we work to address issues across city and county lines. The Jack Griesenbeck Leadership in Regionalism Award was created to recognize a volunteer, community leader, or elected official who has made a significant effort toward regional cooperation within CAPCOG's ten-county area.

Nominations are due by Nov. 1st (applications are on our website) and the winner will be announced at the December General Assembly meeting. Past recipients of the award have been Kirk Watson, former mayor of Austin; Neal Kocurek, former chairman of the Envision Central Texas project; Robert Huston, Chairman (*see AWARD p. 4*)

CAPCOG Hires New Solid Waste Program Coordinator

The CAPCOG Center for Regional Development (CRD) has a new Solid Waste Program Coordinator. Kelly Freeman joins us from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) where she served as an Environmental Planner. She has almost 10 years of experience in the solid waste field and is passionate about recycling and reuse.

Kelly has hit the ground running and has already visited with a num-

number of regional stakeholders regarding their solid waste issues. If you have a particular solid waste issue that you would like to discuss with Kelly, contact her at kfree-man@capcog.org.



Kelly Freeman
Solid Waste Program Coordinator

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CARTPO Recognized for *Call for Projects* Process

The Capital Area Council of Governments is the recipient of the Excellence in Regional Transportation award for work that its transportation committee, the Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO), performed identifying regional transportation priorities through the Call for Projects. The award was given by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) at the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee on Sept. 26, 2007. As a panelist for a workshop on Rural Planning Organizations at the same conference, Sean Moran, Director of the Center for Regional



CARTPO Members at US 290 Ribbon Cutting in Lee County

Development, talked about CARTPO.

Receiving a national transportation award confirms that the Capital Area

was ahead of the curve on developing a process for regional transportation coordination and consensus building. Completed in 2003, 2004, and 2005, the Call for Projects re-

sulted in a list of regional priority projects based on local support, economic development impacts, ease of implementation, regional impact,

safety considerations, and traffic volumes.

Through regional coordination, CARTPO's advocacy has led to approximately \$25 million in funding of CARTPO projects by the Texas Transportation Commission and the Texas Department of Transporta-

tion-Austin District. Completed projects have included widening US 290 East of Giddings to the Fayette County line, the grade separation of SH 71 in Bastrop, and several safety bond projects in Lee, Llano, (*See CARTPO p. 4*)

Criminal Justice Applicants Should Check New Website

In preparation for the forthcoming CJD grant award notices, each grant applicant is encouraged to visit the Governor of Texas' website at: <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/cjd/formsapps/view> to review the eGrants Online Apps. & Grant Management System. The eGrants Online Apps & Grant Management System is designed to facilitate a more efficient means of applying for and managing a grant program. Questions regarding application and grant management processes can be directed through eGrants using the *Contact Us* form, or you can visit the *Updates* page to refer to the users guide to creating an application and other system updates.

Grant applicants will also find the following forms and information at this site:

*new [eGrants Online Grant Management System ? click the link to access the system:](#)



*new [eGrants Users Guide to Creating an Application](#) [1 MB PDF]

*new [CJD Online Expenditure Report Submission System - click the link to access the system:](#)

[Request for Funds Form](#) [50KB MS Word]

Designation of Grant Officials Change Form [\[82KB MS Word 97\]](#) [\[77KB MS Word XP\]](#)

CJD Procurement Questionnaire [\[92KB MS Word 97\]](#) [\[71KB MS Word XP\]](#)

JABG Waiver of Funds Form for Local/Regional Projects [\[58KB MS Word 97\]](#) [\[58KB MS Word XP\]](#)

[Grant Adjustment Form](#) [2088KB MS Excel]

In addition to the new eGrants system, FY 2008 CJD grant applicants should log onto the revised Texas Administrative Code (TAC) to review the rules they will follow when implementing their programs this year. The revised TAC can be viewed at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/>. The TAC is a compilation of all state agency rules in Texas. There are 16 titles in the TAC. Each title represents a category, and related agencies are assigned to the appropriate title.

In 1977 the TAC was created by the Texas Legislature under the Administrative Code Act (Government Code, §§2002.051-2002.056). In the Administrative Code Act, the Legislature directed the Office of the Secretary of State to compile, index, and cause to be published the Texas Administrative Code.

Effective grant management is a requirement to avoid Vendor Hold (*see CJD p. 4*)

National 9-1-1 Day Celebrated

Winners of a 9-1-1 elementary school calendar contest were recently recognized by CAPCOG in an awards ceremony at the Capitol on Sept. 11th. Senator Glenn Hegar presented awards to the contest winners and helped recognize individuals and teams who take 9-1-1 calls. Jason Hill from KVUE News was the emcee for the event.

Participating elementary schools were from Austin, Leander, Lexington, Granite Shoals, Flatonia, Lago Vista, Cedar Park, and Bastrop; with students from kindergarten to third grade. Each monthly calendar and cover winner received his or her framed artwork, a Red E. Fox medal, and a goody bag. In addition, Red E. Fox was on hand to present the medals and talk with each student.

The following awards were presented to 9-1-1 call-takers. **Team Award:** San Marcos Police Department-Lana Dixson, Sharon Fischer, Audry Hammons, Jenny Inman, Freddy Marmolejo, Cate McAllister, Stephanie San Miguel-Palacio, and Matilde Ruiz.

Emergency Communications Operator of the Year: Kendra O' Cayce, Travis County Sheriff's Office.

Dedicated Service Award: Matt Kyser-UT PD; Jo-Anna Lyles-Travis County; Rachel LaBrie-Bastrop; Norma Ortiz-Texas State PD; Rudy Ramirez-San Marcos PD; Mark Smith-Austin PD; Jill Townsend-Williamson County Emergency Communications; Darleen Voiles-Lee County; Eric Whiteman-Austin EMS; Katherine Wolf-Round Rock PD.



Left to right: Senator Glenn Hegar; Becky Stewart, Director of Emergency Communications, CAPCOG; one of the awardees; Red E. Fox.

Lifetime Service Award: Scott Arbuckle-Austin Fire Department-in service for 24 years; David Belknap-Austin Fire Department-in service

for 30 years; Robert Cantu-Austin Police Department-in service for 21 years; Victor Cervantes-Austin Police Department-in service for 21 years; Ron Cook-Austin Police Department-in service for 22 years; Harold Elmore-Austin Police Department-in service for 34 years; Frankie Fowler-Austin Fire Department-in service for 32 years; Kenneth Hoelscher-Austin Fire Department-in service 34 years; Tonya Sperry-San Marcos Police Department-in service for 22 years; Becky Stewart-Capital Area Council of Governments-in service for 33 years; William Nelson-University of Texas Police-in service for 29 years.

On Aug. 29th, 2007, the Commission on State Emergency Communications recognized the following 9-1-1 call-takers as **Silent Heroes:** Katherine Harrell-Williamson County Emergency Communications; Beryl Harris-Taylor Police Department; Ashle LaMunyon-Hays County Sheriff's Office; Jason Moreno-Texas State University Police Department; Matilde Ruiz-San Marcos Police Department; Mark Smith-Austin Police Department; Nan Starkey-Austin-Travis County EMS; (See 911 p. 4)

The Regional Training Academy to Begin a Full Class in October

The Regional Training Academy will begin a full Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) on Oct. 29, 2007. Due to the aggressive recruiting efforts by the law enforcement agencies, this full-time BPOC will consist of over 30 sponsored recruits with less than 15 slots available for civilian applicants. The sponsored students will represent San Marcos PD, Bastrop Co. SO, Austin Public Safety Emergency Management, Round Rock PD, Georgetown PD, Cedar Park PD, Austin ISD PD, Travis Co. SO, Texas Juvenile Probation Dept, Fredericksburg PD, New Braunfels PD, and Burleson Co. SO. This BPOC Class 47 will meet Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the RTA campus and will graduate Mar. 2008.

BPOC Class 46 Bats a Home Run at the Licensing Examination

BPOC Class 46, begun back in April, graduated Sept. 21st after successfully completing 59 areas of instruction and passing the TCLEOSE Peace Officer Licensing Exam earlier that week. Each student passed the test on his/her first attempt and set a new CAPCOG record for the TCLEOSE test average at 88.8 %, bypassing the 86.11% test record held by Class 45 who graduated in March.

The graduation ceremonies were held at the State Capitol Extension Auditorium. Division Commander Alvin Shaw of the Austin Public Safety and Emergency Management Department was the guest

speaker. The graduating students of Class 46 represented the Austin Fire Department Arson Division, Bastrop Co. SO, Austin Public Safety and Emergency Management Dept., San Marcos PD, Austin ISD PD, Pflugerville PD, Cedar Park PD, Georgetown PD, and Fredericksburg PD.



(*ENS cont'd from p.1*) ended when the LCRA's boil-water notices were lifted on July 10, CAPCOG's ENS placed 126,381 calls. With the capability of delivering 69 simultaneous calls, the system was hailed by local officials as being invaluable in providing critical information to the citizens of the CAPCOG region.

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

(*AWARD cont'd from p. 1*) of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Ray Sanders, former Mayor of Lockhart and Chairman of CARTPO; Bob Daigh, District Engineer of Texas Department of Transportation; and last year's recipient, Senator Gonzalo Barrientos.

The award is named for the first chairman of CAPCOG, former Bastrop County Judge Jack Griesenbeck who understood the need for regionalism and still supports it

today. Judge Griesenbeck was the first chairman of CAPCOG in 1970 and has also played a key role in the creation of the Texas Association of Regional Councils, the state association serving 24 councils of governments.

(*CARTPO cont'd from p. 2*) Burnet, and Caldwell counties. Facing transportation funding challenges, CAPCOG, TxDOT, and local jurisdictions will work to adapt the Call for Projects process so that it continues to serve the transportation planning needs of our region—perhaps the new process will be a future award winner.

(*CJD cont'd from p. 2*) status by the Governor's Office, CJD. Applicants who are put on Vendor Hold status will be penalized during the next CJAC application review process by having points deducted from their final score. Applicants can avoid being put on Vendor Hold by following all rules and regulations

listed in the eGrants Online Grant Management System and the TAC.

Additional technical assistance regarding grant management can also be obtained by contacting CAPCOG's Deputy Director of Criminal Justice, Michelle Casanova, at mcasanova@capcog.org.

(*911 cont'd from p. 3*) Amanda Wood-Pflugerville Police Department.

All the 9-1-1 call-taker awards were a result of nominations by peers or supervisors to a volunteer committee comprised of other 9-1-1 call-takers within the CAPCOG region and one CAPCOG staff member. For the team and operator of the year awards, the committee analyzed the particular calls for service that were included with the nominations.

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