

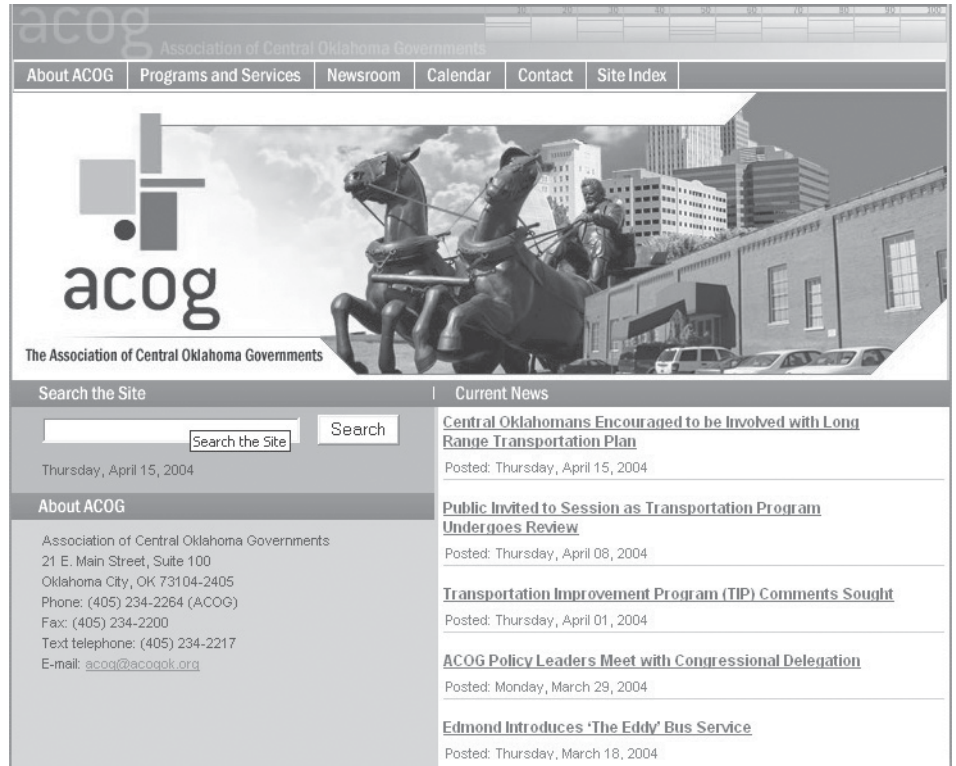
ACOG Web Site Given a 'Extreme Makeover'

No chin implant or nose job was required, but ACOG's Web site, located at www.acogok.org, just emerged from the salon with a whole new look. The changes were not solely cosmetic. The Web site underwent a restructuring that will help site visitors find new and archived information easier and faster. Platforms were also established that will help accommodate site changes, growth in programming and other future needs.

ACOG established its Internet presence in 1998. New Internet protocols, voluminous improvements in computer technology, and the changing needs of the Association's Web audience created a situation where the site needed to be redesigned to accommodate the expanding utility of the Internet.

The timing for a Web redesign also conveniently coincided with ACOG's branding campaign, which started with the unveiling of a new logo last fall, and will continue with other projects in the coming year.

A regional design firm, Element Fusion, was consulted through a competitive bid process in 2003 to carry out the new design, which vastly improves content
...See "Web Site" on page four.



ACOG's Web Site, at www.acogok.org, has undergone a facelift, which makes the site more navigable and user-friendly.

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Central Oklahomans Encouraged to be Involved in Transportation Plan

Central Oklahomans are invited to participate and comment on the Public Involvement Process (PIP) regarding the development of the long-range transportation plan that will impact the Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study (OCARTS) area over the next several decades.

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) is responsible for developing the long-range plan and coordinating its implementation among area cities, towns, counties and local, state and federal transportation agencies.

The OCARTS area includes all of Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties and portions of Canadian, Grady, Logan and McClain Counties.

The process outlines methods and approximate time frames for citizens, affected organizations and other interested parties to be involved and comment on the development of the 2030 OCARTS plan.

The PIP design will include:

- A survey to be distributed throughout the OCARTS area this fall.
...See "OCARTS PIP" on page four.

Clean Cities Program Promotes Informed Choices

Concerns about national energy security, rising gasoline and diesel prices, and lack of consumer knowledge are the driving forces behind ACOG's Clean Cities' new public education campaign. The project's goals are to increase name recognition of the Clean Cities program, its Web site, and the information and resources it offers. ACOG's Clean Cities program manager Yvonne Anderson said, "We really want to let people know who we are and what we do."

The campaign is using a variety of mediums to spread its message, including radio, transit stop benches and large billboards.

The U.S. Department of Energy recently updated and expanded Clean Cities' mission and scope of activities to include

a broader range of clean transportation technologies.

Specifically, the expanded program strives to:

- further increase the use of alternative fuels – natural gas, ethanol, propane, biodiesel, electricity and hydrogen;
- expand the use of blended fuels – diesel/biodiesel blends including B20 and B2, gasoline/ethanol blends such as E10, and CNG/hydrogen blends;
- accelerate sales of hybrid-electric vehicles (HEVs);
- promote informed consumer choice on fuel economy;
- encourage the use of idle reduction technologies for heavy-duty trucks and other vehicles.

The program's updated mission statement is: To advance the national, economic and energy security of the United States by supporting local decisions to reduce the use of petroleum fuels

in vehicles.

"We're trying to get the word out that ACOG's Clean Cities Web site, www.okcleancities.org, and our program are the places to come for information about energy security issues, fuel economy, alternative fuels and vehicles, grant funding opportunities, and to plug into a network of valuable alternative fuel industry contacts," said Anderson.

ACOG's Clean Cities program targets business leaders, municipal, county and state fleet administrators and decision makers, as well as the driving public. In the past year, ACOG's Clean Cities program helped its stakeholders receive more than \$280,000 in grant funding for various alternative fuel infrastructure and fleet vehicle purchase projects.

Funding for the Clean Cities Public Education Campaign comes from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce through a U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program grant.

Central Oklahoma
Perspective
Offering Regional Leaders News and Information

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Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

"Providing Regional Leadership in Central Oklahoma Since 1966"

Established in 1966, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) is a voluntary association of cities, towns and counties. ACOG helps member governments plan for common needs, cooperate for mutual benefit and coordinate for sound regional development.

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Councilmember Willa Johnson, *Oklahoma City*

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Mayor Eddie Reed, *Midwest City*

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The Central Oklahoma Clean Cities program is actively promoting alternative fuels in the region

April Showers Bring May Floods

Spring marks the unofficial beginning of the state's flood season, and to make citizens aware of flooding problems and solutions, Governor Brad Henry has designated the month of May as "Flood Awareness Month" in Oklahoma. This year the state Legislature has also underscored the point as well – by passing H.B. 2284 - The Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act.

Communities who have joined the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) must be aware of the changes

made with the new law. The new regulatory definition of floodplain administrator means that a person with that title must be accredited by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and designated by a floodplain board to administer and implement laws and regulations relating to the management of floodplains.

Currently, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) holds training classes for Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM), which is a trademarked ...See "May Floods" on page three.

“May Floods”

...Continued from page two.

national accreditation through the national Association of State Floodplain Managers. Applicants wishing to obtain the initial designation as a CFM must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be an active member of OFMA
- Have a minimum of two years experience
- Have completed the FEMA Floodplain Administrator Training Course (offered in Oklahoma)
- Have a minimum education of High School Diploma or GED
- Submit a completed Application Packet
- Pay an application fee
- Obtain a passing score on the Certification Examination

For more information on the accreditation process, visit the OFMA website at www.okflood.org.

Historically, the greatest numbers of flood disasters in Oklahoma have occurred during the month of May. Floods are among the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities in the country can experience some kind of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms, or winter snow thaws. Flooding causes more than \$2 billion in property damage and numerous deaths each year. To add to the woes, losses due to flooding are generally not covered under most home-owners or business policies.

Floodwaters can be extremely dangerous. The force of six inches of swiftly moving water can knock people off their feet. The best protection during a flood is to leave the area and go to shelter or higher ground. Flash flood waters move at fast speeds and can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges. Walls of water can reach heights of 10 to 20 feet and generally are accompanied by a cargo of debris.

Each year, several Oklahomans lose their lives by driving into dangerous floodwaters. If floodwaters rise around a car, it should be abandoned. Drivers need to learn to never drive into moving water, especially if the water is deep enough to cover the wheel rims of the car. Depth can be deceptive and cars can easily be swept away in just two feet of moving water.

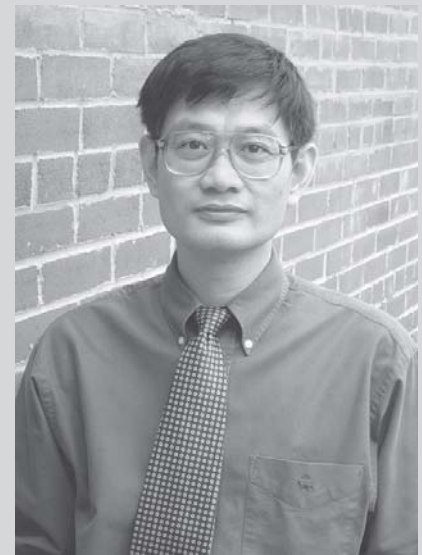


Around the Region

- **Georgie Rasco** has been named executive director of the **Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma**. Rasco previously served as the executive director of the Oklahoma City Literacy Council. At the Neighborhood Alliance, she will help guide hundreds of neighborhood associations across the region with empowerment by helping them create safe and attractive neighborhoods.
- The **Oklahoma Tax Commission** (OTC) is currently seeking feedback from municipalities on a test Web site that is designed to make the state's streamlined sales tax code easier to administer at the local level. The Web address for the site is at www.oktax.onenet.net/pod, and feedback can be accessed through the site. The Web site has user-friendly features such as tax rates that can be looked up by street address. The site was developed by OTC and the **University of Oklahoma's Department of Geo Information Systems**. OTC staff is interested in hearing from municipal administrators on the site's navigability and ease of use.
- The **Deer Creek Fire Department** recently acquired a new fire truck, thanks to **Oklahoma County** commissioners **Stan Inman** and **Jack Cornett**. The 1984 pumper vehicle was originally a surplus engine from the city of **Oklahoma City**. The Deer Creek fire district operates with volunteers and any fire equipment that is functional helps the department. Both Inman and Cornett noted that the truck's acquisition was a great example of regional cooperation.
- Buffaloes from all walks of life (and color) will soon be appearing around the region as the “**Spirit of the Buffalo**” public art initiative be-

gins installing its sculptures this month. The project merges public and private entities with the sponsorship, painting and installation of pre-sculpted buffaloes that are prominently displayed for public viewing. The program is sponsored by the **Nature Conservancy**. Over 100 buffaloes so far have been sponsored, and should dot the regional landscape by the end of summer. For information on opportunities to sponsor a bison sculpture, call 858-8557 for details.

- **Pong Wu** has joined the **ACOG** staff as an Associate Planner in the **Transportation Planning and Data Services Division**. Wu comes to Central Oklahoma after working for an engineering firm in Kansas City for the past decade. Wu will work primarily with the travel demand model and travel data. He holds a master's degree in urban transportation planning from the University of Kansas and holds two other undergraduate degrees in engineering from Anhui Highway Engineering College and Anhui University in Anhui, China.



Pong Wu, ACOG Associate Planner

“ACOG Web Site”

...Continued from page one. management, navigation and fulfills current federal electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOI) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

A team comprised of ACOG staff and Element Fusion designed the site so visitors can find specific information about any of ACOG’s programs or services from any “page” within the site. Pull-down menus are accessible from any page, and a site index, and search engine is available, as well. Specific pages were developed for emerging programs, such as the 2030 OCARTS Plan, and Emergency Medical Dispatch. Future interactive programming may also allow for data collection and viewer polling. ACOG news and other news from around the region are offered weekly on a news portal on the home page.

The site is available now online. For comments, e-mail Jerry Church at jchurch@acogok.org.

“OCARTS PIP”

...Continued from page one.

- Public meetings proposed for January 2005. Notice of meeting dates will be forthcoming.
- The re-initiation of a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), which will

May

- 13th Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee
Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 14th Garber-Wellington Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 18th Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1 p.m.
- 27th 9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m.
Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m.
ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m.
Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.
- 31st ACOG Offices Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

June

- 8th 9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 10th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 24th 9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m.
Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m.
ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m.
Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.

help make recommendations to the Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee.

- A final publication describing the 2030 OCARTS plan, to be published in 2005.

Details on the PIP are available now through June 1, the deadline for comments. Copies can be requested by calling Holly Massie or J.A. Church at ACOG at 234-2264 or by downloading from ACOG’s Web site at www.acogok.org.

Central Oklahoma

Perspective

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