

## Central Oklahoma Bike-To-Work Day Event Set

ACOG and the City of Oklahoma City will co-sponsor the first Bike-to-Work Day event for Central Oklahoma on Friday, May 20, 2005.

Central Oklahoma Bike-to-Work Day 2005 is part of a national campaign to promote bicycling as a healthy, non-polluting and efficient transportation alternative. The American League of Bicyclists has recognized the month of May as National Bike-to-Work Month since 1956, and National Bike-to-Work Day annually offers metropolitan areas the opportunity to call attention to the benefits of bicycling and to increase safety awareness among bicyclists and motorists.

The Bike-to-Work event on May 20

will feature a "group ride" from the State Fairgrounds to City Hall in downtown Oklahoma City. Participants will leave the Fairgrounds, bike together, and meet on the east side of City Hall between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Local dignitaries will be on hand to welcome inbound cyclists.

Bicyclists may bike from other parts of the metro area, as well, including Will Rogers Park at NW 36<sup>th</sup> and Portland, Woodson Park at S. Grand Blvd. and May Avenue, Douglas Park at NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Martin Luther King Blvd., and Trosper Park at SE 29<sup>th</sup> Street and Eastern. Each

city park has parking facilities for motor vehicles, so participants can park and bike to work.

Other communities and organizations in the region are also encouraged to participate and develop local bike to work events.

The partnership stresses several safety tips for would-be participants.

- Always wear a helmet.
- Wear appropriate shoes and comfortable clothes in bright colors.
- Inspect your bike for safety and ...See "Bike to Work" on page three.



## Rural Communities to Receive AED Units

Several communities in the Central Oklahoma region will receive automated external defibrillators (AEDs) this month, to be used for emergencies involving cardiac arrest. The AED program is one of the more popular public safety grant programs that ACOG helps to administer. The devices were granted through a program designed to save lives in rural areas of the state, which ranks third in

the nation in cardiovascular deaths.

ACOG served as a regional administrator for the program, accepting applications from local communities earlier this year. The devices were funded directly by a federal grant from the Health Resources Services Administration. The Oklahoma State Department of Health and the American Heart Association (OSDH) have purchased hundreds of AEDs to be distributed statewide through the 11 councils of government of the Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils.

Based on federal grant criteria, only certain zip codes within Logan and Canadian counties were eligible to receive the donated devices.

Entities receiving the units in Central Oklahoma included the Guthrie Fire Department, Piedmont Police Department, Woodcrest Volunteer Fire Department, Okarche Volunteer Fire Department, Calumet Volunteer Fire Department, Okarche Police Department, Oak Cliff Fire District, Cedar Lake Fire Department, Crescent

Fire Department, Cheyenne Arapaho Community Health Department, El Reno Fire Department, Marshall Fire Department, Calumet Police Department, County of Canadian County and Mustang Fire Department.

The devices are designed to be utilized by non-medical personnel, such as police officers and firefighters. The units have been proven effective and require minimal training. If placed in 24-hour radio-dispatched mobile units, the AEDs are particularly effective in responding to medical emergencies by simply being readily available. The devices average in price at about \$2,000, which has prevented many small rural communities from purchasing them.

"We were pleased to take part in administering this program that will help save lives in critical situations," said ACOG Executive Director Zach D. Taylor. "We believe that the AEDs will help fortify first responder emergency medical service to rural communities in our region."

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# BRAC Closure Recommendations Due in May

Central Oklahoma leaders are optimistic that Tinker Air Force Base will be spared from the closure list when the Base Realignment and Closure Commission list of recommendations is released this month. The Department of Defense (DoD) has been reviewing internal data and analytical processes to formulate the recommendations, and has until May 16 to release its list.

Regional leaders have been preparing for the moment for several years, when the Commission announced the criteria for the latest wave of closure recommendations in December 2003.

Tinker has been the subject of BRAC scrutiny in the past, and was briefly in violation of the BRAC's "clear zone" recommendations. In March 2002, voters

in Oklahoma County overwhelming approved a bond issue that was designed to strengthen Tinker Air Force Base (TAFB). In that year, Tinker's survival was the number one federal issue noted in a survey of ACOG membership.

The county's Board of Commissioners called for the election to raise up to \$50 million in bonds that would help purchase land, residential and commercial property and environmental assessments around the base, so Tinker could expand and maintain its presence in Central Oklahoma.

Since passage of the bond issue, Tinker officials have been establishing a 3,000 ft. "clear zone" around the base that will aid in public security and keep important facilities farther from uncontrolled areas outside of the bases' perimeter. Leaders also point out that the clear

zone assists in terrorist prevention.

In selecting military installations for closure or realignment, the DoD gives priority consideration to the current and future mission capabilities of the facility, the availability and condition of land

airspace of the facility, the ability to accommodate mobilization of support operations and training, and the cost of facility operations and manpower.

Other primary considerations that the BRAC commission will study include the economic impact of communities surrounding military installations, environmental impacts of closing a facility and overall operations costs, especially when it comes to the timing and extent of costs related to closing a facility.

Tinker is vital to the Central Oklahoma region and is the state's largest employer.



## 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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## May Starts Regional Rainy Season

Rainfall data from the past 35 years indicates that May, June, September and October are the rainiest months in the ACOG region. But historically, the greatest numbers of flood disasters in Oklahoma have occurred during the month of May. Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters, with the exception of fire.

Most communities in Central Oklahoma can experience some kind of flooding after spring rains and heavy thunderstorms. 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 homeowners or business policies.

Floodwaters can be extremely dangerous. 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.

Communities that have joined the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) must be aware of the changes made with the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act, which went into effect last year. 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 national accreditation through the national Association of State Floodplain Managers.

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is hosting its "Floodplain Management 101" Workshops throughout the month of May. Applicants wishing to obtain the initial designation as a CFM must meet several eligibility requirements. For more information on the accreditation process, visit the OFMA website at [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org).

## “Bike to Work”

...Continued from page one.

mechanical concerns.

- Plan and know your route by walking or driving it first.
- Share the commute with a co-worker or friend.
- Obey ALL traffic laws.
- Ride with the flow of traffic as far to the right as practicable.
- Carry water, maintenance tools, and a mobile phone.

Details can be found online at [www.bikemonth.com](http://www.bikemonth.com). For more information about Central Oklahoma Bike-to-Work Day, visit [www.acogok.org](http://www.acogok.org) or [www.okc.gov](http://www.okc.gov).

## Paper or Digital? Your Input Needed

The *Central Oklahoma Perspective* staff is asking readers to consider their monthly reading options. We want to know if readers prefer the old school version (traditional two-color paper version), or the new flavor (full-color, PDF electronic version that comes via e-mail). The content remains the same, but readers have never before been offered the option of electronic delivery. E-mail delivery comes days earlier than snail mail, and the PDF is in full color. Please fill out the form and mail to ACOG, 21 E. Main Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104, or e-mail your information to [jchurch@acogok.org](mailto:jchurch@acogok.org).

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## Around the Region

- Spring symbolizes planting season, and in conjunction with last month's Arbor Day festivities, the city of **Norman** became certified as a **Tree City USA** community. The designation is recognized by the **National Arbor Day Foundation**, in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. Norman joins **Edmond, Guthrie, Midwest City, Oklahoma City** and **Tinker Air Force Base** as Central Oklahoma communities recognized by the program. There are several requirements that must be met to become a Tree City. For more information, visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

- **Guy Henson**, Director of Community Development Services for the city of **Midwest City** has been named Assistant City Manager. Henson will continue in both roles until a new Community Services Director is named

- Seventeen communities, counties and entities in the **ACOG** region have been identified by the **Environmental Protection Agency** as **Phase II Stormwater MS4** communities. The notice of intent must be entered with the **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality** by **May 8**. This month, ACOG will have brochures and audio and video PSAs available to affected entities for public distribution. The products make up a public education campaign that has already won ADDY awards from the Oklahoma City Ad Club and regional creative community. For more information, contact Jerry Church, ACOG.

- The **Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority** is hosting a free public meeting **May 24** to all Central Oklahomans wanting to learn more about the regional **Fixed**

**Guideway Study**, currently being conducted. Fixed guideway systems like light rail transit, bus rapid transit, modern streetcars, high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes for highways, and other transportation solutions are being researched. The Fixed Guideway Study meeting will take place at the McAlpine Center at 428 W. California and will start at 7 p.m. Visit [www.okfgs.org](http://www.okfgs.org) for more information.

- The **Emergency Medical Services Administration (EMSA)** unveiled new look ambulances that will be placed into service this month. The new units are the first major redesign for the region's ambulance fleet in 28 years. EMSA had been working with North Carolina-based American Emergency Vehicles (AEV), the nation's second-largest ambulance manufacturer, to produce the new units. Features such as backup warning devices, LED underbody illumination, digital thermostats and a bold, new blue and red color scheme are among the changes. The metro division of EMSA will eventually put 12 new units on the streets. H. Stephen Williamson, EMSA president and CEO said that the patients and employees of EMSA would enjoy the safety and the components of the design overhaul.



EMSA and city of Oklahoma City officials unveil the new EMSA ambulances that will be placed into service in coming months.

# Region Loses Three Servants

Central Oklahoma lost three community leaders in recent weeks with the deaths of **Tom Smith**, **Ennis St. Clair** and **Leon Vadder**.

Smith was Vice Mayor and Councilmember for Warr Acres. He was active on the ACOG Board of Directors and died March 28 of non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Smith worked feverishly on economic development for the community.

St. Clair was a retired police chief who served the city of Del City as councilmember until his passing March 14 from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. St. Clair operated a carpet and tile store in Del City and always championed public safety initiatives.

Vadder served the citizens of Logan County for over 30 years, as deputy sheriff, sheriff and county commissioner. He died from a heart attack on March 30. Vadder helped promote the county's recently successful tax election to help rebuild the Logan County jail.

Despite their illnesses, all three men continued to dutifully serve their communities to the day of their passing.

## ACOG Calendar

### May

- 12th Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m.  
Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 13th Garber Wellington Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 16th Citizen's Advisory Committee, 3 p.m.
- 17th Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m.
- 24th Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
- 26th 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.
- 30th ACOG Offices Closed for Memorial Day

### June

- 19th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 14th 9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 20th Citizen's Advisory Committee, 3 p.m.
- 30th 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.

Central Oklahoma

# Perspective

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