

ACOG United Way Campaign Rocks and Rolls

It was a rockin' good time for cool cats and dolls last month, as ACOG staff participated in the association's annual United Way Pacesetter fundraising campaign. This year's theme was "Rockin' 'N' Raisin," so the glorious decade of the 1950s helped set the tone for an exciting week of fun, entertainment and regional educational opportunities. This year's ACOG United Way drive organizers were John Sharp, Associate Planner, and Jane Sutter, Division Director of Intergovernmental Services.

The United Way of Central Oklahoma last year ranked ACOG as a Top Ten contributor per capita for organizations with 20 or more employees in annual workplace campaign giving. Several ACOG staff are also members of the Horizon Circle (those that contribute more than \$500). This year, ACOG staff helped to raise almost \$12,000, keeping ACOG's Pacesetter giving record intact. The Pacesetter program is designed to set the "pace" for the public fundraising campaign that runs throughout the fall. Keeping with the '50s theme, ACOG was one of the "Leaders of the Pack."

This year, the week started off with presentations by Sunbeam Family Services



ACOG staff, including (from left to right) Yvonne Anderson, Wendi Marcy, Beverly Garner and Jane Sutter, show off their 1950's-inspired costumes during ACOG's annual United Way of Central Oklahoma fundraising campaign.

and Central Oklahoma Project Access (COINS). Tours to Celebrations educational center and Dale Rogers followed. A team [1950s] pop culture trivia contest was held, along with a poker tournament and a "Name That Tune" e-mail game.

The week capped off with the increasingly popular annual chili and dessert cook-off, costume contest and silent auction that incorporated donations from

many regional organizations, individuals and businesses (see complete list on page two). Teams also convened again to present team auctions items that added to the fun.

The United Way of Central Oklahoma serves the region as a "community safety net" by improving the health, safety, education and economic well being of
...See "United Way" on page three.

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2007 REAP Application Process Underway

The 2007 Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grant process is currently underway, with communities in the Central Oklahoma region with a population of under 7,000 eligible to apply. The maximum dollar amount for grants is \$50,000, which can be used for a variety of projects in the areas of community development and transportation.

REAP funding is important to the region because it allows small communities to

develop necessary infrastructure and transportation projects that they otherwise may not have full resources to implement.

Projects can include, but are not limited to the following: water quality projects, including acquisition, treatment, distribution and recovery; solid waste disposal; sanitary sewer construction or improvement; provision of health
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Conference will Highlight Developments in Alternative Fuels

The emerging Oklahoma biofuel industry is the subject of Grow: The Oklahoma Governor's Conference on Biofuels October 3-4, 2006 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. James Woolsey, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency will address the relationship between national security, dependence on foreign oil and the development of alternative transportation fuels.

Abundant native grasses and substantial research efforts in alternative fuels position Oklahoma to emerge as a leader in biorefining. Farmers and ranchers will be the cornerstone of the emerging biofuel industry and are wondering how soon they will be able to sell a dedicated energy crop. With a net energy output more than four times that of corn ethanol,

investors and policy makers are turning more attention to Oklahoma Switchgrass and other agricultural products as attractive sources of biofuel.

ACOG's Zach Taylor and Yvonne Anderson will moderate two breakout sessions of the conference, covering topics of fleet management and biofuels marketing. Other speakers include leading researchers in agricultural feedstock development and refining technologies, federal and local officials and representatives from the biotechnology, auto and petroleum industries.

Attendees will be updated on the latest news and developments in the biofuel industry:

- The Oklahoma Biofuels Initiative
- Report on the ongoing Oklahoma biomass resource study
- Noble Foundation's development of a dedicated energy crop
- Biorefinery construction in Oklahoma
- Federal and state initiatives for biomass and biofuel production
- Petroleum and automotive industries' commitment to alternative fuels
- Impacts and opportunities for fleet managers, end users and marketers
- Advances in feedstock conversion technology

"Oklahoma has a strong agricultural

sector and its universities have a long and distinguished history in agricultural research and development," said David Fleischaker, Secretary of Energy, State of Oklahoma. "The fusion of agriculture, biotechnology and energy industries



creates an opportunity for our state in the emerging biofuel sector. This conference brings together farmers, researchers, and industry experts from transportation, biorefining and fuel retail; those who play a critical role in creating a biorefining sector in Oklahoma."

Confirmed speakers and presenters include: James Woolsey, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Dr. John Ferrell, Office of Biomass Programs, United States Department of Energy; Thomas Dorr, Under Secretary for Rural Development, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; Cynthia Riley, technology manager, Biomass Program, National Renewable Research Laboratory; Lou Burke, manager of Alternative Energy & Programs, ConocoPhillips; Dr. Ray Huhnke, professor, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, Oklahoma State University; Dr. Lance Lobban, director and Francis Winn Chair, School of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, University of Oklahoma; Anna Rath, director of business development, Ceres-Inc.; Dr. Joe Bouton, Noble ...See "Bio-Fuels" on page three.

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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Central Oklahoma Perspective, printed by TNT Printing, is authorized by the ACOG Board of Directors. Financing is partly provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Transportation and local dues. 1,850 copies were prepared and distributed at a cost of \$944. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

ACOG United Way Business Contributors:

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Bricktown Water Taxi

Made in Oklahoma Coalition

Chelinos

Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

“United Way”

...Continued from page one. families and individuals in need. The United Way helps support numerous partner organizations and agencies that reach one out of three Central Oklahomans each year. An allocation staff of volunteers annually reviews and audits each partner agency and helps provide recommendations on how to maximize and leverage program resources which also helps guarantee accountability.

For more information, visit the United Way of Central Oklahoma at www.unitedwayokc.org.

“REAP Grants”

...Continued from page one. care services, including emergency medical care for rural areas; construction or improvement of telecommunication facilities; improvements of municipal utility distribution systems; expenditures designed to increase employment; implementation of emergency communications systems; non-administrative costs for engineering studies and preliminary architectural designs; construction of public facilities; and others.

Last year, REAP funds helped several regional economic and community development projects in Lake Aluma, Geary, Okarche, Cashion, Union City, Logan County, Nicoma Park, Harrah and Spencer.

REAP grants last year also funded transportation projects in Calumet, Forest Park, Piedmont, Spencer, Oklahoma County, Coyle, Canadian County, Cedar Valley, Logan County and Orlando.

Application packets will be mailed to eligible entities in the Central Oklahoma region this month, and a workshop is planned in November. For more information on REAP, contact Diane McCullough, ACOG.

“Bio-Fuels”

...Continued from page two. Foundation; Dr. David Bransby, Auburn University; Dr. Paul Zorner, Diversa; Maurice Hladik, marketing director, logen and others.

Registration is \$20. For more information or registration, visit www.GrowOK.com or call 1-800-203-5494.



Around the Region

- **Steve Eddy**, City Manager of **Moore**, was recognized by the **Oklahoma Municipal League** as the state’s most outstanding city manager last month. Eddy was presented the annual Gerald Wilkins Award, which is presented by the **City Management Association of Oklahoma**. Eddy was nominated by **Moore Mayor Glenn Lewis**, who noted Eddy’s integrity, work ethic and devotion to the city, as well as his leadership with the city’s rebuilding efforts after the 1999 tornadoes.

- **Steve Commons** was named Assistant City Manager of Administration for the City of **Edmond**. Commons previously served as City Manager of Emporia, Kan. Commons was one of 140 applicants for the position. He will oversee financial services, human resources, management information systems, parks and recreation, community image and special projects.

- **Oklahoma City** was ranked Number One in quality of life for metropolitan areas that host U.S. military installations. *Expansion Management* magazine, a business periodical, ranked the **Central Oklahoma** region and **Tinker Air Force Base** at the top of the list based on several categories, such as public education, housing, living standards, crime, healthcare, child care and more.

- **U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe** and **Gov. Brad Henry** announced last month that the state of Oklahoma would be home to a **National University Transportation Research Center (UTC)**. The **Oklahoma Transportation Center** would be a consortium of three state universities that would conduct transportation-related research and technological development. The center would have access to millions of dollars in research grants. Of the 60

centers across the nation, only 10 are designated as UTCs.

- The **Oklahoma Department of Commerce/Office of Community Development** announced that the City of **Del City** is a recipient of the FY 2006 Small Cities – **Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**. The Small Cities set-aside was established for communities with a 1998 census population of 15,000 to 50,000, which are not U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designated entitlement communities. Del City was awarded \$97,294 for wastewater improvements.

- **Metro Transit** is asking Central Oklahomans to “try transit” in October. The regional effort is in conjunction with the American Public Transportation Association’s **Communities in Motion** program. A variety of activities and promotions this month will showcase regional transportation options provided by public transit. The benefits of transit have far-reaching impacts in the region. According to the 2030 long range plan for the Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study area, transit ridership in the region is expected to increase by 42.4 percent in coming years. For more information on Metro Transit, call 297-2518.



Communities in Motion is this month.

Trick or Treat Night Scheduled for Oct. 31

Regional leaders in Central Oklahoma have recommended Tuesday, Oct. 31 as the night for Trick or Treat activities in the metropolitan area this year.

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments Board of Directors, comprised of local elected officials, recommends Trick or Treat night in the region to keep a uniform date that can be enjoyed by children, families and public safety officials.

The ACOG Board has helped schedule trick or treat night since the 1980s. A uniform date helps plan for the safety and welfare of children in the region and allows everyone to have fun around the area on the same night. Many years ago, communities set their own schedules, and it caused great confusion and inconsistency in the region, as trick or treaters and their families could visit several communities over a two or three-night span to take in Halloween festivities.

The Association also recommends several tips for a safe Trick or Treat night:

- Drivers should be aware of children running or crossing the street.
- Homeowners who distribute candy should keep their porch lights on and keep their yards free of items that

October

- 12th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 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.
- 31st Trick or Treat Night in Central Oklahoma

November

- 9th Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m.
Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 10th ACOG Offices Closed for Veteran's Day
- 14th Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m.
- 16th 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.
- 21st Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
- 23rd ACOG Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

- could cause Trick or Treaters to fall.
- Children should go out with their parents or older siblings.
- Make sure eye and mouth holes in masks are large enough to see and breathe easily.

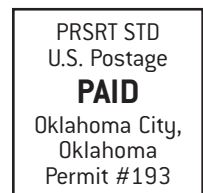
- Parents should check all candy to make sure it is safe.
Communities still determine their own hours of activity on Tuesday, Oct. 31. For further details, call your local city hall.

Central Oklahoma
Perspective

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