

## Air Quality Campaign Begins as Ozone Rises

The deluge of spring rains won't have an impact on the coming ozone season unless the rain continues throughout the summer. Ozone season typically spans from May to September, and this year will be crucial for the Central Oklahoma region to remain in full attainment of federal clean air standards.

Central Oklahoma experienced 16 exceedances of the federal ozone limits in 2006. Despite this, the region was still able to remain in compliance with the federal standard since compliance is based on a three year average. The ceiling for 2007 has been lowered considerably however.

Ozone causes shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, eye and nose irritation. It is especially dangerous to the elderly, children, asthmatics and people with chronic respiratory ailments. During days in which ozone is at extremely high levels, clean air officials recommend that people with cardiovascular disease, such as angina, should limit physical activity and avoid outdoor activities.

Air pollution not only affects health, but it impacts economic vitality, future development and quality of life. The economic impact of a "non-attainment"



The ACOG Clean Air Committee showcased its new "moving billboard" with a Toyota Prius that is emblazoned with the "Get Your Own Square of Clean Air" theme. This car is among many components of the program.

designation is enormous. Essentially, civic leaders would have to commit to a plan that would clearly demonstrate that the region has the ability to clean its air and maintain a good air quality status.

As a result of the heightened importance of the ozone impact, a group of regional stakeholders led by ACOG and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality are drafting an Ozone Flex Agreement. The agreement allows for regions

currently in attainment to opt into the program to design locally controlled measures.

The regional public education program, which coincides with the Clean Air Alert Day program, is also being implemented. ACOG has reaffirmed the commitment and sponsorship of private stakeholders in the campaign. Chesapeake Energy, Devon Energy and OGE Energy Corp. have ...See "Air Campaign" on page two.

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## OWRB to Conduct Water Plan Meetings

Central Oklahomans can share their opinions on what should be included in the state's upcoming 50-year water plan. For the past few months, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) has been holding public meetings to help moderate these discussions. A spate of the 42-meeting schedule will come to the Central Oklahoma region in coming weeks. Confirmed meetings in the region include June 21 in El Reno, July 12 in

Oklahoma City and July 19 in Norman. The meetings are designed to give Oklahomans the opportunity to identify water issues for consideration, voice concerns, and specify the questions that should be answered.

The Water Research Institute, located at Oklahoma State University, is assisting the Board with the planning process. The institute focuses on two major initiatives, ...See "Water Meetings" on page four.

# REAP Funds Awarded to Communities

Several small and rural communities in the Central Oklahoma region were recently awarded funding for transportation and capital improvement projects by the ACOG Board of Directors through the state's Rural Economic Action Program (REAP).

Under REAP guidelines, the maximum dollar amount awarded is \$50,000 for grants to be used for a variety of projects in the areas of community economic development and transportation. Communities in the Central Oklahoma region with a population of fewer than 7,000 were eligible to apply. Criteria for judging is based on a point system, with a value given to each section of the REAP application.

As has been the case in recent years,

there were far more applications and funding requests than the grants could satisfy. For example, 23 applications totaling over \$1,015,188 were received for consideration of approximately \$441,750 in REAP funding available in the transportation category. There were also 32 grant applications totaling over \$1,204,290 received for consideration of the approximate \$294,500 available in the REAP economic/community development category.

After applications were reviewed and ranked, the ACOG Board of Directors approved at its April meeting the recommended projects in both categories at the 100 percent level. The selection of 2007 REAP Projects approved in the Transportation category include:

- Town of Okarche - \$30,000 for fire department access road and drainage improvements.
- Town of Union City - \$38,862.98 to pave Lagoon Road.
- Township of Cedar Valley - \$50,000 for road repair.
- Town of Jones City - \$28,189 for expansion of a community parking lot.
- Town of Luther - \$45,230 for materials for street resurfacing.
- Logan County, Dist. 1 - \$50,000 for road repair.

- City of Lexington - \$50,000 for asphalt overlay.
- Oklahoma County, Dist. 1 - \$50,000 for road repair.
- City of Piedmont - \$50,000 for road repair.
- Logan County, Dist. 3 - \$50,000 for road repair.

The selection of 2007 REAP Projects approved by the ACOG Board in the Economic/Community Development category include:

- Oklahoma County, Dist. 1 - \$18,288 for outdoor warning device at Lake Hiwassee.
- Town of Arcadia - \$50,000 to purchase used fire tanker truck.
- Town of Slaughterville - \$50,000 to purchase and equip new pumper truck.
- Town of Marshall - \$50,000 for sewer line replacement.
- Township of Cedar Valley - \$38,808.14 for installation of two storm-warning sirens.
- Town of Jones City - \$47,600 to install debris screen on sewer treatment plant.
- Town of Lake Aluma - \$50,000 to install pressurized water hydrants.

For more information, contact Diane McCullough, ACOG.

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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## "Air Campaign"

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made financial and staff commitments to assist with the public education effort.

Currently, the annual electric lawnmower promotion with OG&E, Citadel Radio Group and Black & Decker is running. Electric lawnmowers are clean air-friendly and help the committee promote air quality in a practical manner. The promotion will give away six mowers to lucky radio listeners through the Clean Air Web site at [www.letsclartheair.org](http://www.letsclartheair.org).

This summer, the committee will launch its new moving billboard, a Toyota Prius emblazoned with the "Get Your Own Square of Clean Air" campaign theme, donated by Fowler Toyota. The Prius will be on display at many entertainment

events. Other media components, such as television, radio and outdoor billboards will follow.

For more information, contact Jerry Church, ACOG.

## You're Invited

ACOG's annual orientation session will be June 15. The session includes a free lunch and starts at 8:30 a.m. and goes to 1:30 p.m. Learn about ACOG programs and services and regional governance.

Contact Susan Yingling, ACOG, 234-2264, to make reservations.

# ODOT Announces Highway Tree Grant Program

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has announced the application cycle and requirements for the 2007 Highway Tree Grant Program. This competitive program awards communities with funding to plant trees and shrubs for the beautification of interstate highways or primary state highways leading into or through the cities. Since the program's inception in 1997, over 152 communities across the state have received grants for highway landscaping projects.

Entities eligible to apply include local and state governments, public schools and universities, and Indian Nations and tribal governments. Funding should be spent on buying and/or planting trees, and/or the installation of drip irrigation systems.

Approximately \$325,000 in federal enhancement funds is expected to be available for selected projects this year. The maximum award available per project is \$25,000. Proposals require a 25 percent local match, while the grant will fund 75 percent of the remaining.

The Department of Transportation's Highway Tree Grant Program uses federal enhancement funds from highway funding acts passed by Congress. The new highway bill (SAFETEA-LU) has passed Congress and the Oklahoma DOT will proceed with a new three-year continuation of the Highway Tree Grant Program starting in 2007.

The deadline to submit a grant application is July 13, and grants will be awarded in August, which will provide an opportunity for Centennial planting along Oklahoma roadsides.

Applicants submit an application that is judged by a panel of five individuals. The applications are judged on the proposed site's visibility, need for improvement, design and the adequacy and cost-effectiveness of the maintenance program, plan and budget.

Application packets are available from the ODOT Beautification Office (405) 522-6158.



## Around the Region

- Final election results from the spring have solidified governmental administrations in the region. In **Lexington**, **Dennis Mitchell** was named to the council, while **Glenda Humfleet** won the vote to serve Ward 3 in **Noble**. **Alan Douglas** and **Brian Routh** were named to the **Tuttle** City Council. **Blayne Hinds**, **Alicia Sumlin** and **Gary Williams** were voted Trustees for **Langston City**. In **Forest Park**, **Dorothy Winston** was named Trustee. In **Oklahoma County**, **Stanley Alexander** and **David Bennett** were named to the City of the **Village** council, while **Earnest Ware** won a seat with **Spencer**. **Roger Choate**, **Matt Elerick** and **Ray Poland** were named to the Board of Trustees in **Jones City**, while **Ed Threatt** and **James Richard Smith** were named trustees of **Luther**.

- **Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Denise Bode** resigned from her position to take the lead role as the executive director of the **American Clean Skies Foundation**, a natural gas education foundation. Bode's departure left a void that resulted in a special appointment by Governor **Brad Henry**. The Governor named **Oklahoma County Commissioner Jim Roth** to fill Bode's spot on the Commission. Roth won reelection as Commissioner of District 1 last November, and will take over his new office on June 1. As a result of his departure, the interim commissioner for the district will be Roth's **Chief Deputy Linda Simpson**. A special election to fill the seat will be called by the Governor this year.

- **ACOG** is planning a workshop on June 19 for members for whom the Association does either GIS mapping, MSAG, or 911 addressing. The workshop will cover standards and best practices for submitting plats and

new developments to ACOG for 911 addressing and GIS map information updating. The workshop will help streamline the information sharing process in order to avoid inconsistencies in data. For more information, contact Brad Nesom, ACOG.

- **Oklahoma City** ranked fifth in a recent study that examined the "Best Cities for Relocating Families." The study, which is conducted annually by **Worldwide ERC** and **Mobility** magazine, ranked the city fifth among 50 "mid-sized metropolitan areas." Oklahoma City scored well based on factors that included the housing market, climate, crime rates and quality of life.

- **Aaron Champion** is a new intern for ACOG in the **Transportation Planning and Data Services Division**. Champion is currently working on his master's degree in regional and city planning at the University of Oklahoma. A native of Tulsa, he will work on updating GIS databases. Champion plans on pursuing a doctorate in transportation planning or geography after he successfully completes his master's.



Aaron Champion, new ACOG intern.

# “Water Meeting”

...Continued from page one.  
citizen input and research, to investigate identified issues and concerns.

“Oklahoma’s future depends in large part on the availability of clean water,” said Mike Langston, assistant director of the Water Research Institute.

The Oklahoma Legislature mandates that OWRB develop and periodically update a comprehensive water plan. The Board, in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers and other organizations, is also conducting technical studies of projected water demands and water supply infrastructure needs.

“As a state, we are facing difficult decisions on a variety of water-related issues that will affect us,” said Langston. “We strongly encourage all citizens to attend a meeting in their area.”

Though the ultimate responsibility for writing the plan lies with OWRB, the Water Research Institute promises that every issue raised, concern expressed, question asked and suggestion offered will be communicated to the Board.

More information on the plan can be found online at [www.okwaterplan.info](http://www.okwaterplan.info), or by calling (405) 744-9994.

## ACOG Calendar

### June

- 1st JLUS Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 5th 9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 14th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 15th ACOG Orientation, 8:30 a.m.
- 19th MSAG/GIS Workshop, 9 a.m.
- 22nd JLUS Policy Committee, 10 a.m.
- 28th 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.

### July

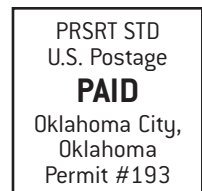
- 4th ACOG Offices Closed for Independence Day
- 6th JLUS Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 12th Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m.  
Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 13th Garber-Wellington Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 17th Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
- 27th JLUS Policy Committee, 10 a.m.

## Central Oklahoma *Perspective*

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