



Central Oklahoma PERSPECTIVE



Special Centennial Edition, November 2007

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

Securing Future of Tinker AFB Subject of JLUS

Cooperation, collaboration and future visioning are key tenets to a study that is currently being conducted between Tinker Air Force Base and the greater Oklahoma City metropolitan region.

ACOG serves as the primary sponsor of the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), which is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment.

The study is a cooperative land use planning effort. It is designed to promote community growth and development that is compatible with Tinker's training and operational missions.

Public involvement and interaction is a primary component of the JLUS process. The first of several public meetings was held in October.

ACOG serves as the study's sponsor. Partners are: Midwest City, Del City, Oklahoma City, Spencer, Choctaw, Nicoma Park, Oklahoma County, Cleveland County, the Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission, and Tinker Air Force Base.

While the focus of the JLUS is to protect the communities as well as address encroachment threats to the Base, it will also strengthen Tinker's position when it comes to the next round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) hearings.

During the past two BRAC reviews, Tinker has been successful in the process. With the prospect of another BRAC process occurring in the coming years, the Central Oklahoma communities most impacted by Tinker's presence want to be prepared to fend off any efforts to close, or reduce its current missions.

The annual economic impact of Tinker AFB is \$3.4 billion. Employed at the base are 8,900 military personnel and 18,970 civilians. The annual payroll is \$1.23 billion.

During the JLUS process, the consulting team of DFW Advisors, Michael R. Coker Company and Pavlik and Associates will study how Tinker interacts with adjacent cities and neighborhoods by analyzing existing development codes. Com-



Zach Taylor, ACOG Executive Director, addresses the impact that Tinker Air Force Base has on the Central Oklahoma region at a recent meeting announcing the Joint Land Use Study.

patibility among all entities and property owners is key. Take off and landing patterns of planes at Tinker are reflected in what are referred to as noise contours and accident potential zones. Land uses within these areas will be studied in depth. The consulting team may ultimately ...See "Tinker" on page two.

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FAQs on Compact Florescent Lightbulbs

In our September issue, we discussed the ENERGY STAR Change a Light Campaign. The program is a national challenge to encourage every American to help change the world, one light — one energy-saving step — at a time.

Participating municipalities, businesses, organizations and citizens can show their commitment by pledging to replace at least one light in the home or office with one that has

earned the ENERGY STAR endorsement. ACOG is serving as a pledge leader for the region, with a goal of 500 pledges. At press-time, we have met 27 percent of our goal.

Joining the effort is easy! Visit www.letsclartheair.org and click on the lightbulb icon, and follow the instructions from the site.

We also want to take the opportunity to share some information ...See "Light Bulbs" on page four.

Centennial Only Happens Once, So Let's Celebrate

Not 100 Yet, but ACOG Celebrates 41 Years

Hopefully, you like our "retro" look, and are not suffering from Centennial burnout. It only happens once every one hundred years, so let's celebrate! In keeping with the historical theme for the month, we thought we would take a look back on ACOG's history, which is now at 41 years (formed in 1966). What we have is a reflective "perspective" from one of our own. We asked Odell Morgan to share some historical thoughts on the impetus for ACOG and its early evolution. Morgan was the Mayor of Moore and served on the ACOG Board of Directors from 1972-1976. He then joined the ACOG staff in 1976 as a Regional Services Director, later becoming Deputy Director, retiring in 1992. - J. Church

From One Perspective

By Odell Morgan

Early discussions among local government officials related to associations of governments conjured up pictures of a "regional government" or "super government" that would usurp the rights and authority of the local governments that became members of such an association, or so it was in Central Oklahoma.

The potential to better serve the people by banding together, sharing resources, carefully planning for regional projects and cooperating with one another was just not a widely accepted concept initially. Most local governments viewed themselves as autonomous entities capable of existing without their neighbors' help. That view most likely originated because, in the formation of early towns and townships, those local governments had no choice but to rely almost totally on their own resources, ingenuity and energies.

Having experienced that sort of independence in their creation and growth, it took a great deal of education, persuasion and evolution of leadership, in many instances, to bring Central Oklahoma local governments to the negotiating table.

At a point in the early 1970s it became obvious to civic leaders that common boundaries and common public services required working together in a cooperative manner if the citizens of Central Oklahoma were to enjoy continued growth and prosperity. Thus participating in an association of local governments became an obvious and viable means to access the resources of the federal and state governments.

Even though the formation of ACOG was an obvious solution to some growing pains, it was not easy for the small governments to commit to be bound together with a large

group that had the potential to exercise authority over them. And, by the same token, it wasn't necessarily attractive to the larger city governments to share resources with the smaller entities.

It took a couple of attempts over time before a viable entity was formed. That organization became known as ACOG, and through evolution, sometimes a bit stormy, became a solid cohesive association in which each entity has

maintained a degree of autonomy, but all cooperate to the betterment of the area's citizens.

From this, came different functional organizations with specific purposes, such as regional transportation planning, regional environmental planning and protection, regional water programs, and a regional 9-1-1 emergency telephone system. All of these programs are in place because of the willingness of local entities to work together toward the common goal of serving their citizens.

"Tinker"

...Continued from page one.
recommend changes to zoning ordinances, subdivision regulation policies and building codes. Individual cities would then follow their own process for updating their ordinances and land development policies on a volunteer basis.

"The mayors, councilmembers and county commissioners of Central Oklahoma do not take Tinker Air Force Base for granted," said Zach D. Taylor, Executive Director of ACOG. "Tinker's continued vitality remains the number one legislative priority for our region."

For more information, visit www.acogok.org/JLUS.



Odell Morgan in 1972

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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.

Chairman:

Commissioner Mark Sharpston, Logan County

Vice Chairman:

Commissioner Willa Johnson, Okla. County

Secretary-Treasurer:

Councilmember Kathy Walker, Nichols Hills

Executive Director:

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“No Kill” Goal for Regional Group

A new organization, the Metro Alliance for Animal Life, has been formed to address the challenges of pet overpopulation, unwanted pets and stray dogs in Central Oklahoma. The Alliance intends to become a significant coalition of municipalities, non-profit organizations, and involved citizens, with the mission of unifying community groups to foster public respect for animal life. It also hopes to develop community resources supporting “no-kill” shelters, in which animals can find good homes rather than having to be euthanized.

All municipalities struggle with the problems caused by overpopulation and unwanted pets, and the Alliance will seek community-based solutions that will serve the region.

The Alliance has committees developing the following programs:

- Access to spay/neuter services: Surveying veterinarians and designing an informational brochure to increase affordable services to low-income pet owners.
- Education and adoption: Developing a hotline for animal behavior advice to reduce the numbers of pets surrendered to shelters for behavioral problems.
- Exemplary shelter: Developing adoption greeters and health programs at the Oklahoma City animal shelter that can be replicated in all metro shelters.
- Public relations: Developing a speaker’s bureau, a membership directory and media relations in order to raise community awareness.

Additional programs will be developed as the Alliance increases its organizational capacity. A significant key to expanding its impact will be the participation of the local governments in the Central Oklahoma region.

For more information, call Christy Counts with the Oklahoma Humane Society, 286-1503.



Around the Region

• The **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma Recycling Association, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful** and **The Metropolitan Environmental Trust** are promoting increased recycling in Oklahoma by recognizing November 15 as **America Recycles Day**. With more than 20,000 programs available throughout the country, over 90 percent of Americans have access to recycling. In Oklahoma, over 50 percent of citizens have recycling programs available. Every year, communities, organizations, schools and businesses hold America Recycles Day events to celebrate recycling and to keep it in the public eye.

• Citizens in **Oklahoma City** are invited to review the city’s fiscal year **2008 Brownfields** grant proposals and offer suggestions about potential Brownfield sites and the direction of the program. The city is seeking funding for a **\$3 million Revolving Loan Fund Grant Program** and a **\$200,000 Assessment Grant** through a nationwide competition. Grants would allow planners to distribute money to private developers and non-profits through low-interest loans or sub grants for the assessment and cleanup of Brownfield sites. Citizens who wish to comment can e-mail jimmie.hammontree@okc.gov. The application will be updated and made available through the public process.

• **Norman** is hosting a meeting on **Nov. 8** to provide a forum to discuss a variety of civic issues and to identify if citizens feel respected and represented in government. The meeting is sponsored

by the City of Norman, the **University of Oklahoma**, and the **Norman Chamber of Commerce**, and will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the **Norman Regional Hospital Educational Center**, 901 N. Porter. All interested community members are invited and encouraged to attend.

• **Oklahoma City Emergency Management Director Ronnie Warren** received the 2007 Paid Director of the Year Award from the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association (OEMA).

The award is presented to an emergency manager whose work has benefited local and statewide preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation efforts. “Ronnie Warren has made many contributions to Oklahoma emergency management but seldom stops to take any credit,” explained OEMA President Mike Galloway. “Every day he promotes the goals and ideals of emergency management, and is a great example to us all.”



Ronnie Warren, Oklahoma City Emergency Management Director.

“Light Bulbs”

...Continued from page one.
on how to dispose of the bulbs, if they are broken during installation. CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, and proper disposal and clean up is necessary.

1. Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes.
2. Carefully scoop up the fragments with stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a sealed plastic bag. Use rubber gloves, if available (do not use bare hands). Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels and place them in the plastic bag.
3. Place the first bag in a second sealed plastic bag and put it in the outdoor trash container. Wash your hands after disposing of the bag.
4. If a fluorescent bulb breaks on a rug or carpet, remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner, following the steps above.

If vacuuming is necessary, vacuum the area, remove the bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the debris in the outdoor trash.

Once a bulb has maximized its lifespan, it can be disposed of at a household collection site. Residents of Oklahoma City, The Village, Yukon, Tinker Air Force Base and Edmond can dispose of bulbs at the Oklahoma City Household

November

- 2nd* JLUS Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
6th Regional GIS Technical Committee
8th Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m.
Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
9th Garber-Wellington Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
12th ACOG Offices Closed for Veterans Day
13th Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m.
20th Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
22nd-23rd ACOG Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
29th 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.

December

- 11th* 9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
13th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
20th 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 JLUS Policy Committee, 10 a.m.
25th ACOG Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday

Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at S.W. 15th & Portland.

Because the bulbs won't be burn-

ing out in large quantities for some time, it is likely that more collection sites will be available in the future.

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