

## ACOG Asks Central Oklahomans to Change a Light

Q: How many people does it take to change the world with a light bulb? A: Just one, if it's the right light bulb. This is not a joke. Changing one light bulb can actually make a huge difference.

ACOG is leading the charge in Central Oklahoma to participate in 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.

Going into its eighth year, the campaign provides a central rallying point on ENERGY STAR Change a Light Day, Wednesday, **October 3, 2007**. ACOG will serve the region as a pledge leader, along with support from Redbud Energy. A pledge link to Central Oklahoma's program can be found on [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

The government's ENERGY STAR label on lighting means that consumers are getting a product that is superior in energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)

use 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last six to 10 times longer. Not only are energy and money saved, but emissions that create ozone are reduced substantially.

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

Some facts about CFLs:

- CFLs perform best in open fixtures that allow airflow, such as table and floor lamps, wall sconces, pendants, and outdoor fixtures.
- For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a reflector CFL than a spiral CFL since the design of the reflector



evenly distributes the light down to your task area.

- If a light fixture is connected to a **dimmer or three-way switch**, you'll need to use a special ENERGY STAR qualified CFL designed to work in these applications. Make sure to look for CFLs that specify use with dimmers or three-way fixtures.
- CFLs contain a small amount of mercury and should be disposed of properly, ideally recycled.

The campaign is part of the Central Oklahoma "Get Your Own Square of Clean Air" Program. Protect the environment of today and tomorrow — start by changing a light!

For more information, contact Darla Hugaboom, ACOG.

## AG to Hold Open Meetings, Records Seminars Across State

This fall, Attorney General Drew Edmondson, the Oklahoma Press Association, Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation and FOI Oklahoma will hold seminars on the Oklahoma Open Meetings and Open Records Acts in locations across the state.

The seminars are designed to answer questions concerning the state's open meeting and records laws and inform elected or appointed officials about their responsibilities under the acts. Edmondson will also discuss requirements on access to public records and the conduct of public meetings.

"We have found in the past that government and school officials want to comply with the law, but there is some uncertainty about how to do that,"

Edmondson said. "These seminars provide a thorough review of the law and allow participants to ask questions about its practical application."

Assistant Attorney General Gay Tudor, one of the state's foremost authorities on the openness laws, will assist Edmondson in presenting the seminars and answering questions.

The seminars are free of charge and open to the public. No reservations are required. The Central Oklahoma session will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., on **November 13**, at Metro Tech, Oklahoma City.

This is the fifth time Edmondson's office has traveled the state in an effort to educate Oklahomans about openness ...See "Openness" on page three.

### Inside Perspective:

September is National Month of Preparedness ..... 2

ACOG Collecting Regional Comments on State Water Plan ..... 2

What's New Around the Region ..... 3

ACOG Calendar ..... 4

# September is National Month of Preparedness

The Boy Scout motto holds true: "Be Prepared." All citizens and governments in Central Oklahoma can make sure that the motto is not just a catchy slogan.

Central Oklahomans should think about how lives can instantly change when emergencies occur. Sound preparation and planning can alleviate a lot of worries.

To help initiate the planning process, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) is helping families and communities take action during September, which is National Preparedness Month. There are simple steps that everyone can take to prepare for whatever might occur. Emergencies happen all the time, but taking action now can help minimize the impact and

nuisance that accidents and disaster can bring.

Preparedness can be a simple proposition. It just takes time to think of answers to questions that inevitably will come up at the worst time. Where would you go if disaster struck, and how would you get there? What supplies are needed, and where should they be stored in the meantime? The questions are endless, but the resources to these questions are fairly easy to find.

National Preparedness Month is a state, national and local effort to encourage families to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. Throughout the month, OKOHS and local communities will work with a wide variety of organizations to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities such as first aid training, emergency drills and more.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security promotes individual emergency preparedness through the Ready campaign and Citizen Corps. This year's effort

has a growing coalition of more than 625 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

The Ready campaign and the department's Citizen Corps program work closely together to promote activities across the nation that will encourage

individuals to have an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect them, as well as take steps to get trained and engaged in

community preparedness and response efforts. Citizen Corps provides citizens with opportunities to prepare, train and support local first responders.

September is also an ideal time for families to update their emergency supply kits and family emergency plans and to become better informed about different threats, such as recent floods, and local emergency plans.

Groups can also register to become National Preparedness Month coalition members by visiting [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner.

Central Oklahoma  
**Perspective**  
Offering Regional Leaders News and Information

21 East Main, Suite 100  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104-2405  
(405) 234-2264/FAX: (405) 234-2200  
TDD: (405) 234-2217/[www.acogok.org](http://www.acogok.org)  
E-mail address: [acog@acogok.org](mailto:acog@acogok.org)

### 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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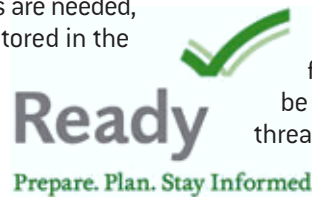
**Executive Director:**

Zach Taylor

**Editor:** Jerry Church

**Layout:** Ken Brown

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## ACOG Collecting Regional Comments on State Water Plan

The 2007 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan represents a crucial shift in the state's historical approach to water planning. State planners are focusing on development of system-level plans to provide the most water to the most Oklahomans.

The first phase of the OCWP update will focus on development of water demand projections by county and region through forecast year 2060 as well as a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the state's water supplies. Coinciding with this effort is an extensive public participation program.

With the help of the Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute, 42 public input meetings were scheduled throughout the state to create a planning process

for a feasible and defensible water policy for Oklahoma's future. This public input meeting process is about two-thirds complete, with most of the remaining meetings scheduled to take place in eastern Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Legislature mandates that the Water Resources Board 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.

The local meetings in the ACOG area were in El Reno, Oklahoma County Extension Office, and at the Norman fairgrounds. ...See "Water Plan" on page three.

## “Openness”

...Continued from page one.

laws. Previous seminars were held in 1998, 2001, 2003 and 2005.

The Open Meetings and Open Records Acts are designed to bring government closer to people and to allow the actions of public body's maximum access and input from their constituents.

“Government operates best when it is done in the full purview of the people it represents,” Edmondson said. “We are pleased to again work to promote government the way we think it should be – open and accountable.”

## “Water Plan”

...Continued from page two.

The meetings were well attended, averaging about 50 people each. The concerns and suggestions of the local people reflected the distinct character of the communities they live in.

The local discussions included the following recommendations:

- Regulations should recognize the connection between surface and groundwater.
- The water plan should take a look at easing some of the current restrictions on reuse of treated municipal wastewater.
- Domestic wells should be tested for more contaminants - not just coliform bacteria. This should be part of every transfer of title where a potable well exists.
- The plan should include legislation to maintain adequate in-stream flows to ensure quality wildlife habitats.
- We should implement increasing block rates [step-up rates, where increased use results in higher rates] for water usage to encourage water conservation.
- Recreational activities need to be given higher priority in water resources planning.

As part of the local input process, the ACOG Water Resources Division is surveying its members to generate a position paper regarding priorities in the water planning process. A survey form can be found on the ACOG Web site, at [www.acogok.org](http://www.acogok.org). Comments will be accepted until the end of September.



## Around the Region

- The **Norman Fire Department** received recognition as a premier Emergency Medical Response Agency at the annual **Oklahoma EMS Educational Conference**. Throughout the year, OEMTA accepts a number of nominations for individuals and services that have demonstrated outstanding performance, and awards are presented to those agencies and individuals. Representatives from Norman Fire Department were presented with the Jim Clark Memorial Emergency Response Agency award for 2007 for actions taken last year during a particularly challenging emergency situation.

- **Wendi Marcy**, Special Programs Officer for the **9-1-1 ACOG** program, placed third in class and was awarded Reserve World Champion at a recent World Championship Horse Show. Marcy is an avid horse trainer and rider and worked hard for the honor.

- Schoolchildren in **Central Oklahoma**, and from all 50 states, will be participating in **International Walk to School Day** on October 3. The benefits of walking to school extend beyond increasing physical activity, such as decreasing traffic congestion surrounding schools, increasing an emphasis on pedestrian safety in the community, decreasing emissions surrounding the school and even improving student behavior and performance within the classroom. The 2007 event marks the 11<sup>th</sup> International Walk to School Day. For more information on regional activities, visit [www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org).

- The new **Central Park** in **Midwest City** will be named after the late **Charles Johnson**. Johnson served the community as its City Manager and helped steer it through an economic renaissance after the commu-

nity suffered extensive tornado damage in 1999. Johnson died in December 2005.

- The **State Historic Preservation Office** (SHPO) will hold a public meeting on September 7, 2007, at the **Oklahoma History Center**, to provide information about the statewide preservation program and to receive public input for the development of the fiscal year 2008 Historic Preservation Fund application. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$650,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior's FY 2008 Historic Preservation Fund to carry out its programs and operations. Ten percent of the award is reserved for pass-through grants to Certified Local Governments.

- **Jim Couch**, City Manager of **Oklahoma City**, and former **Edmond Mayor Carl Reheman** will be inducted into the **Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials** at a ceremony this month. The Hall of Fame annually recognizes individuals for outstanding achievement in the field of city and town management. Couch and ...See “Around the Region” on four.



Jim Couch, City Manager of Oklahoma City.

# “Around the Region”

...Continued from page three.

Reherman join a legion of Central Oklahoma notables, including **Don Bown, Charles Lamb, William A. Moyer** and **Donald C. Rider, Edmond; Patience Sewell Latting, Leon E. Nelson, Gary Marrs** and **Zach D. Taylor, Oklahoma City,** and **David Morgan, Norman.** Honorees are selected based on significant contributions they make to their community and Oklahoma local government. The Oklahoma Municipal League; City-County Management Association of Oklahoma; Oklahoma Municipal Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association; Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group and Oklahoma Conference of Mayors created the Hall of Fame Foundation in 1999.

- The City of **Del City** has contracted with **ACOG** for assisting the city with mapping, inventoring and creating a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) of its water, sewer and drainage systems. The project will last two years and is funded by two consecutive Community Development Block Grants grants through the **Oklahoma Department of Commerce.** The CIP work program will include GIS mapping utilizing high-resolution aerial photography and extensive use of GPS data.

## ACOG Calendar

### September

- 3rd ACOG Offices Closed for Labor Day
- 11th 9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 13th Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m.  
Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 18th Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.  
Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m.
- 19th Legislative Issues Breakfast, 7:30 a.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.
- 28th FireSAFE Foundation, 11:30 a.m.

### October

- 5th JLUS Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 11th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 19th JLUS Policy Committee, 10 a.m.
- 25th 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.
- 29th REAP Workshop, 8 a.m.
- 31st Trick or Treat Night in Central Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma

## Perspective

### Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

21 East Main • Suite 100  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-2405  
**(405) 234-2264** • FAX 234-2200  
TDD 234-2217 • [www.acogok.org](http://www.acogok.org)

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