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Regional Forum

Newsletter Of The South Plains Association Of Governments

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Driving Force

Reese Technology Center Awarded EDA Grant

Reese Technology Center (RTC) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), were recently awarded \$1.225 million dollars from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) through the Public Works program. This investment is part of a \$2.050 million dollar project. The funds will be used for the construction of highway improvements and deceleration lanes for easier and safer access into the Reese Technology Center in Lubbock.

Reese Technology Center is located at the site of the former Reese Air Force Base that was closed on September 30, 1997. It

is located on 2,467 acres approximately 10 miles from the City of Lubbock in the High Plains Region of the Great Plains. RTC is a multipurpose campus for technology, research, engineering, economic development, and entrepreneurship.

Reese is positioning itself with key strategic alliance partners to bring more technical and credentialed new jobs to the southwestern U.S. and West Texas. Reese is currently the preeminent site for wind turbine and alternative energy research. This project supports the growth and expansion of alternative energy companies, and SWIFT – Scaled Wind

Farm Technology, which is a public private partnership between Texas Tech University, Sandia National Laboratory, Vestas, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

This project will construct a driveway from an existing and unused runway to State Highway (SH) 114. A median turn lane will be created for eastbound traffic and a deceleration lane for westbound traffic on SH 114 wishing to enter the driveway. The project will focus on widening SH 114 so automobile, light truck, flatbed truck, light industrial, and heavy industrial traffic can have efficient means of ingress

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New Faces Join SPAG Team

2-1-1 South Plains Welcomes Two Staff Members

Two new staff members have joined the 2-1-1 team at South Plains Association of Governments. Diana Marruffo, is a new full-time Information and Referral Specialist. She was previously employed at Wells Fargo for 10 years. Ruby Gatica, is a new part-time Information and Referral Specialist. She is currently a student at South Plains College and is pursuing her degree in Translation. She is also interested in learning more about the Lubbock community and how she can become more involved.

2-1-1 Texas South Plains is the Area Information Center for the South Plains region. It is part of an integrated, statewide network of centers across the State of Texas. It provides resources for those who need access to services such



as utilities assistance, food, counseling, and seasonal programs, for example. 2-1-1 is also the number for three other state programs: Your Texas Benefits, State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry, and Office of Inspector General to report fraud and abuse of state benefits. 2-1-1 Texas South Plains

New Additions

Diana Marruffo (left) and Ruby Gatica (right) are new 2-1-1 South Plains team members. Marruffo is a full-time Information and Referral Specialist. Also an Information and Referral Specialist, Gatica works at SPAG while attending South Plains College.

is a program of Texas Health and Human Services Commission, South Plains Association of Governments, and is partially funded by City of Lubbock's Community Development department.

For more information about South Plains or Texas resources, please visit www.211texas.org.



CDBG Grants Due This Year!

It is time again to start thinking about possible projects for Community Development Block Grant Funding. CDBG Applications will be due in October this year but planning early is a must for successful applications.

If your city, county or WSC is interested in applying for this funding through TDA, please contact Regional Services to begin the application process! Regional priorities include water, sewer and street improvement projects.

SPAG has written and had awarded more CDBG applications than anyone else in the region over the past 3 cycles!





TML REGION 3 CAPROCK-LUBBOCK AREA

The Region 3 Texas Municipal League (TML) Regional Meeting was held on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at the Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas in Lubbock.

The City of Muleshoe

hosted the meeting. City Secretary from Muleshoe, LeAnn Gallman, presented the workshop “Elections 101” and the Muleshoe Youth Advisory Committee presented the Host City presentation.

There were 22 member cities represented that included elected officials and municipal employees from the region. State Representative District 83, Charles Perry, was also in attendance.

If you would like more information or need a registration form please contact:

BELINDA SOLIS,

TML COORDINATOR

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UPCOMING 2014 REGION 3 QUARTERLY MEETINGS:

DATE: Thursday, June 19, 2014 @ The Scottish Rite Learning Center, Lubbock

HOST CITY: City of Hale Center

WORKSHOP: Drought Happens: Plan Smart! With the majority of Texas (including our region) currently experiencing exceptional or extreme drought a workshop on how you can “plan smart” will be presented during the business/dinner session of the meeting.

DATE: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 @ The Scottish Rite Learning Center, Lubbock

Host City: City of Plains

WORKSHOP: Current Legislative Issues and Concerns



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Ingham Announces Retirement

Plainview City Manager leaving post after decade of service

A surprising occurrence happened during the Plainview City Council meeting held in January, when City Manager Greg Ingham announced he will be retiring at the end of June.

The idea of retirement started about a year and a half ago between Ingham and his wife, Patty, which was six months before the closure of Plainview's largest employer. Mayor Wendell Dunlap praised Ingham's management of the Cargill closure, as well as last fall's tax and water rate increases by pointing out the recent announcement that the city had kept its bond rating. This is further proof of Ingham's ability to keep the city financial-

ly stable.

Ingham stated that his work for the city will continue past June if the council deems it necessary. He confirmed that he will be with the city through the budget process for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. His dedication to the city was a major factor and the reason why Ingham had gone back and forth on the thought of retirement before making an official announcement.

Ingham has spent 38 years in city government with the last 10 of those years as the City Manager in Plainview. In 2012, he was awarded the Texas City Management Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. When asked about his retirement plans,

he indicated that he's exploring opportunities to do some outside consulting work.



GREG INGHAM
City Manager
City of Plainview

AWARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
and egress into RTC while reducing the risk of collision and injury to others. With a growing student population and industrial activity, this infrastructure project is important to the long-term success of the RTC. In addition to the SH 114 project, Reese would like to make infrastructure improvements to an alternate entrance/exit located on the Northeast side of Reese Technology Center.

This project will provide many opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses, research firms, technological and educational institutions to locate to Reese Technology Center. This will be possible because the ingress and

egress into the RTC will be greatly improved resulting in a durable, safe surface that will reduce congestion and increase accessibility.

Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority (LRRRA) will be responsible for the ownership, operation and management in addition to TxDOT's maintenance of Highway 114, when necessary. The South entrance located on Highway 114 is TxDOT's right-of-way. For that reason, TxDOT is dedicating funds to the project.

The overall LRRRA Highway Project will enhance the functioning and competitiveness of leading and emerging industry clusters at the Reese Technology Center, the City of Lubbock, Lubbock County,

and the South Plains region. The LRRRA Highway Project is estimated to create and/or retain over 100 jobs and potentially have \$35.8 million dollars in private investments within 6 years.

This project was a collaboration of efforts between the Regional Services and Economic Development departments at SPAG, the Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority, and the Lubbock District of the Texas Department of Transportation. At this time, the projected completion date is September 2014. For more information, please call SPAG at 806-762-8721.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we each can play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in communities.



JOIN SPAG AND THE REST OF THE STATE IN OBSERVING *Child Abuse Prevention Month*

Friday, April 4th is a statewide Wear Blue Day to observe Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Please mark April 4th on your calendar and wear BLUE!
Let's show the youth of our community that we care about them!

Ready for Recording

Outdated 9-1-1 equipment to be replaced

When an emergency arises and there is a need to call 9-1-1, getting the assistance you need is all that matters. You place the call, a voice answers, and in a matter of minutes help is on the way. It seems simple, but what most people don't realize is that to make all this happen requires a room full of technological gadgets working together to assure that help is dispatched in a timely matter. Computer servers, workstations and networking devices assist the 9-1-1 operator to locate the caller and dispatch the appropriate responders to render assistance. Without these gadgets, this would be next

to impossible.

As is the case with all technology, it must be replaced from time to time to assure that it is ready



and working when needed. Most equipment has a life cycle of a few years and then must be replaced. With the coming of 2014, comes the need to replace the voice recorders that are used to record all 9-1-1 and law enforcement calls as

they occur. These devices allow 9-1-1 and law enforcement officials to play back calls when needed. Oftentimes these recordings can be beneficial in the prosecution of criminal cases.

In the coming months, SPAG Regional 9-1-1 will be replacing the old outdated voice recorders. The new state of the art recorders are one of many steps SPAG is taking to assure that the South Plains has the latest technology needed to serve and protect the people of our region.

Drought Management Workshop

The Southwest Environmental Finance Center along with SPAG hosted a Drought Management Workshop specifically geared towards those managing small water utilities on February 25-26 at SPAG.

The workshop was very informative and featured information on Short-Term Drought Issues, Long-Term Drought Issues and everything in between. Representatives from EFCN, TCEQ, TWICC, CRG, USDA and Texas Tech presented information and there was a wide range of interaction and discussion among the group.

The Southwest Environmental Finance Center is potentially interested in conducting another training similar to this later this year.

If your city, county or WSC would potentially be interested in that—please contact Kelly Davila in the Regional Services Department at kdavila@spag.org.



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Water Development Board Meeting Recap

On February 24, the Texas Water Development Board held a board meeting at Texas Tech University where some regional projects were approved and other funding matters were discussed.

The Texas Water Development Board offers a variety of programs aimed at cities and counties. There were updates and comments taken specifically regarding the State Water Implementation Fund (SWIFT). The result of HB 4, SWIFT allocates approximate-

ly \$2 billion to meet water infrastructure needs in Texas. Ten percent is set aside for rural communities, however these projects will all be loan-based (no grants). Texas Water Development Board is currently taking comments on the proposed implementation of SWIFT—you can submit your comments by following the information at this link: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/swift/involved/index.asp>.

SOUTH PLAINS ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
 QUARTERLY CALENDAR

<i>APRIL</i>		
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	4/8/14 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
<i>MAY</i>		
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	5/13/14 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
<i>JUNE</i>		
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	6/10/14 10:00 a.m.-12:00pm	SPAG Boardroom



SPAG is a voluntary association created by the local governments within State Planning Region 2. It is an independent political subdivision of the state and is one of 24 such organizations in Texas. All local governments in the region are eligible and invited to become a member. Regional Forum is published quarterly by SPAG and is available without cost.

Please direct any correspondence or inquiries to
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