



Newsletter of the South Plains Association of Governments

SPAG Receives Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

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While skillful accounting and finance practice are essential to the operation of any public organization, they must also be used as an effective communication medium to the public that the organization serves.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that government bodies complete each year is intended to demonstrate compliance with generally accepted accounting principles, and the non-profit Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) brings recognition to exceptional organizations that go above and beyond the base legal requirements for such reporting.

SPAG is proud to announce that the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been

awarded to the South Plains Association of Governments by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). This Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The award from GFOA is presented after the



Left: Tim Schwartz, SPAG Director of Finance; Right: Judge James St. Clair, President, SPAG Board of Directors

organization's CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

Tim Schwartz, Director of Finance at SPAG received the award on behalf of the Finance Department at the Board of Directors meeting on February 14, 2012.

The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.





March 2012

AAA Hosts Respite Care Stakeholder Forum

On January 18, 2012, the Area Agency on Aging was host to the Lubbock Respite Care Stakeholder Forum.

The forum was presented by The Texas Respite Coordination Center, the Texas Respite Coalition and the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. Education was a central aim of the forum, and attendees were given the opportunity to learn more about respite



Kelly Jasper, SPAG speaks on issues of respite

services for caregivers caring for individuals of all ages, disabilities and health conditions.

The topics covered were: TRCC & TRC – resources, barriers & challenges to



respite care, respite for the dementia caregiver, respite care for kids with special needs, AAA respite programs, outreach & awareness of respite and how to get the family involved in respite efforts.

Melanie Harrison from the Texas Association of Regional Councils lead



Left to right: Cheryl Nolting, DADS; Melanie Harrison, TARC; Patricia Bordie, DADS

question and answer sessions that were addressed to a panel and also involved attendees.

The 30 attendees for the forum were a representative sample from all aspects of respite care, ranging from home health to individuals. The forum ended with a group discussion on spreading the word: outreach & awareness of respite.

The Area Agency on Aging

provides an inclusive and coordinated variety of services and opportunities so that seniors can lead dignified, independent, and productive lives.

These services are for those living in the South Plains region. Find out more at:

www.spag.org/Area-Agency-on-Aging.html

Open Season for Grant Applications!

Is your City or County interested in applying for a Community Development Block Grant from



the Texas Department of Agriculture?

2012 is an application year, and preparation of grant applications will begin soon. CDBG applications are for up to \$275,000 to be used for water, sewer or street improvement projects.

There is also potential funding available for Renewable Energy Demonstration Pilot Projects (REDPP) through the Texas Department of Agriculture. Please contact the Regional Services Department at (806) 762-8721 for more information.





March 2012

South Plains Fire Corps Promotes Fire Safety

The South Plains Fire Corps, a program of the South Plains Citizen Corps - Homeland Security, has joined forces with the Wolf-orth Volunteer Fire Department and the Lubbock Fire Department to provide the community with a fire safety outreach project.

During the winter months, when everyone is encouraged to take preventive measures to stay safe from home fires, Fire Corps is busy helping individuals with smoke detectors. The project is developed by promoting, training and providing service through the support of local churches and ministries.

Oakwood United Methodist Church has sponsored the project for the past year and continues to provide assistance to the South Plains Fire Corps.

The smoke detectors project was initiated by Steve Komarek from the Wolfforth Volunteer Fire Department. Smoke detectors and carbon dioxide detectors are presented at the city library where citizens can check out the devices without cost.



The District Office for the Area Methodist Church donated \$500.00 to the Lubbock Fire Department to further the efforts of the Smoke Detector Outreach Program.

On Tuesday December 6, 2011 a media event was held at the Area Methodist Church Office located at 3406-21st in Lubbock. The Lubbock Fire Department received a check from Richard Edwards, District Superintendent of the Lubbock District United Methodist Church.

The event was held to encourage churches and other civic organizations

in the area to be involved, give donations, and educate the public about the necessity of working smoke detectors. Current participating churches are Oakwood Methodist Church and Bethany Baptist Church.

For more information on how you or your church can be involved in the Smoke Detectors Outreach Program, call Lubbock Fire Marshal's Office at 806-775-2646.

For other questions about Fire Corps and how you can get involved in the volunteer program call Charlie Brown at 806789-0791.



left to right : Steve Komarek, Wolfforth Volunteer Fire Department; Charlie Brown, Volunteer Fire Corp Regional Coordinator, SPAG ; Garrett Nelson, Fire Marshall Lubbock Fire Department; Richard Edwards, District Superintendent of the Lubbock District of the United Methodist Church; Rod Manning, Oakwood United Methodist Church Men's Group Leader.

Fire Corps

A volunteer-based regional program that supports the Fire Service with Fire Safety training and emergency response.





Census Book Available from Regional Services Department

The Regional Services Department at SPAG is happy to announce the first Demographic Break-down Book for the SPAG region (all SPAG cities and counties.)

The book includes population comparisons (i.e. 2000 Census vs. 2010 Census,) Race, Ethnicity,

Crime Rates, Poverty Levels, Household Income, Unemployment, Occupations and etc.



The information was gathered from the 2010 Census, 2009 American Community Survey, Federal

Bureau of Investigation, and Tex Market.

If you would like to purchase a copy, please email or call Tandi Townsend at ttownsend@spag.org, 806-762-8721. The cost for each book is \$20.00.

Regional Services Contacts:

- Elena Quintanilla, Director
- Kelly Davila, Criminal Justice, Community Development
- Tandi Townsend, Census, Community Development
- Christian Shotts, Solid Waste, Community Development
- David Corder, Rosalyn Martinez, & Tommy Murillo, Homeland Security
- Belinda Solis, Administrative Assistant, TML Coordinator

Phone:

806-762-8721
1323 58th Street
Lubbock, TX 79412

Upcoming Texas Municipal League Quarterly Meeting

The Texas Municipal League Region 3 Quarterly Meeting will be held March 22, 2012 at The Legacy in Lubbock, Texas.

The City of Lubbock is the host city for the meeting and will be providing entertainment and décor. Randy Anderson will conduct the workshop on Community Planning and the keynote will be a motivational topic.

Mr. Anderson is the co founder of e3 Professional Trainers and has been in sales and management for over 20 years. Randy has done professional training since 1998. Throughout that time, he has developed methods of teaching practical strategies for imple-

menting proven techniques designed to improve the performance of individuals.

Regardless of experience and longevity, everyone can benefit from the training he provides, and improve their personal performance, which inevitably, increases team performance. Randy Anderson facilitated the 2011 South Plains Association of Governments Criminal Justice Regional Community Plan.

The other 2012 Quarterly Meetings will be June 28th at The Legacy (Hosted by the City of Olton) and September 27th at Cagles (Hosted by the City of Levelland). Event registration forms will be mailed to cities shortly but for more information or to register for this event, please contact Belinda Solis at bsolis@spag.org or 806.762.8721.





March 2012

Senior Centers Receive Wii Gaming Systems

On January 19, 2012 at the Directors and Bookkeepers meeting, a drawing was held for 5 Wii gaming systems. Dana Franks, an employee of Care Improvement Plus, conducted the drawing. The winning senior citizen centers were Hale Center, Lynn County (Tahoka),



Left to right: Susan Sprowls, Hockley Co., Vickie Rosales, Hale Center, Betty Charlebois, Brownfield, Bianca Baker, Lynn Co., Nancy Luper, Cochran Co.

Brownfield, Hockley County (Levelland) and Cochran County (Morton). Our congratulations go out to the winning senior citizen centers and a special 'Thank You' to Care Improvement Plus.

Care Improvement Plus

has built a reputation as a unique Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan, providing specialized benefits and services for Medicare beneficiaries with conditions such as diabetes and/or heart failure.

More information is available at:

<http://www.careimprovementplus.com/>

Free Health Fairs Hosted by AAA

The Area Agency on Aging has scheduled several Health Fairs for the upcoming quarter.

The vital services offered by this agency include but are not limited to: hearing screenings, respiratory screenings, cholesterol screenings, blood pressure screenings, blood sugar screenings, medication education, bone density screenings and foot care screenings.

As we age, it is important for all of us to tend to our health, but this can be costly for those in retirement or on fixed incomes. This program seeks to address the issue by providing these medical services free of charge to all who attend them.

The program has more than 10 years of experience, and holds health fairs at least 10 times a year.

For more information, contact the Area Agency on Aging at (806) 687-0940.

Schedule for Upcoming Health Fairs

3/14- Anton Senior Center, contact Carol Rendon for additional information

3/21- Hale Center Senior Center 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; contact Vickie Rosales for additional information @ 839-2428

3/28- Cochran County Senior Center, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m; contact Nancy Luper for additional information @ 226-5121

4/11 South Dickens Senior Citizen's Center, Spur, Texas, April 11th, 10:30am-1:00pm

4/18-Lynn County, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m; contact Bianca Baker for additional information @ 561-5264

5/30- City of Lubbock, 19th Street, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; contact Paula Brown for additional information @ 767-2710

5/15 Slaton Senior Center, May 16th, 10:30-1:00pm. Contact person: Charlotte O'Connell @ 828-3784





9-1-1 Working Through Service Interruptions

9-1-1 is accustomed to challenging circumstances, but the new year has already brought a few major headaches.

A fiber cut in December effecting Hale and Floyd counties was followed by another in February effecting Hale, Floyd and Crosby counties. In between the resulting outages, 9-1-1 suffered four equipment failures and yet another since.

In spite of these difficulties, 9-1-1 service was re-routed and the 9-1-1 calls were answered.



While the wide area network project has suffered a few set-backs, the department has made significant progress toward having a network connection to all our sites.

In January, some of SPAG's 9-1-1 team facilitated a stand-up, gather-round training session on the call-taking and mapping equipment at the Brownfield Police Department.

The training time was a great opportunity for the PSAP personnel to share their experience and get a refresher on the software's capabilities. After seeing the benefits resulting from this training session, the 9-1-1 Department

"The Certified Property Maintenance Code has been adopted by Major cities throughout Texas, including Austin, San Antonio, and El Paso because it provides enforcement officers with a stronger ability to bring about compliance."

**-Reggie Jackson,
Certified Property
Maintenance
Course Instructor**

Students Needed: Certified Property Maintenance Code Official

Do your local Code Enforcement Officers and Building Code Officials need certification in utilizing and applying International Property Maintenance Code?

In response to requests from municipalities in the region, SPAG hopes to arrange the certification course for those who are interested. However, a minimum of 15-20 students are needed before the course can be scheduled.

The course is designed to prepare students for the exam to become a Certified Property Maintenance Code Official, which is an internationally recognized certification through the ICC.

Coursework will cover everything from substandard housing to junk vehicles, all

in one ordinance. Your city can then add or amend the ordinance to fit local needs.

If interested in this certification course, please email or call Christian Shotts, cshotts@spag.org, (806) 762-8721.

Course Topics

- *Administration
- *Definitions
- *General Regulations
- *Lighting, Ventilation, and Occupancy Limitations
- *Plumbing Facilities and
- *Fixture Requirements
- *Mechanical and Electrical Requirements
- *Fire Safety Requirements
- *Referenced Standards





March 2012

20 Years of Service!

Julie Ryan knows a good thing when she sees it. That's why after 20 years of service, she still enjoys the work that she brings to the SPAG community.

It all started in 1991 when Julie joined SPAG as the front desk receptionist. Either because she liked the work or because we

simply wouldn't let her go, she has continued on to join the Law Enforcement Department as its primary Program Assistant.

While she loves to read and wield the rubber stamp, her life outside of SPAG holds dearest her



family and Bailey, her miniature Doberman Pinscher.

Her love and enthusiasm for things both big and small make her invaluable to the SPAG team, and we look forward to another 20 years (if we are lucky.)

Thanks, Julie!

New Employees @ SPAG



Left: You could say that Cecily Miller is a "boomerang" employee. After working 8 years at SPAG, she left the South Plains in 1998 to begin a new life in Arizona. However, she soon realized that she missed the life she had on the South Plains, dust storms included. So, she said goodbye to Arizona and returned with haste to the Hub City. She rejoined the SPAG family as the Director of Caprock Business Finance Corporation. Outside of work, Cecily enjoys spending time with her 4 year old daughter, Marilyn.

Welcome to SPAG!

Right: Kristina Corella started working as Caprock's program assistant. Kristina is originally from El Paso, Texas and is a recent graduate of Texas Tech University earning her BA in History in the spring of 2011. Kristina is no stranger to Caprock, as she recently was the intern for South Plains Association of Governments' Finance and Administrative departments. Prior to that, Kristina volunteered in SPAG's Homeland Security Citizen Corps and CERT programs. On a personal note, Kristina's family has a multi pet permit and rescues animals. Kristina currently has dogs, rabbits, and two ducks she cares for.

Melanie King Fortenberry is a native of Post, Texas, and joins SPAG as a new part-time employee for administration . After attending South Plains College on a basketball scholarship, she received her Associate's Degree from South Plains College and went on to Texas Tech to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She then taught at Roosevelt Elementary School for 29 yrs, and retired from teaching in 2008. She has one son and one step-son, and enjoys the peace and quiet of life in the country. Melanie feels blessed to have a great family and friends.



South Plains Association of Governments



Quarterly Calendar

What	March	Where
Regional Solid Waste Funding Plan Public Hearing	3/2/12 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	SPAG Boardroom
Board of Directors Meeting	3/13/2012	Spag Boardroom
AAA Health Fair	3/14/2012 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Anton Senior Center
AAA Health Fair	3/21/2012 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Hale Center Senior Center
Texas Municipal League Quarterly Meeting	3/22/2012	Legacy Event Center 1500 14th Street Lubbock, Tx
AAA Health Fair	3/28/2012 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Cochran County Senior Center
April		
Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Meeting	4/3/12 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
Board of Directors Meeting	4/10/2012	SPAG Boardroom
Department of Public Safety Meeting	4/11/12 time: TBD	SPAG Boardroom
AAA Health Fair	4/11/2012 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	South Dickens Senior Center
Resources United	4/12/2012 3:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
Advisory Council on Aging	4/17/2012 2:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
AAA Health Fair	4/18/2012 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Lynn County Pioneers Center
Directors & Bookkeepers Meeting	4/19/2012 2:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
May		
Board of Directors Meeting	5/08/2012	SPAG Boardroom
AAA Health Fair	5/16/2012 10:30AM-1:00PM	Slaton Senior Center
Regional 9-1-1 Advisory Board Meeting	5/16/2012 10:00	SPAG Boardroom
AAA Health Fair	5/30/2012 9:00AM-12:00PM	Lubbock Senior Center (19 th Street)

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 SPAG, P.O. Box 3730 Freedom Station, Lubbock, Texas 79452, (806) 762-8721 or toll free 1-800-858-1809 or fax (806) 765-9544 or visit our website at www.spag.org.

