

Walter G. Diggles, Executive Director

DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

May 25, 2000

*Calendar of
Events*

- June 6, 2000 – East Tx Water Board Meeting (Region I)
- June 6-8, 2000 – North / East Tx CCCJ Meeting
- June 22, 2000 – DETCOG Board Meeting – Nacogdoches Co.
- June 27, 2000 – NARC Annual Conference
- July 4, 2000 – DETCOG Holiday
- July 5-7, 2000 – TARC Quarterly Meetings in Austin
- July 27, 2000 – DETCOG Board Meeting in Sabine Co.
- August 24, 2000 – DETCOG Board Meeting in Trinity Co.
- September 4, 2000 – DETCOG Holiday
- September 6-8, 2000 – TARC Annual Conference
- September 28, 2000 – DETCOG Board Meeting in Tyler Co.

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DETCOG Quarterly News!

Lt. Governor Rick Perry to speak at the DETCOG Annual Membership Meeting

DETCOG will celebrate 30 years of service to the citizens of Deep East Texas at their Annual May Membership Meeting and Awards Luncheon on May 25 in Lufkin, Texas. Over 300 people are expected to attend and hear Rick Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Texas who is the Keynote Speaker at the event.

For outstanding contribution to the growth and prosperity of the Deep East Texas Region, the Ralph W. Steen East Texan of the Year Award will be presented to someone who had a major role in influencing our region.

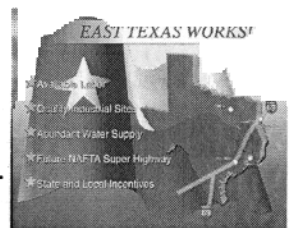
Each year, the president's Award for Outstanding Committee Work is presented to a DETCOG Board Member who has shown dedication, commitment, loyalty and interest in providing a window of opportunity to help the citizens of Deep East Texas improve their quality of life.

In 1990, the Deep East Texas Council of Governments established a memorial scholarship in memory of C.E. Stewart and P.V. Malone for their lifelong dedication to public service. Both Mr. Stewart and Reverend Malone served on the DETCOG Board of Directors for many years. Each year, the Stewart and Malone Memorial Scholarship application is mailed to all Independent School Districts within the DETCOG 12-County Region. This year over 150 applications were received. Jasper County Judge, Joe Folk, will announce the recipients of this years two \$500 scholarships.

**Chicago Trade Show
National Manufacturers Week**

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Economic Development District (DETCOG) sponsored a Trade Show Booth during the annual National Manufacturers Week (March 13 – 16, 2000), in Chicago, IL. Now in its 10th year, National Manufacturing Week 2000 gives you the only complete view of the entire manufacturing enterprise. Last year 52,228 industry professionals made this event their first stop for education, technology, innovation, new products and the best networking in the business. Top decision-makers from all manufacturing segments were in attendance from OEM (automotive, consumer goods, electronic, fabricated metals) and process industries (chemicals, food, paper, primary metal, rubber/plastics). In fact, more manufacturers make their buying decisions at National Manufacturing Week than at any other annual industrial event.). The purpose of DETCOG and county representatives attending the show was to attract businesses to the Deep East Texas area.

(Continued on Page 2)



DETCOG Billboard

(Trade Show, Continued From Page 1) Attendees who helped at the booth included Nancy Nicholson (Jasper), Lee Brittain (Nacogdoches), Hunter Hilburn (Crockett), Kelly Ritch (Livingston), Bill Wellborn (Lufkin) and Jon Bunn (DETCOG). Representatives from all 12 counties were invited (Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler Counties). DETCOG purchased the booth space at the trade show, provided a 10 X 10 foot booth, brochures, and a "special gift" for potential business prospects. The booth displayed a large picture of the state of Texas highlighting our 12 county region, 5 reasons a business would want to expand or relocate to East Texas, the future NAFTA Super Highway (Interstate 69) and a large banner with the words "East Texas Works!" All this was superimposed graphically over the background of the state flag. The "special gift", given to each legitimate prospective businessman and woman who visited the booth, was a 20-minute phone card. The phone card looked exactly like the booth display and when used, the caller would hear a message again highlighting the great advantages of moving their business to East Texas as well as DETCOG's phone number, web and email addresses.

Over 100 "leads" (businesses interested in our area) left their business cards at the DETCOG booth. DETCOG, in coordination with the Economic Development Committee, will follow up with each one of these businesses with a letter thanking them for visiting the booth and providing them with additional information on our area. All leads obtained by DETCOG are passed on to Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce points of contact in each of the 12 counties

9-1-1 Fees At Work For You

The DETCOG 9-1-1 Program has hit the ground running in the new millenium. System and database upgrades have been underway in all twelve counties in the DETCOG region. New, state-of-the-art equipment has been leased at a cost of \$1,585,167.22 for 12 of the 16 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). Plant Equipment, Inc. MAARS View Systems, along with installation and 24 hour, 7 day a week, maintenance have been leased for the following PSAPs: Angelina County (3 PSAPs \$420,542.93), Houston County (\$134,347.07), Nacogdoches County (3 PSAPs \$400,649.00), Newton County (\$129,063.20), Polk County (\$121,447.23), Sabine County (\$121,578.53), San Jacinto County (\$122,789.73) and Trinity County (\$134,749.73). Jasper County, San Augustine County, Shelby County and Tyler County PSAPs were upgraded in 1998 to the MAARS View System. Half of the DETCOG region PSAPs have been converted to the State's new database provider SCC, with the other half scheduled for conversion in June. Angelina County became the first county in Texas to be transitioned to SCC in December 1999. DETCOG is responsible for paying equipment costs, telecommunications costs and database costs for each of the 16 PSAPs in the DETCOG region. The State collects a monthly .50 cent fee for every telephone in the State, and a portion of those funds are passed on to DETCOG for costs associated with the 9-1-1 Emergency Number System.



For more information on the DETCOG 9-1-1 Program contact Van Bush at (409) 384-5704.

Solid Waste Projects, Closed Landfill Inventory Underway

DETCOG's Environmental Planning Program has awarded \$100,000.00 in grants to the region's cities and counties so far during FY 2000. The Environmental Planning Program has also contracted with Southwest Texas State University to complete a closed landfill inventory for the DETCOG region at a cost of \$80,000. The closed landfill inventory will be completed in August 2001, providing the public with locations of over 160 closed landfill sites in the region. DETCOG expects to award an additional \$100,000 in solid waste implementation grants in September 2001.



The entities receiving \$20,000 grants during FY 2000 were Angelina County (new enforcement vehicle), City of Center (recycling labor costs), City of Crockett (\$20,000 recycling equipment), City of Nacogdoches (recycling equipment for joint project with Stephen F. Austin State University), and San Jacinto County (enforcement training). The Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission collects tipping fees at all landfills in the State, and passes a portion of the fees collected to DETCOG for local projects.

Applications for the FY 2001 solid waste implementation project grants will be available in July 2001. For more information concerning the grants or the landfill inventory, contact Van Bush at 409-384-5704.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

DETCOG is the lead applicant of the TexCare Partnership/Children Health Insurance Program. The Texas Department of Health awarded the Deep East Texas Council of Governments a \$77,562 grant for CHIP community – based outreach services. It's purpose is to provide health insurance for children at a price that fits the budget of Texas families. The goal of the program is to provide entry and application assistance to families of uninsured children. The project will target approximately 30,000 children in the 12 county Texas Department of Health Region during the 2 – year CHIP Outreach Program, This program officially began on March 1, 2000.

There will be one full time application specialist, one part time application coordinator, and two part time intern application specialist. The TexCare Partnership offers three separate health insurance programs for children: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid, Texas Healthy Kids Corporation (THKC). Each Program has its own set of rules; therefore no child will be denied insurance.

DETRHA Welcomes New Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator

We would like to welcome Nicole Byerly, FSS Coordinator, as our newest staff member. The FSS Program promotes economic independence of families through counseling and supportive services which enables participating families to improve educational and / or employment opportunities. Nicole will work in coordination with the city of Center Housing Authority to promote their self-sufficiency program as well as the existing DETRHA twelve county region.



MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH!

The "Tough enough to care – Be there" Program..

- ◆ Will recruit individuals to become certified volunteer ombudsmen throughout the state.
- ◆ Is a statewide campaign that began March 31, 2000 in Deep East Texas.

Certified Volunteer Ombudsmen

- ◆ Advocate for quality care for residents in Texas nursing and assisted living facilities.
- ◆ Serve the needs of Texas families and the most vulnerable of our citizens
- ◆ Provide information to residents and families about residents' rights and help identify additional resources in or out of the facility
- ◆ Receive special training prior to certification

Are supervised by professional staff of the Texas Aging Network, and supported by the Texas Department on Aging

- ◆ Identify, investigate and resolve complaints by or on behalf of facility residents.
- ◆ Work with the residents, families, friends and facility staff to improve the quality of residents' lives



Facts and Figures

- ◆ The majorities of long-term care residents receive no visitors, and have no close relatives
- ◆ Assisted living facilities in Texas – 1033
- ◆ Certified Volunteer ombudsmen – 836

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Paid
Jasper, TX
Permit No. 7

Deep East Texas Council
Of Governments and
Economic Development District
274 E. Lamar St.
Jasper, Texas 75951

DETCOG is a voluntary association created by the local governments within State Planning Region 14. It is an independent political subdivision of the state and is one of 24 such organizations in Texas. The DETCOG Quarterly Newsletter is published by DETCOG and is available without cost. Please direct any correspondence or inquiries to DETCOG 274 E. Lamar Street Jasper, Texas, (409) 384-5704 or toll free 1-800-256-6848

Check us out on the web!
www.detcog.org

Tech / Net News

No Technical Degree? No Problem

You can still steer your career toward a job in the hyper-hot technology industry. Tech companies and the State of Texas need tech workers. Add technical skills to your communication, problem-solving and leadership skills and you're ready to rock the job market. The Texas Information Technology Academy can help you tap into the hottest part of the job market. You'll get paid while you learn the skills you'll need for jobs in e-business, networks, applications development and systems administration. After all, you've used the computer for years. It's time to get under the hood.

Here's the deal:

The state and private sector companies help you learn the technical skills to complement your educational background and people skills. You get hands-on experience with the state for two years. After that, you can stay with the state or check out the private sector.

DETCOG Tech Update:

- ◆ Check out the updated DETCOG web page at www.detcog.org. More links and faster access!!!
- ◆ The regional services department has begun the creation of an extensive database of our DETCOG region. This database will become the staple of information to be used by not only DETCOG staff, but also its member governments. Names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, committee memberships, email addresses, web pages... the list goes on and on! Our database already has over 1100 entries and this is about a quarter of the expected size!!!!

