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Contact Information:

Jimi Layman, Managing Editor
Oklahoma Cities & Towns
jlayman@oml.org
(800) 324-6651
(405) 528-7515

MAY 2010

OML MAY BOARD MEETING REPORT

In light of the economic downturn and the challenges facing many municipalities, the OML Board voted to implement a freeze on service fees at the 2009-2010 rate, plus adjust the rate by 3.5% for all members.

JUNE INSTITUTES

Elected or appointed municipal officials who have not yet met their training requirements have two upcoming chances to do so.

UPDATE TO MUNICIPAL REVENUE & EFFICIENCIES TASK FORCE AND MUNICIPAL LIAISON BOARD TO THE OKLAHOMA TAX COMMISSION

The Task Force is looking at ways to resolve issues with the OTC in sales and use tax collection, and enforcement, the Independent Auditor Program and OTC accountability for the retainage paid by municipalities of sales tax ordinances.

OKLAHOMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FORMS ASSIST WITH COMPLIANCE

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management is providing information to assist with your compliance with the Robert T. Stafford Act and the regulations that define it in relation to all of the Public Assistance programs that may result from the tornadoes, storms and straight line winds that started on May 10, 2010.

HOTEL MOTEL TAXES IMPROVE MUNICIPALITY

In our recent fax-out/fax-in survey of municipal hotel-motel taxes, 76 municipalities responded to our survey.

WOULD MAPS 3 AND OTHER MUNICIPAL PROJECTS GO HUNGRY IF OKLAHOMA SCRAPPED THE GROCERY TAX?

A police officer or a gallon of milk? Citywide bus service or wheat bread? Would low-income families benefit more from the services cities provide or paying less for food?

MAYORS RETREAT TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, FUN

The Mayors Conference of Oklahoma will be held in Clinton this year and is a can't miss for mayors and their families.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS COMING TO OKC

From June 10-14, mayors from across the United States will come to Oklahoma City for the 78th Annual Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. This event is the largest meeting of the year and is attended by 1,200 – 1,300 people, including mayors, their families, other city delegates, representatives from Washington, national media and business council members.

10TH CIRCUIT IMMIGRATION RULING IMPACTS MUNICIPAL CONTRACTORS

The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals has denied the State of Oklahoma's rehearing request on several portions of Oklahoma's 2007 Immigration bill (HB 1804).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RECOGNIZES EDMOND EMPLOYEES

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS MAY FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH

From the desk of
OML Executive Director Carolyn Stager



In light of the financial challenges to so many Oklahoma municipalities, I am pleased to let you know the OML Board of Directors voted during the May meeting to ensure a favorable adjustment to every municipality's service fees for 2010-2011. An information letter and initial invoice will be mailed to each municipality within the next few days.

We continue to be vigilant as we enter the last month of legislative session. Thanks to your active participation through our GRIP program, we have defeated numerous bills with adverse financial or operational impacts on cities and towns. One of the most financially crippling bills was an attempt once again to remove sales tax from groceries (SB 1328). We received more media attention this year on this legislation than we have since the initial bill was introduced over ten years ago. You can access more information by going to the OML web-site, www.oml.org and clicking on the grocery sack.

Two pro-active bills still pending are significantly beneficial to cities and towns. SB 1396 provides language to implement HB 1800, which was passed last session. SB 1396 provides an embargo on a municipal debtor's state tax refund so the amount owed will be paid to the municipality. We are drafting additional language to strengthen your ability to collect municipal sales taxes. We have worked out an agreement with the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) and State Treasurer Meacham to clarify city and town ownership and access to OTC data pertaining to their own sales and use taxes and to allow cities to perform audits either directly or through an outside contract. These issues were recommended by the OML Municipal Revenue & Efficiencies Task Force co-chaired by Tulsa Mayor Bartlett and Oklahoma City Mayor Cornett. Thanks to all the cities and towns that are voicing their issues and concerns with the OTC and their legislators. Collectively we are making progress. A summary of activity regarding the task force can be found in a separate OC&T article.

I am very excited that the Oklahoma Academy has decided to host two Town Hall meetings this year. The first concerns water issues and is scheduled for May 24-26. OML is working closely with the Academy research team to develop the framework for the second event titled "Municipal Oklahoma," to be held Nov. 14-17 in Norman. Please make plans to attend and participate in this important event. We will keep you informed as the agenda evolves.

OML is your organization. Working together as a TEAM we provide a strong voice for Oklahoma municipalities. Thanks to each of you for joining with us in continued participation as we constantly journey onward and upward!

OML Board Report

The May 5 OML Board Meeting Call to Order was given at 12:30 p.m. Completion of the preliminary comments and Consent Agenda segued to a discussion on Agenda Item #1: OML service fees for the fiscal year 2010 – 2011. In light of the economic downturn and the challenges facing many municipalities, the Board voted to implement a freeze on service fees at the 2009-2010 rate, plus adjust the rate by 3.5% for all members.

OML's Executive Director Carolyn Stager reported the status of the months' events and how OML's continuing participation offers resources to municipalities. She spoke on and provided packet reports on some of the following:

- Oklahoma Academy Town Hall Meetings, and roles for OML and municipal officials particularly in formulating the OWRB Statewide Water Plan and exploring municipal finance;
- OMAG's announcement of discontinuance of life and health plan;
- State Treasurer and Oklahoma Tax Commission meetings regarding improved collection of municipal sales tax, include municipal access to data, audit capability, as well as information sharing;
- The Municipal Revenue & Efficiencies Task Force, which is taking a big picture view on municipal financing options and innovations;
- National Streamlined Sales Tax efforts to prevent the inclusion of telecom fees;
- Water Reuse Group meetings with the Secretary of the Environment and the Director of DEQ; and
- Ongoing legislative efforts to promote and protect municipal interests and priorities;

Nancy Nichols, Chair of the OML Legislative Committee, reported on the status of legislative priorities. The Board discussed and approved a recommendation to oppose any change to the firefighter pension statute until IRS defines "wage" as it is used in the six-month salary continuation requirement found at 11 O.S. Section 49-111.

In other actions, the Board voted to:

- Hold the OML June Board meeting in conjunction with the mayors' conference in Clinton.
- Reappoint Weatherford Finance Director, Tony Davenport, to represent OML to the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System.
- Approve a request from the Attorney General for OML to appear as Amicus Curiae in an adverse ruling from the Court of Civil Appeals which would breach the Governmental Tort Claim Act's notice and statute of limitation provisions for Burk Torts arising from the state's anti-discrimination statutes. This case could have far-reaching implications for municipal revenues.

June Institutes a must for new officials

The mountains of ordinances that govern a city or town's operations may seem a daunting navigational task for the new municipal official. In a job where making a mistake can mean breaking a law, training is an absolute necessity. That's why the Oklahoma Legislature made training a requirement for municipal officials.

"Both new and experienced municipal officials can violate numerous laws, often quite innocently, because they are unaware of the complexities of current municipal law," said Carolyn Stager, OML executive director. Elected or appointed municipal officials who have not yet met their training requirements have two upcoming chances to do so.

The Institutes for New and Experienced Municipal Officials will be held in Broken Arrow at the Broken Arrow Campus of the Tulsa Technology Center on June 3 and 4, and in Midwest City at Rose State College on June 10 and 11. Of particular interest at the upcoming workshop will be the second-day presentations by Anthony Francisco, finance director of Norman (at the Midwest City institute) and Doug Enevoldsen, Sand Springs city manager (in Broken Arrow). Their sessions on municipal finance will accompany a presentation on conducting public meetings by Choctaw City Manager Robert Floyd.

Other topics covered at the institutes include principles of municipal government, ethics, the Federal Labor Standards Act, public sector employers and the state's open meetings and open records requirements. For more information or to register, call OML or visit www.oml.org.

Update to Municipal Revenue & Efficiencies Task Force And Municipal Liaison Board to the Oklahoma Tax Commission

Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC)

The Task Force is looking at ways to resolve issues with the Oklahoma Tax Commission in sales and use tax collection, and enforcement, the Independent Auditor Program (IAP) and OTC accountability for the retainage paid by municipalities of sales tax ordinances.

After a series of meetings between OML staff and OTC leadership they are amenable to many of our proposals including:

1. Cooperation with municipalities to encourage local collection and enforcement efforts;
2. Removing obstacles for use of the Independent Auditor Program: and
3. Immediate creation of a Municipal Liaison board with OTC that will have authority to establish mechanisms for accountability of municipal retainage fees, setting priorities for OTC collection and enforcement and improving contract terms and reporting methods and municipal involvement in formulating OTC policies and procedures for enforcement.

Tony Mastin with the OTC recently spoke to a group of OKC area city managers who urged Mr. Mastin to make his case to the legislature from a business stance that funding upgrades to OTC software and keeping adequate enforcement staff ultimately generates increased revenues to the state. OKC staff and OML legal staff have come up with language to assist OTC and municipalities by authorizing both entities to hire outside resources when needed.

Additionally, OML staff has met with State Treasurer Scott Meacham who is very interested in assisting in legislative changes this session to make it clear that cities own the data and to also provide for individual or third party audits.



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Municipal Liaison Board to the Oklahoma Tax Commission

This board will begin in an informal capacity and will meet with the OTC on issues to improve municipal sales and use tax collections and OTC accountability for the retainage paid to the OTC by cities and towns. This board is a response to discussions between OML & OTC about municipalities' dissatisfaction with collections, enforcement, audits, reporting and overall accountability. The plan is to also create additional advisory groups of municipal officials on specified topics to develop ideas and form a general agreement on a municipal position.

Independent Audit Program (IAP)

OTC representatives have advised that there are several obstacles to implementing the Independent Audit Program (IAP):

1. OTC interpretation that any auditor must be an agent of OTC;
2. Concerns that IAP was putting Oklahoma out of compliance with SST;
3. Need for competitive bidding process to select an independent auditor;
4. OTC's potential liability to municipalities that don't participate in the IAP but a potential tax liability is uncovered during an IAP; and
5. Municipal concerns of "double-billing" where they feel they are already paying OTC for audit service and then having to pay again to participate in IAP.

OML staff has been working with Oklahoma City staff on language they have drafted to resolve some of these issues. We are hopeful a consensus with the OTC can be reached and a legislative remedy will be available this legislative session.

Affiliate Nexus

Also discussed was the discussion regarding expanding the process of tax collection on purchase of goods purchased remotely through the internet or otherwise. The concern from some legislative leaders is that this creates a new tax when in reality we believe it is plugging holes of an existing tax (use tax).

Public Safety Funding

This issue was discussed at the initial meeting and although there was legislation introduced and pending in the legislature creating Municipal Fire Protection districts, it did not advance this session.

Additional ideas included treatment of a public safety service as a utility, establishment of a fire service fee and rural fire fee subscription program, similar to the EMSA TotalCare program.

Managing Limited Resources/Efficiencies

Various ideas were shared with the group and this information along with additional information can be found on the OML web-site, www.oml.org under "Municipal Revenue in Oklahoma--Facts You Should Know. This section will continue to be updated as we receive ideas or programs being offered in municipalities.

Oklahoma Emergency Management forms assist with compliance

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management is providing information to assist with your compliance with the Robert T. Stafford Act and the regulations that define it in relation to all of the Public Assistance programs that may result from the tornadoes, storms and straight line winds that started on May 10, 2010.

At this time the State of Oklahoma is still assessing local damages throughout the State. Once we receive preliminary reports from city and county officials, a determination will be made to request local/state/FEMA Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments Teams.

In the interim, it is extremely important for you to keep detailed records of all work that you have accomplished

so far relative to any debris removal operations, emergency protective measures, and work associated with response or recovery activities in your communities. OML has posted forms on its website to assist with your recordkeeping, <http://www.oml.org/npps/story.cfm?ID=1962>.

If you have specific questions about debris removal or have questions about negotiating a contract for debris removal operations in your community please contact the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management.

If additional information is required or if you have questions about the Public Assistance Program, please contact the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management at 405-521-2481 or 1-800-800-2481.

FRED W. LIEBE
 Deputy Director
 Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management
 P.O. Box 53365
 Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Phone: (405) 521-2481
 FAX: (405) 521-4053
 Cell: (405) 590-0114

E-mail: fred.liebe@oem.ok.gov

Hotel-Motel taxes improve municipality

In our recent fax-out/fax-in survey of municipal Hotel-Motel Taxes, 76 municipalities responded to our survey. The survey included questions regarding the presence of a Hotel-Motel Tax as well as the percentage. Also included on the survey was a question asking if the revenue from the tax was dedicated to a specific use.

Of the 76 responses to the question on whether or not the municipality collects a Hotel-Motel Tax, 39 said “yes,” while the remaining 37 reported “no.” The 39 municipalities also replied with an average tax of 4.8% with a high of 8.0% in Ponca City and a low of 0.5% in Hominy.

Thirty-four respondents reported that they do dedicate the revenue to a specific source. Twenty-three devote the returns to tourism, 12 to economic development, and 2 to the chamber of commerce. Six of the responding municipalities (Bartlesville, Fairview, Newcastle, Perry, Sapulpa, and Yukon) reported dedicating the funds to both tourism and economic development. Other uses included parks and recreation, administration, and capital improvements.

This quick survey does not include a total count of all of the municipalities that have a Hotel-Motel Tax, but show that around 50% of municipalities report having the tax. Also, the revenue generated from the tax goes straight back into improving the municipality in an effort to raise the economy of the municipality and increase the level of tourism.

	Do you collect hotel/motel tax?		Are they dedicated to specific use?				
Total Responses	76		43				
% Who Answered	97%		55%				
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Econ. Develop	Tourism	Chamber of Commerce
Total Responses	39	37	34	9	12	23	2
Average Percent	4.8%	Other Responses Include:					Parks and Rec.
High	8.0%						Capital Projects
Low	0.5%						

Would MAPS 3 and other municipal projects go hungry if Oklahoma scrapped the grocery tax?

By Scott Cooper

A police officer or a gallon of milk? Citywide bus service or wheat bread?

Would low-income families benefit more from the services cities provide or paying less for food?

Different year, different bill get a fix on that feast of burden

Those questions are at the heart of the debate over whether to eliminate the sales tax when purchasing food from the grocery store. Proponents say families on a budget could stretch their dollars further while still contributing to the local economy. Opponents claim the tax exemption would devastate city budgets and reduce services not just for those in need, but for all citizens.

The problem in deciding which side of the debate has the upper hand is trying to figure out the numbers. Opponents say it is too difficult to understand and too inconsistent on when the numbers count and when they don't. Proponents shout to "get into the 21st century," arguing that between computers and bar codes, finding the numbers is easier than slicing deli meat.

"A majority of states already do this, so we're not talking rocket science here," said state Sen. Jay Paul Gumm, D-Durant, elimination's biggest proponent.

Gumm's opponent in the debate, Oklahoma Municipal League Executive Director Carolyn Stager, firmly plants her position as deep as a potato root.

"Until there is a more fair and equitable funding source for Oklahoma cities and towns, we would have no choice but to continue to oppose," she said.

Cue John Belushi: food fight!

Different year, different bill

The fight over the grocery tax is practically done for this legislative session. Gumm's measure, Senate Bill 1328, made it through the Senate, but failed to get a hearing in the House of Representatives. However, Stager knows at some point there will be another round.

"It's like weeds in your yard," she said. "You kill it one year, and it comes back the next year."

That's because this has not been Gumm's first attempt at reducing the cost of food. In 2006, he proposed to wipe out the grocery tax. His proposal was the one to get wiped out. A year later, Gumm tried to just cancel the state sales tax on food. The measure went away. He tried again last year for an all-out elimination of the tax — same result.

Last year, the House tried its version of food tax elimination, a measure that would have nearly phased out the tax by 2017.

"That's a pretty timid way of doing this," Gumm said. "You either have to do it all or not at all. And I will always be on the side of 'We have to do this.'"

That House bill suffered the same fate as Gumm's efforts.

To try and sweeten the pot, his recent version came with a trigger clause: The tax would only be eliminated when state revenues surpassed 10 percent of 2008 spending levels. But once in place, SB 1328 would have eliminated all sales tax — both state and local — on grocery-bought food.

Laura Johnson, Oklahoma City finance director, still found the formula confusing.

"It's almost impossible to predict what the impact would be on the city because the law would not go into effect until the sales tax dollars exceeded the sales tax dollars of 2008," Johnson said. "We don't know if that will be 2011, 2015, 2020. We don't know when that is going to happen, so I can't just go into the MAPS tax and forecast."

Oklahoma City's Metropolitan Area Projects is calculated on sales tax revenue projections over a period of years. Not knowing which of those years the sales tax on certain food items disappears could make budget planning unscientific.

Johnson said the city has done scant cost analysis on how much revenue would be lost with groceries not taxed, because of the uncertainty of the bills.

"In the past, when they talked about eliminating the grocery tax, we estimated that would affect the city's general fund (by) about \$22 million," she said. "That's a really rough guess, because people don't just report sales tax on groceries."

There are many categories of sales tax revenue that merchants report to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Johnson

said depending on how groceries are defined can affect the tax collected.

“Is it milk and bread? Is it milk and bread and toilet paper? You get all that stuff at the grocery store. A Walmart Supercenter doesn’t report as a grocery store” to the tax commission, she said. “They report as a general merchandise store. But if you buy milk and bread at Walmart, it would be tax-exempt. That’s part of my concern: How will it be determined?”

This is where Gumm would shake his head and say, “Welcome to the new millennium.”

“With modern computer technology, it is very simple to determine the level of nontaxable sales at any retailer,” he said.

For instance, at some drugstores, like Walgreens and CVS, the register can pinpoint which items being sold are eligible for medical flex accounts — personal reimbursement accounts available through health-insurance plans for buying medical items like aspirin or bandages. When the receipt is printed out, the letter “F” is stamped next to an item to indicate a flex-qualified purchase.

Gumm said his bill spells out the tax-exempt items that he describes as “food bought for the home,” like raw meat, canned goods and bottled beverages.

But David Blatt, director of the Oklahoma Policy Institute, an organization devoted to government fiscal research, has a problem with the trigger clause. While he supports eliminating the grocery tax, he believes the method has to be carefully chosen.

“I appreciate Sen. Gumm’s work to say, ‘We can’t do this now, so let’s do it three years from now,’” Blatt said, “but at the same time, we shouldn’t be making binding budget decisions that are going to kick in three years from now. We don’t know what the state’s fiscal situation will look like.”

The bill had one other incentive to gain support of the cities: a clause that would mandate the state pay lost revenue back to cities because of the sales-tax elimination.

“It would be no less accurate,” Gumm said. “If the cities and counties have a disagreement with the reimbursement, go to your local grocers and have them write the numbers and present it.”

Stager and her supporters have been using the term “black box” to describe Gumm’s scenario of reimbursement, meaning whether or not cities are fully refunded for lost revenue is a mystery. She said the Oklahoma Tax Commission has old and antiquated computers and, combined with personnel cutbacks due to budget shortfalls, getting an accurate report back to cities is nearly impossible.

Get a fix on that

Since initial attempts to remove the food tax, a numbers game has ensued. Gumm estimates the state could lose more than \$400 million annually if the exemption went into law, but he said almost half of that figure would be money the state would pay back to cities for lost revenue.

The tax commission provides a vast amount of information online about tax-revenue collections. But it is difficult to get an accurate read of how much revenue comes in via grocery sales. Reports are categorized by the type of merchant, not the product being sold.

The closest number to grocery sales is in the “Food Stores” category, which has a subcategory for grocery stores. Last month, Oklahoma City collected \$35,531 in taxable food sales from grocery stores. If the MAPS 3 tax voters approved back in December had been on the books for March, it would have collected about \$9,812 from those sales. The 1-cent tax went into effect April 1.

Extrapolate that figure over the length of the MAPS tax, 93 months, and the tax might fall short by \$912,516, unless the tax commission gets the reimbursement numbers on target.

It may not seem like a lot, but that is only for stores that fall directly into the grocery store category. With Walmart in the department store column, according to the OTC, and a store like Braum’s, which is designated an eating establishment by the tax commission — although grocery food is sold there — the figures could go way up.

Last month, the state reported Oklahoma City collected only \$967 in sales tax from general merchandise stores.

“We don’t have any way to check to see if the merchants are reporting the figures correctly to the tax commission,” Johnson said.

To prove his point, Gumm pointed to the back-to-school sales tax holiday held in August, which exempted clothing and shoes from state and local taxes.

“Our experience with the back-to-school sales-tax holiday is pretty good evidence that additional economic stimulus is going to lead to increased tax collections,” he said. “Revenues actually increased during the month of the back-to-school sales-tax holiday. Plus, they (the cities) were reimbursed for what they lost, so that got a double-bump. You never hear them say, ‘Thanks.’ They can’t admit they were wrong.”

Johnson argues it's difficult to determine how much cities lost from the sales-tax holiday.

Tax commission spokeswoman Paula Ross said the agency uses a formula set out by law to determine what each city gets in reimbursement from the holiday.

"In order for OTC to have actual data, the vendors would have to file a separate sales-tax report for exempt sales during the holiday," Ross said. "The law does not allow for this, as to not burden the vendors."

According to statistics from the state treasurer's office, sales-tax collections were way up the first year of the tax holiday in 2008. Collections increased 17 percent from August of 2007. But Oklahoma's economy was strong in 2008, with nearly every month seeing higher-than-expected revenues. In 2009, August collections were way down as the recession gripped the Sooner State, with continuing months of decline.

"I would say there are no cities that would say they have been kept whole on those issues," Stager said.

Feast of burden

For all of the numbers, all of the arguments and all of the bills, it comes down to what is best for families. Gumm believes households will have more buying power, and cities will not suffer without a grocery tax. Stager and Johnson counter the risk for adequate police and fire protection is too great.

But for those who work with low-income families, the answer is not that simple.

"We do get a lot of people who have to make a decision on whether to pay their rent and utilities or buy food," said Dana Chism, executive director of Upward Transitions, an Oklahoma City nonprofit funded through the United Way of Central Oklahoma. "In most instances, they are going to pay to keep the roof over their head. It's easier to go and find someone to give you food than someone to pay your rent."

For some of Upward Transitions' clients, the decision is already made for them.

"Many people who are renters, their leases require they have to have utilities on or they can be evicted," Chism said. "Families receiving assistance through DHS are also required to keep utilities on or you could lose the custody of your kids. But many of the people in those situations get food stamps anyway."

Knowing how much money a family could save is also difficult to pin down. Some estimates range from \$225 to \$468 per year for a family of four.

Gumm said he doesn't need analysts, lobbyists, agency directors or data to help him decide where to fall on this



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issue. He hears it every day back in his district. For him, getting rid of the home-food sales tax isn't just about helping stretch dollars. He sees it as leveling the field.

"Sales taxes create an unfair tax structure," Gumm said. "It creates a higher tax rate for those least able to afford it. We all have so many things we must buy. When you are talking about the basic necessities of life, like food, they are horribly unfair."

This may be the one area of the debate all sides agree on: a better, more fair tax structure needs to be established.

"If the time does come where we have a serious conversation about how to redesign the tax system that is better suited for today's economy, that can provide an adequate stream of funding to do the things we need to do, then absolutely doing away with the sales tax on groceries should be among the first things we do," Blatt said. "I strongly agree the grocery tax is a regressive tax, and any equitable tax system would exempt the sale of groceries. But we also know we underinvest in public services."

Blatt believes a current solution would be to increase the sales-tax relief credit for families earning less than \$50,000 a year.

Stager emphasizes that sales-tax revenue is needed, because Oklahoma is one of the states where cities cannot use property taxes for funding. She is concerned that if the grocery tax were eliminated, economic tectonic plates will butt heads.

"With all the services cities and towns provide, something would have to give," she said. "They are either going to have to decrease services or increase revenue somewhere else. It would likely be in utilities."

While Gumm argues with city advocates over the ease of calculating food sales-tax figures, Blatt points out one part of the equation that is difficult to price.

"What is the value of police and fire protection? What is the value of having 20 students in a class rather than 25? We can't quantify that," he said. "Who benefits from the military? Well, arguably, we all do."

Reprinted with permission from Oklahoma Gazette, April 28, 2010. For additional information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/28pntz7>.

Mayors Retreat to provide education and fun

The Mayors Council of Oklahoma annual retreat will be held in Clinton this year and is a can't miss for mayors and their families. In addition to a slate of great informational meetings, a full schedule of activities is planned that will whet any golfer's appetite at Riverside Golf Course. The newly renovated golf course was reopened in the spring of 2009 with a challenging new design for the entire front nine holes by Tripp Davis Golf Course Architects. The Washita River comes into play on eight of the 18 holes. The original course is PGA professionally designed and provides an enjoyable game for golfers of all levels. Says Golf Pro Kent Miller, "You won't find nicer greens anywhere!" After golf, attendees will enjoy dinner at the original Clinton Country Club built before the turn of the century and now a totally remodeled and acclaimed steak restaurant, "White Dog Hill." This restaurant has been featured in *Distinctly Oklahoma* and *Oklahoma Today* and most recently listed as one of the top ten restaurants in Oklahoma in the May/June issue of *Oklahoma Today*.

Friday morning tours will include a stop at Freightliner Sports Chassis where attendees will see production of some of America's most luxurious trucks manufactured right here in Oklahoma! The Route 66 Museum is a must-see as well as McLain Rogers Park Amphitheater listed on the National Historic Register. The tour will also include three healthcare facilities as well as Clinton city facilities. Friday evening features a dinner at the Frisco Center with musical entertainment by Cordell Mayor Alex Damon's group.

Saturday morning will wind up the retreat with roundtable discussions at the Frisco Center; breaking at noon for lunch on your own in Clinton. Lots of options for lunch are available with the many great restaurants Clinton offers. In addition, food vendors will be available up and down main street for the Route 66 Festival!

The Clinton Route 66 Festival presented by Lucky Star Casino — "Hot Dogs and Hot Rods on 66," brings together two great events into one mega celebration on June 26, 2010. In 2007, Clinton was the proud host city for the National Route 66 Festival. The event was such a success that Clinton is continuing with an annual Route 66 celebration. The new Route 66 Festival will also include "Hot Dog Daze." Held in Clinton for over three decades, "Hot Dog Daze"

celebrates the steamy days of summer with free Bar-S hot dogs and the Wiener Nationals dachshund races.

At the 2010 Clinton Route 66 Festival, crowds can expect to see and participate in a number of activities. From a car and motorcycle show, Friday night cruise, free live entertainment, poker run, lots of booths to shop, free hot dogs, and of course, the Wiener Nationals, there will be something to interest every member of the family. The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum will have extended hours during the festival with special exhibits as well. The Museum is a must see for any visitor to Clinton.

Saturday night of the festival features Johnny Roger's rendition of Buddy Holly. Johnny will transport his audience back in time when you could go to your favorite malt shops with your favorite girl and dance to your favorite bands. His show will start with his portrayal of country legend Johnny Cash. By his side will be the legendary Tommy Allsup (two-time Grammy winning producer and artist). Tommy played on more than 6,500 sessions and was Buddy Holly's friend and lead guitarist from 1958-1959. He escaped death when flipping a coin with Ritchie Valens. Ritchie called heads and the rest is Rock N Roll history. During the second show Johnny will portray Elvis Presley and re-create his Sun Studio and early RCA years. The show will climax with Johnny's uncanny portrayal of the late great Buddy Holly. Admission to the concert and all Route 66 Festival activities is free.

Saturday, June 26 Downtown Clinton, 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Entertainment is to be announced.

- 8:00 a.m. registration for Car & Motorcycle Show
- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Car & Motorcycle Show
- 11:00 a.m. Wiener Nationals Dog Races
- 3:30 p.m. Awards - Car & Motorcycle Show
- 4:00 p.m. Poker Run begins

McLain Rogers Park

- Noon Judging Begins for BBQ Cook-Off
- 7:00 p.m. Cards due - Poker Run
- 7:00 p.m. Free Bar-S hot dogs & Pepsi
- 7:01 p.m. Cruise on Old 66 begins
- 8:25 p.m. Prizes – Poker Run
- 8:30 p.m. Cruise ends
- 8:30 p.m. Free Concert at McLain Rogers Ampitheatre, Johnny Rogers

Saturday, June 26th, Lucky Star Casino in Clinton will be giving away \$100 or \$500 every 66 minutes starting at noon and ending after midnight.

We hope you will join us this summer at the Clinton Route 66 Festival — “Hot Dogs and Hot Rods on 66.”



Clinton Route 66 Festival



Clinton Route 66 Festival Cars



Clinton Route 66 Festival Hot Dog Daze

U.S. Conference of Mayors coming to OKC

From June 10-14, mayors from across the United States will come to Oklahoma City for the 78th Annual Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. This event is the largest meeting of the year and is attended by 1,200-1,300 people, including mayors, their families, other city delegates, representatives from Washington, national media and Business Council members.

The Annual Meeting provides a forum for mayors to discuss issues, adopt policy resolutions and share best practices with one another. By hosting the meeting, Oklahoma City has the opportunity to provide the perfect backdrop. While here, the attendees will experience a number of Oklahoma City attractions, including Bricktown, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, the Oklahoma River and others. Attendees will see the city's new-found adrenaline reflected in a gleaming downtown; a robust economy; a sparkling reclaimed river and a neon-lit canal flowing through Bricktown – one of the fastest-growing entertainment districts in the Southwest. Along with mayors, the event is likely to be visited by U.S. senators, governors, members of Congress and representatives from the presidential administration.

The Presenting Sponsor for the 78th Annual Meeting is Chesapeake Energy Corporation. Other top-level sponsors include Devon Energy; Waste Management; Veolia; AT&T; Advanced Academics; IPS Group, Inc.; and OGE Energy Corp. For more information about the 2010 Annual Meeting, visit www.uscm2010.com.

About the Conference

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,201 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.

The primary roles of the U.S. Conference of Mayors are to:

- Promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy
- Strengthen federal-city relationships
- Ensure that federal policy meets urban needs
- Provide mayors with leadership and management tools
- Create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information

Spotlight on OML Members

Stillwater: People who think big and see possibilities

“History is who we are and why we are the way we are.” ~ David C. McCullough

In 1832, Washington Irving, author, storyteller and traveler, provided the first recorded description of the area around Stillwater. He wrote of “a glorious prairie spreading out beneath the golden beams of an autumnal sun. The deep and frequent traces of buffalo showed it to be one of their favorite grazing grounds.”

According to one legend, local Native American tribes — Ponca, Kiowa, Osage and Pawnee — called the creek “Still Water” because the water was always still. Another legend states that cattlemen driving herds from Texas to rail-ways back east always found water “still there.”

Regardless, the creek received its official name in 1884 when William L. Couch established his “boomer colony” on its banks. The placid, spring-like creek became known as Stillwater. While the creek may have been tranquil, the next few years saw turmoil as pioneers sought free, fertile land and soldiers held them off while complicated legal issues and land titles with Creek and Seminole tribes were hashed out. On April 22, 1889, the cannons fired signaling the race to acquire land, and towns, including Stillwater, sprang up overnight.

The Possibilities

Stillwater was established by bold, forward-thinking pioneers who saw an opportunity and built upon it, and that, as City Manager Dan Galloway sees it, hasn't changed.

“Stillwater is home to people who think big and see possibilities,” Galloway said. “The residents never viewed Stillwater as a small town; instead, they saw a great city in the making.”

One forward-thinking decision that has benefited Stillwater was the establishment of a community-owned electric utility in 1907. The electric utility, now part of the Stillwater Utilities Authority, provides award-winning, reliable electric, water, wastewater and solid waste management services. A portion of the Utility Authority's revenues help to support the City's outstanding fire and police departments, the parks and recreation system, and other city services.

And speaking of parks, the City of Stillwater provides more acres of public parkland per capita than most cities its size; it also owns and operates Lake McMurry with its hiking and mountain-bike trails, back-to-nature camping and well-stocked reserves for fishing.

Galloway believes Stillwater comes by its hometown trait of "seeing possibilities" naturally by being home to quality educational and training institutions like Oklahoma State University, Meridian Technology Center, Northern Oklahoma College/OSU Gateway and the top-rated Stillwater Public Schools.



The community-owned electric utility was established in 1907. The electric utility is now part of the Stillwater Authority which provides award-winning, reliable electric, water, wastewater and solid waste management services.



Since 1920 Oklahoma State University has welcomed alumni back for homecoming. In 2009 OSU alumni country music great Garth Brooks served as one of Homecoming's grand marshals.



Stillwater Regional Airport's main runway is the fifth longest civilian runway in the state of Oklahoma and can accommodate up through a Boeing 757-size aircraft.



Veterans Memorial at Boomer Lake Park at night.

A University Town

“We’re a university town and all that that entails — academics, sports and a robust nightlife — but it also implies a city shaped by strong alliances. The ongoing partnership between city government, the business community, educational institutions and our residents make Stillwater different from other cities,” he said.

The city ebbs and flows by the university’s academic calendar. Stillwater gains and loses thousands of residents, depending on whether it’s the beginning or end of the semester. The same is true of OSU sporting events — the population can almost double for a day or two. Retailers, restaurants and city services, including fire and police, have learned to adapt.

“It’s part of living, working and having a business in Stillwater. With a young, mobile population, our community is constantly being challenged to keep current. We are fortunate to have the university students because they inspire us to embrace new technologies, to find updated solutions and to take a fresh look at what we do,” Galloway said.

These partnerships take all forms. For example, the University and the City recently pooled funds to reconstruct University Avenue, a major thoroughfare that serves campus, residents and businesses. “Alone, we couldn’t have started or completed this project without major inconveniences to one party or another. Instead, we came together and agreed on timing, design and funding. Now we all benefit from a beautiful, award-winning project,” Galloway explained.

Galloway points to the OSU Community Transit Service, Downtown Game Day Parking and the Count Stillwater 2010 Census program as other successful partnerships. The City also signed an agreement with OSU that allows each entity to serve as a backup water supply for the other.

“It is hard to overstate how important this agreement is to Stillwater and OSU. For 16 years Stillwater has been without a backup water supply for Kaw Lake, and this simple agreement gives everyone peace of mind,” he said.

Not ‘Still,’ but Growing

Stillwater is a regional center for retail, manufacturing, health care, and professional services, and it’s growing.

With its low crime rate and a cost of living below the U.S. average, Stillwater is consistently ranked among the nation’s top small cities for quality of life, which makes Stillwater a city businesses and industries consider when looking to expand or relocate. It also doesn’t hurt that 48 percent of Stillwater residents have completed 16 years or more of formal education, and nearly one in four residents has earned a post-graduate degree. In fact, Stillwater is recognized for having one of the nation’s highest levels of educational attainment.

In Stillwater there is a diverse mix of business and industry spanning aerospace, agribusiness, bio-industry, optoelectronics (sensors, lasers, etc.), health care, printing and publishing, software and standard manufacturing.

The City of Stillwater contracts with the Chamber of Commerce whose task it is to expand the economy by attracting new businesses, fostering entrepreneurial growth, and promoting local shopping.

“The Chamber does an excellent job of taking care of the business community, and the City does its part to encourage development by being a good partner,” Galloway said. “Being a good partner includes providing a service-oriented Development Services Department and establishing tax incentives that make investors consider Stillwater an attractive place to do business.”

Even though the national slowdown has hit Oklahoma, in 2009 Stillwater continued to see a steady number of building permits filed. It wasn’t too long ago that Lakeview Pointe, which features national department stores, opened on the north side of town. Recently, Best Buy and Tuesday Morning joined the shopping center.

One area that is easy to measure growth is hotel rooms. Stillwater has hosted a number of ribbon cuttings in the past year and now has more than a thousand rooms, which helps bring conferences and sporting events to town. According to the Stillwater Convention and Visitors Bureau, OSU sports and academic events alone draw more than 680,000 visitors who spend \$47 million each year to Stillwater.

Downtown Stillwater

In recent years, the downtown, like many traditional downtowns, was facing empty buildings, less pedestrian traffic and stiff competition from new developments in other parts of the city.

To revitalize the heart of Stillwater, city government, business and community leaders researched what other cities were doing to “relaunch” their downtowns and were drawn to the idea of a business improvement district.

Galloway said, “While we realized that Stillwater was a much smaller city (46,976 pop. in 2007) than the ones we were looking at, we believed that with the right combination of incentives, oversight and commitment we could make a dramatic difference.”

After public hearings and much debate, the Stillwater City Council passed a resolution creating the Business Im-

provement and Special Services District No. 1 in 2007. And what a difference it has made.

In 2008/09, the district welcomed 16 new businesses with four more set to open soon. New stores include Avon Beauty Center, Bed Mart, Hello Gorgeous Salon and Spa, Louie's Grill and Bar, Main Street Realtors, The Quilting Post, Project Gallery, Rival Sports Bar, Geek a Bytes, Crafters Corner, Crepe Myrtle Market, Flourishes, Causley's Party Box, The Vault and The Wine Bar.

"It wasn't that long ago when you visited downtown after 5 p.m. you wouldn't see anyone. Now, you may have to park and walk a few blocks to get to your favorite restaurant," Galloway said.

The district also hosts an annual Downtown Halloween Festival that is held the Tuesday before Halloween and draws a crowd of 10,000 people, and the annual Downtown Car Show saw the number of entries double over the past few years.

"Downtowns have to change if they are to survive. In Stillwater, we have made a commitment to make our downtown vibrant, entertaining and a place where businesses want to be," Galloway said.

The Welcome Wagon

Since 1920, Oklahoma State has welcomed alumni back for homecoming, and it has grown to be "America's Greatest Homecoming Celebration." Last year more than 70,000 alumni and friends returned to campus. In addition "to turning the town orange," thousands pack Main Street for the annual homecoming parade and enjoy the Walkaround on campus. This is where students from the Greek community volunteer hundreds of hours to build unbelievable house decorations for the OSU family to enjoy. OSU Homecoming is a tradition that people don't want to miss.

For three days in May, Stillwater goes from being a typical Oklahoma city to an Olympic Village. For years, Stillwater has played host to the Annual Summer Games for Special Olympics Oklahoma where thousands of athletes and hundreds of volunteers gather for three days of competition and Olympic-style ceremonies. This is the largest amateur sporting event in Oklahoma, and the largest Special Olympics event in the U.S.

"For those who have never been to the Special Olympics, it's hard to explain how big it is; but Stillwater residents look forward to being part of this every year," said Galloway. "Everyone is involved, from police and emergency

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management, to area school children who help prepare meals, to city workers who work the barricades, to residents who come out to cheer the athletes on.

Another tradition going on strong is the Stillwater Arts Festival, which is held each spring and is in now in its third decade. The festival is a two-day juried art show that features live, local entertainment, artist demonstrations and children's activities. More than 10,000 guests attend each year.

Red Dirt Entertainment

What term do you use to describe a certain mixture of blues, country and rock-n-roll? Well in Stillwater, we call it Red Dirt.

Stillwater is known as the home to Red Dirt Music and its local hometown heroes Cross Canadian Ragweed, Jason Boland and the Stragglers, Red Dirt Rangers, Great Divide, No Justice, Jenny Labow, the Jason Savory Band, and the grandfather of Red Dirt Music, Bob Childers.

And it's here that country music great Garth Brooks and chart-toppers The All-American Rejects got their start playing the local bars like Willie's Saloon, Tumbleweed Dance Hall and Concert Arena and Eskimo Joe's.

Eskimo Joe's, aka Stillwater's Jumpin' Little Juke Joint, will celebrate its 35-year anniversary in July. It has been voted "Best College Post-Game Hangout" by Sporting News, ranked #3 in "The Perfect 10 College Sports Bars" by Sports Illustrated and named in Playboy.com's "Top 10 College Sports Bars," and Joe's shirts have been spotted all around the globe. Tumbleweed, home of the world-famous annual Calf Fry, was also nominated as one of the five top venues for the "Dancehall of the Year" award by the Academy of County Music.

What's Next

Stillwater is and continues to be a progressive city. Galloway gives credit to the Stillwater residents who take an interest in city government and voice their opinions. "It has taken strong vision to move Stillwater from a small farm community into a modern metropolitan city, and with their help, who knows what's next."

Tenth Circuit immigration ruling impacts municipal contractors

The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals has denied the State of Oklahoma's rehearing request on several portions of Oklahoma's 2007 Immigration bill (HB 1804). As a result, the District Court's injunction has been reversed on Section 7B of the Act (25 O.S. Section 1313B). As a result, no public employer "shall enter into a contract for the physical performance of services within this state unless the contractor registers and participates in the Status Verification System to verify the work eligibility status of all new employees." See *Chamber of Commerce of the U.S. v. Edmondson*, 594 F.3d 742 (10th Cir. 2010).

As you recall, the original District Court ruling did not apply to all employment portions of HB 1804 impacting public sector employers. Therefore, the duty to register and use a Status Verification System to verify the federal employment authorization of all new municipal employees was effective for public sector employers on November 1, 2007. See 25 O.S. Section 1313(A). The original injunction did not cover this subsection of the Act for Oklahoma municipalities.

The Status Verification System is described in 25 O.S. Section 1312. In general terms it is an electronic system operated by the federal government to verify the citizenship or immigration status of any individual. This includes:

- The electronic program of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. Section 1324a, known as the Basic Pilot Program.
- Any equivalent federal program designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.
- Any other independent, third-party system with an equal or higher degree of reliability as the programs or systems described in the Act.

United States Department of Labor recognizes Edmond public works employees

First recipients in the nation to be awarded this certificate

Edmond City Council formally recognized and presented Edmond Public Works, Field Services employees Terry Robins and Marion 'Te' Bruch with certifications authorized by the United States Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis.

In 2005, the City of Edmond Public Works Department combined the divisions of streets, water, and wastewater line maintenance into Field Services. The ultimate goal of Field Services is to cross train employees in all skill sets associated with each discipline. "We needed a systematic and structured program of curriculum to achieve the various levels of desired competency of our workforce," said Johnny Carter, City of Edmond Public Works Training Coordinator. In April 2006, the City of Edmond and Francis Tuttle Technology Center entered into an agreement to design and develop curriculum and provide subsequent training to Edmond's Field Services personnel. This agreement resulted in the creation of The Center for Municipal Excellence.

The partnership between the City of Edmond and Francis Tuttle Technology Center resulted in receiving a Certificate of Registration from the United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Program in Field Services on August 27, 2008. "This is the first and only nationally recognized program in this field by the United States Department of Labor," said Carter.

"The certifications presented to Terry and Marion represent an accomplishment Edmond can be proud of and I am very proud for their achievement as the first recipients in the nation," said Herb Blomquist, City of Edmond Public Works Director.

"This is a great honor for Terry and Marion and we want to acknowledge their dedication and personal time commitment to the program, as well as their leadership and excellent work ethic. It required tremendous effort and sacrifice," said Keith Stewart, City of Edmond Field Services Superintendent.

The City of Edmond and Francis Tuttle Technology Center continually strive to develop and provide quality training to elevate the professionalism of public employees. The Center for Municipal Excellence exists to provide relevant training to municipal professional staff.

Governor Proclaims May Flood Awareness Month

Because spring marks the unofficial beginning of the state's flood season and to make citizens aware of flooding problems and solutions, Governor Brad Henry has designated May as "Flood Awareness Month" in Oklahoma.

"We remind citizens that heavy rains and severe storms typically occur in the early spring months, making this one of the most dangerous times of the year," says J.D. Strong, Interim Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB).

"This proclamation will be of tremendous help to the Water Board in educating the public on flood safety procedures and floodplain management techniques," Strong adds. Earlier, Governor Henry proclaimed March as "Flood Insurance Month," part of a state campaign to spread the word about the availability of affordable flood insurance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Oklahoma currently boasts almost 400 NFIP member communities, which consist of municipalities, counties, and tribes.

"Severe flooding episodes occur in Oklahoma virtually every year, most frequently in the spring and fall," says Gavin Brady, State Floodplain Manager. "Implementation of sound floodplain management and building strategies, particularly through the NFIP, is the most effective way for communities to avert potential flood damages." However, he encourages communities to go "above and beyond" minimum NFIP standards. Brady points out that 89% of homes in Oklahoma's designated floodplains have no flood insurance.

On an individual basis, Brady reminds Oklahomans of the dangers of driving into floodwaters. "Almost one-half of all flood-related fatalities occur in vehicles, primarily when people drive into flooded highway dips or low drainage areas at night. As little as six inches of water can cause drivers to lose control of their vehicles. Two feet of water will sweep most cars off the road," he says.

A listing of workshop dates and locations can be found at www.owrb.ok.gov. "Oklahoma consumers need to be aware that their basic homeowner's insurance policy does not provide coverage to protect against damages created by flooding," said Brady, State Coordinator. "I encourage everyone to consult the latest floodplain maps or visit with their local insurance agent to assess their need for flood insurance."

For more information on Flood Awareness Month and the National Flood Insurance Program, call Gavin Brady at 918/581-2924.

INQUIRY FAQ

Fire Department Fund Raisers

Question: Our town's volunteer fire department is getting ready to conduct its annual taco sale, and holds other fund-raising events throughout the year. It has been the practice of the fire department members to deposit the funds into a bank account controlled by the fire department, rather than turning the money over to the town treasurer for deposit into the general fund. Is this legal?

Answer: Well the short answer is No but maybe Yes. The firefighters may believe any money raised by them is their money to do with as they wish, however this is only true in certain restrictive instances. Both paid and volunteer municipal fire departments are administrative departments of the creating municipality. Any money derived from any activity of a municipal department is required to be paid over to the municipal treasurer. (Title 62 O.S. Section 335-below) If the volunteer firefighters form an association, and raise money in the name of the association rather than the name of the department, the money is the property of the association and the municipality has no oversight or accountability for it.

Title 62. Public Finance Section 335 – Money Received From Lease, Sale or Rental – Disposition of

When any money is due any county, city, town or school district in this state from sale, lease or rental or any public property, or royalty, or for compensation for service of public employees or other purpose, it shall be paid over to the lawful treasurer thereof.

The governing board shall have authority to direct by written resolution duly entered in the minutes of its meeting at the time such money is received or prior thereto that such money shall be credited to the fund account from which such property was derived or from which payment has been or will be made for such services rendered or other purposes.

If there be no resolution by the governing board directing the disposition of the money received as contemplated herein it shall be the duty of the treasurer to credit such money so received to the general fund.

The governing board shall have authority to direct that a fund derived for such sources as herein contemplated, where applicable to a public utility, be created and used to repair, relocate or replace any utility or part thereof new or hereafter existing.

GRANTS & LOANS

Programs encouraging literacy and creativity in children

Eligibility: Public schools and libraries that are in the U.S.

Deadline: September 15, 2010

Funds: \$500

Contact: Ezra Jack Keats Minigrant Program, 450 14th St., Brooklyn, New York 11215, foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org.

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation funding supports programs encouraging literacy and creativity in children. The mini-grants may be used for programs featuring local and national guest authors who may be used for a series of presentations; programs featuring local, national, or staff storytellers; activity programs such as bookmaking, puppet making, collages, painting, and quilt making; staging a play, or presenting a puppet show based on a specific book; holding a book-writing, book illustration, or book-making contest; displays of children's illustrations; early stimulation programs and book workshops. For more information, contact the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation at <http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/>.

Support for charities serving needs of women, children, and families

Eligibility: Organizations that have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and have been incorporated for a minimum of three years prior to the application.

Deadline: September 2, 2010.

Funds: Varies.

Contact: The WHO Foundation Grants, P.O. Box 816029, Dallas, TX 75381; (800)946-4663; fax (972)341-3080; http://www.whofoundation.org/WHO_FundingEd.htm.

The W.H.O. Foundation stands for Women Helping Others. It is a foundation that supports, "community-focused charities that serve the overlooked needs of women, children, and families." An example of a recent grant: Ruth's House of Hope in Faribault, Minnesota, received \$16,000 to help women and their children in recovery from violence, oppression and homelessness.

The application, as well as more information about eligibility and a list of required attachments, is located in WHO Foundation's funding announcement: http://www.whofoundation.org/PDF/WHO_Grant_AppForm2010.pdf. Applications must be mailed to The WHO Foundation Grants, P.O. Box 816029, Dallas, TX 75381-6029. Note that faxed and emailed applications will not be ac-

cepted. The express, overnight mailing address is: The WHO Foundation Grants, 2121 Midway Road, Carrollton, TX 75006.

Department of Transportation Announces TIGER II Grant Availability

Last week, the Department of Transportation announced the availability of \$600 million in for the Department's National Infrastructure Investment Grant or TIGER II program. For additional information on the program, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-9591.pdf>. Pre-applications are due July 16, 2010, and final applications on August 10, 2010. (Leslie Wollack, wollack@nlc.org, 202.626.3029)

FEMA Announces Availability of Assistance to Firefighter Grants

On Monday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the availability of funding for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program. Fire departments and other eligible organizations can use these grants to reduce losses from fire and fire-related hazards. The deadline to submit applications is May 28, 2010. AFG provides firefighters and nonaffiliated emergency medical services (EMS) with direct funding to increase response capabilities and protect the health and safety of the public. Eligible uses include training, first responder health and safety programs, and purchasing equipment and response vehicles. The FY 2010 AFG Program guidance and application kit is available at www.firegrantsupport.com and at www.usfa.fema.gov.



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GRANTS & LOANS

Preserving and establishing access to cultural heritage resources

Eligibility: Any U.S. nonprofit, state and local governmental agencies, and tribal governments.

Deadline: July 1, 2010.

Funds: \$50,000 to \$250,000.

Contact: Preservation and Access Education and Training, Division of Preservation and Access, Room 411, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506; (202) 606-8570; preservation@neh.gov.

The Preservation and Access Education and Training grants support activities such as regional preservation field services that provide a wide range of education and training through surveys, workshops, consultations, reference services, and informational materials about the care of humanities collections, particularly for staff at small libraries, museums, archives and other cultural organizations.

For more information, visit <http://neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pet.html>.

Keep America Beautiful Announces 2010 Graffiti Hurts® Grant Program

Keep America Beautiful, Inc. announced recently the availability of its 2010 Graffiti Hurts® Grant Program, which offers three grants of \$2,500 to help communities step up local graffiti prevention activities.

The Graffiti Hurts® Grant Program has new population categories for 2010, with individual grants offered to one community under 75,000 population; to one community between 75,000 and 250,000 population; and to one community over 250,000 population. The funds must be used for projects that will be initiated in fall 2010 and completed no later than Dec. 31, 2011.

“With increasingly tight local budgets for policing and graffiti remediation, the Graffiti Hurts Grant Program is one small effort from Keep America Beautiful to bring attention to this community blight and help support grassroots efforts to improve the quality of life in neigh-

borhoods,” said Keep America Beautiful President and CEO Matt McKenna. “Keep America Beautiful thanks The Sherwin-Williams Company for supporting our effort to meet those needs.”

Local governments, police departments, youth groups, downtown associations, crime prevention organizations, and other groups dedicated to eradicating graffiti vandalism are encouraged to apply. (Businesses that make or operate graffiti removal equipment or technologies are not eligible.) Proposed projects can address graffiti prevention and education, eradication, or enforcement of local anti-graffiti laws. Programs that focus on prevention initiatives, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and engaging and educating youth are encouraged.

The application deadline is June 1, 2010. Complete an online application by going to www.kab.org/grants/GH2010. Grant awards will be announced by Sept. 15, 2010.

Graffiti Hurts® was developed in 1996 through a partnership between Keep America Beautiful, the nation’s largest nonprofit education and community improvement organization, and The Sherwin-Williams Company (NYSE: SHW), maker of Krylon paint, to respond to the blight of graffiti vandalism in communities nationwide. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, graffiti contributes to lost revenue associated with reduced ridership on transit systems, reduced retail sales, and declines in property value.

The 2009 grant recipients were the Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe, Calif., whose “Unity Project” helps youth express their art within the framework of city laws; Crime Prevention & Control Commission of Denver, Colo., which provides diversionary art and leadership skills to local youth as a substitute to graffiti vandalism; City of Milwaukee (Wis.) Dept. of Neighborhood Services, whose graffiti intervention program is for youth to educate their peers through radio PSAs they create; and Keep San Antonio (Texas) Beautiful, which has disseminated solar-powered motion detecting lights to businesses and homeowners who have chronic graffiti through its Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design component called “Place Light Upon Graffiti” (or PLUG).



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

POLICE OFFICER: The City of Walters is accepting applications for one position of a full time Police Officer. CLEET certification a plus but not required. Position duties include enforcement of laws of the State of Oklahoma and the City of Walters, and prevention of crimes, control traffic flow and enforce State and local traffic regulations; perform investigation activities, and taking reports.

Must be 21 years of age, a citizen of the U.S., high school diploma or equivalent, no felony convictions. Must pass MMPI, physical, drug screen and background check. This is a full time position and starting pay depends on certification and experience. Applications can be picked up at City Hall located at 129 East Colorado St . If you have any questions, please call us at The City of Walters City Hall 580-875-3337 or The City of Walters Police Department 580-875-3343.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR: The Town of Kingston is now accepting applications for Public Works Supervisor. The town will be taking applications and resumes until May 14, 2010.

Address: Town of Kingston
PO Box 638
Kingston, OK 73439
Fax: (580) 564-9438
Phone: (580) 564-3750

CITY MANAGER: City of Sand Springs, Oklahoma (pop 18,849) accepting applications for position of City Manager. Approx. 200 F/T employees, 2 bargaining units, and a \$26.5M budget. Seeking applicants with proven record of success in municipal administration. Ideal candidate will have college degree, preferably Master's, in Public Administration, Business Administration, or related discipline, and minimum 7-10 years progressive management experience in municipal government. Previous experience in redevelopment of urban or blighted areas, or economic development initiatives a plus. Position reports directly to the City Council, and is accountable for the effective management of all City departments. Candidates must have demonstrated effective leadership skills, high ethical standards, strong written and verbal communication skills, and be able to relate to diverse constituencies. A unique opportunity for an individual who can bring people and organizations together to help guide a city's growth into the future. We offer an attractive compensation package, commensurate with experience and qualifications. Resumes may be sent in confidence through June 18, 2010, to Carolyn Decker, Human Resources, City of Sand Springs, P. O. Box 338, Sand Springs, OK 74063; e-mail ccdecker@sandspring-sok.org; fax to (918) 246-2647. Resume, salary history and 3 business references must be accompanied by a City of Sand Springs job application. Application form available online at www.sandspring-sok.org. EEO employer.

MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

INSURANCE SERVICES

Request for Proposal (RFP)

The City of McAlester is accepting sealed Proposals for the purpose of obtaining qualified Insurance Services for the City and its related component units as outlined in this proposal. The Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk at the address below or by telephone at (918) 423-9300 ext. 4956 or via e-mail at cora.middleton@cityofmcalester.com. Sealed Proposals must be received by the City Clerk, Cora Middleton, City of McAlester, 28 E. Washington, McAlester, OK 74502, no later than 10:00 a.m. May 17, 2010. Failure to deliver the Proposal on time will result in disqualification.

HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICES

Request for Proposal (RFP)

The City of McAlester is accepting sealed Proposals for the purpose of obtaining qualified Insurance Services for fully-insured and self-insured with a cap for health, dental and vision insurance for its employees and dependents. The Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk at the address below or by telephone at (918) 423-9300 ext. 4956 or via e-mail at cora.middleton@cityofmcalester.com

Sealed Proposals must be received by the City Clerk, Cora Middleton, City of McAlester, 28 E. Washington, McAlester, OK 74502, no later than 10:00 a.m. May 20, 2010. Failure to deliver the Proposal on time will result in disqualification.

AUDIT SERVICES

Request for Proposal (RFP)

The City of McAlester is accepting sealed Proposals for the purpose of obtaining a qualified Certified Public Accountant to perform an audit of the financial statements of the City and its related component units for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. The Request for Proposal (RFP) maybe obtained from the Office of the City Clerk at the address below or by telephone at (918) 423-9300 ext. 4956 or via e-mail at cora.middleton@cityofmcalester.com.

Sealed proposals must be received by the City Clerk, Cora Middleton, City of McAlester, 28 E. Washington, McAlester, OK 7450, no later than 10:30 a.m. May 17, 2010. Failure to deliver the Proposal on time will result in disqualification.



Fund Accounting
Solutions
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3 & 4, 2010

JUNE NEW OFFICIALS INSTITUTE

Tulsa Technology Center, Broken Arrow Campus
4600 South Olive, Broken Arrow

June 10 & 11, 2010

JUNE NEW OFFICIALS INSTITUTE

Rose State College
6420 S.E. 15th, Midwest City

June 10 – 14, 2010

**U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
CONFERENCE**

Oklahoma City

June 24 – 26, 2010

MCO MAYORS SUMMER RETREAT

Frisco Convention Center, Clinton

July 14 – 16, 2010

CMAO SUMMER CONFERENCE

Location TBA

August 13, 2010

EMPLOYMENT SEMINAR

Location TBA

September 9 & 10, 2010

NLC / ICMA CRISIS WORKSHOP

Oklahoma City

September 28, 2010

**PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP: BIDDING &
PURCHASING**

Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City

September 28 – 30, 2010

OML in association with

MESO/OMAG/OMRF

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City

October 14, 2010

NEW OFFICIALS INSTITUTE

Woodward City Hall
1219 Eighth Street, Woodward

October 20 – 22, 2010

MCTFOA FALL CONFERENCE

Stillwater

October 29, 2010

OMCCA FALL CONFERENCE

Reed Center, Midwest City

November 4, 2010

NEW OFFICIALS INSTITUTE

Kiamichi Technology Center
301 Kiamichi Drive, McAlester
(Please note new date & location.)

November 19, 2010

WATER SUMMIT

Oklahoma Regional Training Institute
6500 North Kelley, Oklahoma City

December 10, 2010

PRACTICAL GUIDE WORKSHOP

Oklahoma Regional Training Institute
6500 North Kelley, Oklahoma City