CRCOG Policy Board Gavel Passes to New Chair

At its December 12th meeting, the Policy Board elected a new Chair for CRCOG. Dave Kilbon had served for four years and did not run again for First Selectman in East Granby. The Policy Board elected Melody A. Currey, Mayor of East Hartford, to be the Chair for the next two years. Melody Currey is presently the Mayor of East Hartford, having been elected in November of 2005. As Mayor, Melody serves as Chair to the CRCOG Policy Board, serves on the Executive Board of CRCOG, as an Executive Board member of Riverfront Recapture and as a member of CCM along with Co-Chair of the School Readiness Council and Ex-Officio member of ChildPlan, Inc. Melody served as the State Representative from the 10th Assembly District to the Connecticut State House of Representatives from 1993 to 2005. Melody has given most of her adult life to community and public service in East Hartford, particularly involved with children's issues and senior citizen issues. In recognition of her tireless efforts, Melody has received awards from regional, state and local organizations.

Linda Osten Remembered

On December 20, 2007, the Capitol Region and the City of Hartford lost one of their staunchest supporters when Linda Osten died at age 49, after a valiant battle against cancer. Linda served as CRCOG’s Principal Community Development Planner for nine years. Linda’s contributions to the Capitol Region are many. Her major accomplishments included working as project manager for CRCOG’s livable communities’ project, leading our station area planning for the Hartford-New Britain busway, and supporting our public safety program. The results of her work can be found in numerous plans and policy documents on the CRCOG web site, and in land use and conservation policies implemented by our member communities, in part, because of her efforts. Linda was also a resident of Hartford. She helped strengthen our central city through her work in the community, which included guiding redevelopment of the Dutch Point Public Housing Project, creating and implementing a strategic plan for the Sheldon-Charter Oak Neighborhood, and helping to preserve and enhance the City’s open spaces through her work with the Bushnell Park Foundation and the Hartford Botanical Garden. In May 2007, when Linda decided to move on to a new job, CRCOG’s loss was the Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford’s gain, as she found a new place to apply her extensive skills, commitment, and unique perspective. And above all else, to apply her passion for making the Greater Hartford Region a better place in which to live. We are grateful for her many contributions to the work of our
agency, and to the strength and vitality of our central city and region. Linda never let us forget that to have a strong, vital region, we must have a strong and vital central city.

**Nickel Mines Shooting Presentation**

The December Public Safety Council meeting featured a presentation on the Nickel Mines School Shooting in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Matthew Shenk, Communications Supervisor, and Richard Harrison, Operations Manager of the Lancaster County-wide Communications, shared their experience. The shooting occurred on October 2, 2006 in an Amish School and the Lancaster County-wide Communications Center handled the response, which included municipal, county, state, and federal agencies and the national news media. The presentation was attended by approximately 100 people, from all public safety disciplines. The heartfelt presentation included lessons learned and also described related activities that ensued in the following weeks and months. Photo: Richard Harrison, Lancaster Communications Operations Manager; Brian Heavren, Hartford Police Assistant Chief; and Matt Shenk, Lancaster Communications Supervisor.

**Bruce A. Lockwood Elected Region 1 President of International Association of Emergency Managers**

Bruce Lockwood, Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator for the Bristol-Burlington Health District in Bristol, was elected as the 2007-2009 Region 1 (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island) President of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). Bruce was sworn in during the Presidential Banquet November 14 in Reno, Nevada. Bruce is an active member of the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC) and serves as the 1st Co-Vice Chair of CREPC as well as the Chair of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 7, Resource Management. Prior to taking a position at the Bristol-Burlington Health District, he was employed by the Town of Canton, CT as Fire Marshal/Director of Emergency Management until April 2007. He is also employed full-time by the East Hartford Fire Department as an apparatus driver.

**CRCOG Rolls Out Safe Routes to Schools Workshops**

Did you know that in 1969 close to 50% of the children in this country walked to school, but today fewer than 20% do so? You have probably noticed this change in your town – more kids being dropped off at school resulting in school sites that are heavily congested at morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times and frequent parental complaints about safety in the school zone. The Safe Routes to Schools program is designed to reverse these trends and to get more students walking and bicycling to school. A well designed Safe Routes program will diagnose what keeps kids from making the choice to
walk or bike, and then develops strategies to change the environment and culture.

Currently, the federal government has made funds available to help communities with Safe Routes improvements. That funding is available through the Connecticut DOT, but towns must have developed Safe Routes plans in place in order to access this funding. CRCOG has designed a three workshop series to assist our towns in developing Safe Routes plans. On January 10th, representatives from 10 of the region’s towns attended the first of the workshops. The participating towns will be guided through the development of a plan and will receive a traffic engineering assessment of their school site as part of the program. Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. will provide the traffic engineering work.

The next two workshops will be held at the South Congregational Church, Hartford: February 14 @ 2:30pm – 4:00pm; and March 13 @ 2:30pm – 4:00pm. Contact Sandy Fry (sfry@crcog.org, 522-2217, x20) if you are interested in taking part, but were unable to attend the first workshop.

Emily Moos Joins CRCOG Community Development Staff

Emily Moos has been appointed to fill the Senior Planner vacancy in the Community Development Department. This is an internal transfer and promotion, as Emily moves to this position from her role as a CRCOG Transportation Planner. Emily will continue to work with the Transportation Department on projects in which she is actively involved, and will continue to serve as a bridge between the departments on land use planning issues. Emily assumed her new position on January 2, 2008.

Emily brings strong land use planning and community design skills to this position, gained through her graduate studies in planning and urban design at the University of Pennsylvania, and previous work with the Regional Plan Association. In addition, Emily’s experience in transportation planning for the Capitol Region gained over the past year will be useful to future Community Development projects. Finally, her strong commitment to and enthusiasm for the work of the Capitol Region Council of Governments made her a strong candidate for this position. We wish Emily well in her transition to her new role at CRCOG.

CRCOG Planner Rebecca Augur Receives AICP Certification

Rebecca Augur, CRCOG Senior Community Development Planner, has received AICP certification. AICP is the American Planning Association's professional institute, providing leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and the standards of planning practice. Certified planners use their skills to find solutions to community problems in ways that will carry the community toward its desired long-term goals. Rebecca received this certification after completing a course of study and passing a written examination. Certified planners commit to continuing education which helps them gain knowledge and skills necessary to remain current in the practice of planning. CRCOG congratulates Rebecca on this accomplishment.
Workshops of Interest to CRCOG Municipalities

The HOMEConnecticut Campaign is a co-sponsor of two upcoming workshops of interest to Capitol Region municipalities. For registration information, see www.homeconnecticut.org or call Domonique Walker at 860-244-0066.

February 15th, 8:00-11:30 a.m.—How to Grow a Workforce, a discussion focusing on the dangers facing Connecticut if it does not reverse the loss of young workers and families, featuring founder of American Demographics magazine and author, Peter Francese. March 11th, 2:00-4:30 p.m.—Visualizing Density, in which author Julie Campoli will explore concepts of density and design, and how they affect each other. Both workshops will be held at the Lyceum, 227 Lawrence Street, Hartford.

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

Community Development Committee, Thursday, February 14, Noon, South Church
Municipal Services Committee, Tuesday, February 19, Noon, CRRA
CREPC, Thursday, February 21, 9:30 a.m. South Church
Regional Planning Commission, February 21, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
Transportation Committee, Monday, February 25, Noon, CRRA
CRCOG Policy Board, Wednesday, February 27, Noon, CRRA.
Executive Committee, Wednesday, March 12, Noon, CRCOG Board Room
Public Safety Council, Thursday, March 13, Noon, South Church
Jobs Access, Thursday, March 20, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District

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