Annual Citizen Corps Council Conference Held

The 2010 Citizen Corps Council Conference in Westbrook on September 7 and 8 featured two speakers focused on responses to the Kleen Energy incident: Rafael Moure-Eraso, Chairman of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, described the role of the CSB, and George Dunn, Middletown’s Director of Emergency Management, highlighted the assistance provided by Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Hartford EMD Katherine McCormack and DEMHS Commissioner Peter Boynton recognized West Hartford Fire Chief William H. Austin for exceptional service as chair of the Statewide Citizen Corps Council from July 2006 to the present. He received the CERT Honor Roll Status Award. Chief Austin was identified as a leader who exemplifies the mission of CERT, and under his leadership more than 3,000 CT residents have received CERT training. (Photo at left top) The East Hartford CERT was presented with the CERT Unit Citation for collectively performing above the CERT standard and expectations (Photo at left second from top). The Team was recommended for recognition by Mayor Currey and Asst. Fire Chief William Perez. Kristen Dubé accepted the award on behalf of the team. A Special Recognition Award went to the Town of Manchester and the Manchester CERT Team, which demonstrated a level of excellence during the August 3, 2010, tragedy at Hartford Distributors. Manchester Town Manager Scott Shanley and CERT member Holly June Jacobs accepted the award (Photo second from bottom at left). CRCOG Principal Transportation Planner Karen Olson was recognized for outstanding service for her role in supporting the conference planning and communications. (Photo lower left).

Central CT Solid Waste Authority Now Has 21 Members

There are now twenty-one towns that have passed the CCSWA Ordinance and formed the new solid waste authority. Most recently, the group added Coventry, East Hartford, Glastonbury and Suffield. The group meets regularly and uses CRCOG staff as their support. See CRCOG’s website at: http://www.crcog.org/municipal_ser/sw.html. If your municipality is interested in joining CCSWA, please contact Jennifer March-Wackers at jwackers@crcog.org or (860) 522-2217 ext. 239.
**Route 6 Hop River Corridor Study Makes TV Debut**

CRCOG and Bolton’s Administrative Officer, Joyce Stille, are a few of the stakeholders working to advance a transportation study along the Route 6 Hop River Corridor in the towns of Bolton, Andover, Coventry and Columbia. With guidance from the Route 6 Economic Development Council and expertise from a team of consultants, the study will address the future of the corridor as it relates to development, traffic and safety. This is a model study, allowing the four corridor communities to jointly address a common vision, targeting specific areas for development while preserving historic, scenic and environmental resources. To keep the public informed CRCOG recently joined forces with Joyce Stille and the Community Voice Channel to discuss preliminary existing condition findings (pictured above). To learn more about the study visit CRCOG’s website at: [http://www.crcog.org/transportation/current_stud/Route6.html](http://www.crcog.org/transportation/current_stud/Route6.html)

**CRCOG Joins Web 2.0: New Ways to Connect**

There are now a few more ways to connect with CRCOG’s Sustainable Capitol Region Initiative. In addition to a growing presence on CRCOG’s website, Sustainable Capitol Region has recently benefited from the use of social media sites to spread the word about planning for sustainability in the greater Hartford area. This summer, CRCOG received a grant from CL&P and Northeast Utilities and is working with the Denver, Colorado based firm, Atlas Advertising, to develop a social media strategy aimed at reaching out to a broader audience and pulling in a different demographic than is typically involved in CRCOG’s work. Through updates, posts and tweets on the Facebook fan page, [https://www.facebook.com/SustainableCR](https://www.facebook.com/SustainableCR) and Twitter, @SustainableCR, a consistent message is conveyed that Sustainable Capitol Region exists to create a vibrant, healthy, environmentally sustainable, economically competitive and socially equitable region. Staff at CRCOG who are directly involved in the initiative have also been advised to keep up to date with their LinkedIn accounts and utilize them to connect with those who may be interested in creating a more sustainable future for the Capitol Region. Due to the heightened connectivity that social media sites provide, Sustainable Capitol Region will also benefit from keeping informed about activities that other organizations in the greater Hartford area are conducting related to sustainability which may help with forging partnerships. To connect with our social media accounts, find us at the links above or visit our website, [www.crcog.org](http://www.crcog.org), to get connected.
CRCOG Staff Participate in Nutmeg Games

Two CRCOG staff members (Basila Huang and Mario Marrero shown in photo at left) participated in the 2010 CT State Nutmeg Games held on Sunday, August 1st. Basila Huang placed first in the 400M and 800M runs and Mario Marrero placed first in the 16 pound shot put. Both athletes qualified for the 2011 State Games of America to be held in San Diego, California in 2011.

Medical Reserve Corps Supports Event

The Capitol Region MRC exercised their planning, mobilization and medical operations capabilities when they supported the Bradley Space and Aviation Day Event on August 14. This annual Hole in the Wall Gang Camp fundraiser draws thousands and raises over $50,000 each year. Primary venues are the New England Air Museum and the CT Air National Guard Base, each of which hosted many aviation and other displays, booths and activities for kids. (Photo at left shows morning briefing: CR-MRC Medical Tent, Trailer and Cabana Unit). Pratt and Whitney is a major event sponsor and their band entertained the crowds heading to the flight line Saturday afternoon to look at the B-52 and other military and civilian aircraft on display. The MRC mission was to set up and operate a medical first aid tent/cooling station. To support their mission the MRC deployed a medical tent, associated equipment, and the MRC command and control trailer. 43 MRC volunteers participated, West Hartford Fire Department transported the equipment to and from Bradley Air National Guard Base, and volunteers worked three days to make it happen.

‘Discover Hartford’ Walking and Cycling Tour a Success

On September 11th, downtown Hartford was filled with bicyclists and pedestrians taking part in the Discover Hartford Walking and Bicycling Tour. A joint effort of Bike Walk Connecticut (formerly the Central Connecticut Bicycle Alliance) and the City of Hartford, the tour was described as an anti-sprawl, pro-fun, pro-sustainable city, anti-pollution, anti-couch potato, pro-bicycle/pro-pedestrian event. (Upper photo shows bikers resting at Goodwin Park.) The tour featured architectural walking tours of downtown, and 10, 25 and 40 mile bike ride options. (Lower photo shows the riders exploring city parks and streets.) Response was overwhelming with nearly 1,000 participates enjoying the beautiful day and the opportunity to see Hartford on foot or from the seat of a bicycle. As in past years, CRCOG staff has assisted with this event as part of our Bicycle Pedestrian Plan implementation. We expect this type of event to become even more popular in the future, especially as the bike education program launched by CRCOG matures under the guidance of Bike Walk Connecticut.
Regional Online Permitting System Launched

Connecticut municipal leaders and guests gathered on August 30 at the Legislative Office Building to officially launch the new Regional Online Permitting System that has been under development for the past 18 months. The new system, the first of its kind in Connecticut, automates many elements of the permitting process for participating local governments, their residents and contractors doing business in the municipalities. Simple permits are obtained online and the process of verifying contractor licenses and ensuring that taxes on the property are paid is automated with state databases. Applicants are also able to check on the status of their permits and request inspections online.

The nine pilot towns participating in the first phase of this program are: Bolton, Coventry, East Hartford, Glastonbury, Manchester, Newington, Simsbury, Tolland and Wethersfield. Towns will provide the service using ViewPermit software, a product of Massachusetts-based ViewPoint Engineering, Inc., chosen for the regional effort through a competitive selection process. The program has been designed so that once the pilot project is complete, additional Connecticut towns can sign on to the system. New Haven has signed a contract with CRCOG and ViewPoint and expects to be operational by October. CRCOG encourages additional towns to consider joining the Regional Online Permitting System in their next budget cycle. Please contact Jennifer March-Wackers at jwackers@crcog.org or (860) 522-2217 ext. 239 if you would like a demonstration or have any questions.

CRCOG Integrates Transportation and Policy and Planning

CRCOG is pleased to announce several internal promotions and improvements to the way we do business. Congratulations to Mary Ellen Kowalewski and Jennifer Carrier in their new positions as Director of Policy and Planning and Director of Transportation Planning respectively. Both Mary Ellen and Jennifer will be working more closely together to better integrate the transportation and land use functions of the agency and to advance components of the Sustainable Capitol Region initiative. We also congratulate Jennifer March-Wackers in her promotion to Municipal Services Manager, who will be spearheading new initiatives in shared services and cooperative bidding initiatives.
Upcoming Meeting Dates

CRCOG Executive Committee – October 13, 2010, Noon, CRCOG
Connecticut River Assembly – October 14, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall
Transportation Committee – October 18, 2010, Noon, CRRA
Municipal Services Committee – October 19, 2010, Noon, CRCOG
CRCOG Policy Board – October 20, 2010, Noon, CRRA
CREPC – October 21, 2010, 9:30 a.m., South Church
Regional Planning Commission - October 21, 2010, 7:00 p.m. West Hartford Town Hall
Capitol Region Jobs Access Task Force – November 18, 2010, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG
Bike/Pedestrian Committee – December 7, 2010, Noon, CRCOG
Public Safety Council – December 9, Noon, South Church

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