

# SCOCOG



South Central Ozark Council of Governments

Summer 2017

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*Greetings members and friends of the South Central Ozarks Council of Governments.*

SCOCOG's spring newsletter *Highlights* focused on the celebration of 50 years of service to communities and counties in the SCOCOG region.

The end of April 2017, however, brought devastating flooding to much of the SCOCOG region with some of our larger bridges that provided access over our major rivers in the western parts of the region being completely washed away. Many private residential homes and businesses along the lower lying areas in identified floodplains and in areas thought to be safe from flooding fell victim flooding as well.

As you know, there has been, and continues to be, frustration among those negatively impacted by the flooding, in addition to those being displaced from their homes and businesses as a result of the flooding.

From the disaster, many more folks perhaps have a keener awareness of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), its purpose, what the NFIP can and cannot assist with, and what requisites a local governmental entity has to abide by, should the entity choose to participate in the NFIP.

Participating in the NFIP, as you probably know, is strictly voluntary. The NFIP participation brings advantages for those living in homes or owning structures in the flood hazard areas, but at the same time the NFIP has additional requirements of participating governmental entities.

Further understating of the NFIP, the differing elements between floodplain management and county planning and zoning, and who is impacted by the respective programs and land use allowances, seem to be in order.

If we can be of assistance in defining the differences in the programs and policies of these two very different voluntary programs, we would be happy to arrange a time to meet with you to go through the differences.

As the newly coined phrase that has been repeated numerous times states: let's remain *Missouri Strong*.

John W. Murrell, Jr.  
Executive Director

# Recycling in the Ozarks

Missourians, as a whole, currently recycle around 40% of the products that would normally go into the waste stream; although better than the current national average, we must do better. The Missouri Recycling Association has a goal of a 75% recycling rate by 2025. This will require more education of residents on not only what to recycle, but how to recycle these increased types of waste products. New methods, techniques, and sources to handle the recycling of different products will be essential to meet this goal.

Recycling tips that can reduce our carbon footprint, help preserve our planet, and help cut household costs include: making our homes more energy efficient, and reducing, reusing, and recycling as much as possible. *What can you recycle?* This will depend on your community, county, and available recycling programs. Most areas conduct community and area wide collections, such as: electronics collections, and household hazardous waste collections to get rid of toxic chemicals by recycling these products to prevent contamination of the environment. Community clean-ups which take appliances, furniture, and other non-toxic household items unfortunately, do not get recycled, but end up in a landfill. Other items that can, and should, be recycled are re-useable building materials, tires, textiles, and mattresses to name a few. Currently, small communities and rural areas do not have an economical and efficient set-up to be able to recycle many of these products.

The most common and abundant recycling items are: cardboard, and paper (boxboard, paper packaging, office paper, junk mail, newspapers, and magazines.) Plastics too are a common recyclable item; such as soda and water bottles, detergent, and milk jugs. Aluminum, tin cans, and glass jars and bottles are all recyclable.

# School Bus Safety

**It's back to school time in the Ozarks, and we at SCOCOG would like to take this opportunity to remind individuals in the region to be on the lookout for students boarding the bus, before and after school. Below are some facts and tips about school bus safety:**

Students are about 70 times more likely to get to school safely when taking a bus instead of traveling by car.

School buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road; they're designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in preventing crashes and injuries; and in every State, stop-arm laws protect children from other motorists.

Laws protect students who are getting off and on a school bus by making it illegal for drivers to pass a school bus while dropping off or picking up passengers, regardless of the direction of approach.

Visit the bus stop and show your child where to wait for the bus: at least three giant steps (six feet) away from the curb. Remind your child that the bus stop is not a place to run or play.

When the school bus arrives, your child should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before approaching the bus door. Your child should use the handrails to avoid falling.



Your child should never walk behind a school bus. Your child should also make eye contact with the bus driver before crossing to make sure the driver can see him/her.

*“The most Important thing about having goals is having one.”*

*Geoffrey F. Abert*

# Block Grant Update

***Below is a list of projects SCOCOG staff are currently assisting with for our cities and counties through the Community Development Block Grant Program:***

**Brandsville Fire Protection District:** Authorization to Use Grant Funds has been received for this project, and we expect that this project will go out for bid within the next month.

**Alton Fire Department:** Alton has chosen the site and the Environmental Review is underway. Final design is being completed, and upon approval and Advertisement for Bids will be published.

**Koshkonong Streets:** Authorization to Use Grant Funds has been received for this project. The bid opening was held on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The project was awarded on Economy Asphalt and Seal Coating. The Pre-Construction Meeting was held on July 27<sup>th</sup> and the project is underway. We anticipate this project to be complete by the end of September.

## **Thayer Water and Wastewater:**

**Wastewater:** The Environmental Review has been complete for this project. Final design was submitted by Missouri Engineering to DNR for review.

**Water:** Authorization to Use Grant Funds has been received for this project also. Final design was submitted by Missouri Engineering to CDBG for review. This project is expected to begin construction by the end of September.

**Gainesville Sewer System:** The final design documents will be reviewed, and if approved the Advertisement for Bids will immediately go out. Final construction completion is still expected by the end of 2017.

**Eminence Fire Department:** Construction is complete.

**City of Houston Highway Infrastructure:** This project is complete. We are waiting to start the project closeout.

**Industrial Infrastructure for Cabool for Twin Cities and L&R Industries:** Initial bid opening was 3/17. Construction is expected to begin by the end of September.

**Cabool Demolition:** The City of Cabool applied for a demolition grant in 2017. We are currently waiting on award announcements from CDBG.

**Hartville Streets:** The City of Hartville applied for a general infrastructure (streets) grant in 2017. We are currently waiting on award announcements from CDBG.

**Ozark County Food Pantry:** Ozark County applied for a grant for a new food pantry in 2017. We are currently waiting on award announcements from CDBG.

For the first time in 148 years, on Monday, Aug. 21, a total solar eclipse will come to Missouri. The 1869 eclipse only clipped the northeast corner of our state. The upcoming eclipse promises to be even better as the center of the eclipse's path will follow a diagonal line crossing Missouri from Buchanan County in the northwest to Perry County in the southeast. This event which is expected to draw spectators from around the world. Depending upon where you are in the state, the eclipse will begin between 11:30 a.m. and noon, and will continue until between 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Motorists are also advised to expect heavy traffic on Missouri's interstates and all roads inside the area of the total eclipse. Driving tips are available on the Missouri Department of Transportation website at [www.modot.org/Eclipse/](http://www.modot.org/Eclipse/), some of which include:

- *Plan ahead and allow extra travel time to reach your viewing location.*
- *Don't stop along the interstate and no parking on the shoulder.*
- *Please exit the highway to stop and view and/or photograph the eclipse.*
- *Don't take photographs while driving.*
- *Avoid travel during the eclipse or in the area of the main path if you can.*
- *Watch out for extra pedestrians along smaller roads.*



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**The annual SCOCOG business meeting will be held Tuesday, October 17, 2017.  
Please watch your mail for further details.**