

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CAPCOG Elects Officers and Executive Committee

CAPCOG's Executive Committee, elected at the annual General Assembly meeting in December, held its first meeting on Jan. 12th at which time it elected the following officers: Hays County Commissioner Will Conley, Chairman; Burnet County Judge Donna Klaeger, First Vice Chair; Round Rock Mayor Alan McGraw, Second Vice Chair; and Llano County Judge Wayne Brascom, Secretary. Bee Cave's Mayor, Caroline Murphy, moves into the Past Chair role after heading the Committee during calendar year 2010.

The Executive Committee also adopted a list of Roles and Functions for the Executive Committee to give new and future members a better idea of the expectations for serving on the COG's board. The Executive Committee meets at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every month. For more information, contact Laura Steinbring, Office Manager, at 512.916.6018.

Elected to serve on the Executive Committee for the 2011 calendar year were: **Bastrop County:** Judge Ronnie McDonald; Mayor Marc Holm, City of Elgin. **Blanco County:** Judge Bill Guthrie. **Burnet County:** Judge Donna Klaeger; Commissioner Bill Neve; Mayor Frank Reilly, City of Granite Shoals. **Caldwell County:** Judge Tom Bonn; Mayor Ray Sanders, City of Lockhart. **Fayette County:** Judge Ed Janecka. **Hays County:** Judge Bert Cobb; Commissioner Will Conley; Council Member Ron Fletcher, City of Buda; Council Member Fred Terry, City of San Marcos.

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act

In response to the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) are coordinating efforts to provide enhanced outreach and assistance to Texas Medicare beneficiaries statewide who have limited incomes.

CAPCOG's Area Agency on Aging plans to partner with local and state programs to improve awareness and educate current and future program participants about changes in Medicare with special emphasis on additional preventive care and benefits. The Benefits Counseling program will work to expand, extend, and enhance outreach efforts to beneficiaries of Medicare Part D, with special attention to individuals with limited income in rural areas who may be eligible for Low Income Subsidy (LIS) and the Medicare Savings Program (MSP).

Lee County: Commissioner Maurice Pitts. **Llano County:** Judge Wayne Brascom. **Travis County:** Judge Sam Biscoe; Commissioner Karen Huber; Council Member Chris Riley, City of Austin; Mayor Caroline Murphy, City of Bee Cave; Mayor Jeff Coleman, City of Pflugerville. **Williamson County:** Judge Dan A. Gattis; Commissioner Cynthia Long; Mayor Pro-Tem Pat Berryman, City of Georgetown; Council Member Scott Mitchell, City of Cedar Park; Mayor Alan McGraw, Round Rock.

The LIS program targets Medicare beneficiaries who have limited income and resources. They may qualify for extra help in the form of financial assistance to pay for prescription drug costs.



Those eligible for this low-income subsidy will get help paying for their monthly premium, yearly deductible, prescription coinsurance and copayments, and filling any gaps in coverage. The MSP can help pay for Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and/or Part B (medical insurance) premiums for eligible beneficiaries.

Performance measure requirements for enrollment of LIS/MSP eligible beneficiaries have been identified by the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) for the grant period. These performance measures are based on the number of LIS-eligible beneficiaries in each county.

The Area Agency on Aging encourages referrals from the region for individuals who may benefit from information about the Low Income Subsidy and the Medicare Savings Program. Group presentations can be arranged. Please contact a Benefits Counselor at 512-916-6178 or toll free 1-888-622-9111, Ext. 6178.

CARTPO to Meet Monthly During the 2011 Legislative Session

The Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO) is a transportation planning and policy organization formed in 2000 to serve the needs of the entire ten-county CAPCOG Region. CARTPO is especially active in advocating for the transportation needs of the counties in our region that are not included in the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). With the adoption of changes to TxDOT rules, CARTPO's role as a rural planning organization, or RPO, stands to become officially recognized.

To monitor and react to the Legislature's actions as regards transportation in the capital region, especially the rural areas, CARTPO will be holding monthly meetings during the legislative session. The first meeting of the new year was held Jan. 14th and the next meeting will be held Feb. 11th. Dates for the subsequent meetings will be set at the Feb. 11th meeting. The meetings will be at 9:30 a.m. in CAPCOG's Pecan Room. Meetings will continue to be held monthly through at least May.

For further information, consult the CAPCOG website or contact David Fowler, CAPCOG Senior Planner, at dfowler@capcog.org or (512) 916-6165.

Regional Law Enforcement Academy (RLEA) Training Update

CAPCOG's RLEA Use of Force training simulator has been in operation for the past four months making its way around the eastern side of the region, and training has been provided to over 250 police officers. According to Lt. Dwain Jones of the Hutto Police Department, any routine traffic stop can be an officer's last. "The next call – the one with an 80-year-old woman who may seem harmless – may be the one where she pulls out a shotgun. It happens every single day out here."

Cell Phone Sally Joins Annual 9-1-1 Calendar Contest

Each year CAPCOG sponsors an annual calendar contest. The contest is used to promote the education of 9-1-1 to the hundreds of children in the ten-county region. The process for the 2012 calendar is now underway.

The theme for the contest is **9-1-1 and Emergencies**. This theme highlights the importance of knowing when and how to call 9-1-1 in an emergency. Every superintendent and elementary school principal is notified of this opportunity and requested to inform their teachers and/or art instructors for grades K-3 about the contest.

The video "9-1-1: Getting Help is Easy" is made available for teachers to educate their students in a classroom setting. The video introduces Red E. Fox's successor - Cell Phone Sally.



Cell Phone Sally, along with her friends, Kid Friendly Keith, Payphone Patti, Landline Larry, Maria, Call Taker, and Josh teach children lifesaving 9-1-1 skills to get help in an emergency situation.

A committee of regional 9-1-1 Telecommunicators will judge the artwork. Schools will be notified of winning student artwork selections prior to the end of this school year. Each award recipient will be honored at the 9-1-1 Day Awards Ceremony in September at the Texas State Capitol in Austin.

The calendars are distributed to schools, emergency personnel, senior citizen centers, libraries, citizens, and other public officials as a 9-1-1 Public Awareness tool. The goal is for

the children in the region to use their drawings to help educate others with what they have learned about using 9-1-1 in the classroom.

The computers, software, and assorted laser weapons necessary to test an officer against the most likely and unlikely villains is contained in the mobile simulator trailer currently parked outside the Hutto Police Department at city hall. The simulator produces realistic video-based environments related to all aspects of firearms handling – including marksmanship, decision-making and tactical strategies. It is designed to teach officers to react appropriately in life-threatening situations, immersing them in virtual police action scenarios that mimic real life. "It's just another tool for judgement training in a shoot or no-shoot situation," Jones said.

The simulator, bought last year with federal stimulus dollars, is being shared with each jurisdiction according to a calendar that ensures all cities and counties get some time on it during the first year; to determine when it is scheduled for your area or to request use of it, contact Mike Jennings,

Academy Director, at 512-916-6164, or mjennings@capcog.org. The simulator will be in Marble Falls next.

The RLEA has set its in-service training schedule for the first quarter of 2011. The RLEA will be offering several intermediate courses as well as specialized courses such as Forensic Hypnosis, Advanced Instructor, Civil Process, and Narcotics Investigation. For the complete list of training to be provided, log on to our website at capcog.org.

Registration is now underway for the next Basic Peace Officers Course day class which will begin in April. The next night class starts Feb. 14th and is being hosted by the Williamson County Sheriff's Department; the class will span nine months and cover subjects such as Texas Penal Code; Patrol Procedures; Defensive Tactics and Firearms; and Arrest, Search and Seizure. BPOC day classes are currently in session and will graduate in April.

CAPCOG's Regional Training Center (RTC), Speaker's Bureau, and Upcoming Training Opportunities

The Regional Training Center (RTC) announces the launch of CAPCOG's Speaker's Bureau. The Speaker's Bureau offers one-hour presentations on topics affecting day-to-day business in the CAPCOG Region. The topics are presented by CAPCOG staff members, who are subject-matter experts in each area. If you would like to request a presentation through CAPCOG's Speaker's Bureau, please email rtc@capcog.org for more information.

Division/Program	Presentation Title	Sent By
Community and Economic Development	The Economic & Demographic Dynamics of the CAPCOG Region	John Rees, Director
Emergency Communications	Introduction to Priority Dispatch Protocols for Executives	Gregg Obuch, Director
Area Agency on Aging	The Graying of America The Value of Caregiving Preventing Falls: Falls-Free Communities	Glenda Rogers, Director
Homeland Security	Keeping the Region Secure	Ed Schaefer, Director
Regional Services	9-1-1 Call Flow Waste Reduction and Recycling Leadership Austin: Air Quality Update CAPCOG Growth Assessment	Various
Regional Law Enforcement Academy (RLEA)	Reducing Law Enforcement Liability through Continued Training	Mike Jennings, Director

CAPCOG's RTC is a streamlined effort focused on coordinating specialized training events for local governments, private industry, non-profits, and other agencies. Most training events provide real-time information that can be utilized immediately, while others provide opportunities for specialized personnel to earn continuing education credits.

Training events for Feb. and March are listed below. To register for a training event, go to www.capcog.org and click on the training button on the left side of the page. If there's a training event you'd like to see at CAPCOG's RTC, you're invited to send your ideas and suggestions to rtc@capcog.org.

HOMELAND SECURITY COURSES—No Registration Fees

DATE	Class	Target Audience
1/31/11 – 2/4/11	EMT-Tactical (Tactical Medical Course)	Certified as EMT, EMT-I, EMT-P, Paramedic, PA, or MD
2/16/11 – 2/17/11	Medical Management of CBRNE Events	EMS Technicians/paramedics, Fire and HazMat person
Online Course	Center for Domestic Preparedness - HSL-CDP	Open to All
Online Course	IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System	Open to All
Online Course	IS-200 Basic Incident Command System, I-200, for Federal Disaster Workers	Open to All
Online Course	IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS)* - HSL-IS700	Open to All

9-1-1 EMERGENCY SERVICES—No Registration Fees Except where noted

DATE	Class	Target Audience
1/31/11 - 2/4/11	EFD-Q #3800	Certified/Licensed Personnel Only (ID Required)
1/31/11 - 2/1/11	EMD-Q - #3800	Certified/Licensed Personnel Only (ID Required)
2/3/11 - 2/4/11	TCIC/NCIC (Full access)	Certified/Licensed Personnel Only (ID Required)
2/3/11 - 2/3/11	Aqua Software #3800	Certified/Licensed Personnel Only (ID Required)
2/15/11 - 2/17/11	Spanish for Telecommunicators - #22109 Registration Fee is \$96.00	Certified/Licensed Personnel Only (ID Required)
2/22/11 - 2/22/11	TDD - #3812 - 911-TDD	Certified/Licensed Personnel Only (ID Required)
2/22/11 - 2/22/11	Vesta 9-1-1 Phone & ARIES Mapping Equipment	Certified/Licensed Personnel Only (ID Required)
3/1/11 - 3/3/11	TLETS/NLETS	Member Agencies
3/17/11 - 3/17/11	TDD - #3812	Certified/Licensed Personnel Only (ID Required)
3/17/11 - 3/17/11	Vesta 9-1-1 Phone & ARIES Mapping Equipment	Certified/Licensed Personnel Only (ID Required)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

DATE	Class		Registration Fees
2/14/11 - 9/21/11	Basic Peace Officer Course #60- (Night Class)	See website for eligibility criteria	\$1,500.00
2/7/11 - 2/11/11	Forensic Hypnosis 1009	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$550.00
2/10/11 - 2/11/11	Intermediate Accident Investigation	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$75.00
2/15/11 - 2/18/11	Intermediate Crime Scene	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$125.00
2/22/11 - 2/24/11	Intermediate Child Abuse	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$100.00
3/17/11 - 3/9/11	Civil Process	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$35.00
3/8/11 - 3/11/11	Narcotics Investigations Surveillance Techniques	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$125.00
3/14/11 - 3/18/11	TCLEOSE Basic Instructor Course	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$225.00
3/14/11 - 3/15/11	Intermediate Use of Force	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$75.00
3/28/11 - 4/1/11	TCLEOSE Advanced Instructor Course	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$275.00
3/29/11 - 3/29/11	Investigative Interviewing	Law Enforcement Only (ID Required)	\$35.00

REGIONAL SERVICES

2/22/11 - 2/22/11	Basic Environmental Law	Open to all	\$30.00
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Regional Citizen Corps Update

*“September 11 taught us that the front lines of a catastrophic terror attack are not here or in policy but are local, in communities all across this country. It is the folks in our fire departments, in our police stations, in our emergency rooms, and in the **volunteer** corps. It is the brave men and women who rush to an attack site with almost superhuman stamina and compassion, working to save their fellow citizens.”-Bill Frist*

The Citizen Corps program is making a difference in the CAPCOG Region, providing key training, equipment, and other assistance for volunteer organizations that focus on helping citizens prepare for and cope with disasters of all types.

Volunteers have always been a part of the driving force that keeps America safe and prepared for disasters, whether natural or man-made. In 2002, President George Bush unveiled Citizen Corps whose mission is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. Since the private citizen is the most effective and abundant resource in the time of an emergency, Citizen Corps programs can be of use in any part of America. This grassroots movement prepares and ensures that communities are ready to respond and/or supplement emergency services during a disaster. It also focuses on preparing the individual in case a disaster

leaves the community or nation without resources for an extended period of time.

The Citizen Corps Program is made up of five partner organizations which help ensure all aspects of preparedness and readiness. These five partner organizations are Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Fire Corps, USA on Watch (formerly Neighborhood Watch), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). The CAPCOG Region currently has seven active Citizen Corps Councils with several others in development. Currently, there are 17 VIPS programs, three MRC programs, three Fire Corps programs, nine CERT programs, and two Teen CERT programs within the region.

CAPCOG's role in the region's Citizen Corps Programs (CCP) is one of guidance, information, and funding through federal grants. Each year, grant money is awarded to Citizen Corps entities in the form of CCP grants. These grant funds purchase items such as search and rescue equipment, uniforms, flashlights, and supplies intended to

grow each project. For example, last year Bastrop submitted and received a grant for a FireCAP Community Outreach project. Bastrop County has had several wild land fires due to the past few years of extremely dry weather. These funds are being used for coordinating distribution of information and survey activities related to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, through the Fire Citizens' Advisory Panel (FireCAP, a Fire Corps affiliate of Citizen Corps). This project will help train the community about the dangers of wildfires, how to better prepare for and mitigate excess fire risk, and equip the community to respond should fires occur.

Regional Citizen Corps efforts have included accomplishments from the establishment of a Teen CERT program at Bastrop High School to the Hays County CERT team's search and rescue obtaining an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. The Cedar Park Citizen Corps Council won the Preparing Community Organizations Award during the 2010 National Citizen Corps (*See CITIZEN CORP, p. 5*)

(**CITIZEN CORP**, *Cont'd from p. 4*) Achievement Awards. FEMA took applications from Citizen Corps Programs all over the country, and Cedar Park won this prestigious award. We look forward to Texas further showcasing its talents at FEMA's 2011 National Citizen Corps Awards.

In January, a Regional Citizen Corps Coordinator was grant funded to work with communities across the CAPCOG Region.

This position is vital in bringing together the various Citizen Corps programs by helping to promote the strengths of the different programs, encouraging development of new programs, facilitating solutions to programmatic problems that may occur, identifying opportunities for collaboration, and ensuring that program needs are being met.

A program proposed for funding by the new Coordinator for FY2012 involves purchase of materials for pre-

paredness kits specifically developed for homebound individuals in the area, a typically underserved population in many communities. This program would be implemented with the assistance of the Central Texas Citizen Corps Council. This group currently has a broad membership representing non-profit organizations, universities, local governments, local Citizen Corps programs, and others. The meetings,



which focus on information-sharing, opportunities for collaboration, and education, are open to anyone interested in communicating and/or coordinating with Citizen Corps programs, and region-wide participation is highly encouraged.

CAPCOG's Citizen Corps programs are very much a driving force behind

the level of preparedness of the community. Volunteers who willingly devote their time and energy to search and rescue, training, working at evacuation shelters, and preparing for disasters are the backbone of the Citizen Corps programs. As CAPCOG's experience as a sheltering region for evacuees from a number of major hurricanes in the recent years and responding to the challenges of flooding and other local disas-

ters have proven, without the volunteer spirit and work of these people and programs, the region's ability to prepare for and respond to disasters would be significantly lower.

For more information about Citizen Corps, please refer to the national Citizen Corps website at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>. For more information about Citizens Corps programs in the Region, contact Ed Schaefer at (512) 916-6026 or eschaefer@capcog.org.

This week CAPCOG's Community & Economic Development Division will release its revamped *Data Points* newsletter. The new *Data Points* will feature brief explorations of current economic and demographic trends occurring within our dynamic region. The February issue of *Data Points*, for example, will examine the health of the local film industry, the sustained influx of college-educated individuals into our area, and the regional performance of industry sectors.

In addition to a refreshed newsletter, CAPCOG's Community & Economic Development Division has also unveiled a new *Data Points* blog (www.datapoints.org). The revised website features more regularly-updated posts as well as interactive charts and graphs.

One of the first new posts of the revised *DataPoints.org* blog highlighted the U.S. Bureau's first ever release of five-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates. The five-year estimates provide detailed social, economic, housing, and demographic statistics for every county in

Data Points Newsletter and Blog Updates

the nation.

The recently released Census data provides insight into many of the trends operating in the CAPCOG Region.

AGE DISTRIBUTION - The CAPCOG Region remains comparatively young but is growing older. Residents 45 and older were the fastest growing age cohort in the CAPCOG Region during the past decade.

RACIAL & ETHNIC COMPOSITION - The diversity of the CAPCOG Region continues to increase. While Hispanics represented the vast majority of non-white population growth during the past decade, Asians are the region's fastest growing racial/ethnic group.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT - CAPCOG residents possess higher levels of educational attainment than either Texas or the U.S. Today, more than 84% of all residents are high school graduates; more than 37% possess a bachelor's degree; and close to 12% hold a professional degree.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME - Adjusted for inflation, median household income in the Austin metropolitan region dropped from \$63,000 to \$57,000 during the second half of the decade.

TRANSPORTATION - Telecommuting has allowed the CAPCOG Region's workforce to become less auto-dependent; since 2000, the proportion of individuals working from home has jumped 50%.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE - Currently, less than 63% of all households in the CAPCOG Region are families, a 2% decline since 2000.

For information on analytical products offered by CAPCOG's Community & Economic Division or to sign up for the *Data Points* newsletter, please contact John Rees at 512-916-6183. To read the full CAPCOG reports on the U.S. Census Bureau, please visit our website, www.capcog.org.



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