

### National Telecommunicator Week: CAPCOG honors 9-1-1 pros

The Capital Area Council of Governments recently honored area emergency communicators, naming the winners of its annual Telecommunicator Awards contest:

- Cindy Ledesma, Austin Police Department; Michael Brimble, Cedar Park Police Department; and Tammie Reyna, Travis County Sheriff's Office, each received a Dedicated Service Award, given for exceptional professionalism.
- Kim Haba and Brenda Parkinson of the Fayette County Sheriff's Office won the 9-1-1 Team Award, which recognizes two or more telecommunicators for exemplary handling of a specific emergency call involving coordination of multiple public safety responses and other emergency resources.

The regional awards helped mark the April 14 to 20, 2013, National Telecommunicators Week, which was also recognized by a CAPCOG Executive Committee resolution.

### Data Points brings latest on regional economy

After a brief hiatus, CAPCOG's monthly economic development update is back with a new look and a new format, making it even easier to keep up with the capital area's regional economy.

The revamped Data Points, available online and by free email subscription, still delivers analysis on topics important to the regional economy.

It now also features "Vital Signs," a quick-reference section offering essential metrics of the regional economy such as employment growth, building permits and retail sales.

Count on Data Points for updates provided exclusively by CAPCOG's Economic Development Program, including monthly patents awarded and two new stock indices respectively tracking businesses headquartered in the capital area and major employers in the region.

Data Points also will spotlight one of the capital area's 10 counties each month. Look for these changes and other improvements to come.

For the latest installment, visit [www.datapoints.org](http://www.datapoints.org).



*Ready to serve as a Texas peace officer? CAPCOG's Regional Law Enforcement Academy is accepting applications for the next full-time, day cadet class, which starts Oct. 7. Visit [training.capcog.org](http://training.capcog.org) for details.*

### Upcoming Events

Capital Area Economic Development District, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, May 3 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

Aging Advisory Council, 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 6 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

CAPCOG Executive Committee, 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday, May 8 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

Central Texas Clean Air Coalition, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, May 8 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

Law Enforcement Education Committee, 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 15 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

Capital Area Public Health and Medical Preparedness Coalition, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22 **CAPCOG Agave Room**

Homeland Security Task Force, 9 a.m.-noon Thursday, June 6 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

Solid Waste Advisory Committee, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 13 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

Law Enforcement Class: Crisis Intervention Training, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday, June 18-20 **Williamson County Sheriff's Annex-Lott Center**

9-1-1 Task Force, 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday, June 26 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

CAPCOG Regional Exercise Coordination Work Group, 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, June 25 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

CAPCOG Regional Preparedness Committee, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 23 **CAPCOG Pecan Room**

Law Enforcement Training: Basic Peace Officer Course (full-time day), Oct. 7-March 20 **CAPCOG Mesquite Training Room**

### This month at CAPCOG

Area Agency on Aging: Eye on preventive services

CAPCOG honors 9-1-1 pros

Data Points brings latest on regional economy

Map tool points to nearby recycling, waste disposal

CARTPO: US 290 expansion to 4 lanes a priority

### Map tool points to nearby recycling, waste disposal

Need to safely recycle or dispose of those pool chemicals, pesticides or paint thinners? Find the closest facility for recyclables, garbage or household hazardous waste with CAPCOG's online interactive tool.

It's as simple as opening the Google-powered map, clicking one of the various points across the region and following the link for details on a given facility.

Visit the CAPCOG Solid Waste Program's facility-finder tool at [recyclemap.capcog.org](http://recyclemap.capcog.org).

To learn more or suggest additions to the online map, contact regional environmental coordinator Layne Duesterhaus at [lduesterhaus@capcog.org](mailto:lduesterhaus@capcog.org).

### CARTPO: US 290 expansion to 4 lanes a top priority

Expansion of U.S. 290 in Bastrop and Lee counties topped a recent priority ranking by Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization members.

CARTPO, a committee of the Capital Area Council of Governments, offers a forum for elected officials from Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson counties to discuss and make recommendations on transportation policy, direct planning and data initiatives, oversee the federally prescribed local consultation process and collaborate with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The committee's March 2013 vote prioritized larger, longer-term regional roadway projects from seven Central Texas counties.

As with several recent CARTPO project prioritizations, expansion of U.S. 290 in Bastrop and Lee counties to a four-lane divided highway ranked first. It's the only non-four-lane portion of U.S. 290, adding to the ranking's significance beyond the capital area.

The Texas Department of Transportation will consider the regional recommendations as funding for area projects becomes available.





Capital Area Council of Governments

### Grant Alerts

National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Fast-Track Application FY 2014  
Deadline: May 23, 2013  
www.grants.gov

Bikes Belong Coalition Community Partnership Grant  
Deadline: May 24, 2013  
www.bikesbelong.org

TCEQ Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program.  
Deadline: May 31, 2013, or until all funding is awarded, whichever occurs first  
www.tceq.texas.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation FY 2013 National Infrastructure Investments  
Deadline: June 3, 2013  
www.grants.gov

U.S. Economic Development Administration University Center Competition  
Deadline: June 17, 2013  
www.grants.gov

TCEQ Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Rebate Grants Program  
Deadline: June 28, 2013  
www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/rebate.html

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[www.capcog.org](http://www.capcog.org)

## Area Agency on Aging: Eye on preventive services

From annual flu vaccinations and diabetes self-management training to obesity screening and tobacco counseling, preventive services can make a major difference in helping people protect their health.

Learn how CAPCOG Area Agency on Aging's Benefits Counseling Program helps connect eligible consumers with needed preventive services in the 10-county region.

Funded in part by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Area Agency on Aging has assisted older adults and their caregivers for more than 30 years. As a part of the AAA, the Benefits Counseling Program provides Medicare guidance to adults 60 and older and to Medicare beneficiaries of any age.

Consumers can count on the agency's state-certified benefits counselors to provide confidential, unbiased, one-on-one assistance in understanding Medicare eligibility requirements, navigating open enrollment periods, choosing applicable coverage options, helping prevent fraud, applying for help with drug prescription costs and more. All without having to pay a benefits counseling fee.

Benefits counselors, well-versed in the preventive services available under Medicare, also advise consumers on how to efficiently and cost-effectively access such resources. They don't refer clients to specific doctors, social workers or other providers but do, for example, provide timely, relevant information about health insurance plans and insurance policies.

Preventive services covered by Medicare has expanded under the federal Affordable Care Act, making it even more important for eligible consumers to seek benefits counseling. Since Jan. 1, 2011, beneficiaries can receive a wide range of preventive services, with most at low to no cost.

For example, depending on age, eligible Medicare participants may access free preventive services such as these:

- Blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol tests.
- Cancer screenings, including mammograms and colonoscopies.
- Routine vaccinations against diseases such as measles, polio or meningitis.
- Counseling on health and wellness topics such as smoking cessation, weight management, nutrition and mental health.
- Regular well-baby and well-child visits from birth to age 21.

How does the Benefits Counseling Program get the word out about Medicare-covered preventive services? A combination of today's tools and time-honored outreach. The Area Agency on Aging coordinates outreach events with a range of providers and coalitions within the region. Benefits counselors also discuss the services during group presentations and individual sessions. Plus, the agency is online at [www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org) and planning to raise its social-media profile.

Scheduling free one-on-one confidential benefits counseling, including learning more about preventive services available with Medicare, is as easy as requesting a benefits counselor at 512-916-6062 or toll free 888-622-9111. Call or refer someone who needs help today!

### Did you know?

**May 2013 marks Older Americans Month**, as designated by the U.S. Administration on Aging and supported by local resolutions such as the one approved by CAPCOG's Executive Committee.

**More than 243,973 adults** aged 60 and older call CAPCOG's 10-county region home.

**Medicare prevention services** offer an easy and important way for eligible participants to help stay healthy.

BASTROP

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*The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) was created by state statute and is governed by elected officials from the 10-county region it serves. Programs and services related to public safety and emergency response, environmental planning, economic and community development and the elderly are delivered at a regional level to leverage funding, maximize cooperation and eliminate duplication. CAPCOG serves Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson counties.*

HAYS

LEE

LLANO

TRAVIS

WILLIAMSON