

Intermediate Environmental Law training pulls veil off illegal dumping

Leftover chemicals and other hazardous waste dumped along a waterway. Discarded tires tossed down a ravine. Abandoned furniture piled in a vacant lot.

Register by Aug. 14 to learn about the growing problem of illegal dumping and other environmental crimes at a two-day class for law enforcement, sanitarians and code enforcement professionals presented by the Regional Environmental Task Force in cooperation with CAPCOG, Aug. 21-22, in Austin.

The \$100 registration includes lunch, materials and TCLEOSE/Code Enforcement/Sanitarian/OSSF continuing education credits.

Get the details and register at training.capcog.org by selecting "Regional Services."

Forum highlights growth, rail and bang for the buck

CAPCOG's Sustainable Places Project, in partnership with the City of Austin, will present the free regional forum "Innovation Districts and Urban Rail's Economic Development Potential: An Austin Case Study," 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 30, at Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark, 4140 Governors Row.

Reserve your spot by Aug. 26 to explore robust scenarios of Austin's new development potential — including the \$1.2 billion urban rail transit system — with opportunities for increased tax revenue, job creation, expanded affordable housing options, watershed protection, savings by residents who bike or walk to work, local reinvestment of those savings, and efficiencies gained by businesses whose employees' vehicle expenses decrease.

The event, CAPCOG's sixth in a series of regional forums launched last year, will feature local experts in economic development, planning and computer modeling to demonstrate today's tools to help communities make the most of their resources.

RSVP at
www.sppregionalforum.eventbrite.com.

Growth Transit ROI

Don't miss CAPCOG Sustainable Places Project's free Aug. 30 regional forum, "Innovation Districts and Urban Rail's Economic Development Potential: An Austin Case Study," presented in partnership with the City of Austin.

Upcoming Events

**Aging Advisory Council, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 5 CAPCOG Pecan Room**

**Capital Area Economic Development District,
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9 CAPCOG Pecan Room**

**CAPCOG Executive Committee, 10 a.m.-noon
Wednesday, Aug. 14 CAPCOG Pecan Room**

**Law Enforcement Training: Reducing Impaired Driving
Among Youth, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15
CAPCOG Pecan Room**

**Class: Intermediate Environmental Law, Aug. 21-22
(Register by Aug. 14) Austin Water Utility Center for
Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend**

**CAPCOG Regional Exercise Coordination Work Group,
10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Aug. 27 CAPCOG Pecan Room**

**Capital Area Public Health and Medical Preparedness
Coalition, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28
CAPCOG Pecan Room**

**CAPCOG Sustainable Places Project Regional Forum:
Innovation Districts and Urban Rail's Economic
Development Potential, 9-11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 30
Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark**

**Clean Air Coalition, 10:30 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Sept.
4 (Tentative) CAPCOG Pecan Room**

**Regional Strike Team Training: Water Rescue Course,
Sept. 9-13 San Marcos and surrounding areas**

**9-1-1 Task Force, 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Sept. 25
CAPCOG Pecan Room**

**Training: Basic Peace Officer Course No. 70
(full time, day), Oct. 7-March 20
CAPCOG Mesquite Training Room**

**Training: Basic Peace Officer Course No. 71
(part time, night), Nov. 18-July 7
Pflugerville Police Department**

This month at CAPCOG

Tax increment finance districts 101

Training pulls veil off illegal dumping

Regional forum highlights growth, rail and ROI

CAPCOG warns: Seniors, watch for fraud calls

9-1-1 updates reach new milestone

CAPCOG warns: Seniors, watch for fraud calls

With Medicare and Social Security scammers often enlisting the phone for their criminal deeds, CAPCOG's Area Agency on Aging wants seniors to help protect themselves with some simple steps.

The phone is a convenient tool for fraudsters wanting to steal Medicare dollars, wrote Better Business Bureau Education Foundation Program Director Barbara Parrott McGinity in a recent Houston Chronicle special section column. Seniors can be defrauded without even leaving home.

Screening calls with an answering machine, requiring charity solicitors to submit their requests in writing and hanging up when hearing certain telltale signs such as an unsolicited request for credit card information are among the ways to fight back, according to the column.

Consumers can find even more tips in the full column and get McGinity's phone number for questions. Get the link at CAPCOG's website.

9-1-1 updates reach new milestone

CAPCOG's Emergency Communications Division has cleared another round in the quest to further modernize the region's 9-1-1 infrastructure.

The recent installation of new equipment in 20 area public safety answering points (PSAPs) or emergency communication centers ends the first phase of key updates to expand 9-1-1 capabilities.

In addition, the PSAPs now have newer mapping software to better assist 9-1-1 call takers in pinpointing caller locations. Call takers translate the mapping data into location information for police, medical and fire personnel responding to emergencies.

As previously reported, ongoing digital updates will help the PSAPs eventually accept text, video images and other sources beyond the traditional voice-only calls.



Capital Area Council of Governments

Grant Alerts

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Fiscal Year 2013 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant
Deadline: Aug. 30, 2013
www.grants.gov

Railroad Commission of Texas Alternative Fuels Equipment Initiative
Deadline: Aug. 31, 2013
http://altenergy.rrc.state.tx.us/Rebates_and_Incentives

U.S. Corporation for National and Community Service 2014 RSVP Competition
Deadline: Sept. 10, 2013
www.grants.gov

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program
Deadline: Sept. 10, 2013
www.grants.gov

U.S. Agency for Health Care Research and Quality Understanding User Needs and Context to Inform Consumer Health Information Technology Design Grant
Deadline: July 5, 2014
www.grants.gov

Visit us online!
www.capcog.org

Tax increment finance districts: A popular tool for economic development

When understood and properly used, tax increment finance districts (TIFs), also known as “tax increment reinvestment zones,” can be a valuable tool for community and economic development.

TIFs work by having one or more taxing jurisdictions — a city, county or hospital district, for example — collectively commit to setting aside property taxes generated within a selected area or district in excess of the amount currently received. Instead of going to the general fund, this extra revenue — the “increment” — is set aside for direct reinvestment into the TIF district in the form of public infrastructure improvements.

Despite common misconception, a TIF doesn't involve a tax increase. The tax rate remains the same, but any additional tax revenue produced by an increase in property values within the district helps fund infrastructure improvements and other public investments.

TIFs serve to fund public improvements in areas otherwise unable to support

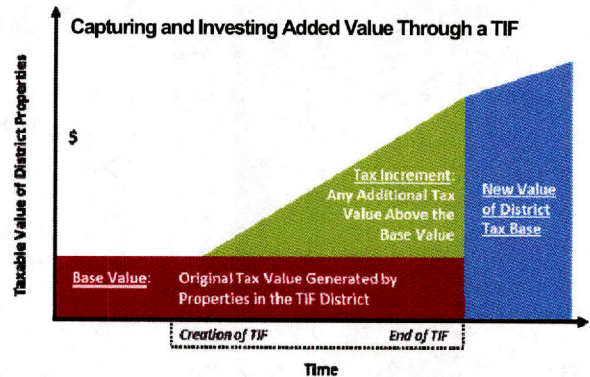
new development without the improvements. In this way, TIFs are often used to revitalize blighted areas, but they have a fairly wide range of potential applications. Using the added or — through the use of bonds — future tax revenue produced by new development within the district, TIFs can pay for water and sewer lines, pedestrian amenities, parking garages, infrastructure for transit-oriented development and much more. TIFs have even been used to lease parking for free public use on nights and weekends.

A simple pay-as-you-go TIF could involve waiting for enough development along a particular road to then apply the added property tax value generated to improvements along that road, ultimately attracting additional development, and so on. Sometimes TIFs are used to support the issuance of bonds that can fund upfront the infrastructure needed to support a specific development project.

At the end of the life of a TIF, the district is formally dissolved and all taxes over and above the original base value of the district are once again given to each respective taxing jurisdiction. When successful, this leads to a larger tax base for these jurisdictions. In addition to the larger tax base, the retired TIF district is now equipped with new infrastructure and development that can serve as assets for future community and economic development.

Tax increment finance districts are versatile, so it's important to develop a plan for incorporating a given TIF within the target area's broader strategy. A good place to start? Collaborating with the Capital Area Council of Governments. In addition to its team of professionals who can help create a TIF, CAPCOG offers sophisticated planning tools that can help identify an area's development potential.

Learn more about TIFs — and how CAPCOG can help — by contacting Economic Development Program Manager Michael Hennig at mhennig@capcog.org.



BASTROP

BLANCO

BURNET

CALDWELL

FAYETTE

6800 Burleson Road
Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744

Phone: 512-916-6000
Fax: 512-916-6001
newsletter@capcog.org

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