

# ETCOG HAPPENINGS

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### REGIONAL SAFETY EXERCISE SUCCESS

The East Texas Council of Governments, in partnership with Regional Advisory Council Trauma Service Area Regions F and G, the City of Canton & Van Zandt County Emergency management, conducted a Full Scale, Regional Safety Exercise on November 6-8, 2012 in Canton, Texas.

This 72 hour, around the clock event began at 7:00 AM on November 6, and incorporated local and regional emergency responders; local, regional, and state public works agencies; private business partners; and various state / federal agencies and over 60 participating hospitals.

The multi day exercise, involved approximately 400 participants testing many areas of emergency management and medical response. Scenarios included: a structural collapse, a dive rescue recovery, a confined space-low angle/high angle rescue, a dam break, a hazardous material spill a wide area search and rescue, medical special needs sheltering and two active shooter enactments.

### RED, WHITE & YOU! VETERANS JOB FAIRS

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards and the Texas Veterans Commission hosted veterans job fairs statewide on November 15. The job fairs were part of TWC's Hiring Red, White & You! campaign, a joint initiative supported by Gov. Rick Perry, Texas Medical Center surgeon and University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston professor Dr. James H. "Red" Duke Jr., and the Texas Veterans Commission to connect our returning veterans in Texas with employers who are hiring.

The Workforce Solutions East Texas participated locally with events in Tyler and Longview and received an overwhelming response from vendors and attendees. The events had a combined 75 employers and approximately 800 job seekers. Both events were kicked off with special presentations honoring veterans.

### CELEBRATING GIS DAY

On November 14th, GIS Day provides an international forum for users of geographic information systems (GIS) technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society.

To celebrate, ETCOG's GIS Analyst, Michelle Cahal, partnered with University of Texas at Tyler's Innovation Academy to educate their students on the purposes and importance of GIS. Approximately 70 students ranging from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade got to participate in the interactive presentation.

The first formal GIS Day took place in 1999. This year, over 950 GIS Day events were hosted, making GIS Day 2012 the largest ever.



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE, MANDATORY WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

ETCOG will be holding FY2014 Criminal Justice Grant Application Workshops on the following dates:

- Tuesday, January 15, 2013(9:30 am or 2:00 pm); and
- Wednesday, January 23, 2013 (9:30 am or 2:00 pm).

The grant application workshops will cover the following funding sources:

- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA);
- Violence Against Women (VAWA);
- Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP); and
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG).

Eligible Applicants (depending on the fund source):

- 1) State agencies;
- 2) Units of Local Government;
- 3) Independent School Districts;
- 4) Native American Tribes;
- 5) Councils of Governments (COGs);
- 6) Nonprofit Corporations with an active Charter Number from the Texas Secretary of State;
- 7) Universities and Colleges; and
- 8) Community Supervision and Corrections Departments.

**NOTE:** These workshops are a **mandatory** requirement. If your agency plans to apply for funding from the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office then someone from your staff must attend an ETCOG grant application workshop. Applicants need attend only **one** grant application workshop (am or pm). If you have any questions or would like additional information please call Beverly Brooks at 903-984-8641 x 282.

## SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR THE EAST TEXAS RECEPTION

The East Texas Council of Governments cordially invites all East Texas elected officials, civic, business and not-for-profit leaders to join us as we visit with our legislators in Austin and let them know what is important to East Texans. A lunch reception will be held on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at the elegant and historic Mansion at Judges Hill to honor the work of our legislators as they are in session.

Sponsorships are available from \$500 to \$5,000 to pay for the event costs. All sponsors will be recognized at the event. Please see the sponsor form at the link below to view the sponsor levels and correlating benefits. All event details, as well as options to pay online for sponsorships and event tickets can be found at <http://www.etcog.org/518/East-TX-Reception.htm>.

The deadline for becoming a sponsor or purchasing an event ticket will be February 5, 2013. Tickets to the event are \$50 and require prior registration and payment. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Formal invitations will be mailed in December.

Thanks to our 2013 sponsors committed to date!



HIGH TOWER PLAZA

### East Texas Council of Governments

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