

ETCOG HAPPENINGS

ACHIEVEMENTS

EAST TEXAS RECEPTION HONORED LEGISLATORS WHILE IN SESSION, DAN FLYNN - LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR, AND NOTED REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Approximately 200 legislators, elected officials, business and civic leaders joined in Austin on Tuesday for the second bi-annual East Texas Reception hosted by ETCOG on behalf of the County Judges and Commissioners Association. The reception, held at the Mansion at Judges Hill from 12-2, was to honor legislators while they are in session, share priorities important to the region, and honor a legislator of the year.

ETCOG Executive Committee chairman, Judge Thomas Cravey of Camp County, shared the top three regional priorities during his welcome speech: 1) Community & Economic Development, 2) Health and Human Services with an added emphasis on Mental Health, and 3) Workforce Training & Education.

Representative Dan Flynn was recognized as the Legislator of the Year at the event. Judge Rita Koches of Van Zandt County introduced the Representative and shared her appreciation of his service. *The Judge stated, "He is a principled Conservative, fighting to maintain the philosophy expressed in our Texas and American heritage and is a strong believer of the philosophy of limited government and the rights of the American people."*

Guests dined on a menu of heavy hors d'oeuvres including prime rib, shrimp skewers, loaded potato bites, stuffed mushrooms, chicken tenders and homemade dessert bars.



PARTNERSHIP BRINGS NEW TRANSPORTATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR GLADEWATER

Over 18 months of groundwork resulted in a new public transportation project to run from Gladewater into rural areas of Longview which began on March 1. The service, named Gladewater Route 7, will run Monday - Friday five times a day as a demonstration project through August 31, 2013. The project began when Gladewater Councilman Delbert Burlison requested to meet with Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt and State Representative David Simpson to discuss the possibility of establishing the bus route. A partnership was formed between ETCOG, the City of Longview and the City of Gladewater to bring this project to pass. The estimated cost for the six month project is \$40,000 with \$20,000 contributed by ETCOG through JARC funds, \$10,000 by the City of Gladewater and \$10,000 from the City of Longview.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

ETCOG will honor regional citizens who exemplify excellence in performance, innovation, and contributions to the community at its 86th Semi-Annual Board of Director's Meeting on Thursday, March 21, at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Rusk, TX, from 11:45 am to 2:00 pm. Awards to distributed include:

Regional Citizen of the Year

Honoring a citizen of East Texas who has contributed to the well being of the East Texas Region.

Regional Corporate Citizen of the Year

Honoring a corporate partner in East Texas that has contributed to the well being of the East Texas Region.

Regional Statesmanship Award

Recognizing a local, state, or federal official that has demonstrated valuable dedicated service to regional cooperation.

Regional Committee Service Award

Recognizing an individual who has demonstrated a sustained, dedicated commitment to ETCOG efforts and activities.

ETCOG Employee of the Year Award

This individual is nominated and voted on by ETCOG Staff and the top three candidates are presented to the ETCOG Selection Committee for consideration.

BENEFITS COUNSELING EVENTS

The Benefits Counseling Program is designed to answer questions for seniors age 60+, caregivers, or for those individuals receiving Medicare regardless of age. We answer important questions you may have concerning public benefits and private insurance. Our benefits counselors will be available at the following community events:

March 7th, TJC Respiratory Symposium

TJC West Campus, Tyler
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Speakers include ETCOG's Director of Aging, Bettye Mitchell, and Area Agency on Aging staff Kim Bush and Wilma DeSoto

March 26th, Upshur County Health Fair

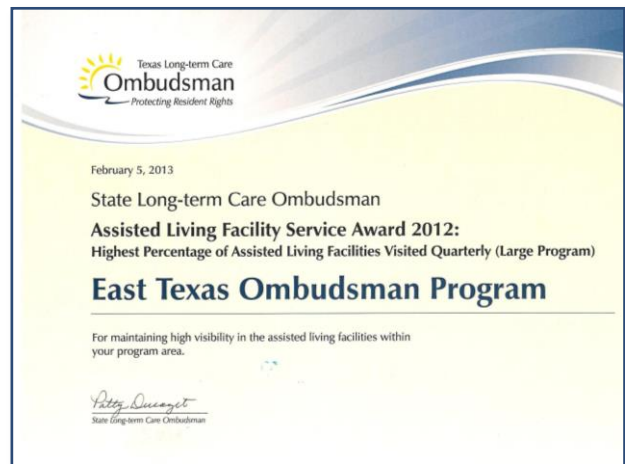
Gilmer Civic Center, HWY 271 N, Gilmer
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

March 28, Seniors Celebrating Life Health Fair

Harvey Convention Center, Tyler
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

EAST TEXAS OMBUDSMAN AWARDED

The Ombudsman Program for Area Agency on Aging of East Texas received the two awards from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services during the "Access and Intake Conference" in Austin on February 5, 2013. The awards recognized our East Texas Ombudsman Program for having the "Highest Percentage of Assisted Living Facilities Visited Quarterly (Large Program)" and the "Highest Percentage of Facility Staff Consultations (Large Program)" in the state during 2012.



East Texas Council of Governments

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ETCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer / Program. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 1-800-735-2989 (TTY); 1-800-735-2988 (Voice); 1-800-662-4954 (Español).

