

# ETCOG HAPPENINGS

## ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS

### GOBUS GOES PAPERLESS WITH NEWLY IMPLEMENTED ROUTEMATCH SOFTWARE

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, GoBus dispatchers and drivers went live with a new paperless way of scheduling and fulfilling trips. The system used, RouteMatch, uses computer software to schedule trips which are sent to GoBus drivers out in the region making best use of the resources and time available.

The software focuses on ride sharing and getting the most people on the bus at the same time going to and from same or similar locations and offers negotiated ride times. It offers the customer several ride options and ensures a ride back is scheduled by asking the customer for a placeholder time for each trip. Customers will not be limited with the time spent at their destination, but will be asked for a time they will be ready to be picked up ensuring that other customers can be served in between individual trips.

Prior to RouteMatch, drivers were given a list of prescheduled trips to complete within the next day and were in charge of routing the trips efficiently on their own. The new system produces the most efficient routes automatically, and in the future, may be able to add trips scheduled last minute on the same day by seeing which buses are traveling nearby with time to spare.

The software was purchased by ETCOG approximately 10 years ago, but never fully implemented. ETCOG employees have spent six months to make the system fully functional, install equipment and train dispatchers and drivers.



### BENEFITS COUNSELING EVENTS

Area Agency on Aging has Certified Benefits Counselors who provide information, enrollment assistance and counseling for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and many other benefits available for seniors age 60 and above, as well as adults under age 60 who are on Medicare. Outreach events to provide information and assistance are planned for public participation during March and April as listed below:

**Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**  
HOPE Center (presentations in Spanish & English)  
525 S. Ragsdale, Jacksonville

**Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
Community Health Fair  
Evangelistic Temple, Palestine

**Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
Texas College  
Tyler

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRIORITY HEARINGS

FY14 Criminal Justice Priority Hearings (scoring of grant applications) will be held at the East Texas Police Academy (ETPA) on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. The ETPA is located at:

Woodruff Adult Education Building  
220 N. Henderson  
Kilgore, Texas 75662

Priority hearings will run from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Programs to be reviewed/scored will be notified by Public Safety prior to the hearings. If your agency has any questions please contact Stephanie Heffner, Public Safety Director at 903-984-8641 x 251 or at [stephanie.heffner@etecog.org](mailto:stephanie.heffner@etecog.org).

## ANNUAL REGIONAL AWARDS DISTRIBUTED

ETCOG honored 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 the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Rusk, TX. Award winners are as follows:

**Regional Citizen of the Year, Sandy Hilliard of Canton, TX**



**Regional Corporate Citizen of the Year - University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center**



**Regional Statesman of the Year - Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt**



**Regional Committee Service Award - Diane Isham, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee**



**Employee of the Year, Gary Allen**



### East Texas Council of Governments

3800 Stone Road Kilgore, TX 75662

Phone - (903) 984-8641

Fax - (903) 983-1440

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

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