



Regional Focus

Houston-Galveston Area Council Newsletter April 2023

April is Fair Housing Awareness Month

On March 21, during its regular meeting, the H-GAC Board of Directors passed a resolution recognizing April as Fair Housing Awareness Month for the Gulf Coast State Planning Region.

When it comes to housing, H-GAC reminds everyone that the [Federal Fair Housing Act \(Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968\)](#) and the [Texas Fair Housing Act](#) make it against the law to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or family status.

The [Texas Workforce Commission Civil Rights Division](#) offers interactive presentations and trainings as well as a self-help library of trainings and resources to provide housing providers with a practical understanding of the U.S. and Texas Fair Housing acts, rules, and how to comply.



To learn more about the Federal Fair Housing Act visit the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development website at www.hud.gov/fairhousing. Information on the Texas Fair Housing Act, including how to file a complaint, is available from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs: <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/fair-housing/index.htm>.

Train Your Bike - Free Bicycle Safety Classes!

H-GAC is offering three bicycle safety classes in April for both new & experienced riders. Classes will give participants real-world scenarios & tips on how to safely navigate them. Classes will take place from 9 AM to noon at the following dates & locations:

- Saturday, April 15 at the Aquatic Center, The Woodlands
- Saturday, April 22 at Pearland Education Support Center, Pearland
- Saturday, April 29 at Winnie Stowell Park, Winnie



Click to [learn more and register for a class!](#)

Celebrate Earth Day April 22 and Everyday!



For more than 50 years, Americans have celebrated Earth Day on April 22 to recognize the importance of the environment and protecting it for future generations. It has grown to a global movement. This year's theme is "Invest in Our Planet," and focuses on engaging governments, institutions, businesses, and citizens.

H-GAC also wants you to invest in our region by making everyday Earth Day and exploring commute travel options. Head to our website to learn how you can [Make Your Commute Count](#). Use our interactive tool to see how changing your commute can add up to big cost savings and help improve our region's air quality.

Earth Day Events in Houston

Saturday, April 22 | Noon to 5 p.m.
Annual [Green Mountain Energy Earth Day at Discovery Green](#) in partnership with the Citizens Environmental Coalition and featuring the Houston Public Works Water Works Festival.

Monday, April 17 – Wednesday April 19
The City of Houston is [hosting a speaker series](#) culminating in an [Earth Day HTX Festival](#) on April 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of City Hall.

[More information about Earth Day](#) is available online. Anyone interested in planning an event can find resources in the [Earth Day Toolkit](#).

A flyer for the Broadband Summit event. The background features a cityscape at night with glowing blue lines representing a network. In the top right corner, there is a red square logo for H-GAC (Houston-Galveston Area Council). The main text is in white and blue. It reads: "Broadband Summit" in large white letters, followed by "FROM LISTENING" and "ACTION" in smaller white letters, with a blue arrow pointing from listening to action. Below that, it says "Thursday, April 20, 2023" in large white letters, "10 AM to 3 PM" in smaller white letters, and "Humble Civic Center" in white letters. The address "8233 Will Clayton Pkwy, Humble, TX 77338" is listed in white. At the bottom, it says "Registration for this FREE event is required. Lunch will be provided." in white.

Broadband Summit
FROM LISTENING → ACTION
Thursday, April 20, 2023
10 AM to 3 PM
Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy, Humble, TX 77338
Registration for this FREE event is required. Lunch will be provided.

[Registration](#) is required to attend. The registration deadline is **Friday, April 14**.

The summit aims to support the equitable expansion of access to high-speed internet and the increased adoption or use of internet service or devices in the 13-county Houston-Galveston region. Network with local leaders and engage in conversations that will highlight actionable steps that promote better coordination, increased opportunities, leveraged resources, and high impact for the region.

For additional information, [download a flyer](#) or contact [Darryl Briscoe](#).

2023 Texas Municipal League Region 14 Spring Meeting & Workshop

Friday, May 12
P.A. Smith Hotel in Navasota, TX

The day starts with a breakfast meeting, and then we embark on a tour of the recently restored P.A. Smith Hotel and a walking tour of Navasota's revitalized downtown. We'll move on to the workshop sessions and then lunch with the soon to be announced special

guest speaker. Next, we will enjoy a performance by the talented Kickstart Kids and then board buses to visit the CForce Water's bottling facility on the outskirts of Navasota. Plan to join us for this unique opportunity to connect with members and sponsors from our 17-county area in a historic venue.



A graphic for 'Bringing Back Main Street' featuring four small square images: a building, a water tower, a tree, and a map of Texas with a star. To the right of these images, the words 'BRINGING BACK' and 'MAIN STREET' are written in large, bold, distressed-style letters.

BRINGING BACK MAIN STREET

Mark your calendars and register today for the next [Bringing Back Main Street Roundtable](#):
Tuesday, April 25 (*in-person*)

9:30 a.m. to noon

At the Ol' Railroad Café, 1901 Avenue G, Rosenberg

Space is limited, and [registration](#) is requested.

Join us to discuss an update on Rosenberg's downtown revitalization and community events, along with information about the revitalization plan that will improve the City's Historic Downtown Rosenberg area. We will also learn about the City of Galveston's Historic District and historic preservation.

Presenters include:

- Mayor Kevin Raines, City of Rosenberg
- Kaylee Manville, City of Rosenberg
- Joe Esch, Rosenberg Economic Development Corporation
- Catherine Gorman, City of Galveston

The Bringing Back Main Street initiative offers local communities a place to share best practices and engage in a regional dialogue about revitalizing and supporting vibrant downtown spaces. Each quarter, community leaders gather for a roundtable on topics ranging from small business support to sidewalk infrastructure.

For additional information, contact [Andrea Tantillo](#).

Solid Waste Workshop Series: Composting

Thursday, May 4 (*in-person*)

10 a.m. to noon

Brazoria Environmental Education Station "BEES"
583 County Road 443, Angleton

Space is limited, and [registration](#) is required to attend.

Join us to hear from the experts on how to compost and set up a pilot composting program from a local government perspective.

Presenters include:

- Ellen Pedisch, Master Composter, Brazoria County Master Gardeners
- Steve Stelzer, City of Houston



Presentations will be inside, followed by a walking tour of the Master Gardeners Association facility. We recommend wearing appropriate shoes for a garden tour.

For additional information, contact [Erin Livingston](#).

Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable Field Trip

Join us, **Thursday, May 18**, for the [Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable](#) field trip on, when we tour [Cypress Creek Park at Timber Lane](#) and learn about this award-winning park and community center.

We will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Timberlane Community Center, 1904 NapleCHASE Crest Dr., Spring.

Lunch will be provided. Tours of the community center, fire lookout tower, Herman Little Park, and Mercer-Timber Lane Park will follow from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

We will meet at the community center, and transportation to the event is not provided. However, [registration by May 11](#) is required for lunch and on-site transportation during the tours.

For additional information, contact [Andrea Tantillo](#).

#HGAContheMove with Sara Hart

H-GAC Outreach Coordinator Sara Hart recently visited the Western Area Network Alliance at United Way in Waller County to share information on H-GAC and its role in providing services to Waller County.



Many nonprofit and government representatives were present at the monthly networking meeting, including Karina Villela, H-GAC's benefits counselor for the Area Agency on Aging.

The United Way serves all residents of Waller County and other direct-service organizations by providing:

- Convenient access connecting residents to health and human services
- Meeting space for community organizations
- On-site computers for employment searches

Follow more of Sara's adventures around the region on our Social Media channels:

#HGAContheMove

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