

# HPI/HPE RETIREE CLUB OF HOUSTON NEWSLETTER

Feb/Mar 2026 Edition



The HPI/HPE Retiree Club of Houston provides opportunities to gather with the friends and coworkers you knew during your working career at Compaq, HP, HPI, HPE and any of the related acquired companies.

**It's Rodeo Time in Houston!**

**LEADER: CARLOS FERNANDEZ**

# Planning Committee



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

KAREN BROWN  
HERMAN DE HOOP  
JACKIE DILLEMUTH  
MICHAEL DUHS

GREG FRANKE  
JAN FRAZIER  
MIKE MAGLOTHIN  
DEBBIE THOMPSON

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## How to stay connected and informed of group activities

### *Website*

<http://www.hprchou.com/>



### *Facebook Group*

[HPI/HPE Houston Retiree  
Alumni Group](#)



### *Email/Evites Distribution*

<mailto:carlosfernandez@fernandez.net>



## Message from Carlos

*Dear Houston HP Retiree Club members,*



We hope your new year is going well for you and family as it is for mine.

A quick view in the rearview mirror, in 2025 we had the best year in club membership participation as far as I can remember in recent years. Compared to 2024 as the table below indicates there was a 29% increase in total participation and participation per event increased to 35%. The graph below shows the three events that got the greatest attendance: seminars in Taxes and End-of-life Planning and the Houston Botanic Garden tour. All three exceed 30 members per event.

As we have been doing every year, we started 2026 with our annual in-person Tax Seminar; this year's talk covered many of the changes that took effect in the Tax Code last tax year as well as this. The attendance was one of the largest we have had for this seminar; 44 members attended, many of whom this was their first time attending a club event.

For the upcoming year, we have another full calendar with a few firsts for the club, we will be touring these new venues: the Houston Forensic Science Center and POST, The Texas Prison Museum and Sam Houston Statue, and an Amazon Distribution Center. You can peruse the upcoming calendar [here](#). Save the dates for those that we have already secured transportation; dates for the rest will be available sometime in April.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, please pass it on to other retirees interested in reading it; our best new member recruiting tool is word of mouth.

As in prior newsletters, I want to extend my appreciation to the coordinating committee members for their contributions to the club with their talent, their time, creativity, and their passion to serve.

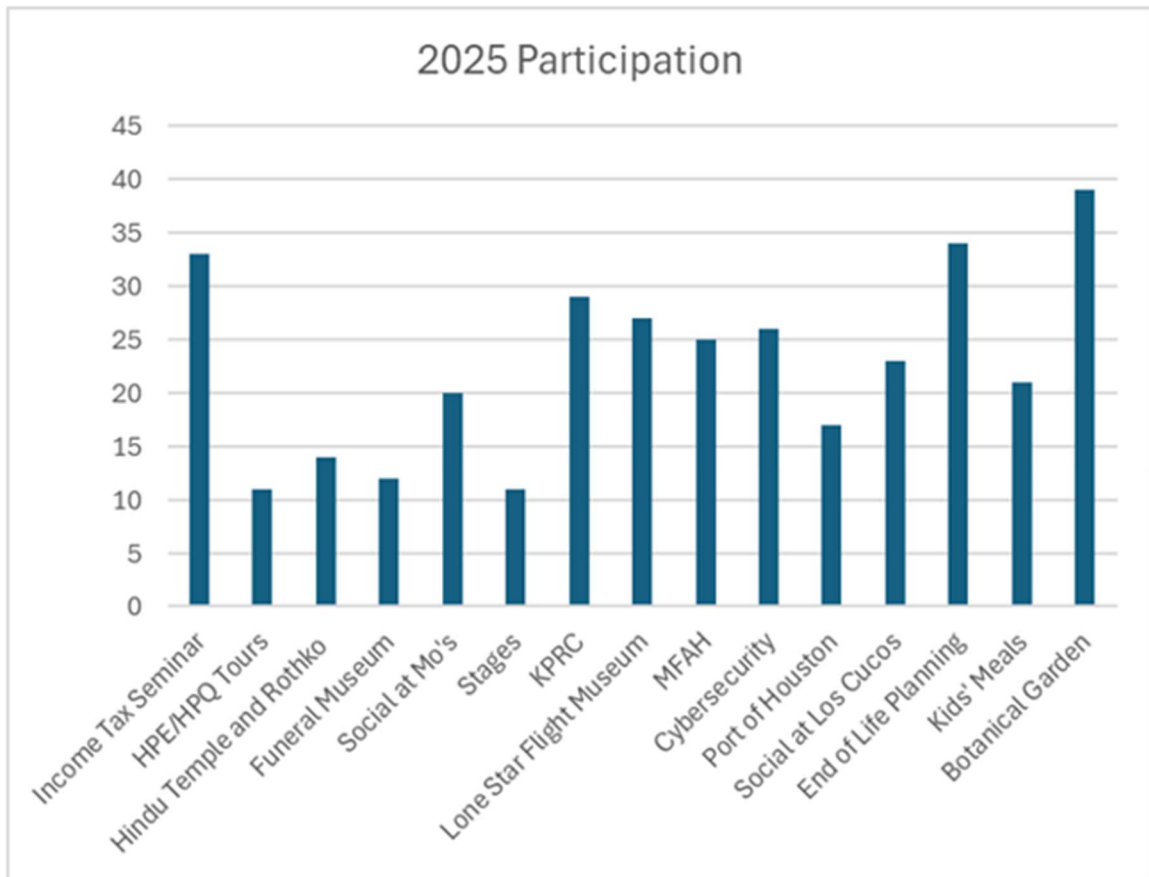
Give us feedback on what you want to see in future newsletters and if you want to be part of the organizing committee, drop me a line and I will get back to you.

In the meantime, stay warm and I hope to see you soon.

Message from Carlos con't

Participation Levels

	Total Participants	Events	Participants per event
2024	265	16	17
2025	342	15	23
% Change	29%		35%



**SAVE THE  
DATE...**

**UPCOMING  
CLUB  
EVENT**

**FEB 18\***

Houston Forensic Science  
Center



**Houston Forensic  
Science Center**

**MAR 24\***

Texas Prison Museum &  
Sam Houston Statute



**APR 24**

Spring Social Event

*\*FREE PRECINCT 3 BUS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED  
PICK UP AT TRUSTMARK BANK, VINTAGE PARK  
10711 LOUETTA RD, HOUSTON, TX 77070*



# RECENT GROUP TRIPS & EVENTS...



In December, our group gathered for a festive evening at the **Houston Botanic Garden** to experience “Radiant Lights”, the garden’s spectacular nighttime display.



Visiting after dark allowed the group to enjoy the full brilliance of the event, which featured more than 50 large, illuminated installations arranged throughout the walking paths.

The displays were crafted in the shapes of oversized flowers, graceful animals, and imaginative nature-themed scenes, each glowing with vivid color and intricate detail. Towering blossoms, giant butterflies, koi, pandas, and mythical creatures created a sense of wonder at every turn. Many of the sculptures reached impressive heights, offering dramatic silhouettes and perfect photo moments.



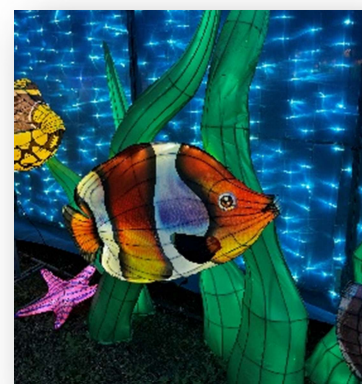
Several interactive features added to the experience, including illuminated swings and walk-through tunnels that shifted color as visitors moved through them. The variety and scale of the displays kept the group engaged, with each new section revealing another burst of light and creativity.

As retirees strolled through the glowing pathways, conversations flowed easily, punctuated by shared reactions of delight as each new installation came into view.

The outing offered a joyful way to celebrate the season together, surrounded not by winter blooms, but by brilliant light, artistry, and imagination on a grand scale.



The evening concluded with warm wishes for the new year and a renewed appreciation for the friendships that continue to connect the HPI/HPE community. It was a memorable night — bright, lively, and filled with the spirit of togetherness.



**Kids' Meals, Inc. is a Houston-based nonprofit** dedicated to ending childhood hunger by delivering free, healthy meals directly to the homes of preschool-aged children living in food-insecure households. It's often described as a "Meals on Wheels for children," and it's the only program of its kind in the U.S. focused specifically on kids under age six.



Annual  
Volunteering  
Event  
and  
Lunch & Learn,  
Tax Session



**Tax Seminar & Lunch:** Attendees learned about changes impacting 2026-2028

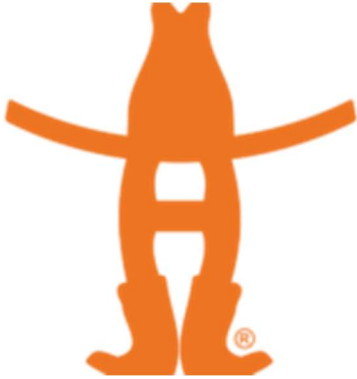


# NEWS FEATURES

## “Yee-ha!” It’s Rodeo Time in Houston

*Celebrating Agriculture, Education, Entertainment & Western Heritage*

Article and photos by fellow retiree, Jacqueline Dillemath



It'll drive a cowboy crazy  
It'll drive the man insane  
And he'll sell off everything he owns  
Just to pay to play her game  
And a broken home and some broken bones  
Is all he'll have to show  
For all the years that he spent chasin' this dream they call  
Rodeo  
— Garth Brooks



### A Tradition Rooted in Western Heritage

The word *rodeo* comes from the Spanish “*rodear*”, meaning “to encircle” or “surround.” In the 1500s, Spanish settlers used the term to describe cattle roundups. Today, rodeo has evolved into a celebration of skill, grit, and Western culture — a showcase of the cowboys and cowgirls who keep these traditions alive.

### Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo: A Texas Icon

For more than 90 years, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ has been the heartbeat of the Southwest. It remains the world’s largest livestock exhibition, one of the richest regular-season rodeos, and a premier entertainment event powered by more than 26,000 volunteers each year.

What began in 1932 as the *Houston Fat Stock Show and Livestock Exposition* now welcomes over 2 million visitors annually. The event spans 21 days and features world-class rodeo competition, livestock shows, a massive carnival, and nightly concerts. The beloved Bowlegged H logo, introduced in 1966, continues to symbolize the spirit of Western fun and community pride.

### 2026 Rodeo Dates

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo returns in 2026 with a full slate of events:

- **World’s Championship Bar-B-Que Contest:** February 26–28, 2026
- **Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo:** March 2–22, 2026

Full schedules, entertainment lineups, and ticket information are available at: [www.rodeohouston.com](http://www.rodeohouston.com)



## Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

### Family & Senior Discounts

#### Family Wednesdays

##### Best Senior Deal

- FREE grounds admission for seniors 60+
- FREE admission for kids 12 & under
- Valid until noon
- Dates: Feb 28 and Mar 13
- Includes discounted food & drink specials
- BOGO rides & games at The Junction (until 4 PM)

#### Community Day

- FREE grounds admission for everyone
- Select \$3 food and drink specials
- Date varies annually

#### Half-Price Carnival Packs

- Advance-purchase ride/game bundles at 50% off
- Available through official Rodeo partners



## Retro Radio Returns to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo – March 7, 2026

Retro Radio will be rockin' the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo once again this year, taking the Main Stage at the Champion Wine Garden on March 7th. The band's high-energy performances and crowd-pleasing playlist have made them a recurring favorite at RodeoHouston, and 2026 promises to be another standout appearance.

Founded in 2015 by Joel Schubert, Retro Radio (formerly Joel's Garage Band) began as a casual jam session among friends and has since grown into a polished seven-member ensemble performing at major venues and events across the Houston metropolitan area. Their resume includes the Woodlands 50th Anniversary Celebration, multiple Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo events, the HLSR Committee Celebration, House of Blues, Rise Rooftop, and numerous breweries, restaurants, and community festivals.

Retro Radio's signature sound blends powerful lead vocals, rock-solid drums and guitars, smooth saxophone, and dynamic keyboard and synthesizer work.

One special connection for our alumni community: keyboardist and synthesizer player **Gerard Dillemath is the spouse of HPI/HPE retiree Jacqueline Dillemath**, making each performance an extra-fun point of pride.

For many retirees, attending Retro Radio shows has become a favorite retirement activity, offering great music, lively crowds, and a wonderful way to stay connected.

Their playlist spans the greatest hits of the '70s, '80s, '90s, and 2000s, mixing rock-and-roll hall-of-famers with those "forgotten favorites" everyone loves to rediscover.

### Upcoming 2026 Performances

- Sunday, March 1 – *The Woodlands Concert in the Park Series*, Northshore Park
- Saturday, March 7 – *Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo*, Champion Wine Garden Main Stage, 1:00–5:00 PM

### Follow Retro Radio

- Website: [www.retroradiohtx.com](http://www.retroradiohtx.com)
- Instagram: @retroradiohtx



# MARDI GRAS IN AMERICA

## A Celebration Rooted in History



Long before beads flew through the air and brass bands filled the streets of New Orleans, a small French expedition drifted down the Mississippi River in the spring of 1699. On **March 3, 1699**, French explorer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville stepped ashore and named the site **Pointe du Mardi Gras**, marking the first recorded Mardi Gras celebration in North America.

Just a few years later, in 1702, the French established **Fort Louis de la Louisiane**, the settlement that would become Mobile, Alabama. By **1703**, Mobile hosted **America's first organized Mardi Gras**, followed in 1704 by the creation of the first Carnival secret society, *Masque de la Mobile* — the earliest ancestor of today's Mardi Gras "krewes."

New Orleans, founded in 1718, soon became the cultural heart of Mardi Gras. By the 1800s, the city's Carnival season featured masked balls, torchlit processions, and the earliest parades. Over time, traditions flourished:

- Krewes formed to design floats and host elaborate balls
- Purple, green, and gold became the official colors
- King Cake arrived, complete with its hidden figurine
- Carnival expanded into the weeks-long celebration we know today

## The Meaning of Fat Tuesday

The name *Mardi Gras* literally means "**Fat Tuesday**" in French. It marks the final day of **Carnival season**, which begins on January 6 (Epiphany) and ends the day before **Ash Wednesday**, the start of Lent.

Historically, Fat Tuesday was the last chance to indulge in rich foods — butter, eggs, meats, and sugar — before the fasting and reflection of Lent. Communities held feasts, dances, and celebrations to use up these ingredients, and over time this tradition evolved into the vibrant festival celebrated today.

In essence, **Mardi Gras is Fat Tuesday** — the joyful finale before the solemn season of Lent begins.

## Mardi Gras! Galveston: February 6–17, 2026

Galveston hosts the **third-largest Mardi Gras celebration in the United States**, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

## The Simple Joy of Growing Herbs at Home

Article and photos (from her garden) by Jacqueline Dillemoth

There's something wonderfully grounding about growing your own herbs. Whether they sit on a sunny kitchen windowsill or fill a few pots on the patio, herbs bring color, fragrance, and fresh flavor into daily life with very little effort. They're among the most forgiving plants you can grow, which makes them perfect for anyone who wants the pleasure of gardening without the fuss.

Most herbs thrive with just a bit of sunlight, soil that drains well, and watering that's steady but not excessive. In Houston's Zone 9 climate, they flourish almost year round. Our long warm seasons are especially kind to heat loving herbs like basil, rosemary, thyme, oregano, mint, and lemongrass. Even in the height of summer, when the sun can feel relentless, herbs do well if they receive morning light and a little afternoon shade. The cooler months are ideal for tender varieties like cilantro, parsley, and dill, which prefer the gentler temperatures of fall, winter, and early spring.



Growing herbs doesn't require a large garden. A few pots near the back door, a raised bed at waist height, or even a bright windowsill can provide all the space you need. What matters most is drainage—Houston's heavy rains and humidity can overwhelm roots if water lingers too long. Containers with drainage holes, raised beds, or soil amended with a bit of sand or perlite help keep herbs healthy. Once planted, herbs reward regular harvesting. Snipping the tips encourages new growth, keeps plants full and bushy, and gives you a steady supply of fresh leaves for cooking.

*Photos: Leeks, green onions and herbs rooted from scraps*



One of the most delightful surprises for new gardeners is how many plants can be grown from everyday kitchen scraps. Green onions are the easiest: save the white root ends, place them in a small glass of water, and within days new shoots appear.

Celery or Leek bases and romaine lettuce cores will also sprout when placed in shallow water, eventually growing enough new leaves to harvest.



Soft-stem herbs like basil and mint root readily in a glass of water and can be transplanted into soil once the roots appear. Even a sprouting garlic clove can be tucked into a pot and grown

into a plant that produces tender green shoots perfect for cooking. Using clear jars makes the process even more enjoyable—you can watch the roots form day by day.

Houston's mild winters mean many herbs live for years, especially rosemary, thyme, oregano, mint, chives, and lemongrass. On the rare cold nights, a simple sheet or frost cloth is enough to protect tender plants. Summer storms are another consideration; container herbs should be moved to a sheltered spot when high winds threaten.

The best part of growing herbs, of course, is using them. A handful of basil can transform tomatoes, rosemary brings depth to roasted potatoes, mint brightens iced tea, and chives add a gentle onion flavor to eggs or salads. The flavors are fresher, the scents more vivid, and the satisfaction of snipping something you grew yourself is hard to beat.



## Fresh Produce / Fruits In and Around the Houston Metropolitan Area

Market	Website	Days Open	Hours
Houston Farmers Market	<a href="https://thehoustonsfarmersmarket.com">https://thehoustonsfarmersmarket.com</a>	Daily	6 AM–7 PM
Grogan’s Mill Farmers Market (The Woodlands)	<a href="https://www.grogansmill.org/fmabout">https://www.grogansmill.org/fmabout</a>	Saturday	9 AM–1 PM
Tomball Farmers Market	<a href="https://tomballfarmersmarket.org">https://tomballfarmersmarket.org</a>	Saturday	9 AM–1 PM
Kingwood Farmers Market	<a href="https://kingwoodfarmersmarket.com">https://kingwoodfarmersmarket.com</a>	Thursday	3 PM–7 PM
Main Street Market – Conroe	<a href="https://www.mainstreetmarketctx.com">https://www.mainstreetmarketctx.com</a>	Saturday	9 AM–1 PM
Urban Harvest Farmers Market (Houston)	<a href="https://www.urbanharvest.org">https://www.urbanharvest.org</a>	Saturday	8 AM–12 PM
Rice Village Farmers Market (Houston)	<a href="https://ricevillagefm.com">https://ricevillagefm.com</a>	Sunday	10 AM–2 PM
Memorial Villages Farmers Market (Houston)	<a href="https://mvfarmersmarket.org">https://mvfarmersmarket.org</a>	Saturday	9 AM–1 PM
Clear Lake Shores Farmers Market	<a href="https://clearlakeshoresfm.com">https://clearlakeshoresfm.com</a>	Saturday	9 AM–1 PM
East End Farmers Market (Houston)	<a href="https://eastendhouston.com/market/">https://eastendhouston.com/market/</a>	Sunday	10 AM–2 PM
Heights Mercantile Market (Houston)	<a href="https://heightsmercantile.com">https://heightsmercantile.com</a>	2nd Sunday monthly	11 AM–6 PM

## What's New in Taxes for 2026–2028: Key Changes Seniors Should Know



### Where to Find More Information (Official U.S. Government Sources)

[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

*With 2025 now behind us, several important tax changes are taking effect between 2026 and 2028, and many of them directly affect retirees. These updates influence deductions, Medicare premiums, charitable giving strategies, and long-term planning.*

Beginning in 2026, families will see the introduction of TRUMP Accounts, sometimes called “Child IRAs.” Children born between 2025 and 2028 will receive a \$1,000 government contribution, and families may add up to \$5,000 per year with no income requirement. Adults also benefit from several new deductions, including the return of PMI deductibility, a new \$1,000 above-the-line charitable deduction, higher annual contribution limits for 529 education plans, and the end of energy credits. Gambling losses also become limited to 90% of winnings.

Medicare planning becomes even more important. Your IRMAA surcharge—the additional cost added to Medicare Parts B and D—is based on your MAGI from the year you turn 63.

MAGI (Modified Adjusted Gross Income) is your AGI plus certain add-backs, most commonly tax-exempt interest. It's the number the government uses to determine whether you owe IRMAA, whether you qualify for the Senior Deduction, and whether you phase out of other new deductions. For retirees who give to charity, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) remain one of the most effective tools for reducing taxable income, lowering IRMAA exposure, and maintaining eligibility for the Senior Deduction. Because QCDs reduce AGI directly, they can also help retirees qualify for other deductions and reduce the floor for medical expense deductions.

Together, these changes create new opportunities—and new considerations—for retirees who want to manage taxes efficiently while protecting Medicare costs and maximizing deductions.

### Acronyms:

- AGI – Adjusted Gross Income
- MAGI – Modified Adjusted Gross Income
- MFJ – Married Filing Jointly
- MFS – Married Filing Separately
- PMI – Private Mortgage Insurance
- QCD – Qualified Charitable Distribution
- IRA – Individual Retirement Account
- IRMAA – Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount
- HSA – Health Savings Account
- SALT – State and Local Taxes
- PMI – Private Mortgage Insurance

## Proper Disposal of Prescription Medications: Protecting Health and the Environment

Expired or unused prescription medications may seem harmless sitting in your cabinet, but improper disposal can pose serious risks—to people, pets, and the planet. Whether you're cleaning out your medicine drawer or managing medications for a loved one, here's how to dispose of them safely and responsibly.



### Why It Matters

Flushing or tossing medications improperly can contaminate water supplies and harm wildlife. Safe disposal helps prevent accidental poisoning, misuse, and environmental damage.

By taking a few simple steps, you can help protect your family, your neighbors, and your community

#### Use a Drug Take-Back Program

The safest and most effective way to dispose of medications is through a **DEA-authorized take-back program**. Many local pharmacies offer secure drop-off kiosks, and some hospitals participate as well. These programs ensure medications are incinerated in compliance with environmental and safety standards.

Here are several nearby **public controlled substance disposal locations** on the DEA-authorized take-back program list.

These locations\* are authorized to accept controlled substances and offer a safe, anonymous way to dispose of medications.

#### If No Take-Back Option Is Available

If a take-back site isn't accessible, the FDA recommends the following steps for home disposal:

- **Mix** medications (do not crush tablets or capsules) with an undesirable substance like used coffee grounds or cat litter.
- **Seal** the mixture in a plastic bag or container.
- **Throw it away** in your household trash.
- **Remove personal info** from prescription labels before discarding containers.

#### When Flushing Is Appropriate

Some medications—especially powerful opioids—are so potentially dangerous if misused that the FDA recommends flushing them when no other disposal option is available.

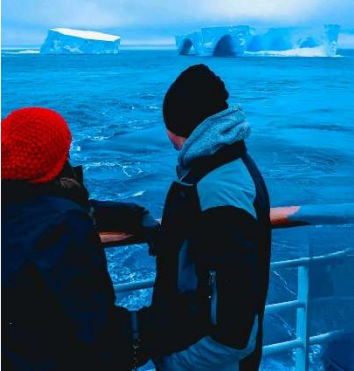
You can find the current list of flush-approved medications on the [FDA's official website](#).

*Business Name	Address	City, State Zip
CVS Pharmacy, Inc.	5603 FM 1960 W	Houston, TX 77069
Randalls Food and Drugs LP	5219 FM 1960 West	Houston, TX 77069
St. Luke's Vintage Hospital	20171 Chasewood Park Dr.	Houston, TX 77070
CVS Pharmacy, Inc.	3850 FM 2920	Spring, TX 77388
Walgreen Co.	12407 Grant Road	Cypress, TX 77429

## “Mike the Travel Guy” Talks about the Biggest Travel Trends for 55+

Travel after 55 isn't slowing down. It's getting **better**. Today's 55+ travelers are redefining what it means to explore the world.

If you've been feeling the itch to pack a bag lately — you're not imagining it. Welcome to wave season. The first 3 months after Christmas is the top booking time for the industry and coincidentally it's when the biggest sales are.



### Travel Is a Lifestyle Now

Travel isn't a once-a-year event anymore. Many of my 55+ travelers are planning multiple trips each year — short getaways, long stays, and everything in between. Travel has become part of everyday life, not a special occasion. The short getaways are often to a city or a beach, while the long trips tend towards long cruises of 30, 60, even 200 days.

Yes, I've had travelers spend 200+ days on a cruise and loved every minute. Seeing the world without packing, unpacking, cooking, cleaning is a great way to travel.

### Slow Travel = The New Luxury

Eight countries in Eight days is officially OUT! Those with some travel experience want depth, not checklists. They enjoy the cultural aspects and relaxing and enjoying the destinations they do visit. Glide through the Canadian Rockies on the glass domed **Rocky Mountaineer**, or head to Europe for a Luxurious Rail trip in a suite on the **Venice Simplon-Orient-Express**.



### Miss those times with all your kids and grandkids together?

From cultural cities to nature escapes, shared experiences are replacing “stuff” — and creating memories that last a lifetime.

### Tech That Helps, Not Overwhelms

From planning tools to navigation apps, technology is making travel smoother while personalized service and trusted travel advisors remain more important than ever. The sweet spot? High-tech planning, high-touch experiences.

### Travel For Your Passions

More trips are being shaped around passions — food, photography, WWII, ancient history, art, learning, nature.

### Custom Itineraries

Custom itineraries allow you the opportunity to get a hand-crafted vacation that matches exactly what you want to do.

Sometimes it's an anniversary, sometimes it's chasing your roots, sometimes chasing a piece of history but these itineraries. I've seen a lot more of these in recent years.

### The Takeaway

If you've been waiting for the “right time” to travel the way you want... **This is it.**

If you ever have travel questions, I offer free consultations as a service for HP/HPI/HPE retirees. Call: 713.927.4285, ask for Mike.





## Looking for some “Cheap Eats” in the Houston Area?



*It doesn't hurt to ask if a “Senior” discount is available...*

Restaurant	Discount	Age Requirement	Conditions / Notes
Applebee's	Senior discount (amount varies)	60+	Must ask; varies by franchise.
Arby's	10% off	55+	Some locations offer a free drink instead.
Burger King	Free small drink or % off	55+	Varies widely by location.
Chili's	Senior discount available	55+	Discount amount varies; ask at register.
Denny's	Senior menu	55+	Smaller-portion menu at lower prices.
IHOP	Senior menu	55+	Consistent across most locations; dine-in.
Whataburger	Free drink or % off	55+	Participation varies; must ask.
Wendy's	Free drink or % off	55+	Franchise-dependent.
Perry's Steakhouse & Grille	3-course Senior Menu \$39 before 6 PM	65+	Daily before 6 PM; dine-in.

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# Facebook Marketplace

## Safe Selling Guide for Seniors

**Facebook Marketplace** is a convenient way to sell gently used items—furniture, tools, holiday décor, collectibles—right in your local area. For seniors looking to downsize, declutter or earn extra cash, it's a useful tool. But it's important to stay alert and follow smart safety practices. With a few good habits—short descriptions, safe meetups, and cautious communication—seniors can use Marketplace confidently and avoid common pitfalls. **LET'S GET STARTED!**

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### *Use a Trusted online Facebook Profile*

- » Post from your personal Facebook account—not a new or anonymous one.
- » Buyers trust listings from real, established profiles.

### *Take Clear, Cautious Photos*

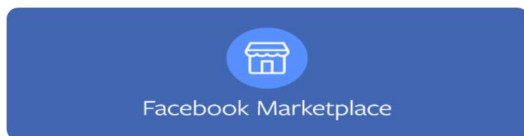
- » Use natural light and multiple angles, but avoid showing the interior of your home, personal items, or faces of you or family members.
- » A clean backdrop like a garage wall or porch is safer and more professional.

### *Write Short, Honest Descriptions*

- » Keep it brief. Most buyers skim listings, so stick to key facts: brand, condition, size, and price.
- » Avoid long paragraphs—clarity sells.

### *Post with Timing in Mind to optimize the selling potential*

- » Align your listings with seasonal demand. For example, post patio furniture in early spring, holiday decorations in late fall, and school supplies or electronics in late summer.
- » Buyers are more likely to search for items when they're top-of-mind or in high demand.



### *Handling Payment*

- » Cash is Best - count it before handing over the item. Avoid checks or complex payment setups.
- » Overpayment Scams - someone sends more than the asking price and asks for a refund of the difference.
- » Use Trusted Apps Only - If using Venmo or Zelle, confirm the payment has cleared before releasing the item.

### *Understanding Marketplace Buyer Messages*

- » “Is this still available?” This is Facebook’s default quick-reply button. Many buyers are legitimate, but scammers often use it to bait responses.
- » If the person doesn’t follow up or their profile looks suspicious, ignore or block them.
- » Vague messages like “I’ll send someone to pick it up” or “Can I have your address”—without asking about the item—are red flags.
- » Check the Buyer’s Profile, click on the buyer’s name. If their account is new, has no local connections, or shows no Marketplace history, proceed with caution.

### *Block or Report Suspicious Behavior*

- » If a buyer sends threatening, or spam messages, use Facebook’s “Block” and “Report” features immediately.
- » You’ll find these options by clicking the three dots next to their message or profile.
- » Blocking prevents further contact, and reporting helps Facebook investigate and remove bad actors.

### *Meeting Buyers Safely*

- » Choose a Public Spot, such as a well-lit, busy location. Many Houston-area police departments offer “Safe Exchange Zones” with surveillance.
- » Avoid inviting buyers to your personal address unless you know them or trust them.
- » For large items that require pickup, try to meet in your garage or driveway with a neighbor or friend present.
- » Stick to Daylight Hours, avoid evening meetups.



# Useful Online Tools for Seniors

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**Report Online Scams, Hacking, Phishing, or Spam to the FBI, Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)**

**Website:** <https://www.ic3.gov>

**Free online Cooking Classes with AARP**

**Website:** [Free AARP Events Online - AARP Virtual Community Center - AARP](#)

**Free Technology Support and online Training for older adults with Cyber-Seniors**

**Website:** [Cyber-Seniors - Cyber-Seniors Inc.](#)

**Free virtual exhibits, art collections, and history archives with the Smithsonian Open Access**

**Website:** [Smithsonian Open Access | Smithsonian Institution](#)

**Free online tutorials with Senior Planet (AARP)**

**Website:** [Welcome to Senior Planet - Senior Planet from AARP](#)

**Free online health information with the National Institute on Aging**

**Website:** [National Institute on Aging](#)

# HP/HPI/HPE

## RETIREE RESOURCES

### HP Inc. Retiree Benefits & Enrollment

- **[MyHPBenefits.com](#)**
  - Enroll in HP retiree coverage
  - Access plan documents and provider directories
  - Get help via the “Need Help?” button for live support
- **HP Benefits Center:**  
1-800-890-3100  
Hours: Mon.–Fri., 6 a.m.–6 p.m. PT

### HPE Retiree Benefits & Enrollment

- **Annual Enrollment Guide:** Covers healthcare options, Medicare eligibility, and how to enroll.
- **Toolkit Access:** Visit [MyHPERewards.com/retiree](#) for benefits, discounts, and virtual healthcare.
- **Contact Info:**  
HPE Benefits Center: 1-844-537-5304  
Hours: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday

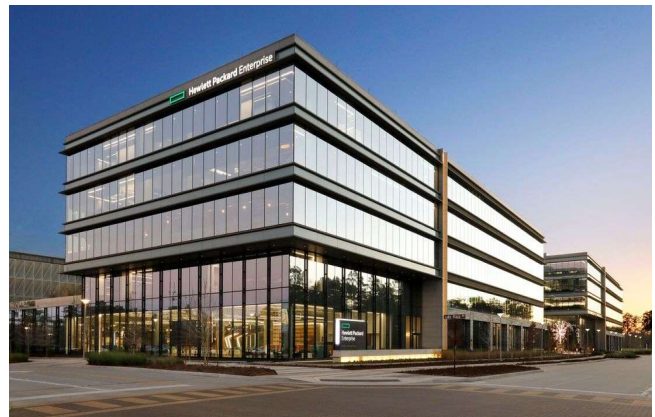
## Clubs / Alumni Groups / Discounts

### Clubs/Alumni Groups

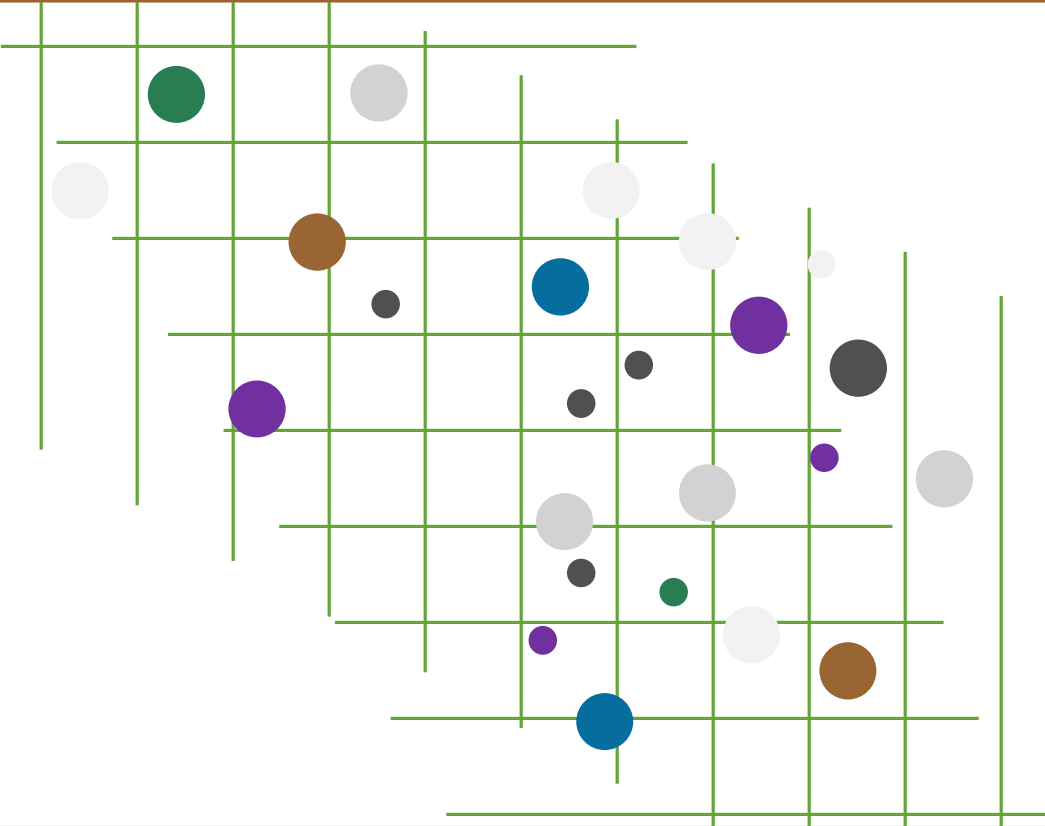
- **HP Continuum:** Central hub for benefits, discounts, and retiree news  
[HP Retirees Official Site](#)
- **Alumni Group:** [HP and HPE Alumni.](#)
- **Compaq Computer Community Facebook Group:** [Compaq Computer Community Facebook Group](#)

### HP Discounts

- [www.beneplace.com/hp\\_employee/](http://www.beneplace.com/hp_employee/)



**Thank you from the  
HPI/HPE Retiree Club of Houston  
Planning Committee**



**Next newsletter publication  
April 2026**