



# *Sam Harless*

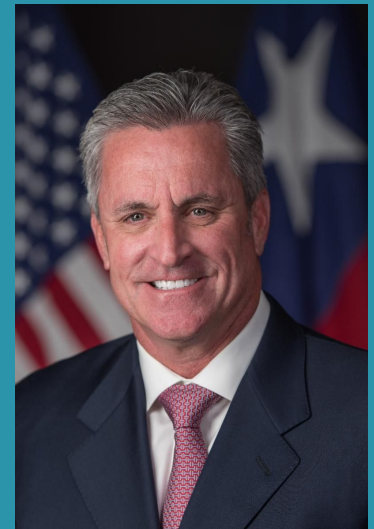
State Representative District 126  
May 2023 Newsletter



*Texas House of Representatives*



Texas  
House District  
126  
  
News  
and Information



# Final Days of the 88th Session

We are in the final days of the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature as we prepare this newsletter. The volume of bills this session coupled with drafting complications delayed much of what we are trying to accomplish until almost the very last minute.

These last few days of session are littered with very important deadlines in both the House and Senate chambers, which decide the fate of many pieces of legislation that are close to the finish line. This includes various midnight deadlines for bills to be heard in their current chamber and passed, as well as deadlines for the House and Senate to settle differences and reach agreements on legislation that passed through both chambers but with differences that don't make them completely compatible.

In the last days of floor hearings for the 2nd reading of bills we successfully passed four important pieces of legislation, just beating the deadline.

## House Bill 2648/Senate Bill 1057

I was happy to author the companion to Senate Bill 1057 by Senator John Whitmire and sponsored it as it moved through the House of Representatives. This legacy bill would permit the City of Houston to use the Hotel Occupancy Tax through the Houston First Corporation to modernize and expand the convention center and surrounding infrastructure. The George R. Brown Convention Center is over thirty five years old and in its current configuration, inhibits its future competitiveness in the top tier of the convention industry. The bill permits the use of taxes collected under Section 351.1015 to rebuild and improve both the convention center and the supporting infrastructure within designated area. The updated fiscal note indicates that an investment of \$26 to \$28 million from five years of hotel taxes would yield an estimated \$92 billion in revenue over a thirty year period.

This same approach was used in both the Dallas and Fort Worth areas for construction and improvements to their convention centers and this action would enhance the ability for the Houston area to host larger conventions and in turn increase revenue and sales tax to the State of Texas and the City of Houston. Expansion of these facilities could potentially increase attendance by nearly 400,000 annually and add to the economic growth and job opportunities for our constituents and local businesses. *This bill is out of both chambers and awaiting the Governor's signature.*

## Senate Bill 401

I sponsored SB 401 by Senator Lois Kolkhorst which prohibits price gouging by medical staffing agencies during declared public health disasters. During the COVID-19 pandemic, hospital and nursing home staffing costs soared as contracted staffing agencies drew precious service employees away from our institutional medical providers and charged exorbitant rates for their services. This bill prevents bad actors from taking advantage of disasters, ensuring medical providers can afford staff to care for vulnerable Texans during emergencies. *This bill is out of both chambers and awaiting the Governor's signature.*

## House Bill 1564/Senate Bill 402

Many of us have seen inflammatory articles about murder trials waiting for many years to be heard in court. This delay can impact availability of witnesses or cause a loss of evidence. A part of this problem is attributed to the inability of courts to prioritize these types of trials. This bill would permit murder and capital murder trials to be prioritized by the courts and provide the families of victims appropriate and timely justice. *This bill is out of both chambers and awaiting the Governor's signature.*

## House Bill 765/Senate Bill 386

In a recent trial in Dallas County involving the capitol murder of Mesquite Police officer Richard Houston II, the defense proposed that the defendant was unaware that the person he killed was a peace officer.

Officer Houston had responded to a family disturbance in his marked police car (with lights) and was in his official police uniform at the time. This bill, named the Richard Houston II Act, creates a statutory

presumption that if the offense of murder or capitol murder is committed against a uniformed officer of firefighter, that he was in fact a peace officer or firefighter. *This bill is out of both chambers and awaiting the Governor's signature.*

### **APPROPRIATION FOR FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT**

Although we submitted appropriation requests for three separate projects in our watershed area, we were successful in obtaining funding for only one. The state budget when approved, provides for 12 million dollars to be used towards completion of the T. C. Jester Stormwater Detention Basin.

Project #K500-23-00E002 has been partially completed with 6.6 million from previously secured funding and will add 931 acre-feet of additional detention volume to the Cypress Creek Watershed. We are very happy to be able to partner with County Commissioner Tom Ramsey and the Harris County Flood Control District in providing funding for this project.

### **MORE OF OUR BILLS ON THE MOVE**

**HB 767** - This bill adds the offense of stalking to the criminal statute we passed during the 86th Session that requires Texas Sheriff's to enter into the Texas Law Enforcement computer system any bonds in the family or personal violence spectrum that require specific conditions for release. Stalking is a predatory behavior that demands knowledge for the victim to remain safe from future retaliation. *This bill has passed both chambers and was sent to the Governor's desk on May 22nd.*

**HB 884/SB 602** - Continuing illegal immigration problems continue to plague our southern border and it is incumbent upon us to work with all of our law enforcement federal partners. The Border Patrol Police are one of very few federal law enforcement agencies that do not have authority of Texas Peace Officers when it comes to filing criminal charges in State courts. This bill allows Border Patrol Officers that encounter felony offenses such as weapons, drugs, or human trafficking at a recognized border checkpoint to have the authority to file their own charges without calling another local agency to file on their behalf. *This bill has been through both Chambers and was signed by the Governor and is effective on September 1, 2023.*

**HB 1358** - The bill is a campus improvement plan outlining instruction for students and parents to promote healthy self esteem and enhance violence prevention. This bill has been attempted for the last several sessions and this is the first time it has successfully made it to the Senate. The bill has been referred to the Senate Education Committee and is awaiting a hearing. *This bill made it through the House and died in the Senate Education Committee for lack of a hearing.*

**HB 1182** - House Bill 1182 ensure transparency and promotes accountability for criminal court judges in the District and County criminal courts. Under current law they report in a consolidated manner and the absence of individual court productivity is causing frustration with voters and commissioner's courts across the state. This bill was passed out of the House and was signed in the Senate. This was a solo bill brought about by community concerns about a lack of transparency on individual criminal court performance. *This bill has passed both chambers and was sent to the Governor's desk on May 30th.*

### **House Bill 2008/Senate Bill 347**

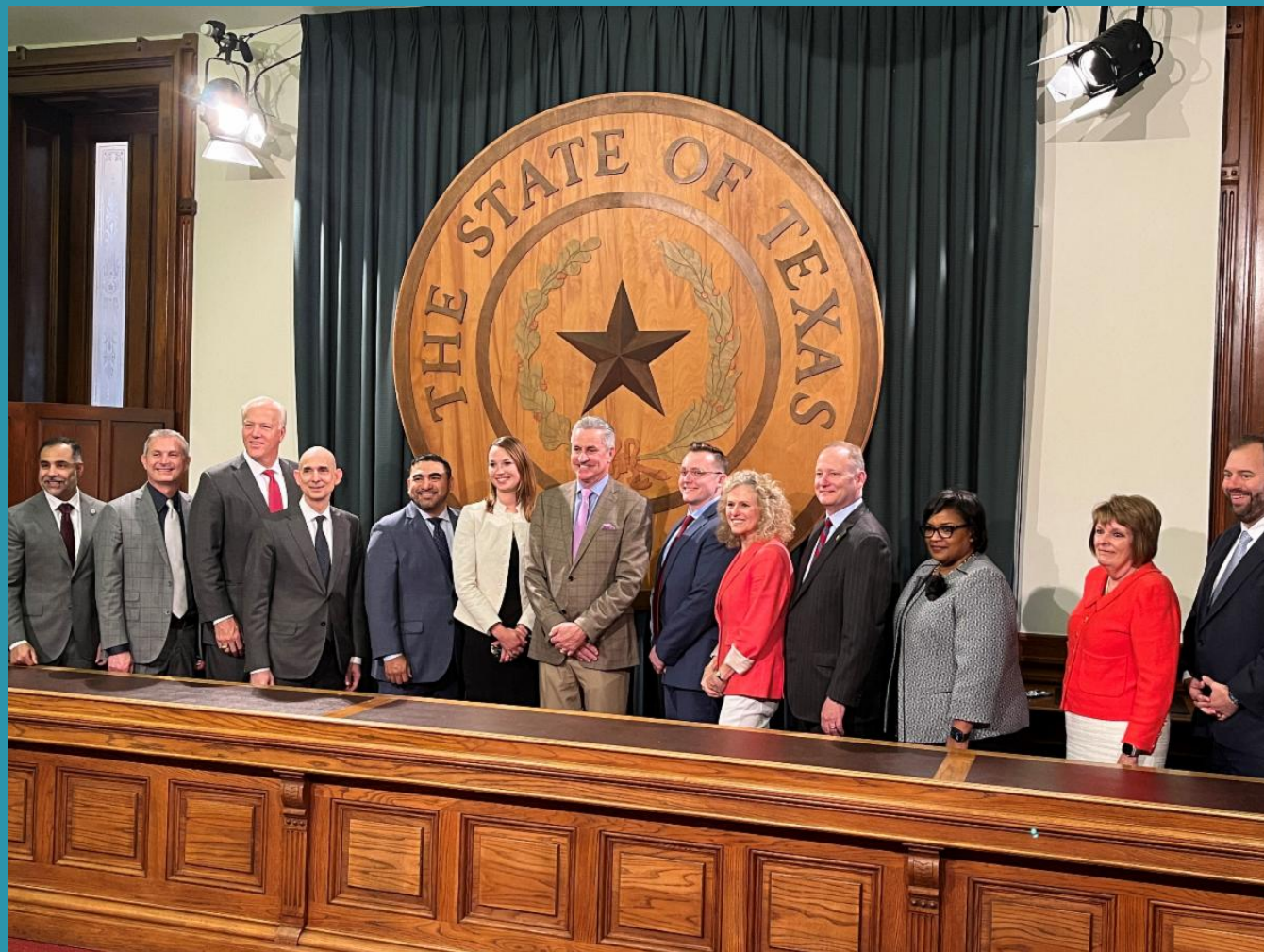
Last session we made changes to drivers license suspensions but left untouched those problems created for people who were responsible and paid the courts for citations received during a suspension. This bill resolved that problem by making a suspension for that violation run concurrent with the existing suspension. *This bill made it through the process and was signed by the Governor to be effective on September 1st.*

**HB 5334** - This bill creates the Cypress Creek Drainage Improvement District. The language in the legislation strictly prohibits the issuance of bonds or imposition of a tax on property owners. The District would have to seek out grants, donations or appropriations of existing state and federal funds. this issue

ould have to seek out grants, donations or appropriations of existing state and federal funds. This issue has been the focus of a few community groups seeking more control over the destiny of flood mitigation projects in our watershed. *The bill was voted out of the House and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's Signature.*

To see our full list of bills I filed for this session and actions taken on each, [go here](#):

## Select Committee on Health Care Reform



I am honored and grateful to Speaker Phelan to be reappointed Chair of the Health Care Reform Committee this session. Building on the work done in the interim and recommendations made in our report, the committee tackled some very important issues, spearheaded by many of our committee members themselves. We are proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to continuing to work on these issues during the interim. Below are some highlights of bills the committee worked on that passed both the House and the Senate and are currently on the Governor's desk.

### *Increasing Access to Health Care*

Texas leads the nation with its uninsured rate at 18%, roughly 5 million people. Texans face several barriers to accessing care, including, but not limited to having health insurance. Two thirds of uninsured individuals are employed yet struggle to access care as small businesses report their number one problem is the cost of providing health coverage. The committee explored innovative ways to increase access to healthcare.

• [SB 2193 by Sen. LaMantia](#) (HB 3317 by Rep. Frank) helps small businesses and their employees and families by creating a pilot program that would provide uninsured or underinsured adults comprehensive primary care at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) *Signed by the Governor & effective*

primary care at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). *Signed by the Governor & effective immediately.*

· **HB 617** by Rep. Darby creates an emergency telemedicine pilot program for individuals in rural areas when they must travel long distances to the closest trauma facility. The bill expands access to immediate and comprehensive care for the highest level of injuries.

### *Lowering the Cost of Health Care*

Health care prices are at record levels and continue to grow. Even individuals with insurance struggle to afford the care they need. About one third of insured adults worry about affording their monthly health insurance premium and almost half worry about affording their deductible before health insurance kicks in. The committee took a systemic look at the multifaceted reasons for the high price of health care and found targeted solutions to begin to address this issue.

· **HB 2002** by Rep. Oliverson incentivizes patients seeking out the lowest cost for medical services by allowing any out-of-pocket cash payment made by individuals to be credited toward their deductible and maximum out-of-pocket expenses.

· **HB 711** by Rep. Frank will make health care more affordable by prohibiting certain anticompetitive contracting practices between healthcare providers and insurers that are currently unnecessarily driving up health care costs for consumers.

### *Prescription Drug Affordability*

About a quarter of adults say they or family member in their household have not filled a prescription, cut pills in half, or skipped doses of medicine in the last year because of the cost. However, at the same time, financial assistance is available for nearly all of the 200 most frequently prescribed medications in the country that individuals may not necessarily know about. The committee looked at ways to both leverage the existing system as well as ways to transform the system to bring down prescription drug costs.

· **HB 25** by Rep. Talarico creates a prescription drug importation program allowing Texas to obtain prescriptions from Canadian suppliers with the intent of providing significant cost savings for consumer.

· **HB 999** by Rep. Price requires any prescription drug coupons or other financial assistance collected on behalf of a patient by their insurance to be credited to their deductible, copay, or out of pocket maximum.

· **HB 4990** by Rep. Bonnen establishes the Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative, creating a statewide pharmacy benefit manager focused on price transparency and providing savings to both the state and consumers.

### *Improving Women's Health*

Texas has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the country. The Maternal Mortality and Morbidity review committee found that 90% of deaths could have been prevented and recommend health care coverage for 12 months postpartum. In addition to having health care coverage, access to nonmedical health supports such as food, housing and transportation, is linked to improved health outcomes for mothers and babies.

· **HB 12** by Rep. Rose, extends postpartum Medicaid coverage for women in Texas from 2 to 12 months, reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and preventing adverse pregnancy related health outcomes.

· **HB 1575** by Rep. Hull helps identify and connect pregnant women on Medicaid with nonmedical support, such as food and housing and it allows community health workers assisting these women to be reimbursed under Medicaid. *Signed by the Governor and effective on September 1, 2023*

If you would like to follow or research bills or other legislative actions, please use the tools available at [www.Texas.Capitol.Gov](http://www.Texas.Capitol.Gov) You can search bill language, follow, and track progress of bills as they proceed through committees and see which ones don't.

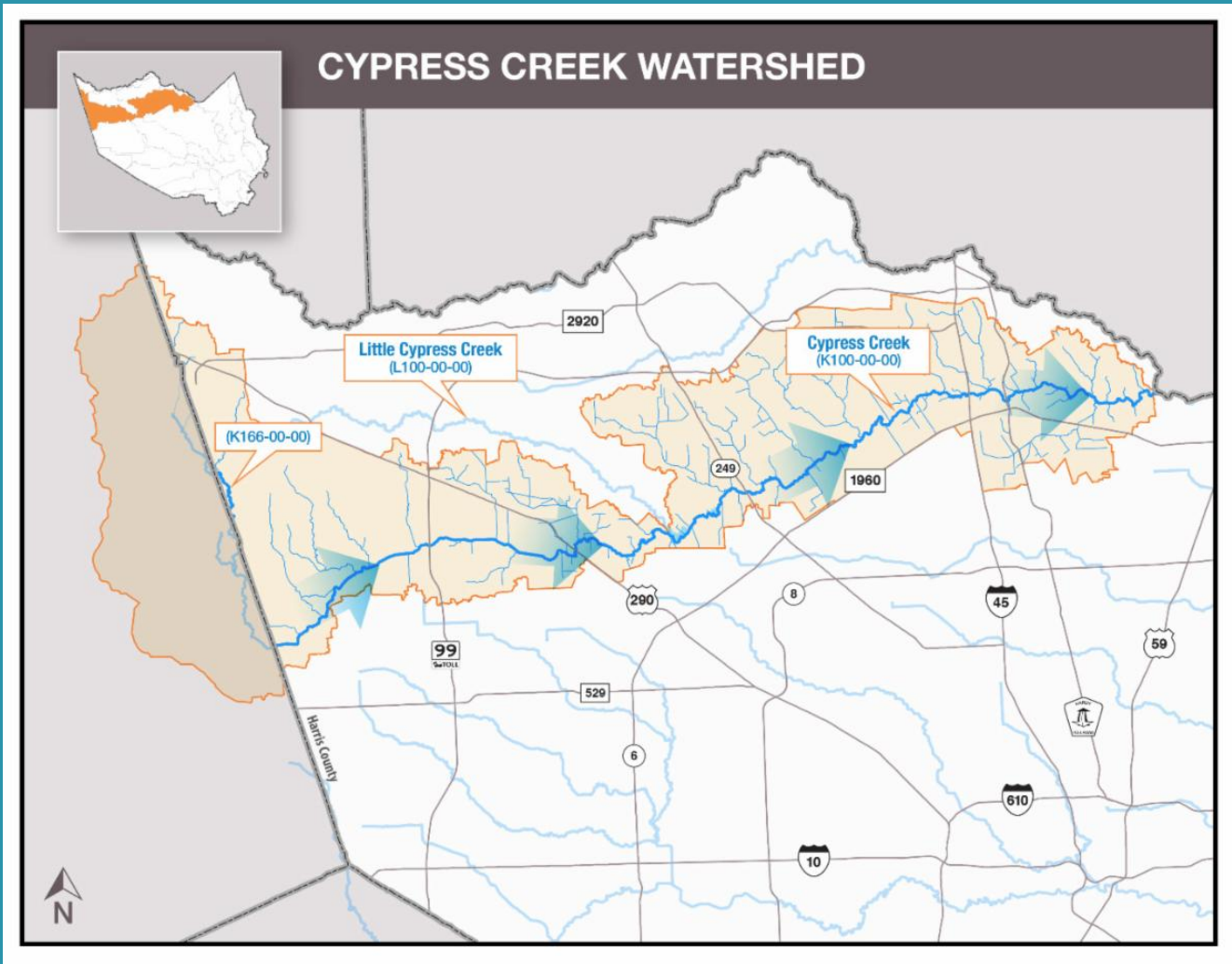
## Cypress Creek Drainage Improvement District

### Progress Report

After months of work with representatives from the Cypress Creek Flooding Task Force and the Cypress

After months of work with representatives from the Cypress Creek Flooding Task Force and the Cypress Creek Flood Coalition and the Texas Legislative Council, we have had a hearings in both chambers for [House Bill 5334](#) and sent legislation to be signed by the governor. This effort began through an interest by the community to heighten awareness on flood mitigation projects and increase involvement and input directly from our area to create the Cypress Creek Drainage Improvement District.

The District would be able to directly solicit grants, apply for appropriations of state or federal funds, or seek out donations to fund flood mitigation projects inside the Cypress Creek Watershed. Being sensitive to the tax burden our residents and property owners have, the language in this legislation is specific in prohibiting the District from having the authority to impose a tax or issue bonds.



## Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts

Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts

SUMMER ART



## Summer Art Camp 2023

Registration is now open for the Pearl's Summer 2023 Art Camps! These week-long camps invite young artists to engage their imagination as they explore different mediums and techniques. Sessions are offered for ages 5-8 and 9-12, and provide fun art enrichment experiences for kids in a small group environment. Summer Art Camp is a great way for kids to make art while making new friends!

Each week students will discover new principles of art while working with new mediums. The themes change weekly. Families can choose anywhere from one week to eight weeks.

Drop-off each day will be in the museum Cobb Gallery. Campers will then head to their classrooms with their instructors to work on unique art projects inspired by the exhibition or the weekly theme – including painting, drawing, collage, and other mixed media. Guest teaching artists will visit campers each week to teach special skills and projects!

**Visit their webpage for more information**

[Summer Art Camp](#)

### YOUTH ART CLASSES

Wearing a mask in the museum is optional.

All classes are limited in size and offered in a socially distanced setting.

When children get a chance to express their creativity and dive into art, they develop confidence, increase their empathy, and discover how to look at the world from different perspectives. All those skills help prepare students to take on the world with passion and creativity.

Treat your child, grandchild, or friend to a gift of art!

The Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free!

[Register for Art Classes](#)

Art History for Pre-Schoolers. Each we will learn about a new artist and create fun projects inspired by

them.

Parents and guardians will work with children and learn how they strengthen and develop their skills with these projects. Each week they get a project to take home with a designed curriculum guide on what they learned.

[Ceramics Class Registration](#)

[Visit the Pearl Fincher Museum Website](#)

## Cypress Creek F.A.C.E. Foundation for the Arts and Community Enrichment



Cypress Creek Foundation for Arts and Community Enrichment (F.A.C.E.) closes for the summer and will re-open with the next season after the summer. Look forward to announcements for the 2023-2024 season coming soon.

[Star-Lit Series Season Ticket Order Form](#)

[Promenade Series Season Tickets](#)

## Texas Master Chorale

[Master Chorale Webpage](#)

The Texas Master Chorale has closed out their season for the summer and wishes to add their Congratulations to their 2023 Future Music Majors Scholarship Recipients

Mason Clarkson

Bradley Bouley Founder & Artistic Director Scholarship Recipient

Noah Navarette

Marsha Robinson Scholarship Recipient

Maryn West

Scholarship Recipient



Visit our Website

## ESD 9 Monthly News



### April 2023

EMS - 2652

Fire - 642

Total - 3294

#### Safety Tip for the Month:

Hurricanes are a very real possibility in our area. We, at the Cy-Fair Fire Department want you to be ready and prepared for these events. Here are a few tips.

#### Get your home ready:

-Clear your yard. Make sure there's nothing that could blow around during the storm and damage your home.

-Cover up windows and doors.

Be ready to turn off your power.

-Fill clean water containers with drinking water.

-NEVER turn on a gas powered generator in your home or garage.

-Check your carbon monoxide (CO) detector's battery to prevent CO poisoning.

#### Have a plan:

-Write down emergency phone numbers and keep them on the refrigerator or near every phone in your house. Program them into your cell phone too.

-Prepare an emergency supply kit.

-Have a battery powered radio.

-Locate the nearest shelter and different routes you can take to get there from your home.

-Pet owners: Pre-identify shelters, a pet-friendly hotel, or an out-of-town friend or relative where you can take your pets in an evacuation.

#### Gather emergency supplies:

-An emergency food and water supply.

-An emergency medicine supply.

-Emergency power sources such as flashlights (don't forget extra batteries).

-Safety and personal items.

-Important documents, including medical documents, wills, passports, and personal identification

- Important documents, including medical documents, wills, passports, and personal identification.
  - A fire extinguisher.
- Have your car ready:
- Fill your car's gas tank.
  - Move cars and trucks into your garage or under cover.
  - Always keep an emergency kit in your car.

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Eddie Cruz  
Public Information Officer  
Cy-Fair Fire Department  
281-656-3420 Office  
346-306-6165 Cell  
[eddie.cruz@cyfairfd.org](mailto:eddie.cruz@cyfairfd.org)





## CY-FAIR FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023 CADET CLASS



"We would like to welcome our newest Fire Fighters to the Cy-Fair Fire Department family!

These brave fire fighters will be serving our great Cy-Fair community and we invite our public to send them well wishes on the start of their career with us and for you."

*(Photo courtesy of Apollo Production Studio, photographer Daniel Arizpe)*

ESD 9 - Cy-Fair Fire Dept

## ESD 11 Monthly News



### ESD 11 Update By - Brian Piatkowski Experience Coordinator

Brian Piatowski has been assigned the responsibilities for monthly updates for ESD 11. His Contact Information is :  
Phone 281-524-7667  
Email: [brian.piatkowski@esd11.com](mailto:brian.piatkowski@esd11.com)

Our response time performance remains exceptional and may be found with other critical information on our website at <https://esd11.com/transparency/>. The data is updated monthly after each regularly scheduled Board meeting, on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

## ESD 11 Events In The Community



### Recent Highlights

ESD 11 Mobile Healthcare takes great pride in the level of care we provide and in our service to the community. What does not get talked about, is what goes on behind the scenes that improves how we treat and take care of our patients. One part of the equation is the QA department, which audits 100% of charts to point out area in which we can improve. One key member of this team is Pandora Peckne, who was spotlighted and given the Meritorious Award during the last ESD 11 board meeting. Through her meticulous focus, she discovered a outstanding learning opportunity that led to systemwide Quality Improvement.

### EMS Week

The life of Emergency Medical Services personnel work around the clock, 24-7 and 365 days a year. Providers work through situations that not to many can imagine or comprehend to take care of the sick and injured selflessly. One week out of the year, EMS week is held, and it is a time to honor our EMS providers for the hard work they do. ESD 11 wants to thank the vendors that participated and donated their time and hard efforts during the week as well as the girl and boy scout groups that sent us out on the road and back home each day! Of course, it was fun to let our hair down a bit and



enjoy time together.



### PTSD Awareness Month

There are currently about 12 million people in the United States living with PTSD. Even though PTSD treatments are effective and accessible, most people don't get the help they need. **Help spread the word that PTSD treatments are available.** Everyone with PTSD, whether they are a Veteran or civilian survivor of sexual assault, serious accident, natural disaster, or other traumatic event, needs to know that treatments really do work and can lead to a better quality of life. For those experiencing signs or symptoms of PTSD, please reach out for assistance.

If you are interested in learning more about ESD11, please visit <https://esd11.com/> or join us on Facebook. If you would like to schedule a standby or community event, please visit <https://esd11.com/outreach/> to --schedule or contact Brian Piatkowski, Experience Coordinator at 281-524-7667 or [brian.piatkowski@esd11.com](mailto:brian.piatkowski@esd11.com)

ESD 11 Website

## ESD 13 Fire Service Monthly Update



Cypress Creek Fire Department

Julia Peterson  
Public Information Officer

ESD 13 Website

**ABOUT US:** Cypress Creek Fire Department is the operating name for Harris County Emergency Services District 13, a political division of the State of Texas. Cypress Creek Fire Department provides fire suppression & rescue first response services to our 33 square mile district and to the greater FM1960

**ABOUT US:** Cypress Creek Fire Department is the operating name for Harris County Emergency Services District 13, a political division of the State of Texas. Cypress Creek Fire Department provides fire suppression & rescue first response services to our 33 square mile district and to the greater FM1960 area in conjunction with our automatic aid departments.

#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE:**

April 2023:

Fire: 103

EMS: 79

Total: 182

Average Response Time: 05:50

2023 Year to Date: (01/01/2023 – 04/31/2023) Fire: 385

EMS: 357

Total: 742

Average Response Time: 05:51

#### **PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

Our Child Passenger Safety Technicians are located at Station 22 on Cypress N. Houston Rd. and are ready to help you ensure your child's safety by providing free Child Passenger Safety inspections. CCFD offers free Home Safety Inspections to all residents in our territory. This includes a walk-through and assessment of your home. Our Firefighters will identify any potential fire hazards and give you a copy of their report so that you can correct these hazards before they become a serious problem.

For more information, please contact Julia Peterson at (281) 894-0151.

## ESD 16 Fire Service Monthly News



**HARRIS ★ COUNTY**  
**EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT**

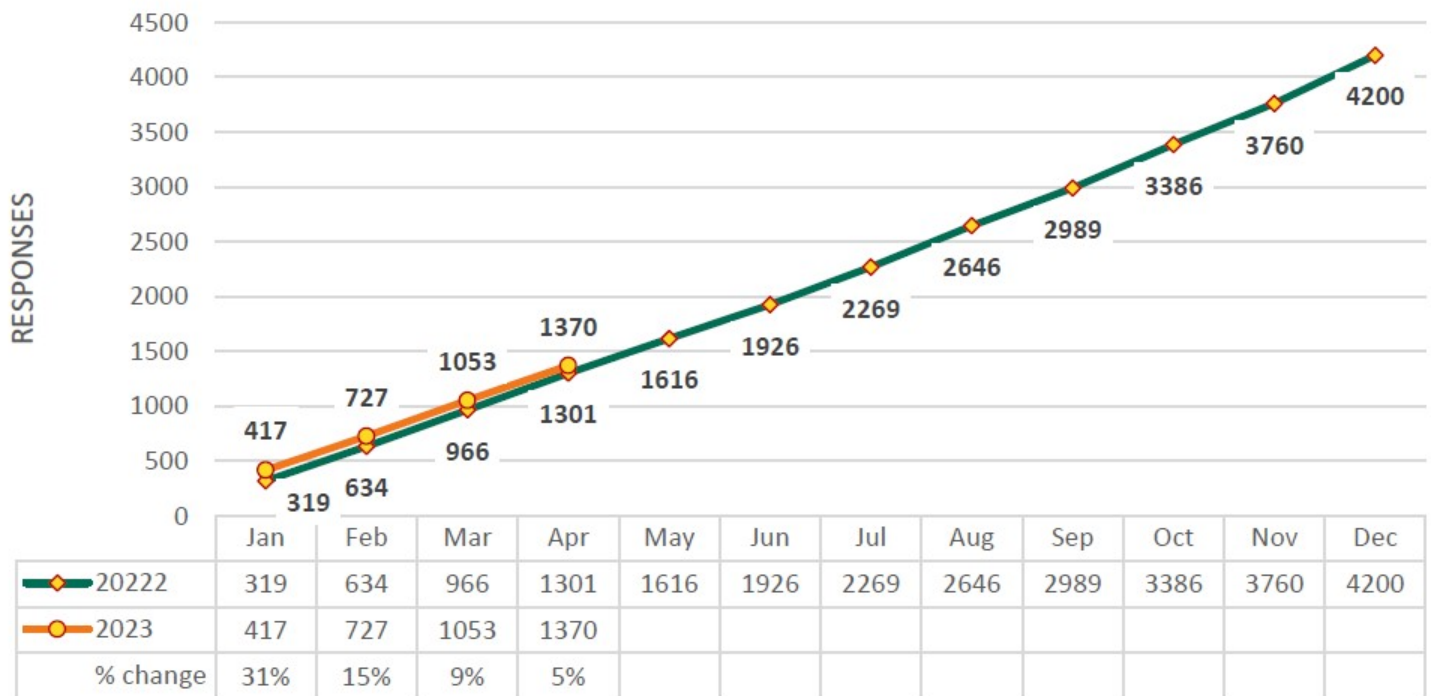




Harris County ESD 16 is the direct service provider for fire protection and rescue services in the Klein area, operating as Klein Fire Department.

Ja'Milla Lomas - Public Information Officer  
 Klein Fire Department - Email: [jlomas@hcesd16.org](mailto:jlomas@hcesd16.org)

2022 vs. 2023 Calls, Adjusted



Emergency Response – April 2023

Fire-related: 37                      Other: 95  
 Rescue/ EMS: 139                  False Alarms: 47

**TOTAL: 318**

2023 Year-to-date (January 2023 – April 2023)  
 1,370 responses

- Top 3 response areas by KFD Station:
1. Station 33              58 incidents              19%
  2. Station 32              48 incidents              15%
  3. Station 36              43 incidents              14%

New Hires

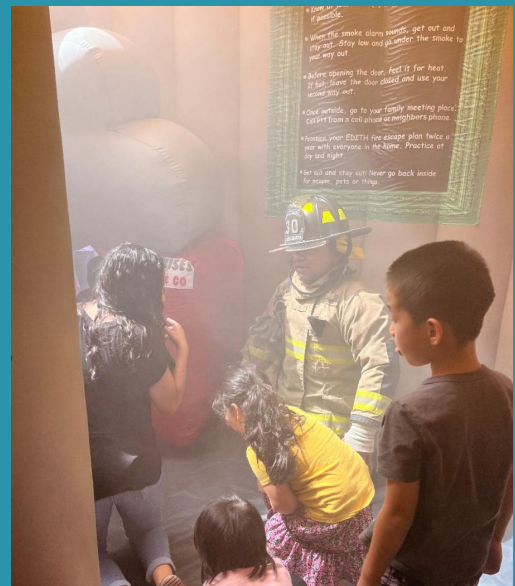
The Klein Fire Department has welcomed 4 new full-time hires in the last month – 2 District Chiefs and 2 who will lead our Training Department. District Chief Carlos Benavides (29 years of service) and District Chief Jeff Paige (20 years of service) will be based at Station 38 and will be strong additions to our DC team. Our Training Department will be headed by Andy Dexter, LP (23 years of service), who comes on board as our new Training Chief. Captain Shawn Donald (17 years of service) will be his right hand as Training Captain.

Community Events

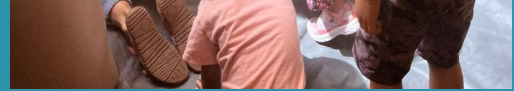
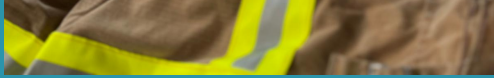
How many grade school career days can one department fit in two weeks? It turns out to be about 5! plus a few more end-of-year celebration sprays for Field Day to round out the fun. Our crews were as excited as our young scholars were to attend the Career Days at Mittelstadt Elementary, Wildwood Elementary, Reynolds Elementary, Frank Elementary, and Willow Creek Elementary. The fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes at Canyon Pointe ES, Schultz ES, and Oakcrest Intermediate were delighted to be on the (gentle) receiving end of the refreshing sprays that our engines provided. The last month of the school year just might be our favorite time of year!

KFD will host our first blood drive of the summer in partnership with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in June. The public is invited to attend and donate this life-sustaining gift for our fellow neighbors.

WHEN: Friday, June 23, 2023  
TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
WHERE: Station 31 – 18337 Stuebner Airline Rd, Klein 77379







The Klein Fire Department is rated ISO Class 2 and provides Fire Suppression, Rescue, and Medical Emergency Assistance to a resident population of 173,549 residents covering the Spring/Klein area and encompassing approximately 49 square miles.

If you have questions about the transition or wish to learn more about Klein Fire Department, please contact the ESD at [info@HCESD16.org](mailto:info@HCESD16.org) or visit [www.HCESD16.org](http://www.HCESD16.org) / [www.KleinFire.org](http://www.KleinFire.org)

ESD 16 Website

## ESD 29 - Champions Fire Department Monthly Update





## ESD 29 / Champions Fire Department

Our service area includes Greenwood Forest, Huntwick, Champions and other communities in the immediate area. Generally, the boundaries run from Cypress Creek on the North to Bourgeois on the South and Stuebner Airline over to Cutten Rd.

[Service Area Map](#)

**Hurricane Season is here. BE PREPARED!**

### Before a Hurricane

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Plan to bring in pets, all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans, and anything else that is not tied down.
- Fuel your vehicles and generators.

### During a Hurricane

- Listen to the radio, TV, or refer to trusted internet sites for information.
- Stay inside. Don't go outside unless absolutely necessary. If the eye passes over, don't get caught in the calm of the storm.
- Avoid windows and stay in the interior areas of your home.
- Ensure a supply of water for drinking as well as for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.
- Know that fire and emergency medical services may not respond until sustained winds are below 55 mph.

[www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)

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

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

To see their incident response chart, go here: <https://championsfire.org/incident-data>

**Average Emergency Calls response time: 5:10 average for March**

APRIL 2023 MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	13	16.88%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	32	41.56%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4	5.19%
Service Call	3	3.9%
Good Intent Call	18	23.38%
False Alarm & False Call	7	9.09%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Schools In Our District



Klein ISD Website



Tomball ISD Website



CyFair ISD Website

### Cy-Fair ISD News



## CFISD STUDENT OF THE WEEK: DANNY HERNANDEZ

March 27, 2023—Hamilton Middle School sixth-grade student Danny Hernandez excels both inside and outside of the classroom, as he is regularly noted by teachers for his volunteerism and helpful nature. School: Hamilton Middle School

Age: 12

Grade: 6

Accomplishments: Hernandez has been on the A/B honor roll the entire school year and received a "difference maker" award.

Favorite class: "I enjoy World Cultures because the class is quiet and my teacher and classmates are nice."

Favorite things to do after class: "I enjoy tidying up my room and my house because I enjoy seeing things organized. I like playing with my sister after the work is done."

Favorite song: "All the Stars by Kendrick Lamar."

Favorite website/app: "Z-Type is my favorite because it helps my type faster. It also helps me type a paragraph or a passage faster."

paragraph or a passage raster.

Favorite movie: "Free Guy because it was filled with action and comedy, which I find important for a movie."

Ambition: "I would like to be an electrical engineer and my goal next year is to join tech class to help prepare me."

What topics/things are you passionate about?: "Technology because it helps the world around us."

What inspires you?: "My family."

What three things can't you live without?: "My family, God and my home."

What are you most looking forward to this semester?: "I'm looking forward to events in my elective, which is band."

Read the full article on CyFair's website [here](#).



Cy-Fair ISD Website

[Klein ISD News](#)



**KLEIN ISD**

# LASSOS

## THE COMPETITION!

HLSR School Art Awards



### Klein ISD Artists Sweep Rodeo Art Contest with 5 'Best of Shows,' 11 Other Accolades

Fourteen Klein ISD Visual Art students were named award winners of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Contest. Klein ISD received 5 'Best of Shows,' 6 Gold Medals, and 5 Special Merits Awards. These gifted students were delighted to display their artistic skills in this high-profile competition and left everyone impressed.

We proudly offer comprehensive, award-winning Fine Arts programs at Klein ISD. Our students pursue their passions and continue to earn recognition for their excellence!

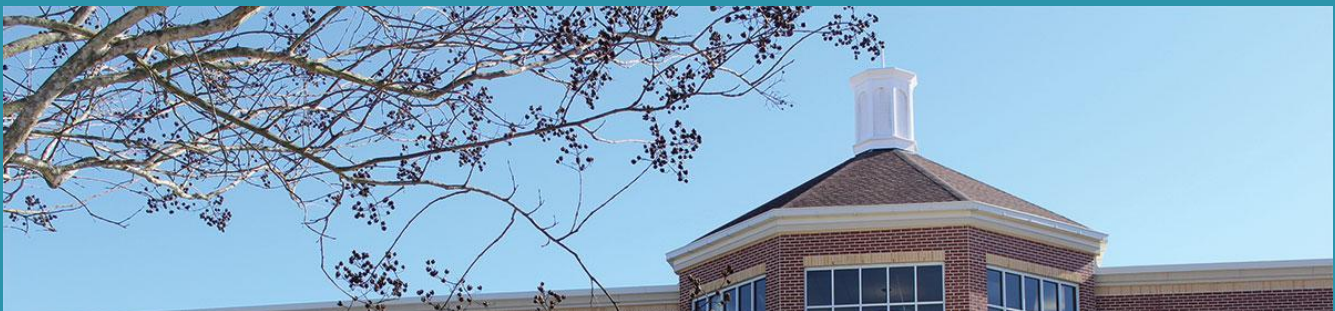
Klein ISD Coordinator of Fine Arts Leah McWhorter was thrilled to see the recognition our students' achievements have received and shared her excitement.

"I am extremely proud of the achievements of our students," Ms. McWhorter said. "The opportunities they received from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Program is a memory these students will never forget."

Congratulations, artists! Your #KleinFamily is so proud of you and excited to see what you do next.

[Klein ISD Website](#)

### [Tomball ISD News](#)





## Tomball Education Foundation Awards Over \$100K to Tomball ISD Educators

The Tomball Education Foundation awarded 29 grants to Tomball ISD educators across 15 different campuses and one Central Office department, totaling \$100,948 to be used on innovative projects they submitted through the grant process.

The Tomball Education Foundation provides funds for educational projects and activities that are beyond traditional funding. Funds are used to facilitate student achievement and skill development, recognize and encourage staff excellence, and expand community involvement from individuals, businesses and civic organizations.

Since 2018, TEF has awarded over \$270,000 in grants to employees of Tomball ISD. Congratulations to the 2022-2023 Grant Recipients.

For a complete review of the article and list of recipients [go here](#)



ENCOURAGE • ELEVATE • EDUCATE

**\$100,948**

## COVID Stats & Info For Harris County

COVID has been a part of all our of lives for over two years now and is a regular part of almost every news broadcast. As such, we will be discontinuing routine coverage in this newsletter unless the threat remerges at a later date.

Charts and more information on Covid can be found on the Harris County COVID Dashboard at [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org)

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### COVID-19 Resources

#### Texas Workforce Commission

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) continues to explore options to keep the 2021 tax rates as low as possible for Texas employers as Texas and the entire nation continue to deal with the economic disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more about 2021 tax rates in the press release.](#)

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TWC Website to Apply for Benefits: [TWC Unemployment Benefits](#)

Texas Workforce TeleCenter - 800-939-6631

TWC has a new Chat service on their website in the bottom right of the screen, called "Chat With Us". This new function will be able to answer most general questions from individual. <https://www.twc.texas.gov>

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### Harris County Resources

ReadyHarris Website: <https://www.readyharris.org/#resources>

Harris County Fire Marshal hotline to report businesses who are in violation of the County and State COVID-19 health and safety policies - 832-839-6941

Precinct 4 Commissioner Community Assistance - [Pct 4 Community Assistance](#)

People can sign up to receive emergency alerts from Harris County at: [Ready Harris Alert Signup.](#)

Also, 2-1-1 is a resource hotline set up by Harris County. If someone is in need of resources fast they can call that number and they will be connected to resources in their community. They can also text CV19 to 888-777. This hotline is available 24/7.

Houston Public Health Dept - <https://houstonemergency.org/covid19/>

## Ready Harris Accessible Alerts

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management has launched the new Ready Harris Accessible Alerts (RHAA). This new system is providing access to alerts, warnings, and preparedness information to persons who are Deaf, Blind, Hard-of-Hearing, Deaf-Blind, or have low-vision through a new one-stop-website. To sign up, we encourage members of the community to visit <https://hct.ahasalerts.com>.

Community members can also text AHAS to (281) 609-9093 to sign up.

The system will send our Ready Harris Alerts with sign language interpreting along with voice and closed captioning in English and Spanish before, during and after an emergency. The RHAA is compatible with video capable devices such as computers, tablets, cell phones and wireless Braille readers. With this new resource, HCOHSEM will also be able to reach individuals with low literacy in English and Spanish. This is HCOHSEM's latest effort to reach the whole community.

## Federal Resources / Websites

CDC- Center for Disease Control: [CDC Coronavirus](#)

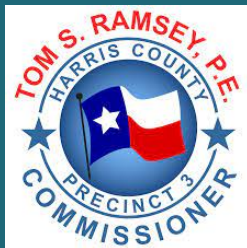
Small Business Administration: [SBA](#)

SBA Paycheck Protection Program - [Paycheck Protection Loans](#)

An SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed (during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.)

FEMA Corona Response: [FEMA CoronaVirus](#)

## Precinct 3 Commissioner



## Tom Ramsey Capitol Project Update

[Visit Precinct 3 Website](#)

**Precinct 3 Service Request Link**

<https://webapps2.harriscountytexas.gov/servicerequestform/pct-form?pct3=>

## Harris County Precinct 3 Road and Bridge

Harris County Precinct 3 maintains the highest level of standards in maintaining over 6,600 lane miles of roadway and associated bridges throughout the area. Maintenance includes road reconstruction, storm debris removal, sign installation, right of way mowing, and more.

Please see the list below for projects that are currently under construction that are in or affect our area, including projects transferred due to redistricting. For questions or comments, [click here](#). To follow their current capitol projects list, [click here](#).

## Area Projects in Construction



### **Asphalt Reconstruction Package 2022-1 in the Cypress and Spring areas**

Project Scope: Repaving of roads, new markings, and street signs along Tanner Road from Triway Lane to the Sam Houston Tollway, West Little York Road from North Eldridge Parkway to Brittmore Road, and Kuykendahl Road from north of Spring Cypress Road to north of 1960

Benefits: Increase safety and mobility throughout these areas

Phase: Construction

Estimated Construction Cost: \$7.3 million

Estimated Completion: First Quarter of 2024

### **Atascocita Road at Blackstone Trails**

Project Scope: Install new traffic signal

Benefits: Improves driver safety

Phase: Construction

Estimated Construction Cost: \$370,000

Estimated Completion: Third Quarter of 2023

### **Barker Cypress at Longenbaugh and Fry at Bridgeland Creek Parkway**

Project Scope: Extend left turn lanes

Benefits: Improves traffic flow

Phase: Construction

Estimated Construction Cost: \$150,000

Estimated Completion: First Quarter of 2023

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## **PROJECTS IN DESIGN**

Asphalt Reconstruction Package 2022-2 in the Humble and Crosby areas (STARTING SECOND QUARTER 2023)

Project Scope: To reconstruct various roads in Humble and Crosby. Roadway portions include Aldine Westfield Road, First Street in the Crosby area, Miller Wilson Road, Hare Cook Road, Ramsey Road, East Stroker Road, and Krenek Road

Benefits: Increase safety and mobility throughout these areas

Phase: Design

Estimated Construction Cost: \$11.3 million

Estimated Completion: TBD

Crosby Township/MUD (Runneburg)

Project Scope: Subdivision drainage improvements and channel excavation

Benefits: Increased drainage capacity and reduced flood risk

Phase: Design

Estimated Construction Cost: \$1.0 million

Estimated Completion: Second Quarter of 2023

Cypress Creek Estates Subdivision

Project Scope: Subdivision drainage improvements and pavement reconstruction

Benefits: Increased drainage capacity, reduced flood risk, and reduced long-term maintenance costs

Phase: Design

Estimated Construction Cost: \$9.4 million

Completion: Second Quarter of 2023



## Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones

### Precinct 4's Infrastructure Division

The Infrastructure Division administers and manages Precinct 4's Capital Improvement Projects Program. The CIP program includes road expansion projects, traffic signals and intersection improvements, and traffic management systems designed to improve mobility and air quality.

The Infrastructure Division also oversees the Child Safety Fund which is used to provide warranted school zone flashing warning signals in compliance with Precinct 4's criteria, the installation of a warranted traffic signal system facilitating the movement of traffic around a school facility to promote student safety. To find out if your area meets the criteria of the flashing warning signal, please click [Flashing Warning Signals](#).

### Community Assistance Department

Serving Precinct 4 constituents is our number one goal. With that in mind we have one stop, one phone number, one e-mail address for you to find a solution to any need you might have in Harris County. Tell us what's needed and we do the work! Whether it is a street or a stop sign to be replaced, a road or sinkhole repaired, or questions or comments about Precinct 4 services, CAD can assist.

The staff researches and responds to thousands of calls, letters, and e-mails each year concerning road and bridge maintenance and various issues throughout Harris County and Precinct 4.

In addition to processing requests for maintenance, CAD seeks to have a presence and be available to our community by attending a variety of community events and liaising with various agencies within Harris County and Precinct 4.

[Precinct 4 Commissioner Website](#)

[Pct 4 Capitol Improvement Projects](#)

[Community Assistance Department Page](#)

### Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce

Representing the business and community interests in the Cypress Creek/North Harris County area since 1974, the Houston Northwest Chamber is actively engaged as a liaison with state, local, and federal leadership to promote the area on a variety of issues.



[Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Greater Tomball Area](#)

[Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce](#)



## Transportation and Mobility Committee

2nd Tuesday of each month

Meeting Location:

29201 Quinn Rd.

Tomball, Texas 77375

Upstairs Conference Room

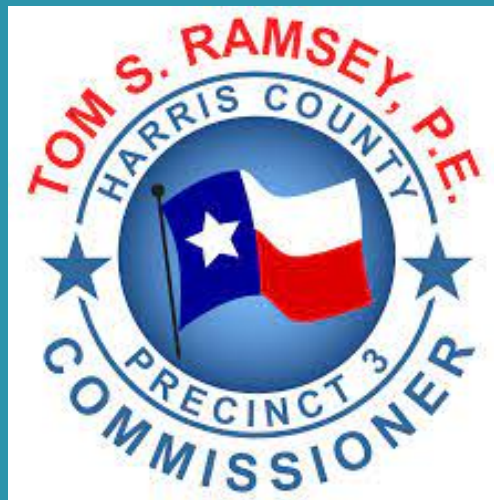
Tomball Government Affairs Committee

## Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce Transportation\Government Affairs Committee

The committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month to discuss governmental issues that confront their Cy-Fair area. They meet at the Chamber offices located at 8711 Highway 6 North, Ste. 120 Houston, TX 77095.

**CY-FAIR HOUSTON**  
Chamber of Commerce

Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce



## Harris County Pct 3 Public Safety Forum

Meets at:

Glorious Way Church

11611 Champions Forest Dr

Houston, TX 77066

Local representatives from criminal justice and government agencies make presentations and discuss issues important to the community.

The button below provides a link to sign up for our alerts and lists.

Visit our House of Representatives Website

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