



August 31, 2012 | Volume 2 | Issue 5

Representative Dan Huberty



STATE CAPITOL
Capitol Extension E2.712
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

PHONE
512.463.0520

DISTRICT
4501 Magnolia Cove
Suite 201
Kingwood, TX 77345

PHONE
281.360.9410

FAX
512.463.1606

E-MAIL
District127.Huberty@house.state.tx.us

Staff Contact Information:

CASEY CHRISTMAN
Chief of Staff
Casey.Christman@house.state.tx.us

MAGGIE IRWIN
Legislative Director
Maggie.Irwin@house.state.tx.us

BEN MELSON
Legislative Aide
Ben.Melson@house.state.tx.us

Back to School!

It is that time of year again when children return to school and the rest of our communities get prepared for Friday Night Football, Fall Festivals and busy weekends.

As for my three children: Briana started 7th grade at Atascocita Middle School, Ryan began 5th grade and Dylan entered 3rd grade, both at Maplebrook Elementary. I was very proud to see them off to class on Monday, but I know as the Labor Day weekend approaches, we will get a last glimpse of summer as we celebrate that day and pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of all American workers.

This newsletter will cover many important items, from the meaning and purpose of Labor Day; how to celebrate it safely without the threat of West Nile Virus; the recent ruling from the United States Supreme Court regarding the redistricting maps draw by the legislature last spring and even some information on available programs for you and other community members. You will find a list of upcoming activities on the last page, which can be very helpful in planning your Labor Day weekend.

Please take the time to read through the entire piece. If you would like to learn more about any of the items listed in this newsletter, please contact my staff at either the District Office, 281-360-9410, or the Capitol Office, 512-463-0520. And remember you can always contact me through the House website at www.house.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty
State Representative- District 127

Visit Representative Huberty online [here](#).
To Subscribe to our weekly newsletters, click [here](#).
To Unsubscribe to our weekly newsletters, click [here](#).

West Nile Virus in Texas

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), in conjunction with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) - Division of Emergency Management (DEM), is urging people to take precautions to reduce the risk of contracting West Nile virus, a mosquito borne illness. People should use insect repellent when outdoors and avoid going outside at dusk and dawn.

DPS recently issued a State Situation Report updating Texas citizens about the positive cases of West Nile Virus (WNV), from either West Nile neuroinvasive disease (WNND) or West Nile fever (WNF), in the State of Texas for the calendar year. Statewide as of August 28, 2012, the DSHS has confirmed a total of 783 human West Nile virus cases (416 WNND and 367 WNF). Thirty-one fatalities have been reported. Over the past 10 years, 49 cases on average were reported to DSHS by this time each year, ranging from a low of 3 cases in 2011 to a high of 171 cases in 2006. There has been a higher than usual number of human West Nile cases in Texas this year due to the warm winter and recent rains. Humans can contract West Nile virus from a mosquito bite. Infected mosquitoes get the virus from feeding on infected birds and mammals. The virus can cause serious illness or death.

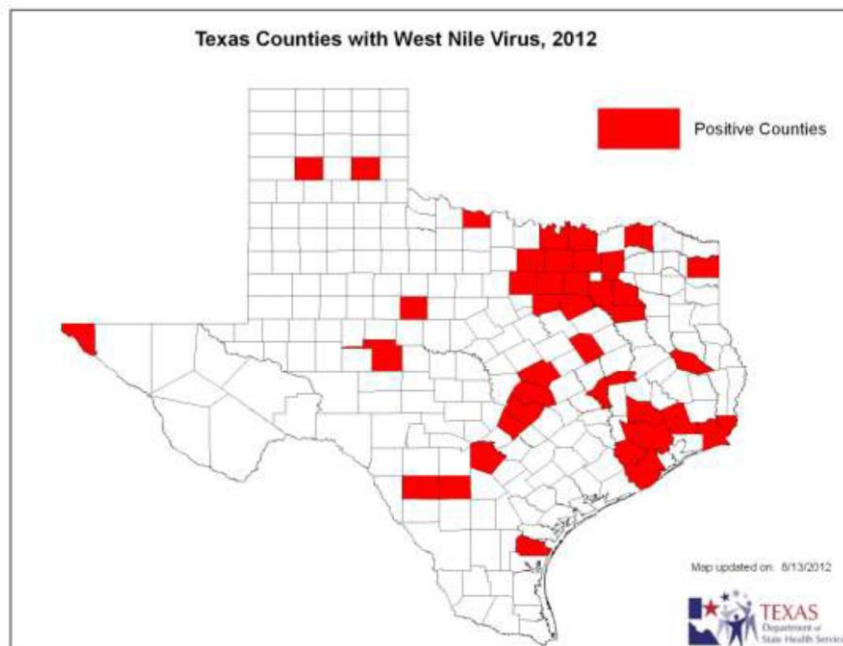
West Nile neuroinvasive disease symptoms include: stiff neck, visual problems, body tremors, mental confusion, memory loss and seizures. The milder form of the illness is West Nile fever where symptoms include: fever, headache, muscle and bone aches, nausea and drowsiness. People with the milder form of illness typically recover on their own, although symptoms may last for several weeks. Up to 80 percent of people infected with West Nile virus will have no symptoms and will recover on their own.

There are no medications to treat or vaccines to prevent West Nile virus infection. People over 50 years old and those with compromised immune systems are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill when they become infected with the virus. If people have symptoms that cause them concern, they should contact their healthcare provider.

West Nile Virus cases usually occur in the late summer or early fall. However, Texas has a variety of climates, and when temperatures are mild, West Nile Virus can be transmitted year round. It is best to protect yourself all year. The “Four D’s” should be implemented to defend against West Nile Virus.

- DUSK and DAWN are the times of day to limit outdoor activities. This is when infected mosquitoes are most active.
- DRESS in long sleeves and pants when outside. For extra protection, thin clothing can be sprayed with repellent.
- DEET is an ingredient to look for in an insect repellent. Follow label instructions and always wear repellent when outdoors.
- DRAIN standing water in old tires, flowerpots, and clogged rain gutters. These are mosquito-breeding sites.

The Situation Report mentioned above can be found on the DEM Homepage at www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem. For more information on West Nile statistics, visit <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/westNile/>.



West Nile Virus in Harris County

Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services has been actively monitoring the WNV situation in our area. DSHS reports that Harris County has only seen 9 cases of WNND and 5 cases of WNF. No deaths have been reported. Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) Mosquito Control performed an aerial spray operation for portions of west and northwest Harris County to combat the mosquito-borne disease. The aerial application occurred Wednesday, August 22. They sprayed approximately 63,000 acres by air. The aerial spray operation was conducted in response to recent surveillance findings indicating that West Nile Virus (WNV) activity has increased in Harris County. To date, WNV has been confirmed in more than 300 mosquito samples and nearly 100 dead birds in Harris County.

HCPHES continues to encourage residents to eliminate mosquito breeding habitats around their property by: Remove or empty all outside containers that may hold water such as flowerpots, tires and toys; Bird baths and pet water bowls should be changed at least twice a week; Clean out gutters and make sure windows and doors have proper screening; Do not "feed" the storm drains and Sweep up lawn clippings, leaves and tree limbs from sidewalks and driveways and dispose of them properly. HCPHES also asks residents to help prevent mosquito breeding in boats by: Cover your boat and store it in a covered place; Drain any standing water and make sure the bilge pump is working; Turn over canoes, kayaks and small boats to store upside down.

And, of course, they encourage personal protection. Historically, in Harris County, July through September is the peak timeframe for disease transmission to humans. To reduce the likelihood of being bitten by mosquitoes, practice personal protective measures by: When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 and apply as directed on the label; If possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Please visit <http://www.hcphe.org/wnvResponse.htm> for more information on HCPHES and WNV.

Atascocita BizCom Meeting

Atascocita High School and the Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce hosted their quarterly meeting on Thursday, August 2. Robert Sitton, Humble ISD Trustee and Chamber Board Member, opened the meeting and introduced new AHS Principal Bill Daniels who comes to the district from Beaumont. He gave a brief update on the school before Andy Noel of Atascocita United Methodist Church came forward to speak about Kid's Hope, an elementary school and church partnership for mentoring students. Henry Quiroga of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDoT) gave an update on the upcoming construction at the intersection of FM 1960 and West Lake Houston Parkway, which will alleviate traffic and decrease congestion. The project went out for bid in early August. Melinda Stephenson, CEO of Kingwood Medical Center, gave an update on the expansion of the Women's Center, which will be housed in a brand new wing being added to the hospital. Lastly, local broker David Otis gave an update on the Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Committee. He discussed the possibility of further stocking of the lake and how local residents can get involved in their Foundation.

"K" Stickers

Our office has had several inquiries regarding "K" Stickers for Kingwood residents wanting to park at and utilize the Parks in Kingwood. "K" Stickers are distributed through the Kingwood Service Association (KSA). In order to obtain a sticker, you must be a resident of a Kingwood village that is a member of KSA. This is not a new rule. Effective January 1, 2011, all vehicles in KSA parks were required to display a new numbered "K" sticker on the left rear window or bumper or face possible towing. Boat trailers must also have a numbered "K" sticker attached to it. All vehicles not displaying the new "K" sticker will be subject to towing at the vehicle owner's expense. Documents proving residency and vehicle ownership are required to obtain a "K" sticker. They can be obtained in person at the KSA office, 1102 Kingwood Drive, Suite 104, Monday – Friday from 9am – 5pm. Please call KSA at (281) 358-5192 with any additional questions.

Kingwood Service Association Quarterly Board Meeting

Chief of Staff, Casey Christman, attended the KSA Quarterly Board Meeting on Thursday, July 19. Several important updates were given during the event and information on those are included below. Representative Huberty encourages Kingwood residents to attend these meetings so they can more informed on the happenings in their community. The board made several important decisions including three financial motions to grant funding from the Capital Reserve Fund for re-decking the River Grove Boardwalk, Reforestation of the median at Kingwood Drive and Loop 494 and additional trail repairs from the November tornado damage. In the last order of business, KSA granted the new Woodbridge Village, being built off North Park near the new St. Martha's Church, membership into the association.

KSA Parks Committee Update

Parks Committee Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the South Woodland Hills Community Room (2030 Shadow Rock).

River Grove Park - Engineered work of the proposed dredging at the boat ramp has been completed. Bid documents have been sent out and pre-bid meetings held. An application for a Nationwide Permit for the Galveston District Corps of Engineers has been submitted. Bids were received to re-deck the boardwalk. A bid of \$15,563 was approved by the committee at the July meeting. Dead trees are continuing to be removed from the disc golf course and near picnic shelters.

East End Park - The tornado restoration project has been completed with an additional \$6,000. A Lone Star College student has offered to map the park. Park Steward Fortson asked that all benches be marked on the map. A reporter for a local newspaper wrote an article about partying at a park beach, calling attention to the dangers such as fires and wild animals, like alligators.

Kingwood Entries

Seven (7) new Cypress trees have been placed at the Kingwood Drive entrance to replace those that did not survive last year's drought. The irrigation system is being monitored to favor the trees. Light Fixtures were stolen from the wall in front of the Kingwood Drive pylon and one fixture at the blade wall was replaced. This work was covered by insurance. The board approved a partial reclass of \$7,600 to be used for reforestation of the median on Kingwood Drive at Loop 494 due to the removal of pavement by TxDOT.

KSA Public Safety Committee Update

Public Safety Committee Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the South Woodland Hills Community Room (2030 Shadow Rock).

Positive Interaction Program (PIP) - PIP meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Kingwood Church of Christ (2901 Woodland Hills Drive).

Mayor's Citizen's Assistance Office - Open to all City of Houston residents, this office serves as a location for reporting potholes, graffiti, missing or damaged street signs or other 3-1-1-type requests and picking-up Bike Safety Brochures or copies of the Citizen CIP Request Forms from liaison Gwendolyn Condeleo. It is located at 3915 Rustic Woods and the phone number is 281-361-9551.

Houston Police & Fire Departments-Kingwood - HPD received three new bike officers to patrol Kingwood in June. In case of an emergency, please call 9-1-1, but for all non-emergency items, you can reach HPD Dispatch at 713-884-3131.

CPR/AED Training Classes - These can be hosted by Villages for residents through Ethel McCormick at KSA, 281-359-1102.

YMCA Bike Rodeo -The Rodeo is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. HPD will be on hand as KSA distributes free bike helmets to the first 250 attendees.

Community Emergency Response Team Training - KSA encourages community members to join their local "CERT" teams. Interested resident need training, which is offered through Lone Star College - Kingwood on September 18 and September 20. Learn more at www.harriscountycitizencorps.com.

Kingwood Crime Stats - As of July 11, 2012, there are 194 registered sex offenders living in and around Kingwood. This is an increase of 8 since April 2012.

Super Neighborhood Council Update

Parks Committee Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7 PM at the South Woodland Hills Community Room (2030 Shadow Rock). Their next meeting is Monday, September 17.

Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce 10K/5K

The Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce held their third annual 10K/5K and Wellness Fest on Saturday, August 25. Representative Huberty and Chief of Staff, Casey Christman both competed in the 5K. District E Houston City Council Member, Mike Sullivan, was on hand to start both the 10K and 5K races. Representative Huberty was honored to assist Chamber Member and event organizer, Dr. Kyle Buchan of Kingwood Chiropractic Associates, and Louis Smith, CEO of Memorial Hermann, in distributing the awards after the race was over. The event went extremely well and the winners are as follows: Female 10K Winner - Virginia Jones; Male 10K Winner - Kipkrui Ruttoh; Female 5K Winner - Kimberly Mac Namee and Male 5K Winner - Maximo Mendoza.



Rep. Huberty with City Council Member Mike Sullivan



Rep. Huberty with 5K race participants



Rep. Huberty with Memorial Hermann CEO Louis Smith and Male Overall 10 K Winner Kipkrui Ruttoh

Lakeshore Elementary

Representative Huberty joined US Congressman Ted Poe at Lakeshore Elementary on August 29, to present the school with new flags. The 5th grade safety patrol, led by PE Teacher Tasha Luce, was on hand to meet and speak with both men. Congressman Poe quizzed the students on how Texas government and the US government function and also offered them a bit of trivia when he told them that the Texas flag is the only flag of the United States of America that can be flown at the same height at the US flag because Texas was once its own country.



Rep. Huberty with Congressman Ted Poe and the Lakeshore Elementary Safety Patrol

Texas Red Tape Challenge

House Speaker Joe Straus is encouraging Texans to visit the Texas Red Tape Challenge, a crowdsourcing website created by the House Government Efficiency and Reform Committee. The Red Tape Challenge website combines technology and civic engagement by allowing Texans to register ideas and opinions on various state regulations. Site users can voice their opinion on existing regulations, suggest policy alternatives to those regulations, and comment on others' suggestions.

The Government Efficiency and Reform Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Callegari of Katy, will consider ideas and recommendations from the website in a November hearing at the Capitol. The ideas that the committee adopts will be part of its interim report to the 83rd Legislature.

"The Texas Red Tape Challenge is a new way to invite the public into the legislative process," Speaker Straus said. "I thank Chairman Callegari and the Committee for creating this platform, and I hope Texans will use it to share their own experiences and suggestions for reform."

The project focuses on four subjects: occupational licensing, state agency rulemaking, public school mandates and manufacturing in Texas. Specific focus areas for each of the subjects are introduced on a rolling basis. For example, users can now offer recommendations on high school curriculum mandates, or on regulations related to public insurance adjusters. "The direct input provided on this site will help the Legislature make state government more efficient, accountable and responsive to taxpayers," Speaker Straus said.

Members of the public can participate in the Red Tape Challenge at www.texasredtapechallenge.com.

United States District Court of the District of Columbia Redistricting Opinion

The U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia (USDCDC) issued a ruling yesterday denying preclearance of the Legislatively-adopted maps under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. They found the State to have retrogressed the opportunities of minorities in general by not using an appropriate methodology to determine minority ability districts in the benchmark or in the legislatively adopted maps. The State used a measurement of Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) and a secondary analysis of the performance of individual districts in Statewide elections in electing the minority candidates of choice. Interveners suggested analysis of the race for the district in questions should be analyzed, whereas the court found that neither individually were decisive enough to state that the State did not perform sufficient analysis of minority election performance. Further, the USDCDC affirmed its belief that coalition districts are protected under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

This opinion is relating to the legislatively adopted maps – not the interim maps issued by the Western US District Court in San Antonio. **The USDCDC can only approve or disapprove the legislatively adopted maps, they cannot and will not adopt new maps.** It would be up to the Western US District Court to determine whether their interim map resolved the issues in the DC court's decision as to whether they could adopt the interim map as their remedial (final) map in their ruling, which is pending in Section 2 violations. However, the Attorney General has announced he will appeal the decision of the USDCDC to the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS).

Attorney General Greg Abbott had the following to say about the opinion: "[The USDCDC] decision [to deny preclearance on the Texas Congressional, Senate, and House maps] extends the Voting Rights Act beyond the limits intended by Congress and beyond the boundaries imposed by the Constitution. The Attorney General's Office will continue defending the maps enacted by the Texas Legislature and will immediately take steps to appeal this flawed decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Washington DC court's decision applies to the maps originally enacted by the Texas Legislature--**so the November elections will proceed as planned under the interim maps drawn by the federal court in San Antonio.**"

Legislative Update

Although no interim hearings were held in the month of August, there is still plenty to report regarding education. The Texas Education Agency received a new commissioner, with Governor Perry appointing former Rail Road Commissioner Michael Williams to serve in that role. Williams, along with Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds as Chief Deputy Commissioner, will lead a great team to ensure Texas' children are prepared for the future. They will be officially heading up the commission starting September 1st.

In the coming months, several education hearings on issues ranging from school finance to a review of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and making recommendations for their future. Things are quickly ramping up for the 83rd Legislative Session, with many members diligently working and developing legislation for January. A big part of that will come from the committee reports that are released at the end of the interim. Each committee summarizes what they studied and focused on over the past year and a half, as well as make legislative recommendations for the members. These reports are made public as soon as they are released and will be featured in this e-newsletter once available.

Federal Deferred Action - Texas Driver Licenses

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security recently announced it is granting deferred action status to certain individuals who came to the United States as children. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has reviewed this federal measure, state statute and current policies to determine how it relates to obtaining a Texas driver license, and concluded the following: The “deferred action” status alone will not entitle anyone to a Texas driver license.

All applicants must continue to meet the criteria that the State of Texas requires in order to be eligible to receive a driver license. All first time applicants for a Texas driver license must: Apply in person at a [Texas driver license office](#).; Present [documents that verify your identity](#).; Present documents that verify you are a [U.S. citizen or have lawful presence](#). All information on each document must match. Additional documentation may be required to verify conflicting information, incomplete names, and date of birth; Present [proof of Social Security Number](#). If you do not have a Social Security Number, you must complete a Social Security Affidavit form available at the [driver license office](#).; Present proof of your [Texas residency](#).; Present proof of Texas vehicle registration and liability insurance on all vehicles you own.; Complete the [application for driver license or identification card \(PDF\)](#). You may type your information on the form, print it, and bring it with you to the office. If you don't have a printer, the form is also available at the office.; Consent to be photographed, fingerprinted, and provide your signature at the time of application.; Pass the written, driving, and vision examinations. (Read more about [foreign language examinations](#).); Pay the [required fee](#) with a credit card, cash, money order, or a non-temporary check.; Provide a vehicle for the driving exam and present current liability insurance, Texas vehicle registration, and inspection for the vehicle.

Federal immigration documentation indicating approved “deferred action” status meets only one of DPS's current criteria (lawful presence policy) to receive a driver license. However, they would then have to meet the various other requirements (i.e. identity, residency, SSN, and other requirements*) in order to be issued a driver license. The expiration date of that driver license will be based on the length of lawful presence indicated in the federal immigration documents, and each license issued will indicate that it is a “limited-term license.”

Lakeland Elementary

On Thursday, August 23, Lakeland Elementary held a Ribbon Cutting for the community and students, teachers and staff to celebrate their grand opening as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years World School. Chief of Staff, Casey Christman was on hand to help celebrate and represent the Leadership Lake Houston group, as they chose the Lakeland Elementary garden as their class service project. They refurbished the existing wood pieces, put in a new pond and built several new garden boxes for the different grade levels to utilize.

The IB Primary Years Programme, as it is called by the IB system, for students aged 3 to 12, focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside. Humble High School is also an IB school, for the Middle Years Programme.



Members of the 2012 Class of Leadership Lake Houston

Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation

Home-Buyer Assistance Programs

As part of the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation's (TSAHC) continuing commitment to help low and moderate income Texans become homeowners, TSAHC is extending its down payment assistance programs to current homeowners and those who previously owned a home. Existing or previous homeowners and first-time home buyers ready to purchase a home can take advantage of the program's low fixed mortgage interest rate of 4% and a down payment assistance grant equal to 5% of their loan amount.

The first-time home buyer requirement is still part of TSAHC's Mortgage Credit Certificate Program (MCC) which provides home buyers with an annual federal tax credit of up to \$2,000 a year and is based on mortgage interest paid annually. However, eligible first-time home buyers can now take advantage of both the MCC Program and the down payment assistance programs.

Qualifications for each of TSAHC's home buyer programs are:

Professional Educators Home Loan Program: Must be a full time Classroom Teacher, Teacher Aide, School Librarian, School Nurse or School Counselor employed by a public school district in the state of Texas; or a full time faculty member of either an undergraduate or graduate professional Nursing or Allied Health program in the State of Texas.

Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program: Must be a full time paid Firefighter, Emergency Medical Services Personnel, Peace Officer, Corrections Officer, Juvenile Corrections Officer, County Jailer, or a Public Security Officer working in the State of Texas.

Home Sweet Texas Home Loan Program: Must be a family or individual whose annual household income is at or below 80% of the area median family income (income limits available at www.tsahc.org).

Additionally, a home buyer must:

- Meet minimum credit requirements;
- Meet income and home purchase price limits (available at www.tsahc.org);
- Occupy the purchased home as their primary residence;
- Complete a HUD approved homebuyer education course prior to closing on the home loan; and
- Reside in the State of Texas

Eligible home buyers can apply directly through a participating mortgage lender listed on TSAHC's website at www.tsahc.org or can contact TSAHC directly at 888-638-3555.

2012 Texas Foundations Fund Applications Now Available

TSAHC recently announced the opening of the 2012 application cycle for their 2012 Texas Foundations Fund. Through this program, TSAHC partners with non-profit organizations and rural government entities across Texas to support housing services that meet the critical housing needs of very low-income Texans. These services include home repairs to fix unsafe living conditions, accessibility modifications to help households with a family member with a disability, and multifamily supportive housing services, such as mental health counseling and adult education, for individuals and families at risk of homelessness.

TSAHC selects partners through an annual competitive application process and provides awards of up to \$50,000 to support partners' housing service programs. TSAHC funds its Texas Foundations Fund awards by blending private donations with earned revenue from its affordable housing programs.

Applications can be found on TSAHC's website at www.tsahc.org. Applications are due by Friday, September 14th at 5 p.m. It is anticipated that the TSAHC Advisory Council will submit its award recommendations to the Board of Directors at the regularly scheduled Board meeting in November.

For more information on the Texas Foundations Fund, please contact Katie Howard at (512) 334-2152 or by email at khoward@tsahc.org.

Harris County, Precinct 2: BetterStreets2Neighborhoods Project

Harris County's new Precinct 2 initiative is called BetterStreets2Neighborhoods. The concept of BetterStreets2Neighborhoods is to preserve and maintain the existing asphalt streets in our neighborhoods. The goal is to protect the taxpayers' investment in infrastructure by maintaining what exists have before its gone. The first year in office has been tough because of budget issues, but Commissioner Morman's office has found a way to save the vitally important infrastructure within neighborhoods before it reaches a critical stage. Some of the neighborhood streets have gone two to three decades without being resurfaced. Contractors might be seen in the area soon. Precinct 2 anticipates only being there for a duration of 45-60 days. They know this will be an inconvenience during the short-term, but bear with them; in the long-term, it will created have better streets for the future which will ultimately lead to a safer and happier driving experience. Commissioner Morman is dedicated to providing this infrastructure maintenance service, and hopes these projects will indeed produce better streets in these neighborhoods:

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Start Dates</u>	<u>Status</u>
Highlands	\$1,500,000	March/April 2012	Est. Completion: August 2012
Galena Park	\$1,200,000	March/April 2012	Completed
Jacinto City	\$1,200,000	March/April 2012	Completed
Old Crosby	\$2,000,000	July 2012	
South Houston	\$ 600,000	August 2012	
S. Diamondhead	\$2,000,000	March 2013	

For more information, please call the Precinct 2 Maintenance Camp (6702 Miller Wilson Road/1st Street) and speak to Alton Chilsholm at 281-456-7188.

Home Healthcare Community Announces Bring the Vote Home Initiative

The Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice (TAHC&H) recently announced it will be participating in **Bring the Vote Home** - a nationwide initiative to help homebound seniors and persons with disabilities that have difficulty traveling to polling places during the 2012 election cycle. The campaign is being launched in partnership with other state home health care associations and national home health leaders to engage the nation's 12 million home health care patients - including 3.5 million Medicare beneficiaries - via voter and absentee ballot registration initiatives.

TAHC&H represents more than 1300 licensed home and community support services agencies across Texas that provide home health, hospice, and personal assistance services to persons of all ages.

As part of the initiative, the home health care community is launching a new website, www.bringthevotehome.org, which offers state-specific information and instructions for voter and absentee ballot registration. In addition, home health caregivers will directly assist patients and their families in the registration process. Texas' home health care community cares for more than 525,000senior, disabled and chronically ill patients each year. This includes 375,000Medicare beneficiaries who receive clinically advanced, cost-effective care in the home setting. Many health care treatments that were once only offered in a hospital or a physician's office can now be safely, effectively and efficiently provided in patients' homes by skilled clinicians.

Free Toll Service for Legion of Valor Recipients

Volvo of Dallas has joined forces with the North Texas Tollway Authority to sponsor tolls for Legion of Valor recipients. The Legion of Valor is awarded to individuals who have achieved the highest level of service to the United States and includes recipients of the military's highest honors including the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross and the Air Force Cross.

Due to the generosity and commitment of Volvo of Dallas, the program allows those who have achieved the nation's highest military honor to receive free passage on all NTTA tollways including the Dallas North Tollway, President George Bush Turnpike, Sam Rayburn Tollway, Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge, Addison Airport Tunnel, Mountain Creek Lake Bridge and the future Chisholm Trail Parkway, as well as all tollways throughout Texas. For more information about the NTTA, visit NTTA.org.

CureFest

On Saturday, July 28, the community came together to help raise money for brain cancer research. Brain Cancer is not as recognized as many other types of cancer and therefore, receives little in the way of research funding for new medications and treatments. The goal of CureFest was to raise money and awareness about brain cancer and the event coordinators and volunteers definitely accomplished that goal. On Thursday, August 30, the CureFest team was able to present a check for \$150,000 to M.D. Anderson for Brain Cancer Research. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Phil Baumann, who was diagnosed with and being treated for a brain tumor, and his wife Misty, for having the idea to host this event and brighten the future for many other patients, just like Phil.



Rep. Huberty presenting Phil & Misty Baumann with a House Resolution



Phil & Misty Baumann presenting a \$150,000 check to M.D. Anderson

Upcoming Events

Friday, August 31, 2012

- 7:00 AM Friday Morning Networking Group
Saltgrass Steakhouse - Humble (www.fridaymorningnetworking.com)
- 2:30 PM Free Computer Classes
Kingwood Library - 4400 Ben's View Lane (281-360-6804)

Sunday, September 2

- 11:00 AM Atascocita Music Festival and Craft Fair
Atascocita Country Club (<http://www.amusicfestival.net/>)
- 7:00 PM Fall Concert Series Featuring Pete Scafidi
King's Harbor - Kingwood ([More information here](#))

Monday, September 3

LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 4

- 7:00 AM North Harris County Criminal Justice Association Meeting
Italiano's Banquet Hall - Humble (<http://www.nhccja.com/default.html>)
- 7:45 AM 7:45 Business Networking
Comfort Inn - 22223 Hwy 59 N. (www.745networking.info)

Thursday, September 6

- 11:00 AM Kingwood BizCom Meeting
Kingwood Park High School - (<http://www.lakehouston.org/>)
- 4:00 PM YMCA Basketball Court Refurbishment Project
Lake Houston Family YMCA Pavilion - Kingwood (www.ymcahouston.org)