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November 30, 2018

Thank you for subscribing to my e-newsletter. Below you will find updates from federal, state and local agencies on events from the past week and the week ahead.

This week felt much like a Legislative Session. It was very busy with lots of events in Austin preparing for the 86th Legislature. On Wednesday, I spoke to the incoming freshman class of State Representatives about Public Education and school finance, in particular. Chairman Dennis Bonnen, who has secured the support necessary to be elected Speaker, has said that Public School Finance will be the priority item for the Texas House.

On Thursday, I spoke on a panel at the Texas Tribune's "Previewing the 86th Session Symposium" with Mike Morath, the Commissioner of Education and Diego Bernal, Vice Chair of the House Public Education Committee. We discussed many issues across public education, but the meat of the conversation did center on how we will pay for it. You can view our panel and all of the symposium by visiting: <https://www.texastribune.org/2018/11/29/watch-previewing-86th-legislative-session/>

I was delighted to host the Mothers' Club (MC), at the Capitol this morning as we placed the newest House District 127 ornament on the Texas House Christmas Tree. Members of the MC include: Mary Deiss, Carla Hopkins, Judy Mayhew, Gayle Sampley and Mary Jane Yeager. The MC designed the ornament this year and commissioned artist, Whitney Belaire Farris, to bring their vision to life. You can read more about the ornament and Texas House Christmas Tree below.

Just this afternoon, I attended a Texas Public School Finance Commission meeting to review the recommendations put forward by the Revenues Working Group, led by Senator Paul Bettencourt. You can view the meeting [by clicking here](#). Their Group met on Tuesday to discuss those recommendations and that hearing can be viewed on the Senate Video Archives [by clicking here](#) and the actual presentation can be viewed here: <https://tea.texas.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=51539627019>

Should you have questions regarding anything in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us directly using the information provided at the bottom of this email.

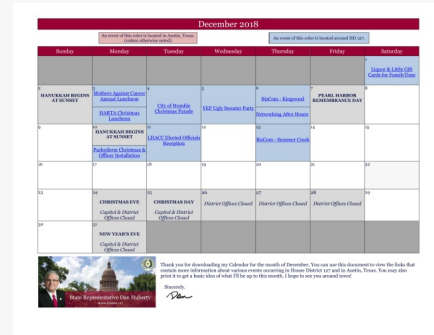
Sincerely,



# December 2018 Calendar

Download my December 2018 calendar by clicking the link below. This month is full of events in and around Texas that could be fun or useful to you and your family! This new format allows you to save the document for printing or sending to your family members.

Keep watch for these updated calendars at the beginning of each month. Important local and legislative dates and events will be posted here.



[Click Here to View and Download This Month's Calendar!](#)

## Hurricane Harvey Updates

### Council Member Dave Martin: Additional Dredging on the Horizon in 2019

Council Member Martin would like to make District E residents aware that the City of Houston continues to make progress towards Harvey Recovery with both state and federal agencies. Over the last fifteen months Council Member Martin has been working diligently with Chief Resiliency Officer Stephen Costello, Mayor Sylvester Turner, Governor Abbott, Chief Nim Kidd, as well as the offices of Senator Ted Cruz and Senator John Cornyn towards several initiatives that would have a positive impact on the Lake Houston Area.

Most recently the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has completed the bathymetry study of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River for the City of Houston. Data from this study has been given to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to determine the amount of sediment that resulted from Hurricane Harvey. This information is useful because this study identifies underwater topography allowing the City to understand where the additional sediment brought in by Hurricane Harvey has been deposited in the river and lake as well as changes in depth.

The TWDB continues to survey the entire lake for the Coastal Water Authority (CWA), the agency that contracts with the City for management of the Lake Houston Spillway Dam. The schedule for the TWDB to complete their survey of Lake Houston is Summer 2019. In addition to conducting a bathymetric study the City of Houston is currently reviewing data collected by the ACOE during a recent Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) study which uses light in the form of pulsing lasers to measure the distance from the water's surface to the bottom of the river and lake. Capacity losses due to sedimentation in the lake as well as East and West Forks of the San Jacinto River will be determined using the LIDAR data along with the completed bathymetric study once the TWDB has completed their survey and report.

The LIDAR study allows the City to map changes in shoreline as well as make digital elevation models. It is this data that is assisting the City and ACOE in determining the amount of sediment that needs to be removed from locations along the West Fork of the San Jacinto River like the "mouthbar" that is located just south of the Deerwood Country Club. The LIDAR Study results will also be used by the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) for the creation of new flood insurance rate maps because of the changing rainfall patterns published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The flood insurance map study will utilize updated LIDAR surveys of the entire county and will take several years to complete, however HCFCD is already hiring consultants to assist with this work.

On October 11, 2018, Council Member Martin met with Governor Abbott's Executive Staff, TDEM, FEMA, and ACOE in Austin where a lengthy discussion was had about the amount of sediment deposit that will still remain in the San Jacinto River after the current emergency



dredging project is completed. The current emergency dredging contract is not scheduled to be complete until the end of April 2019. At this meeting the City's consultant estimated that after the completion of the existing dredging project that there will be approximately 500,000 cubic yards of additional sediment that needs to be removed from the river known in the community as the "mouthbar".

This estimate however was based on a comparison between the LIDAR study completed by the ACOE this year and a bathymetric study completed by the TWDB in 2011. The important takeaway from this meeting in October is that FEMA agreed that the additional sediment qualifies as Harvey debris however, the estimate of 500,000 cubic yards was not a true amount directly associated with Hurricane Harvey. The City does not have survey data that is immediately pre and post-Harvey which would provide us a true amount of residual sediment that is a direct result of Hurricane Harvey. The City is currently waiting on the ACOE to complete its analysis of the City's data.

At the meeting in Austin the ACOE indicated that an additional disposal site would be needed in order to remove the additional material. As a result the City of Houston has been proactive in identifying a site, thanks to the assistance of a local landowner that has property on the south side of the West Fork of the San Jacinto. The land owner has retained an environmental consultant to determine any possible wetland issues that may prevent use of the property for disposal. As of right now it appears the property is a viable site and a formal permit was filed with the ACOE this week.

In summary, the process to have the "mouthbar" removed from the West Fork of the San Jacinto River has been an arduous one. All parties from local, state, and federal agencies have been working together to accurately define the area needed for additional removal so that capacity can be restored to the river and reduce the effects of future flooding. The removal of the "mouthbar" cannot begin until the existing emergency dredging along the West Fork of the San Jacinto River is completed. Since this is a reality the City is doing all that it can to be proactive in securing land as well as permits for the "mouthbar's" removal once the existing project is completed by the ACOE in April. This will allow the ACOE to keep equipment and crews in place without the need for demobilization and remobilization, saving roughly \$18 million.

## Updates from Austin

### Major General John F. Nichols Announces Retirement as Adjutant General of Texas



Major General John F. Nichols announced he will retire from his position as The Adjutant General of Texas, effective December 31, 2018. He has served in the position since 2011, making him the third longest-serving Texas Adjutant General.

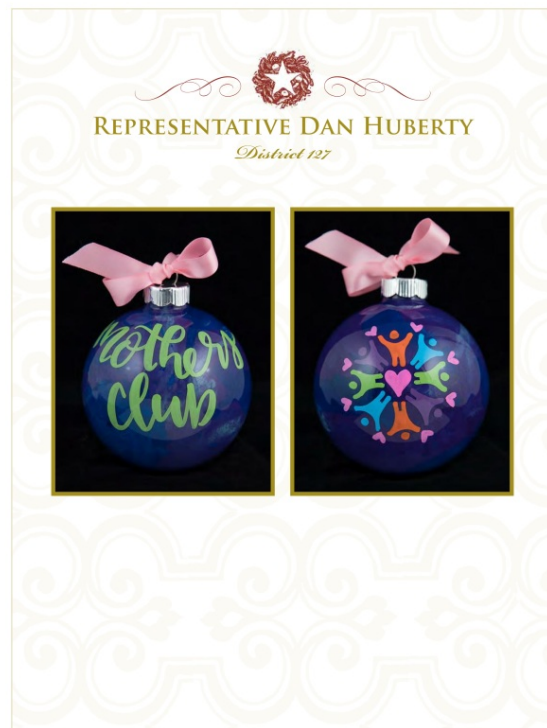
As The Adjutant General of Texas, Maj. Gen. Nichols commanded more than 24,000 Texas Military Forces service members and supporting staff. He oversaw numerous large-scale natural disaster missions including fires and floods throughout Texas and the response to the widespread devastation of Hurricane Harvey, which resulted in the complete mobilization of the Texas National Guard. Under multiple governors, Maj. Gen. Nichols has supported members of the Texas Department of Public Safety and U.S. Customs and Border Protection on border security missions at the Texas-Mexico border. These missions took place while Texas National Guard units were deployed to overseas conflicts, as they have been continuously since September 11, 2001.

"It has been my honor to serve as the Adjutant General for the past seven years. The Texas Military Department is an exceptional organization with amazing Citizen-Airmen and Soldiers and civilians who put the needs of the State and Nation above their own," said Nichols. "All of our achievements as a state agency and military department are a direct reflection of the dedication and commitment to excellence of individuals and teams throughout the organization." His retirement will culminate a lifetime of military service, having first commissioned with the U.S. Air Force in 1979. Maj. Gen. Nichols' illustrious career has taken him all over the world, resulting in many awards and decorations for service to our nation. He is a command pilot who has more than 4,000 flight hours under his belt, flying the T-37, T-38 and F-16.

"During his time in office, Maj. Gen. Nichols has held my trust and respect in addition to that of those who have served under him," said Governor Greg Abbott. "Texas is a better place because of his consistent leadership, and I am grateful for his dedicated service." An official announcement regarding Nichols' successor is forthcoming.

The mission of the Texas Military Department (TMD) is to provide the Governor and the President with ready and trained forces in support of the citizens of Texas and State and Federal civil/military authorities at home and abroad. The Texas Military Department is commanded by the Adjutant General of Texas, the state's senior military official appointed by the governor, and is comprised of the Texas Military Department (formerly the Adjutant General's Department), the Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG), the Texas Air National Guard (TXANG) and the Texas State Guard (TXSG). For more information about the Texas Military Department visit our Website at <https://tmd.texas.gov>.

## Mothers' Club Hangs HD 127 Ornament on House Christmas Tree



Today, the HD 127 Ornament was placed on the House Christmas Tree by The Mothers' Club (MC), who designed the ornament as a "tribute to the importance of strong, loving supportive friendships among women," and had an artist bring their vision to life. The ornament features colorful figures circled around a pink heart on one side, and the words "Mothers Club" on the other side.

MC members include Mary Deiss, Carla Hopkins, Judy Mayhew, Gayle Sampley and Mary Jane Yeager of Atascocita, Texas in House District 127. All are baby boomers who have seen great changes in opportunities afforded to women. They represent women who are connected to education, who have raised responsible happy children, had loving husbands, and made valuable contributions to society. They also happen to have grandchildren that are absolutely perfect.

The MC was established in August 1995 by Mary, Mary Jane and Gayle when their sons were leaving home for college. Friends already from their experiences of raising their children with school, church, scouts, and sports teams, each were like in-town aunts to the others' boys. They wanted a chance to keep up with how their boys were handling the glories, challenges and pitfalls of "unsupervised" college life.

They met each month at a local Italian restaurant in Humble, TX, Hasta la Pasta, for pasta, lots of wine, and shared stories. And before Vegas ever made the phrase famous, their promise to one another was "what is discussed in Mothers' Club, stays in Mothers' Club." The following year two

more mothers (Judy and Carla) were added to the club. And while they were close when MC was started, twenty-three years later they cannot imagine life without their MC. Sisters-by-choice they support one another during life's trials and celebrate with each other life's joys.

They have been there for one another through the death of a husband, the death of a daughter, the death of a son, the death of their own mothers, and the death of their own fathers. They have helped one another adjust to life without their children living at home. They have supported one another through disappointment when a child divorced, spouse lost a job, personal illness and illness of a family member. All connected to education, they coached one another when their jobs seemed unbearable. This summer, the third member was diagnosed with breast cancer. So, as her surgery is scheduled and plans for treatment begin, they are geared up to support, love, and pray for an MC sister. Happy times are celebrations for MC as well.

Representative & Mrs. Huberty were honored to have such stalwart members of the community design and present the annual Christmas ornament for House District 127. You can view all of the Texas House Christmas Tree Ornaments by visiting: <https://house.texas.gov/resources/Ornament-Book-2018.pdf>

## Cmr. George P. Bush Announces Amendment 2 to State Action Plan is Posted for Public Comment

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced the second amendment to the Texas General Land Office's (GLO) **\$5.024 billion** state Action Plan for Hurricane Harvey has been posted for a federally required 30-day public comment period. The amendment details an additional allocation of **\$652 million** from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to benefit unmet housing recovery needs.

"Hurricane Harvey devastated the homes and lives of thousands along the Texas Coast," said Commissioner Bush. "This allocation of \$652 million will be used by the GLO to provide additional housing resources for Texas families recovering from Hurricane Harvey. We look forward to working with our partners in communities across the region to leverage these resources efficiently and effectively to benefit Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey."

The amendment details how **\$652 million** will supplement current Hurricane Harvey programs being implemented by the GLO, as well as additional programs in Harris County and the city of Houston. The amendment allocates the following amounts:

- **\$236 million** added to the GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program to repair single family homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey;
- **\$200 million** added to the GLO's Affordable Rental Program for the rehabilitation, reconstruction or new construction of multifamily rental units;
- **\$89.3 million** additional direct allocation for Harris County programs; and
- **\$89.6 million** additional direct allocation for city of Houston programs.

*All comments should be submitted to [cdr@recovery.texas.gov](mailto:cdr@recovery.texas.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on DECEMBER 19, 2018, to be considered. Per federal requirements, the GLO must respond to public comments before the amendment can be sent to HUD for its 45-day final approval.*

### **Background and timeline of CDBG-DR funds for Hurricane Harvey recovery:**

On September 8, President Trump signed the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018, and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017, which included \$7.4 billion appropriated to HUD for long-term recovery. HUD then allocated \$5.024 billion of the appropriations to Texas for Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts - the single largest allocation of its kind for any event. To date, the GLO estimates more than \$105 billion in unmet need in Texas as a direct result of Hurricane Harvey.

In April, HUD announced additional allocations from the March 23, 2018, Congressional appropriation of nearly \$90 billion in total federal disaster relief funds. HUD allocated nearly \$5 billion of this allocation to Texas with \$652 million of the total to help rebuild damaged homes, businesses and infrastructure, while the nearly \$4.3 billion in remaining funds were targeted for mitigation. On Aug. 14, 2018, HUD released its guidance for the \$652 million, allowing the GLO to begin the action plan process for how to use these funds to plus up the existing housing programs. The GLO is currently awaiting guidance through a Federal Register notice from HUD to begin the planning process for the remaining \$4.3 billion. The GLO will continue to work with local, state, and federal partners to ensure funding is available for ongoing recovery efforts.

Updates from HD 127

Mothers Against Cancer Annual Luncheon



## Constituent Resources

### Need Assistance?

Our office is always ready to assist you. Call or email us and we will do our best to help. Many State Agencies also have hotlines or citizen assistance offices to assist you. That contact information is available at this link, in alphabetical order:

<http://www.lrl.texas.gov/genInfo/stateAgencies.cfm>

## Live Updates

All of the relevant information our office has gathered during the week will be posted to our Facebook page. By "liking" us, you will stay up-to-date about important matters across the state that affect you and your family. Click below to find our page.



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