



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE JIM MURPHY

Dear Friends,

May is one of the busiest times of the year. We celebrate the mothers in our lives at the beginning of the month and we honor our fallen soldiers at the end of the month. All the while we are getting students ready for the summer with tests, graduation and end of the year parties.

This year May is even busier than normal. For the first time in history, the Texas Primaries are being held after Memorial Day on Tuesday the 29th. We just voted in City and school elections, but the fun isn't over yet! We are in the middle of choosing candidates for the November ballot. There are only four days left to vote early! As a Harris County citizen, you can vote anywhere in the County until Friday. On election day, you must go to your designated polling location. For a list of early voting locations and to find your voting precinct for election day please visit the Harris County Clerk's elections website- www.harrisvotes.com

In this newsletter you will find some summer saving tips for your electricity bills, ways to conserve our precious water resources, and help to plan your summer travels. If you find yourself travelling to Austin, please let our Capitol office know. They can help make your visit special.

As the school year comes to a close, we want to thank all of our great teachers, school staff and parents who work tirelessly to help educate our children. To all of the senior class of 2012, best wishes on the next chapter of your lives.

We hope that you are enjoying our e-newsletters and ask that you please forward a copy to your friends and neighbors. We want to make sure that everyone who wants to receive updates from the Capitol is on our list. If there is a topic you would like to discuss, or you would like to invite me to speak to your group, please call us at 512.463.0514.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Summer Energy Saving Tips

As the temperatures rise, so can our electricity bills. Here are a few easy steps to reduce usage:

- Use your outdoor grill instead of your oven.
- When your light bulbs go out, replace them with more efficient ones. Dust off the ones that do not need replacing.
- Change your AC filter. A dirty filter can cause 10% reduction in air flow which can increase operating costs by 15%.
- Wait until you have a full load of dishes in the dishwasher before washing a load.

For a full list of ways to save money on your electric bill visit CenterPoint Energy's website: [Energy Saving Tips](#)

Need a new home appliance? The Energy Star Appliance Tax Holiday is Memorial Day weekend! For more information, please visit the Texas Comptroller's website: [Energy Star Tax Holiday](#)

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Water Conservation Ideas

Last year was one of the driest years on record. We have seen rain this year, but we are still facing a water shortage. With the rapid growth of our state coupled with the drought, our water resources are strained. The Water Development Board has come up with helpful tips to conserve water that will also save you money. Their website is full of useful information. Please visit their site by clicking here: [Water Saving Tips](#) It is as easy as not using hot water when cold water will work to changing our faucets or changing your landscaping to plants that are drought resistant.

Summer Travels

Why leave Texas for your Summer vacation? We have Big Bend, the Hill Country, the coast and a beautiful State Capitol. As you are planning your adventures we wanted to provide you with a few resources. Here are two resources you can use as you are planning your travels around Texas:

Texas Parks and Wildlife- www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Texas Travel - www.traveltex.com

Let's keep our travel dollars in our great state and help grow our economy by staying within our borders and supporting our state parks and local businesses.

We wish you safe travels and a happy return

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