

# SAM HARLESS

State Representative District 126  
January 2022 Newsletter



*Texas House of Representatives*



**Texas  
House District  
126**

**News  
and  
Information**



## **A New Year Begins**

Now in our 2nd full year in dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic, we see the virus will likely be with us in some form or another for a long time. Different variations and mutations seem to be the current evolutionary path of the virus, with some reports indicating a less lethal strain in current mutations. Fortunately all of the vaccines seem to be reducing the severity of those who become ill with the virus after getting the shot.

Let me say how thankful I am beginning this fourth year as your State Representative for District 126. My staff and I work on issues for our

constituents here in the District during this interim while we also prepare for the next legislative session to begin in Austin in January of 2023.

*Sam Harless*

**State Representative, District 126**

Please follow my Facebook page for daily updates and new information at:  
[www.Facebook.com/samharless126](http://www.Facebook.com/samharless126)

or our Twitter Page at  
<https://twitter.com/SamHarless126>

## Recap of Texas Energy During January Freezes

This last month brought us some brief winter weather that saw a majority of the state experience below freezing temperatures, and certain portions of Texas had some light snow and icing. In the days leading up to this weather certain inaccurate or skewed news reports attempted to sound alarms over presumed drops in energy production/distribution and warned of similar outages experienced a year ago during Winter Storm Uri. Thankfully this was not the case, and Texas' energy grid did not experience any issues during this small test of winter weather. What we did experience though was the effective implementation and execution of new operational protocols that were designed and passed during the 87th Regular Legislative Session to help avoid future failures on Texas' energy grid.

The most notable highlight was the improved and effective communication from the Railroad Commission, the Public Utility Commission, ERCOT, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and energy industry partners. Winter Storm Uri exposed serious flaws in communication between these groups which played a major role in the troubles experienced last February. This time, however, was a very different story. While we do need to acknowledge that the severity of the recent winter weather was nothing like Uri, this was still an ideal opportunity to put into practice the various changes that were made regarding communication and reporting between these groups so that all necessary parties would have access to vital information and could act together in an effective manner to prevent Texans losing power.

State agencies received and shared regular updates from energy industry partners on status reports, any issues that were being experienced, and what assistance may have been needed. Thankfully there were no major disruptions or other issues reported from power generators and distributors, but state agencies were ready to jump into action if any disruptions had occurred.

During the 87th Texas legislature, we mandated greater transparency and a higher level of communication from ERCOT and the Texas Public Utility Commission. What we've seen since the end of the summer months indicates

they got our message and both the companies and our state agencies have increased communication.

## Convention of States

We recently had a question from a constituent regarding Texas' position in requesting a "Convention of States", which seems to be a subject that is not as well known or whose purpose is routinely taught, so we thought we would provide a brief overview this month.

Frustration with the Federal government is frequently high, probably never more so than now, regardless of perspective. Issues such as federal term limits, fiscal responsibility, and financial stability never seem to get much traction at the federal level in Washington and many feel the time is right for a Convention of States to be called. The issue essentially is about "State's Rights". Here are some questions covering the basics of the issue.

### **What Is a "Convention of States"?**

A convention of states is **a convention called by the various state legislatures for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution**. They are given power to do this under Article V of the Constitution. Amendments proposed and ratified in the convention must be accepted by 38 states.

### **How Many States Are Needed?**

Congress is required to call a convention if at least two-thirds (**34**) of states request one and **38 states are needed to ratify** any proposed amendments. The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has made it a top priority to get 34 states to pass resolutions calling for a convention.

### **Has a Convention of States Ever Been Called?**

Despite being an element of the original Constitution, **a convention of states has never occurred in American history**, because of the enormous difficulty of getting 34 states to agree on anything.

### **When Was The Last Legislation In Texas On This?**

As recently as 2017, the Texas Legislative sessions have included a request to participate in a Convention of States. In the 85th Legislature, Governor Abbott called for a Convention of States to be one of the four (4) emergency items considered during the session. Senate Joint Resolution 2 called for applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for the limited purpose of proposing one or more amendments to the constitution to **impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and to limit the terms of office of federal officials and members of Congress**. The bill passed and was signed into law on May 11th 2017 and remains in effect unless it is rescinded by a future Texas legislature.

## **How Many States Have a Passed Legislation for the COS Application?**

There are currently 15 states:

Georgia March 6, 2014

Alaska April 19, 2014

Florida April 21, 2014

Alabama May 22, 2015

Tennessee February 4, 2016

Indiana February 29, 2016

Oklahoma April 25, 2016

Louisiana May 25, 2016

Arizona March 12, 2017

North Dakota March 24, 2017

Texas May 4, 2017

Missouri May 12, 2017

Arkansas February 14, 2019

Utah March 5, 2019

Mississippi March 27, 2019

States where the Convention of States application has passed in one chamber but not the other (all time):

New Mexico, Iowa, South Dakota, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, Wisconsin, New Hampshire. (Last week, Wisconsin and Nebraska became states #16 and 17 to pass our application for a convention to propose constitutional amendments that impose fiscal restraint on the federal government)

States considering the Convention of States resolution in 2022:

Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

## **How Would Representation Work In a Convention of States?**

Each state has one (1) delegate and a single vote in the convention. Who decides the delegate is not exactly clear and as there is no historical precedent, positions differ on whether that selection is made by the state legislatures, by Congress, or by election.

## **How Are Issues Presented or Controlled In A Convention of States?**

Each state passes their own legislation and prescribes the issues they would like to see addressed. Since each state can identify different issues, there is some question as whether or not this leaves the purpose of the convention "open ended". Some articles and scholars argue controlling the topics and issues for the convention could be difficult, right down to voting in secret, which was done in the federal convention that approved our current constitution.

We get an occasional question about representation for residents in our area and an often overlooked piece of information is our voter registration card. This month we thought we'd give a rundown of what you can find on your voter registration card. This sample card is from Collin County but represents the same configuration you should see in your home county.

**VOTER REGISTRAR**  
800-687-8546 / 972-547-1990  
2010 REDBUD BLVD., SUITE 102  
MCKINNEY, TX 75069  
www.collincountytx.gov

Secretary of State's Office  
Elections Division  
1-800-252-VOTE (8683)

## 2018 – 2019 Sample

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE**  
(Certificado de Registro Electoral)  
COLLIN COUNTY (condado de Collin)

<b>VOID (VUID)</b>	<b>Gender (Sexo)</b>	<b>Valid from (Valdo desde)</b>	
<b>Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)</b>	<b>Prec. No. (Pct. Num.)</b>	<b>thru (hasta)</b>	

**Name and Permanent Residence Address (Nombre y dirección residencial permanente)**

Voter, John Q.  
1234 Street  
City Name, Tx 75024

**Name and Mailing Address (Nombre y dirección de correo)**

John Q. Voter  
1234 Street  
City Name, Tx 75024

**X**

VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN HIS/HER NAME IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT, IF ABLE (E) Votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al punto de recibirla si puede)

Party Primary (Voto en la elección primaria del partido político nombrado arriba)

<b>CONGRESS (Congreso)</b>	<b>STATE SEN. (Sen Estado)</b>	<b>STATE REP. (Rep. Estado)</b>	<b>COM</b>	<b>JP</b>
<b>CITY (Ciudad)</b>	<b>CITY DIST (Ciudad dist.)</b>	<b>ISD (escuela)</b>	<b>ISD DIST. (escuela dist.)</b>	<b>SBOE</b>

Your specific card will have your personal identifiers and detailed representation from all levels of government. When looking for which specific political office to vote for and which voting precinct you live in, this information can be critical.

1. VUID – This is your 10-digit statewide Voter Unique Identification Number issued by the Secretary of State's office. This number remains the same as long as you are a registered voter in the State of Texas, regardless of the County in which you reside, or if you move from one County in Texas to another.
2. Precinct No. – Your voting precinct is based upon your residence address. Harris County allows voters to vote at any open Election Day Vote Center. Voters are no longer required to vote in their specific precinct.
3. Upon expiration, new certificates are automatically mailed to voters with active registrations.

4. Residence Address – Your name and address of residence as provided when you registered to vote. Your voting precinct and districts are based upon this address.

5. Please sign your certificate upon receipt.

6. When voting in a primary election, you must state the party you would like to receive a ballot from. Your selection will then be indicated in this space. This also helps ensure you will receive a ballot from the same party should a runoff election be required. If you did not vote in the initial primary, but would like to vote in a subsequent runoff, you will be able to make your party selection at that time.

7. These are the districts in which you reside:

- US Rep = United States Congress
- State Senate and State Rep = Texas Legislature
- State Board of Education
- Co. Comm = County Commissioner Precinct
- J.P. = Justice of the Peace District
- City
- Independent School District

8. Mailing Address – Address provided by you indicating where you wish to receive your mail. This address is not used in determining your precincts or in which races you will be eligible to vote.

BARCODE #1 – This is an internal tracking number for mailing purposes.

BARCODE #2 – This is an internal tracking number which should be scanned by poll workers when presented at a polling location to check-in voters.

### **Redistricting FYI**

For those who haven't seen new boundary lines from the last legislative session, or want to see how they look, these links will direct you to the various State Redistricting maps.

The districts are set out in bills enacted during the 87th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, and apply to all elections beginning with the primary and general elections in 2022. Each map allows you to pan and zoom around the map using mouse and pointer. Click and hold the mouse on a point on the map to drag it around and scroll with the mouse or use the "+" key to zoom.

H.B. 1, State House Districts ([PlanH2316](#))

S.B. 4, State Senate Districts ([PlanS2168](#))

S.B. 6, Texas Congressional Districts ([PlanC2193](#))

S.B. 7, State Board of Education Districts ([PlanE2106](#))

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## Operation Lone Star December Report

Governor Abbott recently announced that an additional \$38 million would be allotted to Operation Lone Star. During the press conference, the governor stated that uncontrolled illegal immigration has resulted in more than 1 million people being apprehended. Abbott said people aren't only illegally immigrating from Mexico but are using the Texas border to get in from several countries across the globe, including China and Russia.

The DPS [Border Wall and Operation Lone Star Summary Page is here](#)





## ESD 11 Update - By Jerry Thomas

“I see your ambulances everywhere!”

As the Community Engagement Manager, I have the privilege of interacting with individuals, groups, and different organizations on a very routine basis. I can attest I hear this repeatedly from people I encounter.

ESD 11 Update: The system has been extremely busy in December. Current monthly statistics,

2022 is off to a very busy start. Our call volume has continued to climb.

Total Incidents - 5457

Patient Transports – 3124

The ESD just completed its 3<sup>rd</sup> new hire orientation, adding 22 employees.

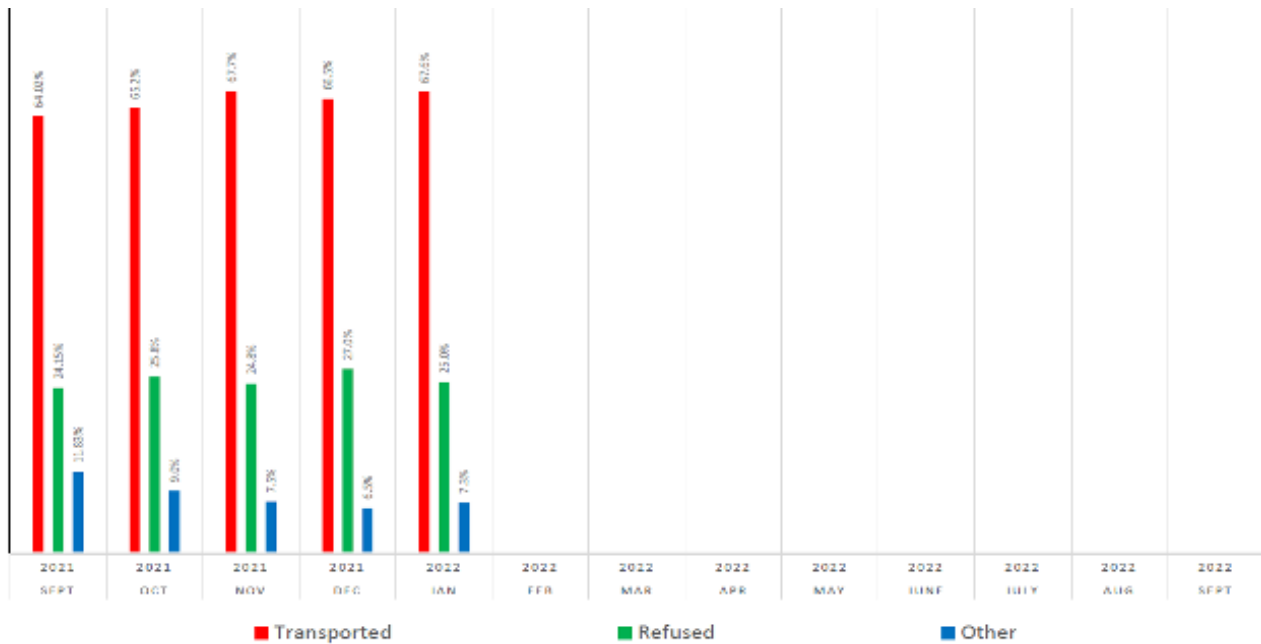
As indicated in the chart below, did you know that an ambulance does not always transport a patient when they respond to 911 calls? Around 25% of the time, the patient decides they do not wish to be transported to the Emergency Department. A typical example is motor vehicle accidents in which an ambulance response occurs, and the injured party does not want an ambulance. Other times someone calls 911, requests an ambulance, and then decides to take their vehicle to the Emergency Department. And that’s okay! This is often the case when a spouse or loved one calls 911 instead of the actual patient. The term we use for these cases is “Refusal.” In essence, the patient is “refusing” transport via ambulance. To refuse transportation, a patient must have legal authority, mental capacity, and the ability to understand the risks along with that decision. This decision-making process is part of what makes each 911 call unique. The uniqueness makes the profession ever-changing and rewarding for our staff.

Jerry Thomas

Community Engagement Manager

If you are interested in learning more about ESD 11 or receiving a tour of the operation, please contact Jerry at 281.524.7660 or [jerry.thomas@esd11.com](mailto:jerry.thomas@esd11.com).





Month:	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Year:	2021	2021	2021	2021	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
Transported	64.02%	65.2%	67.7%	66.5%	67.6%								
Refused	24.15%	25.8%	24.8%	27.0%	25.0%								
Other	11.83%	9.0%	7.5%	6.5%	7.3%								

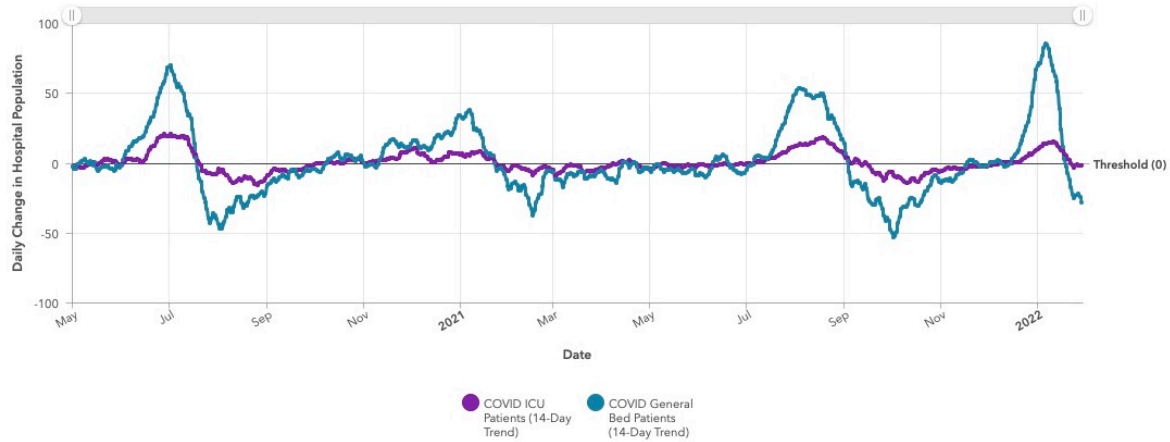
[Visit our ESD 11 Website](#)

## COVID STATS & INFO

### COVID In Harris County

The chart above provides a reflection of the trend for new COVID-19 cases reported for all of Harris County. The one below is a trend chart for hospitalization in Harris County.

## Hospital Population Trend



Indicator: 14-day flat or decreasing trend in COVID-19 hospital population in Harris County.

Threshold: 0 (same threshold Red > Orange > Yellow)

Data Updated: 2022-01-30

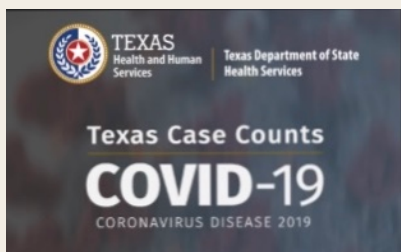
Data Source: SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC)\*

\*Data is for Harris County including City of Houston.

*Since we have been living with the COVID Pandemic for quite some time and this information is readily available from a variety of sources, we will be reducing our coverage of the topic for the newsletter, unless the situation changes.*

These charts can be found at the Harris County COVID Dashboard [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org)

**Harris County's threat level is currently RED.- Stay Home, unless fully vaccinated.** Harris County's Current positivity rate is 25.9% over the last 14 day period. The latest increase, likely due to the Omicron Variant. At present, over 66.5% of Harris County's population have been vaccinated with at least one dose. 57% are now fully vaccinated. Almost 81% of people older than 12 years of age have received at least some vaccination and those older than 65 make up the largest vaccination percentage group. (Source - [New York Times](#))



## Texas COVID Cases Statewide

To see charts reflecting details on Covid and vaccination activity follow this link to the [Texas Covid Dashboard](#)

## COVID VIRUS & VACCINES IN TEXAS

Choosing vaccinations are and should always be a personal and individual choice, though data seems to indicate a significantly reduced mortality rate for those who are vaccinated. While numbers continue to improve across the state, we encourage you to take the steps necessary to make your family and

home safe. Please make an informed choice for you and your family in conjunction with your family medical professionals and do your best to avoid being a contributor to the ongoing challenges we face fighting the spread of COVID. With new variants, there are lots of things to consider when it comes to your health.

To find a vaccine distribution site near you, the state has created this map:

[COVID Vaccine Provider Map](#)

If you are in the eligible tier, to find doses available in your area, check this link:

[Vaccine Dose Availability Map:](#)

If you need to find a testing site near you, follow this link:

[COVID Testing Locations](#)

## 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>

## 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.

## City of Houston

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](#)

## Around The District

### Our Schools and COVID

The Omicron Variant is working its way through our community as well as our schools. The percentage of Texas students with Covid is 4.3% out of the over 5 million enrolled students. Those cases have increased in the past few weeks with the variant, so we are clearly being challenged to control the spread of the virus among children.

Our School Districts are closely monitoring COVID cases in the staff and student population. You can see the COVID Campus Dashboards for each of our area districts here:

[Klein ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

[Cy-Fair ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

[Tomball ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

[Spring ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

COVID statistics in Texas Public Schools may be found here:

[TEA School Campus COVID Link](#)

Scroll down on that site and you can get Excel reports that are searchable by school district or campus.

## **In The District**

### **Klein High Air Force JROTC First in Texas for Space Force Conversion**



Community members, esteemed military guests, students, parents, and local dignitaries gathered at Klein High School this morning for the official JROTC Space Force conversion ceremony.

Klein High's Space Force JROTC is one of only 10 units across the Nation and the only unit from Texas chosen to spearhead this conversion to the newest branch of the armed services.

The room was full of joy as the school's JROTC unit participated in the official process for converting from an Air Force JROTC unit to a Space Force JROTC unit.

"It's an absolute honor to celebrate this momentous occasion and bear witness to this beautiful display of patriotism," Klein ISD Superintendent Dr. Jenny McGown said. "Klein ISD has a longstanding tradition of excellence and innovation in education, and Klein High's JROTC unit being tapped as the first and only Space Force program in Texas is one of the reasons why our district is so remarkable."

Klein High Senior Aerospace Science Instructor Lt. Col. Timothy Lambert expressed his gratitude and feelings surrounding the conversion.

"I'm so proud of the cadets today," Lt. Col. Lambert said. "It's been a culmination of events for the students to be recognized and it's a great opportunity for them to see how their hard work and dedication is paying off for all they do."

See the full article at [Klein ISD's Website](#)

## Honorary Deputy Devarjaye Daniel

I was privileged to participate in the recognition of 10 year Devarjaye Daniel becoming an honorary member of the Klein ISD Police Department. Klein Police Chief David Kimberly was on hand as well as Klein ISD Superintendent Dr. Jenny McGown, Judge Lincoln Goodwin, and representatives of the Precinct 4 Constable's Office.

The 10-year-old cancer patient, has become an honorary police officer for dozens of law enforcement agencies across the state, with the wish of being sworn in by 100 agencies.

I was honored to give Deputy Devarjaye a Resolution from the Texas House of Representatives and a Texas flag flown over the capitol in acknowledgement of his courageous fight. He is truly an inspiration.



Cypress Creek F.A.C.E. and Centrum Arts



The Greatest Love of All

## **A Tribute to Whitney Houston starring Belinda Davids**

**Saturday, February 19, 2022.**

(This performance only will be at the Geiger PAC.)

**16713 Ella Blvd., Houston 77090**

[Website & Tickets](#)

Cypress Creek F.A.C.E. presents world class concerts and entertainment right here in our community. Be sure and look at their website and performance schedule. <https://cypresscreekface.org/performances/>

Be sure and check out the Star Lit! Concert Series Lineup for the remainder of the 2021-2022 season. Still on the schedule for the remainder of the season schedule:

- [Celtic Angels Ireland](#) – Saturday, March 26, 2022
- 
- [Forever Motown](#) – Saturday, May 14, 2022

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### Star Lit! Concert Series

The Free Children's Series performances are at 11:00 a.m. on four Saturdays during the 2021-2022 season. The performances are at Harris County Precinct 4's Mangum-Howell Community Center, 2500 Frick Rd. (inside Doss Park).

- [Voices from the Past](#) presents "Rhythm King" – 11 a.m., Saturday, February 12, 2022
- [Houston Grand Opera's Opera to Go!](#) presents "The Barber of Seville in Texas" (Bilingual) – 11 a.m., Saturday, April 23, 2022
- 

The Free Children's Series is underwritten by The Centrum Arts League.

### Free Children's Series

***Pearl Fincher  
Museum of fine  
Arts***

**Program Offerings**



The "Pearl" has so much more than just the physical gallery to offer the community. Their programs expand to include at-home instruction and virtual tours of exhibits. Be sure and check out those that interest you.



### Upcoming Exhibitions

## Pearl Virtual Tour Programs

### VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEOS

Take a stroll through our galleries from the comfort of your own home!  
Enjoy our newest Virtual Tour

**Vistas & Voyages**, Photographer Don Pine, narrator

[Click for Virtual Tour Video:](#)

**The John Cooper School: Fused Glass Fish**

[Click for Virtual Tour Video:](#)

**Stitched: Contemporary Quilt Art from the International Quilt Festival Collection**

[Part 1 Tour](#) • [Part 2 Tour](#) • [Part 3 Tour](#) • [Part 4 Tour](#)

**Lesley Humphrey: Saved by a Horse**

[Click for Virtual Tour Video](#)

## Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce

**Transportation and Mobility  
Committee**

2nd Tuesday of each month

Meeting Location:

## Greater Tomball Area



Chamber of Commerce

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 Website

### Harris County Pct 4 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.



Public Safety Forum Sign Up Link

Visit our House of Representative Website:

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# Contact Us

Capitol Office Phone - 512-463-0496

District Office Phone - 281-251-0194

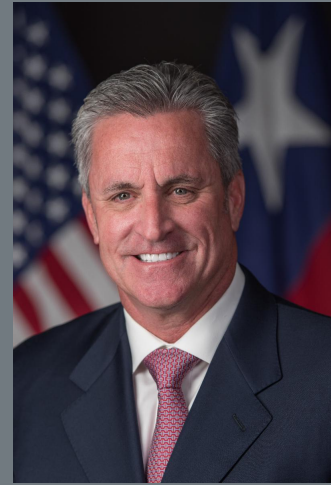
District Office Address - 6630 Cypresswood Dr #150

Spring, Tx 77379

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[Email Ron](#)

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Kelly Peterson  
District Director  
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[Email Sam](#)



State Rep Sam Harless | P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768

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