



Sam Harless

State Representative District 126

April 2023 Newsletter

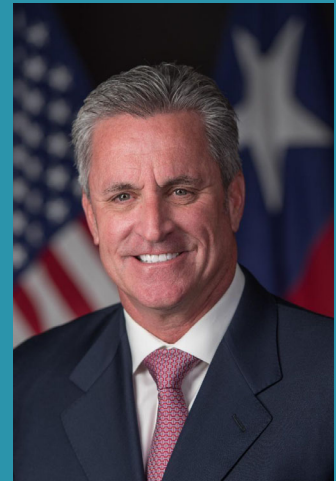


Texas House of Representatives



**Texas
House District
126**

**News
and Information**



88th Session

We are closing in on the last few weeks of truly productive activity for most of our committees in the Texas House. There has truly been an impact of the increased volume of bills this session and many of the committees are seeing long agendas and backlogs of bills that may never get a hearing. The 8th of May is the last day for committees to report on House Bills before sending them on to a calendar for consideration on the floor.

The two calendar committees have their deadlines to set final calendars with the daily Calendar Committee being required to distribute its final calendar for House bills and resolutions on May 9th and the Local and Consent Calendar having to distribute their final calendar for House bills on May 10th.

Once these calendars have been created and distributed the last day for the House to consider House bills will be May 11 and all House bills must be voted out of the House on May 12.

After the passage of these deadlines for House bills there will be a week of normal operations and hearings for Senate bills that have been referred to the House until similar deadlines are reached for Senate bills in the House.

The last day for committees to report on Senate bills before sending them to the calendar committees will be May 20th and the House must consider and cast their final vote for these bills on May 23rd and 24th respectively.

Following these floor calendar deadlines there will be a few additional days of legislative housekeeping for the House and Senate to come to agreements on bills that were passed out of both chambers but experienced changes along the way.

The last day of session (Sine Die) will be Monday, May 29th.

For those interested in a visual representation of these deadlines, the Legislative Research Library has provided a calendar outlining these various deadlines:

<https://www.lrl.texas.gov/scanned/calendars/DeadlineActionCalendar88.pdf>

A Look At a Couple Of The 88th Session's Legislative Priorities

Property Taxes & Appraisal Caps

The House and the Senate are both attacking this legislative priority, albeit from different perspectives, or different directions. According to news reports, the House approach, which includes **House Bill 2** by Rep. Morgan Meyer would provide considerable tax relief. By injecting \$12 billion of the current budget surplus into school districts, it would lower property taxes on homes and businesses. Another aspect of the bill would change the "appraisal cap" from 10% to 5% and increase the eligibility of other types of businesses. Their objective is to reduce property owners concerns about rampant growth in property appraisals that many have seen in recent years. The projections for the average property owner in the House version are \$625 a year for 2025 rates. **CSHJR 1/CCSHB 2** imposes a 5% limit on the increase in taxable value of all real property.

The Texas Senate in **SB 3**, **SB 4**, and **SB 5** approach the property tax reduction through the property tax exemption angle. They feel by increasing the average exemption amount from \$40 thousand to \$70 thousand it will yield a greater annual savings for homeowners. The projections for the average property owner in the Senate version are \$945 a year for 2025 rates. The provisions in Senate Bill CSJR 5 exempts the first \$25 thousand of tangible personal property and add a franchise tax credit up to 20% of the amount of taxes paid on inventory. Their \$16 billion dollar package would triple senior's homestead exemptions.

Each of the approaches deal with "compression", but at different rates. As the session winds down, the two chambers will have to find ways to compromise or they risk these delays causing these bills to die.

School Safety

School safety has been a priority issue the last several session and it was particularly heightened after the shooting in Uvalde last May. This session there are a couple of bill that address those concerns through new legislation.

House Bill 3 (Burrows) - HB 3 invests \$15 thousand dollars per student into campus safety in every public school to enhance security. It also provides state oversight over implementation of new safety rules and would require at least one armed security employee for each campus. The **bill analysis** indicates that the state would appropriate a greater amount for the school safety allotment and specifies that, in using the allotment funds to provide security for the district, a district may use the funds to employ persons other than district peace officers, private security officers, and school marshals that are permitted by law to carry a weapon and authorized by the district's board of trustees to do so on school campus grounds.

House Bill 13 (King) - Requires school employees to receive additional mental health first aid training, provides for an increase in the School Safety Allotment, enhances threat assessments, and requires schools include active shooter training matrix in their multi-hazard emergency operations plan. HB 13 also establishes a grant program to assist public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools with any cost identified by a district or school as necessary for enhancing the infrastructure of each district or school campus to meet TEA safety standards. This bill increases the school safety allotment to \$100 per student and devotes more resources to mental and behavior health.

Public School Funding

While the education savings account issue plays out elsewhere, the Texas House has been working on issues like investing more into refining the public school finance system, so students and educators get the resources they need.

House Bill 100 (King) - HB 100 improves financial certainty for school districts in calculating budgets, by shifting to enrollment based systems for most allotments. This bill invests \$4.5 billion into the public

school finance system and requires districts to devote half of those funds to educator and staff salaries. Under HB 100 special education funding would be expanded across the state and the bill also increases the transportation allotment, lessening the burden districts have when paying for fuel and maintenance on their fleets.

Teachers Pay / Pensions

House Bill 11 (Dutton) - We know that a high-quality education starts with having high-quality educators. HB 11 seeks to address the critical shortage of quality teachers in Texas by proposing significant reforms to improve the recruitment, retention, and preparation of Texas educators. It does this by allocating over \$500 million for recruitment and retention strategies, provides teacher's children with access to free public school pre-K, and waives all teacher and certification fees for any teacher entering the field.

Senate Bill 10 (Huffman) - Teachers have not had a cost of living adjustments or "COLA" in ten years and even then it did not affect those retiring after 2004. Recruiting and maintaining teachers and faculty is becoming increasingly difficult with low entry level salaries and slow growing pension rates that often fail to keep up with the cost of inflation. Teachers are doubly challenged because of the prohibition on participating in the federal Social Security Program, even if their spouse made contributions, due to the Windfall Elimination Act.

Representative Harless was proud to co-author Senate Bill 10 which requires TRS, for each fiscal year beginning with the 2029 fiscal year, to make a cost-of-living adjustment payable to eligible TRS participants receiving a retirement or death benefit. The full bill analysis can be found [here](#).

Senate Bill 9 (Creighton) has been received from the Senate and is now in the House, referred to the Public Education Committee. S.B. 9 establishes the Texas Teacher Residency Partnership Program so that student teachers, much like medical doctors, can spend more time in the classroom honing their skills alongside an mentor teacher. S.B. 9 protects teacher time by providing supports that seek to limit how much time a teacher spends outside of their assigned work calendar. Workloads may be further reduced through innovative strategic staffing and funding methods already implemented in other school districts. The full bill analysis can be found [here](#).

Select Committee on Public Healthcare Reform

The Public Healthcare Reform Committee has met a few times and has heard several high profile bills. Some of them reflected priorities and recommendations from our committee report during the interim from last year. We currently have 68 bills assigned to this committee, 16 of those have been passed out of committee. Below are a few of the more significant bills voted out of committee.

HB 999, by Rep. Price, prohibits copay accumulators, ensuring any prescription drug coupons or other financial assistance collected on behalf of a patient gets credited to their deductible, copay, or out-of-pocket maximum. HB 999 is out of the House and has been received in the Senate, awaiting committee referral.

HB 12, by Rep. Rose, extends postpartum Medicaid coverage for women in Texas to 12 months, reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and improving health outcomes for mothers and babies. Rep. Harless was a co-author on this bill. It previously passed the House during the last session but was changed in the Senate to 6 months. The bill has passed out of the House again and is now in the Senate awaiting committee assignment.

HB 1599, by Rep. Bucy, creates an express lane eligibility option for public assistance programs such as Medicaid and SNAP by using already verified eligibility information from another program, streamlining the process for getting Texans the services they need. This bill has passed out of the House again and has been in the Senate since April 5th awaiting committee assignment.

HB 2556 by Rep. Oliverson, helps address health care workforce shortage challenges in Texas by allowing medical school graduates to practice medicine with a limited license under the supervision of a licensed physician. Rep. Harless is a joint author on this bill and it has passed the House and is in the Senate, referred to the Health & Human Service Committee.

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. Rep. Harless also joint authored this bill which is also now in the Senate in the Health & Human Service Committee.

HB 25 by Talarico, creates a prescription drug importation program allowing the importation of prescription drugs from Canada that would generate cost savings for consumers. Rep. Harless co-authored this bill which has now passed out of the House and is in the Senate awaiting referral to a committee.

OUR BILLS ON THE MOVE

House Bill 765/SB 386 (Sen Hall - identical) - Creates a presumption when a prosecution involves capital murder committed against a uniformed peace officer or fireman. As is a common theme for some of our criminal justice bills, the backlog volume affects getting a hearing and in this case the senate version is father along and we are asking the committee Chairman to give it a hearing to substitute the senate version.

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 the House and is currently in the Senate with a hearing scheduled for May 2nd.

HB 884/SB 602 (Birdwell - Identical) - 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 would allow Border Patrol Officers that encounter felony offenses such as weapons, drugs, or human trafficking they would have the authority to file their own charges without calling another local agency to file on their behalf. Our bill has been through committee and is awaiting a date for full consideration of the House.

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.

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 has made it through the House and is currently in the Senate awaiting assignment to a committee and a hearing date.

House Bill 2648 - This legislation allows the City of Houston to use funds from Hotel Occupancy Tax to improve and remodel the George R Brown Convention Center and its surrounding infrastructure. This will allow Houston to remain competitive in the major convention market.

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 has been the focus of a few community groups seeking more control over the destiny of project in our watershed. The bill is out of committee and is on the calendar for a May 2nd vote by the full House membership.

Six of our fifteen bills have been referred to a committee but will likely never get a hearing, due to time constraints for this session. Because a number of our bills involve changing or adding criminal statutes, four of those are in one committee, the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, which has a bill volume of 329 assigned bills and there just won't be enough hearings to get them all done. Even after splitting off gun, ammunition, and weapons related bills into the Select Committee on Community Safety, which has 139 bills, there aren't enough weeks for hearings to get to them all.

If you would like to follow or research bills or legislative actions, please use the tools available at 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.

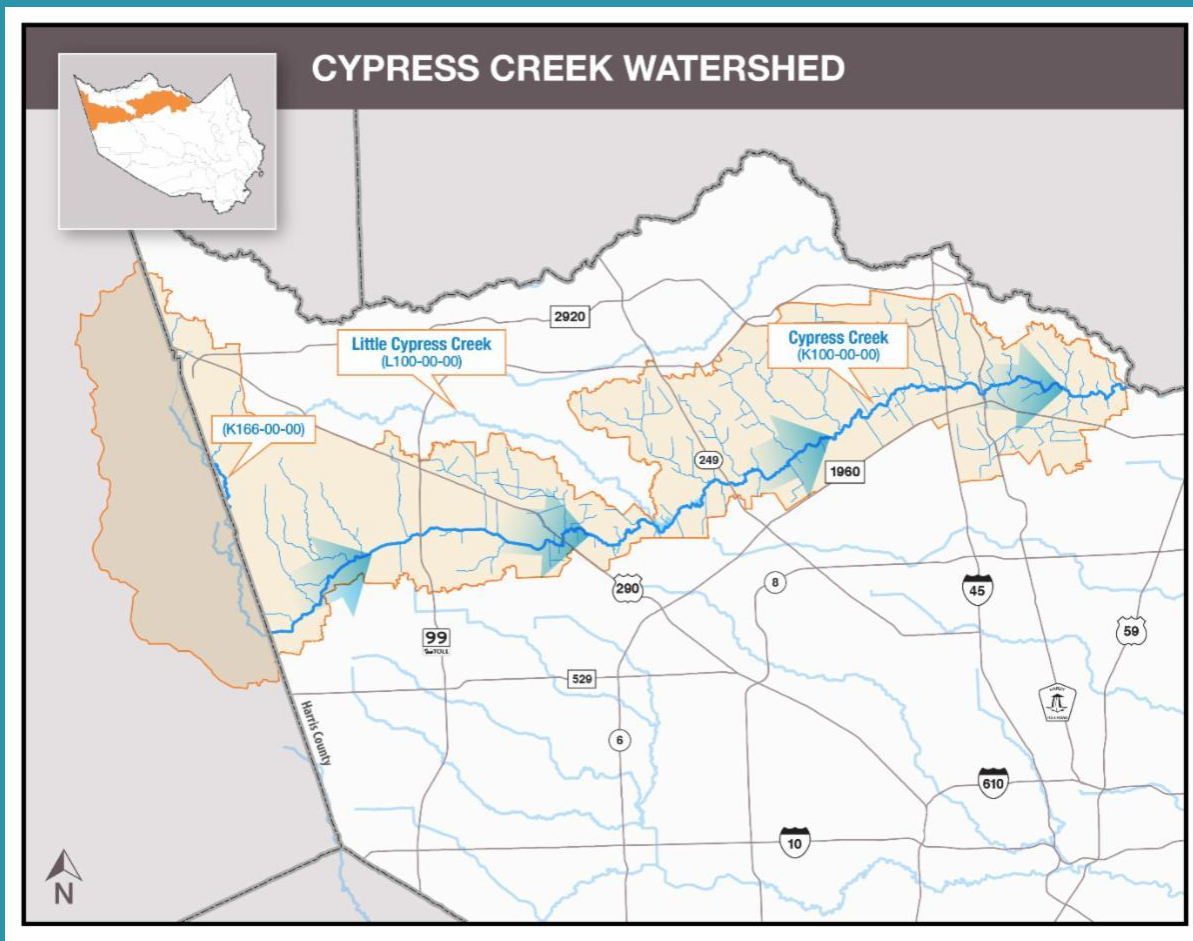
Cypress Creek Drainage Improvement District

Progress Report

After months of work with representatives from the Cypress Creek Flooding Task Force and the Cypress Creek Flood Coalition and the Texas Legislative Council, we have now had a hearing on **House Bill 5334**. This effort began through an interest by the community to increase awareness on flood mitigation projects and increase involvement and input directly from our area to create the Cypress Creek Drainage Improvement District

HB 5334 was heard and reported favorably by the committee and is now awaiting a date on the Local and Consent Calendar where it will be considered by the full membership before going to the Senate. The only opposition on the bill was submitted by a representative of the North Harris County Regional Water Authority.

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

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

Pearl Fincher Museum

LITTLE ART HISTORIANS

Preschool ages 3-5

WEDNESDAYS, 10:00-10:45AM

INSTRUCTOR: BROOKE SILVA

REGISTER MONTHLY \$30/MONTH, BEGINS JANUARY 2023

Art History for preschoolers! Each week we will learn about a new artist and create fun projects inspired by them.

Parents and guardians will work with their child while learning how the project strengthens developmental skills. Each week you receive a take-home curriculum guide on what we learned!



See January's artists and register at pearlufa.org

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



Michael Cavanaugh Tickets

The Music of Billy Joel and Elton John features the greatest hits of these two great rock piano legends. Songs include: Piano Man, Rocket Man, Bennie and the Jets, Movin' Out, I'm Still Standing, My Life, and many more. Michael Cavanaugh was handpicked by Billy Joel to star in the hit Broadway musical Movin' Out. Michael received both Tony and Grammy nominations in the lead role. Billboard calls him the "New Voice of the American Rock and Roll Songbook", Broadway World referred to Cavanaugh as "The New Piano Man", Reuters named Cavanaugh Entertainer of the Year.

Performance Location: The Centrum, 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, Texas 77379

Date & Time: 8:00 p.m., Saturday, May 20, 2023

Tickets: \$45, \$55, \$65 & \$75

Season Ticket Sales: On Sale Now

Single Ticket Sales: 9am, Monday, August 2, 2021

Star-Lit Series Concerts

Michael Cavanaugh -- The Music of Elton John and/or Billy Joel – 8pm, Saturday, May 20, 2023

Promenade Series Concerts

Monarch Chamber Players – April 11, 2023

Matthew Roitstein, flute – May 9, 2023

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

[Promenade Series Season Tickets](#)

Texas Master Chorale

[Master Chorale Webpage](#)

Founded in 1986, the Texas Master Chorale is a mixed choral ensemble of 100 auditioned singers. Their sponsors and fundraisers support choir activities throughout the community. We strive for excellence in performing a variety of choral masterworks from classical to contemporary and from sacred to secular.

The Master Chorale has their next performance honoring Sharon and Fred Goldsberry at the Junior League. Look for their next performance "Let's Fiesta" on May 5th.

SAVE THE DATE!

**TEXAS
MASTER CHORALE
Guild
GALA**

Honoring
Sharon & Fred
Goldsberry

**CRESCENDO 2023:
LET'S FIESTA**

MAY 5, 2023

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON

COMPLIMENTARY LIMOUSINE BUS PROVIDED



[Visit our Website](#)

ESD 9 Monthly News



April 2023

EMS - 2652

Fire - 642

Total - 3294

THIS WEEK IS NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

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.
- 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.

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

ESD 9 - Cy-Fair Fire Dept

ESD 11 Monthly News



ESD 11 Update
By - Brandi King
Director of People Operations

Brandi King has been assigned the responsibilities for monthly updates for ESD 11.
 Her Contact Information is :
 Phone 281-524-7656
 Email: brandi.king@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

Grand Rounds

We recently hosted a successful "Grand Rounds" event. The event brought together esteemed doctors and surgeons from our receiving healthcare facilities, along with our skilled ESD 11 medics, for case reviews on high-priority incidents. The collaboration between our medics and our receiving partners is exemplary! We take great pride in the professionalism and expertise demonstrated by our team and our valued receiving partners. Together, we remain steadfast in our

pursuit of delivering the highest quality care to our community!

Ross Elementary School STEM Night

Last week, EMT Kristin Tuck had the pleasure of attending STEM night at Ross Elementary. She was thrilled to see the excitement and fascination in the kids' eyes as they got to explore an ambulance up close. Kristin believes that educating young children about ambulances is essential to dispel any fear they may have. She said, "There is nothing like getting to watch the excitement in the kids' eyes and fascination at seeing an ambulance. The best part of it is letting young children know that ambulances are not a scary place." Thank you, Kristin, for your dedication to community outreach and spreading awareness about the important role of EMS in our community!

Cody Stephens Foundation

An amazing collaboration between Harris County ESD 11 and the Cody Stephen's Foundation! Last weekend, we teamed up to provide free heart screenings to students ages 11-25, regardless of their school, sport, or level of play. Thanks to the generosity of the Cody Stephen's Foundation sponsors, we were able to offer this life-saving service at no cost.

To learn more about the foundation and their mission, visit www.codystephensfoundation.org. We're proud to have partnered with them to protect the young hearts of Harris County!

[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

WE ARE HIRING: We are currently accepting applications for open Full-Time Salaried and Hourly Firefighter Positions. You can find the full job descriptions on the homepage of our website at www.cypresscreekfire.com.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: March 2023:

Fire: 94

EMS: 94 Total: 188 Average Response Time: 05:53

2023 Year to Date: (01/01/2023 – 03/31/2023)

Fire: 282 EMS: 278

Total: 560 Average Response Time: 05:52

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Join us at the Old Navy Kids Safety Event on May 13, 2023, from 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm! The event is open to the public and will be held at the Tomball Crossing Old Navy at 22509 Tomball Parkway. 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

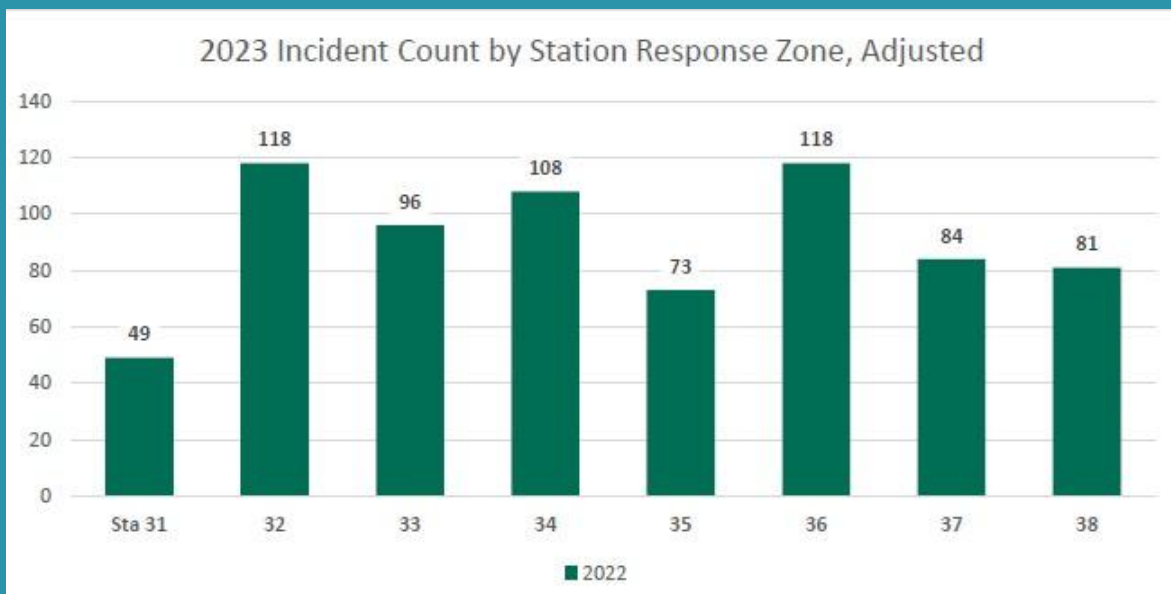


Harris County ESD 16 is the direct service provider for fire protection and rescue services in the Klein area, operating as Klein Fire Department.

Ja'Milla Lomas - Public Information Officer
Klein Fire Department - Email: jlomas@hcesd16.org

HCESD 16 News

The trend in increased calls continued during the first quarter, with Klein Fire Department responding to a total of 326 dispatched incidents in March. Of those incidents, 31 were fire-related, 126 were rescue and/or EMS incidents, 50 were false alarms, and 119 fell in the "other" category which can include service, good intent, hazardous conditions, and special incident calls. Stations 32 (18%), 33 (21%) and 34 (14%) remain the top three responders for the year so far.



KFD was happy to take possession of our brand-new Tanker 30 in late March. Training on our newest apparatus from Pierce and Siddons-Martin Emergency Group took place in April and our crews are proud to have it in our service. Tanker 30 is a custom 60" cab, 500hp engine that holds 3,000 gallons of water. It will make fighting fires in areas with scarce water sources more efficient, improving service to our families.

Our Klein Community means everything to us. We were lucky to have been invited to interact with and participate in numerous community events in March and April. On Good Friday, one of our families was the lucky winner of the Brill Elementary PTO Auction and got the chance to spend the day with our crew at Station 33. Along with receiving an extensive tour, the family and crew got to know each other over puzzles and games, a special lunch prepared by the crew, and hose "training". The Northwest Bible Church school group asked our Station 37 to help them with the (in)famous egg drop science experiment. Gravity prevailed but science was definitely advanced.

The Girl Scouts were a huge boon to our crews at the end of the month. Their famed cookie sales were extraordinary this season, yielding more than 11,000 boxes sold within their Klein-Spring-Tomball territory. And thanks to their Cookies for Heroes program, where for every \$5 a box of cookies is set aside for first responders, all of our Klein first responding crews were gifted 600 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies!

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 or visit www.HCESD16.org / 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](#)

Summer Time

Summer Time Water Safety

Now that the heat is here and swimming pool usage will soon be in full swing, CESD would like to remind everyone to be careful in and around bodies of water. **DON'T TAKE WATER SAFETY FOR GRANTED!**

Drowning is a major public health issue that can be prevented.

- More children ages 1–4 die from drowning than any other cause of death except birth defects.
- Drowning happens in seconds and is **often silent**.
- Drowning can happen to anyone, any time there is access to water.

You can prevent drowning.

Learn basic swimming and water safety skills

Formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning. Children who have had swimming lessons still need close and constant supervision when in or around water.

Supervise closely

Designate a responsible adult to supervise closely and constantly when children are in or near water (including bathtubs). You can assign a specific adult to supervise each child when they have access to water. Adults watching kids in or near water should avoid distracting activities like reading, using the phone, and consuming alcohol or drugs, because drowning happens quickly and quietly.

Wear a life jacket

Life jackets reduce the risk of drowning while boating for people of all ages and swimming abilities. Life jackets should be used by children for all activities while in and around natural water. Life jackets can also be used by weaker swimmers of all ages in and around natural water and swimming pools. Do not rely on air-filled or foam toys, as these are not safety devices.

Learn CPR

Your CPR skills could save someone’s life in the time it takes for paramedics to arrive. Many organizations such as [American Red Cross](#) and [American Heart Association](#) offer CPR training courses, both online and in-person.

Avoid alcohol

Avoid drinking alcohol before or during swimming, boating, or other water activities. Do not drink alcohol while supervising children. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance, and coordination.

Use the buddy system

Always swim with a buddy. Choose swimming sites that have lifeguards when possible. The buddy system is especially beneficial for people with seizure disorders or other medical conditions that increase their risk of drowning.

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

Average Emergency Calls response time: 4:51 average for March

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."

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 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](#)



Tomball ISD Website

[COVID Stats & Info For Harris County](#)

COVID has been a part of all our 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 reemerges at a later date.

Charts and more information on Covid can be found on the Harris County COVID Dashboard at www.readyharris.org

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.](#)

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

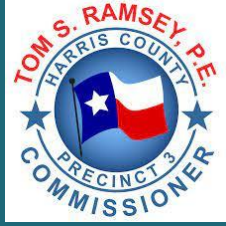
CDC- Center for Disease Control: [CDC Coronavirus](#)

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](#)



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

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 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

CY-FAIR HOUSTON
Chamber of Commerce

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 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.

Public Safety Forum Signup

Visit our House of Representatives Website

The Texas House of Representatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. This newsletter is available in alternate forms upon request. **Please call 1-800-241-1163.**

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