



# *Sam Harless*

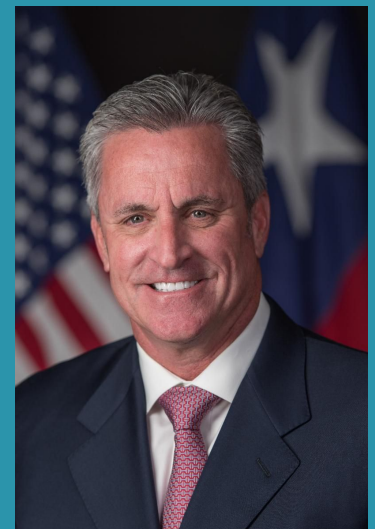
State Representative District 126  
July 2024 Newsletter



*Texas House of Representatives*



Texas  
House District  
126  
  
News  
and Information



# Hurricane Beryl - A Disaster In The Making

Hurricane Beryl rolled into Houston as a Category 1 hurricane on July 8th with 90 mile per hour winds that generated 16 tornados and left at least 36 dead behind in its wake. It was the smallest of hurricanes, but the eye slammed into much of Harris County creating more damage and destruction than expected for a storm of its size. Our area was still reeling from the "derecho" event on May 16th with wind gusts exceeding 65 mph that spawned a tornado in Cypress and left more than a million people suffering the Texas heat with power outages. Some damages from that event had not been repaired when Beryl struck.

These more damaging storms seem to be coming with increasing intensity and increasing frequency. Our area along the Gulf Coast is no stranger to storms and hurricanes. Anyone who has lived here very long has begun to measure their tenure based on the many floods and hurricane events they have survived. What many of us expected was that the companies that distribute and provide power and utilities to our area had properly responded to the direction of the state legislature to add "resiliency" and "dependence" to the infrastructure. Power outages topped 2 million people in the Houston area even days after the hurricane had departed. Transformers, power lines and poles were down everywhere and distribution towers lay mangled through the region. Countless trees lay on houses and power lines dramatically impacting the process and timelines for power restoration for tens of thousands of people even ten days after the storm. Estimates are that 80% of downed power lines were due to vegetation management, one of the critical responsibilities for the area's power distribution provider.

CenterPoint, to their credit, activated their mutual assistance agreement, which brought in numerous crews from other states to augment their own field personnel. Our residents saw crews from Alabama, Indiana, Ohio and more working diligently to respond to outages across the area. Residents were calling CenterPoint to report outages, when cell or phone service was available and many were using Outage Tracker and other tools available from CenterPoint to determine when power would be, or was, restored. What many found was inaccurate and unreliable information, damaging the trust and confidence customers had in when power would be restored. Many people began to use the Whataburger App as a replacement, since their app identified store locations that had power and were open.

In the days following the storm, our Facebook page exploded with activity as hundreds of people pleaded for us to report their power outages and request assistance. Our posts reached over 375,000 people and engaged over 38,000 when many didn't have electricity or internet service. In dozens of posts we provided information on debris management, disaster resources, coordination of food drives and more. I was able to get out in the community night and day, checking on people and communicating their input and frustration to the Public Utility Commission, State Leadership, and directly to CenterPoint executives. I felt their disappointment and understand that many suffered irreparable loss of property, many more had their food supply damaged or destroyed after many days without power.

But, for some, the question that remains is what happens next? What are next steps for dealing with CenterPoint and their preparation for and response to disasters? What happens next? I assure you, there will be a lot of eyes and continued attention on these issues. So, let's address the near term and future activities for just the rest of this year, dealing with those issues.

## Public Utility Commissioner Investigation

Texas Governor Gregg Abbott almost immediately called on the PUC to initiate an investigation on CenterPoint's preparation and response to Hurricane Beryl. (See Gov. Abbott's letter to PUC Director [here](#).) PUC Chairman Thomas Gleeson said in news reports that "CenterPoint has to do better. I cannot urge this enough. I have tried to stress with their executives that CenterPoint has to have a sense of urgency."

That process began with a public hearing on July 25th under Project [#56793](#) where input from CenterPoint executives and the public were heard. The investigation ordered by the Governor will continue and will culminate in a report by the PUC providing findings and recommendations for "long-

continue and will culminate in a report by the PUC providing findings and recommendations for "long term fixes" to the state legislature, prior to the beginning of the next legislative session. That report is due before December 1st. Chairman Gleeson believes the PUC can bring short-term fixes to Gov. Greg Abbott that can be implemented during this year's hurricane season.

### Texas House of Representative Hearings

The State Affairs Committee, chaired by Representative Todd Hunter held a public hearing at the Capitol on July 31st and Chairman Hunter invited me to participate. See agenda [here](#). Along with the questioning of the CenterPoint CEO, an item of particular interest was [HB 2555](#) which relates to transmission and distribution system resiliency planning, as well as cost recovery for electric utilities. Other hearings scheduled for the remainder of the interim could include disaster related inquiries as well.

I was able to speak directly to the CenterPoint Energy CEO, and hammer home some of the questions and concerns many of you have expressed about electrical restoration failures after Hurricane Beryl. We covered the restoration map misinformation, training for out of state crews, vegetation management, and much more and made clear that our constituents were not happy with the delays in getting crews to our area.

I spoke on the affects that most of you felt with the extended power loss, damage to your property, loss of your food supplies, and emotional stress from those concerns. It was good to hear that CenterPoint knows they must do better.

To be fair, CenterPoint has some answers for the limitations they operate under, such as state requirements for leasing, rather than buying mobile generation. They also had major vegetation management problems from trees on properties outside of their own easement. A number of these issues and the outcome of the report from this committee will likely turn into proposed legislation for the upcoming session.

### Texas Senate

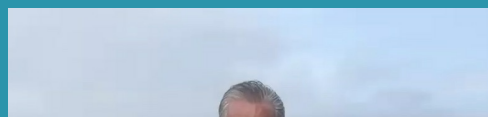
The Lt. Governor created a Special Committee on Hurricane & Tropical Storm Preparation, Recovery , & Electric, chaired by Senator Charles Schwertner, which held a public hearing on July 29th at the Capitol to take public testimony and review the state and electric utility companies' preparedness and response to hurricanes and tropical storms. In speaking directly with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, I know he understands much of the frustration felt by our area residents. See their committee agenda [here](#).

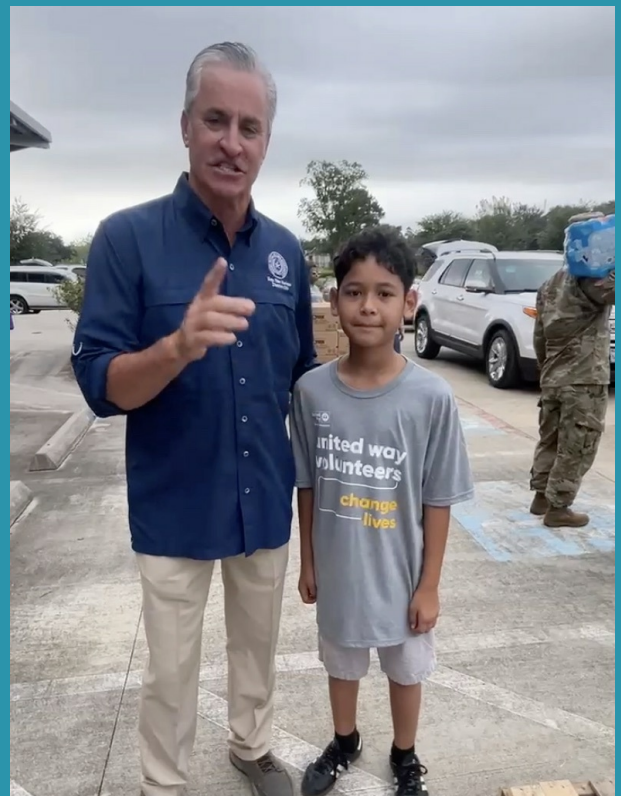
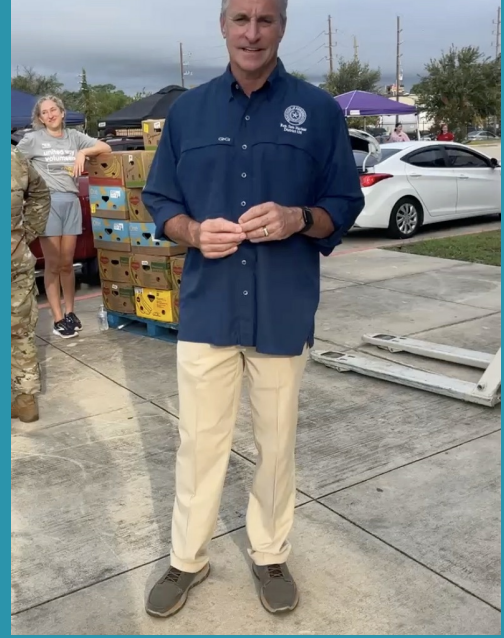
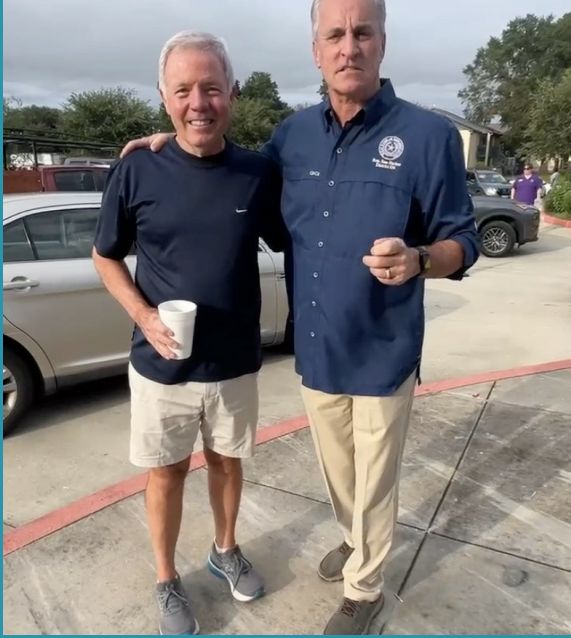
I monitored some of the Senate hearing and I sincerely appreciate Senator Bettencourt asking some of the hard questions that many of you are interested in, like the \$800 million spent for "mobile" generators, vegetation management, and system resiliency. Like many of you, I am concerned about CenterPoint spending a smaller amount than many of their neighbors on vegetation management as well as the misinformation distributed to the public through their outage tracker.

Many of us will eagerly await the committee reports from the House and the Senate that will highlight many of the failures of our electrical system as well as plans for resiliency improvements and cost recovery.

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## Northwest Assistance Ministries "Food Distribution Events"





Northwest Assistance Ministries stepped up to fill the gap for hundreds of area families who lost their food supply or just needed help after Hurricane Beryl. They held two separate food distribution events on July 19th and July 26th and were able to service around 1,300 vehicles. Volunteers from the community, Commissioner Tom Ramsey's Office, and even kids like Miles here flooded in to help distribute the 18 wheel truck loads of food and water. I reached out to the Texas Department of Emergency Management to help coordinate some of these resources to augment those provided by some very generous community and corporate sponsors like Vistra Energy, TXU Energy, AT&T, Walmart, CVS and the Houston Food Bank. This was a great example of "neighbors helping neighbors".

## Disaster Recovery Resources

[Harris County Disaster Recovery](https://www.readyharris.org/)

<https://www.readyharris.org/Resources/Beryl-Recovery-Resources>

## 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.

## State Resources

Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) <https://tdem.texas.gov/>

To report damage from Hurricane Beryl go here: <https://damage.tdem.texas.gov/>

## Federal Resources

Residents can begin applying for FEMA resources and the Individual Assistance program by visiting FEMA's web page at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov), by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362), or by downloading the FEMA app.

After you apply for disaster assistance, FEMA may call you to schedule an inspection of damaged homes or to obtain more information to process your application. These calls may come from unfamiliar area codes or phone numbers so it is important to be aware of this and answer these calls. If FEMA staff are unable to contact you, that may cause a delay in their review of your application.

Some applications related to damaged housing could require an inspection to determine whether a home is safe, sanitary, functional, and accessible. It's important to know that there is no charge for these FEMA inspections. Any inspector will also have FEMA photo ID and your application number. FEMA representatives will also never ask for money.

If you receive a call from someone saying they are a FEMA representative, but you aren't sure, call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 to verify the caller's identity.

\*\*\*If you have applied for FEMA assistance and received an ineligibility letter, you are encouraged to visit a local Disaster Recovery Center. FEMA representatives are located at DRC locations and can help answer questions about your application, apply or reapply for individual assistance, and may provide referrals to agencies that offer other assistance. Visit the Beryl Recovery Resources page at [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org) for a complete and up-to-date list of DRC locations and hours.\*\*\*

Congressman Dan Crenshaw: <https://crenshaw.house.gov/2024/7/hurricane-resources>

## CenterPoint Presents Action Plan

Following the hearing with the Texas Public Utility Commission CenterPoint Energy released this statement along with the the 3 phase action plan pictured below.

CenterPoint CEO Announces Action Plans to Build Most Resilient Coastal Grid and Improve Hurricane

## Preparedness and Response

*At Public Utility Commission, CenterPoint leadership team outlines a series of immediate actions to strengthen the grid, bolster customer communications and improve storm response*

**Houston – July 25, 2024** – Today, at a hearing before the Public Utility Commission of Texas, CenterPoint President and CEO Jason Wells apologized for the frustration Houstonians experienced during Hurricane Beryl and made a company-wide commitment to improve. In the hearing, Wells, accompanied by Tony Gardner, SVP and Chief Customer Officer, and Randy Pryor, VP Major Underground & Distribution Modernization, announced an initial series of specific actions that will increase the resiliency of the electric system, improve customer communications, and strengthen emergency response coordination and partnerships.

"There are no excuses. We will get better. We are taking immediate action to make real, measurable and positive changes to not only better serve our customers and the community, but to re-earn their trust," Jason Wells said. "Our mission is to build and operate the most resilient coastal grid anywhere in the country with best-in-class communications."

CenterPoint's plan of action, which focuses on three classes of priorities, was submitted to the PUC and details a series of initial actions that the company will take both immediately and long-term, including:

- **Resiliency Investments:** By accelerating adoption of the latest construction standards, retrofitting existing assets on an accelerated basis, and using predictive modeling, AI and other advanced technologies, CenterPoint will harden its distribution system and speed restoration. The company will also take action to protect its electrical assets by nearly doubling the size of its vegetation management crews and targeting higher risk vegetation to address the number one cause of damage and outages in Hurricane Beryl.
- **Best-in-Class Customer Communications:** To ensure customers have the information they need, when they need it, CenterPoint will launch a new and more customer-oriented outage tracker by August 1. This online tool will provide better and more complete information during storms and is designed to handle increased demand during such events.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** Effective emergency preparedness and response requires close coordination with government officials. CenterPoint will hire a seasoned emergency response leader to help the company rapidly accelerate its planning capabilities and develop close community partnerships to ease the burden of storm events on more vulnerable communities.

The following are key excerpts from Wells' remarks, as prepared, given before the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

*"In times of emergency, our responsibility is to respond quickly, to communicate clearly, to provide accurate information, and to restore power as rapidly and as safely as we can. I take personal accountability for areas where we fell short of our customers' expectations. I also want to apologize for the frustration we caused our customers. We will do better."*

*"While we cannot erase the frustrations and difficulty so many of our customers endured, I, and my entire leadership team, will not make any excuses. We will improve and act with a sense of urgency."*

*"I commit that starting immediately, we will improve our communications with customers and will take specific actions to become the most resilient coastal grid in the country. Our pillars of action fall into three categories: (1) improvements in resiliency, (2) improvements in communications, and (3) greater collaboration with our local partners and emergency responders."*

*"Going forward, our most important priority today and in the months ahead will be to improve our emergency response with a sense of urgency to re-earn your trust, and the trust of the millions of people*

Emergency with a sense of urgency to re-earn your trust, and the trust of the millions of people who depend on us."

"Our company and the thousands of men and women of CenterPoint will remain tireless in our efforts to strengthen our system and better serve the community we are all proud to call home."

PHASE 1: Immediate	PHASE 2: Near-Term	PHASE 3: Long-Term
<p><b>IMMEDIATELY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a 25% resource buffer</li> <li>Develop expanded staging site housing for four strategic locations</li> <li>Prioritize restoration and temporary generation deployment for critical facilities</li> <li>Launch initial public communications earlier in the storm cycle and establish a robust daily cadence of public communications</li> </ul> <p><b>BY AUGUST 1, 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch a new cloud-based outage tracker</li> <li>Begin to use predictive modeling and AI technology to identify higher risk vegetation</li> <li>Increase on a short-term lease basis small increment (up to 1MW) mobile generation from 4 to 13 units</li> <li>Adopt a policy of holding daily press briefings before and during a named storm</li> <li>Launch emergency preparedness community education campaign</li> </ul>	<p><b>BY AUGUST 15, 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete aerial imagery and visual inspections on all overhead distribution circuits</li> <li>Coordinate more closely with local, county, and state officials as well as emergency management personnel</li> <li>Develop an emergency preparedness and response communications playbook</li> <li>Re-emphasize "Right Tree – Right Place" program</li> <li>Launch a plan to engage with community focus groups on outage tracker</li> <li>Increase call center capacity by 165% for storm events with a standard average speed of answer of 5 minutes or less</li> <li>Launch Power Alert Service campaigns</li> <li>Scale capacity for Power Alert Service</li> <li>Brief trade associations for critical care facilities</li> <li>Engage with local Emergency Management Offices to refresh our prioritization and to confirm contact information</li> <li>Re-train call center agents</li> <li>Target the first 350 of 2,000 incremental distribution line miles with higher risk vegetation</li> </ul> <p><b>BY AUGUST 31, 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leverage AI to accelerate dispatch of vegetation crews based on damage modeling</li> <li>Based on inspections, provide to Gov's office an estimated date to execute repairs based on risk</li> <li>Evaluate the expansion of the number of temporary generation units, and temporary generation transportation assets in our fleet, informed by the needs of critical facilities</li> <li>Based on damage modeling, dispatch crews as soon as safe to do so</li> <li>Leverage damage models to identify locations for staging sites</li> <li>Begin using predictive modeling tools to inform resource planning to prepare for a major storm</li> </ul> <p><b>BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select sites for up to 10 donated back-up generator facilities</li> <li>Conduct listening sessions in every county</li> </ul>	<p><b>BY DECEMBER 31, 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target the remaining 1,650 of 2,000 incremental line miles with higher risk vegetation</li> <li>Harden nearly 350 distribution line miles to the latest extreme wind standard</li> <li>Deploy more than 500 automated devices</li> <li>100% of the remaining pole replacements currently planned for 2024 will be replaced with composite poles (approximately 1,000 poles)</li> </ul> <p><b>BY JUNE 1, 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install donated back-up generator facilities</li> </ul>

## ERCOT Monthly Report

The latest edition of *ERCOT Monthly*, a monthly report sharing a recap of key information from the previous month, notes on the upcoming month, and a snapshot of additional key items has been published.

A direct link to the July 2024 edition can be found [here](#).

Topics for this month include an update on the Permian Basin Reliability Plan filed at the Public Utility Commission, data pertaining to Hurricane Beryl, and information relating to the ERCOT Contingency Reserve Service (ECRS) Manual Deployment Trigger, among others.

Our goal is to continue providing clear, consistent, transparent communications to our stakeholders, highlighting market and operations statistics, key ERCOT initiatives, and breaking down trending issues for a broader audience.

Cypress Creek

Drainage Improvement

District



## Cypress Creek Watershed Resiliency Plan

At the third Community Workshop on June 25 at the Coles Crossing Community Center, the Framework for the Cypress Creek Watershed Resiliency Plan was presented. The District's engineer, Quiddity Engineering LLC will be completing Phase 1 of the plan to present to the Texas Legislature in late 2024 as part of the District's report on progress made since its formation in June 2023.

### Cypress Creek Watershed Resiliency Plan

1. Introduction and Background
2. Watershed Risk Assessment
3. Strategies
4. Floodwater as a source of water
5. Recreation
6. Communication
7. Legislation and Policy Recommendations
8. Funding and Timeline

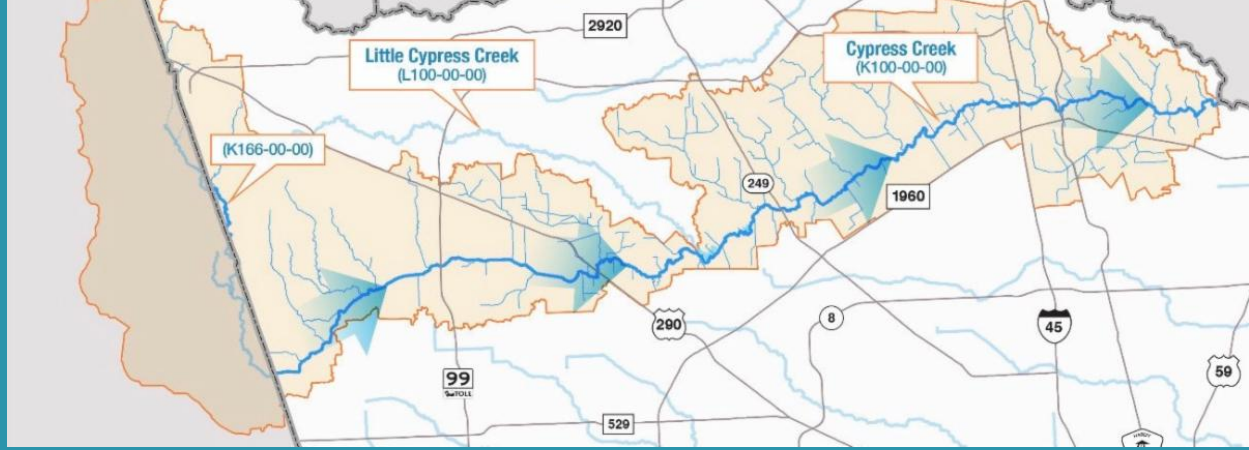
The District will hold three additional Workshops in the second half of 2024 soliciting community input to the Plan. Please complete our [online survey](#) ;we will continue to collect survey data through July.

Website for more information: <https://www.cypresscreekdid.org>

To communicate with the Drainage District, please E-Mail to: [cypresscreekdid@gmail.com](mailto:cypresscreekdid@gmail.com).







This QR code will also take you to the website



## Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts

Pearl Fincher | Museum of Fine Arts

# THE TOY CANVAS: Artists at Play



JUNE 1ST - AUGUST 31ST



FriendsWithYou, "Boba", 2021, Vinyl Inflatable  
FriendsWithYou, "Rainbow Light", 2021, Vinyl Inflatable

*Step into a mesmerizing journey through the ever-evolving art world, where creativity knows no bounds. Just as artists have transformed their visions across the decades, the materials they employ have undergone a thrilling metamorphosis. From the timeless canvas to the enduring marble and the enduring bronze, the artistic palette has expanded into boundless horizons. But, prepare to be transported into a realm where nostalgia meets innovation. Our exhibition delves into the captivating universe of artists who wield toys and toy-related objects as artistic instruments. These visionaries craft inventive masterpieces that beckon to "the child within us all." These aren't just artworks; they are portals to a world where play is an art form, and memories are the brushstrokes that paint the canvas of our lives.*

*As you step closer to these enchanting creations, you'll find yourself engulfed in a whirlwind of*

As you step closer to these enchanting creations, you'll find yourself engulfed in a whirlwind of emotions, inviting you to rekindle the boundless imagination of your youth. Whether you're a seasoned explorer of the art world or a curious newcomer, these engaging works will ignite your senses and transport you to a place where the boundary between reality and reverie dissolves.

So, join us on this exhilarating adventure as we explore how these artists breathe life into the toys and memories of our childhood, urging us to rediscover the magic of play and the infinite possibilities of our imagination. This exhibition isn't just about art; it's an invitation to rediscover the kid in all of us.

Exhibition runs through August 31st. See more [here](#):

Visit the Pearl Fincher Museum Website

## Cypress Creek F.A.C.E. Foundation for the Arts and Community Enrichment



We are excited to announce our 2024-2025 Promenade Series line-up:

Zoya Shuhatovich, piano – September 10, 2024

Sam Houston State University Concert Chorale – October 8, 2024

Yvonne Chen, piano & Francesca McNeeley, cello – November 12, 2024

Stephanie Northcutt, soprano & Beth McConnell, piano present "Songs for the Season" – Dec. 10, 2024

Windsync – January 14, 2025

Rob Landes, piano – February 11, 2025

Hope Cowan, harp & Zachary Montasser, violin – March 11, 2025

Chelsea & Chloe de Souza, piano & soprano – April 8, 2025

Axiom Quartet – May 13, 2025

If you have any questions or need to make a change with your tickets, please call us at 281-440-4850 or email at [boxoffice@cypresscreekface.org](mailto:boxoffice@cypresscreekface.org)

# Texas Master Chorale

[HOME](#)[TICKETS](#)[ABOUT](#)[AUDITIONS](#)[TMC GUILD](#)[COMMUNITY CALENDAR](#)[ENGAGE](#)[CONTACT US](#)[MEMBER PORTAL](#)

2023-2024 Concert Season

Texas Master Chorale 2024-2025  
Anniversary Concert Season

Celebrating 40 Years of Music Making!

FALL CONCERT

Songs of Faith and Inspiration

Saturday, October 19, 2024

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A Feast of Carols

Saturday, December 14, 2024

40th ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION CONCERT

Premier Commissioned Work

by Taylor Scott Davis

Saturday, May 3, 2025

All performances to be presented at John Wesley Church, 5830 Bermuda Dunes, Houston, TX 77069  
7:30 PM—Complimentary Valet Parking Provided

Texas Master Chorale Tickets

The Texas Master Chorale is proud to announce their 2024-2025 Concert Series lineup.

Tickets: <https://www.texasmasterchorale.org/tickets.html>

General Admission—\$25.00 each

Season Subscription—\$75.00

Students with ID—Free Admission

Be sure and check out their community musical events calendar [here](#). They have concerts and musical events calendared for every group in our area.

Texas Master Chorale audition sign-ups for the 2023-2024 season will be held August 13 and 14. To request an audition, please send an email to [info@texasmasterchorale.org](mailto:info@texasmasterchorale.org) to schedule an appointment.

Visit Texas Master Chorale Website

## ESD 9 Monthly News



Eddie Cruz, Public Information Officer

Cy-Fair Fire Department  
281-656-3420 Office  
346-306-6165 Cell  
[eddie.cruz@cyfairfd.org](mailto:eddie.cruz@cyfairfd.org)

### July 2024 Run Totals

EMS 2950  
FIRE 1047  
TOTAL 3997

School resumes on August the 19th for Cy-Fair ISD.

- Be aware of walkers and bike riders
- Be aware of flashing lights on school buses. Flashing red lights means Do Not Pass
- 20 mph in School Zones
- Do not drive distracted
- Have the "littles" memorize their address and parents phone numbers
- Teach them about staying away from strangers.

Lieutenant Eddie Cruz  
Public Information Officer/Public Relations  
Cy-Fair Fire Department  
10710 Telge Rd.  
Houston, TX 77095  
281-656-3420 Office  
346-306-6165 Cell  
[eddie.cruz@cyfairfd.org](mailto:eddie.cruz@cyfairfd.org)

Free CPR class offered the third Saturday of every month, please visit our website, [www.cyfairfd.org](http://www.cyfairfd.org), to sign up.

ESD 9 - Cy-Fair Fire Dept

## ESD 11 Monthly News



ESD 11 Update



## ESD 11 Update By - Brian Piatkowski Experience Coordinator

Brian Piatowski has been assigned the responsibilities for monthly updates for ESD 11. His Contact Information is :  
Phone 281-524-7667  
Email: [brian.piatkowski@esd11.com](mailto:brian.piatkowski@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 is proud to be nationally recognized by the American Heart Association with a #MissionLifeline EMS Gold award for our commitment to providing high-quality heart attack and stroke care by providing rapid and researched-based care, thus ultimately saving lives.

In the face of challenging conditions and unprecedented call volume during Hurricane Beryl, ESD 11 was committed to the well-being of the communities that we serve, ensuring that exceptional care was delivered, even in the most difficult of circumstances. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of our fellow first responders in the area for their hard work and efforts in serving the area as well. Please visit our website for future hurricane preparation. [Hurricane Resources: Harris County ESD 11](#)

If you are interested in learning more about ESD11, please visit <https://harriscountyesd11.gov/> or join us on Facebook.

If you would like to schedule a CPR/First Aid class, standby or community event, please visit <https://harriscountyesd11.gov/outreach/> to --schedule or contact Brian Piatkowski, Experience Coordinator at 281-524-7667 or [brian.piatkowski@harriscountyesd11.gov](mailto:brian.piatkowski@harriscountyesd11.gov)

[ESD 11 Website](#)

## ESD 13 Fire Service Monthly Update

### Cypress Creek Fire Department



Emma Hughes  
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 area in conjunction with our automatic aid departments.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE:**

June 2024:

Fire: 20

EMS: 111

Other: 112

Total: 243

Average Response Time: 05:25

**PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

Our Child Passenger Safety Technician is located at Station 22 on Cypress N. Houston Rd. and is 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.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

Our Child Passenger Safety Technician is located at Station 22 on Cypress N. Houston Rd. and is 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 Emma Hughes at (281) 894-0151 or Email [pr@hcesd13.org](mailto:pr@hcesd13.org)

**ESD 16 Fire Service Monthly News**



**HARRIS ★ COUNTY  
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT**



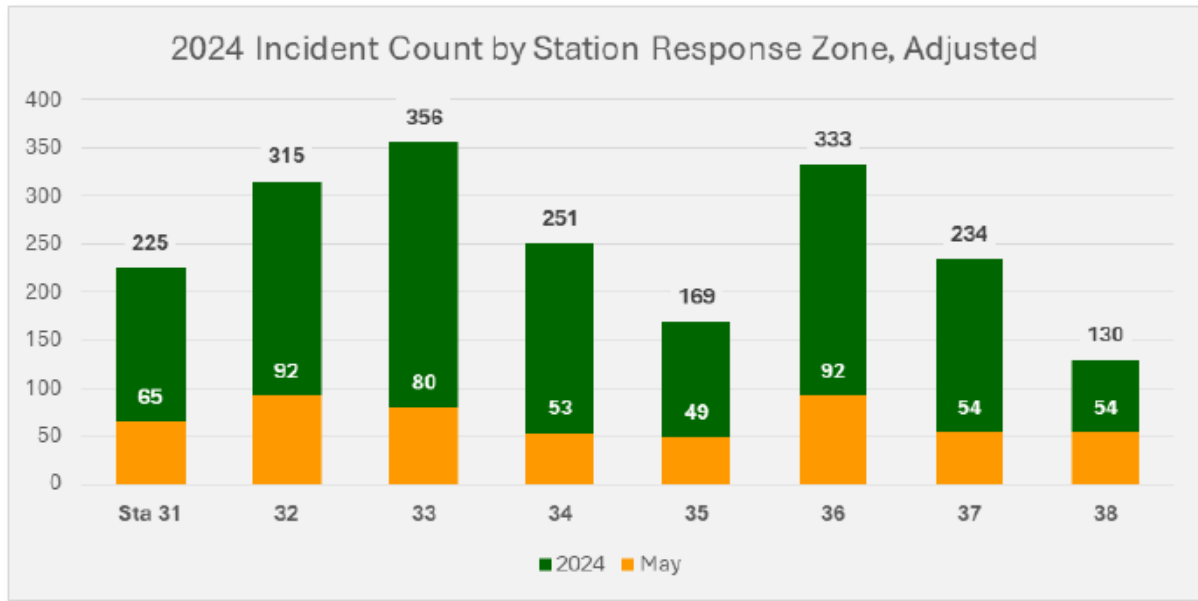
Harris County ESD 16 is the direct service provider for fire protection and rescue services in the Klein area, operating as Klein Fire Department.

Ja'Milla Lomas - Public Information Officer

Klein Fire Department - Email: [jlomas@hcesd16.org](mailto:jlomas@hcesd16.org)

### Monthly Incident Count by Station Response Zone, Adjusted

Klein Fire Department														
Monthly Incident Counts By Station														
Station	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Percent
HQ	0				2								2	0.08%
31	41	46	40	33	65	39							264	10.78%
32	50	58	57	58	92	65							380	15.52%
33	72	68	67	69	80	74							430	17.56%
34	60	49	45	44	53	46							297	12.13%
35	34	28	48	37	49	36							232	9.47%
36	68	60	61	52	92	69							402	16.41%
37	43	40	54	43	54	35							269	10.98%
38	28	2	1	45	54	43							173	7.06%
<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2449</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Fire-related: 25  
 EMS/ Rescue: 181

Hazardous Conditions: 30  
 Service Call\*\*: 17

Good Intent<sup>◇</sup>: 75  
 False Alarm: 43  
 Other<sup>†</sup>: 35

**TOTAL: 407**

\*\* *Public Service, Lock-out, assist police*

◇ *No incident found, Disp/Canceled en-route*

† *Overpressure, Explosion, Severe Weather, Natural Disaster, Special Incident, Mutual Aid*

30 Fire Calls – Structure (13); Vegetation/ Rubbish (7); Vehicle (3); Other/Cooking (7)

Top 3 response areas by KFD Station for March:

- |               |              |     |
|---------------|--------------|-----|
| 1. Station 33 | 74 incidents | 18% |
| 2. Station 36 | 69 incidents | 17% |
| 3. Station 32 | 65 incidents | 16% |

## FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2024







Klein Fire Department's very own, Andy Dexter, LP, Chief of Health, Safety, Training, CQI, and Emergency Management, was named the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshal's Association of Texas FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR!

As the Chief of Health, Safety & Training, Chief Dexter values training both at the department and state levels. He has been the catalyst in the growth of the training program for new members for Klein FD. His expansion of the program has resulted in a 10-fold increase in applications (full-time, part-time, and volunteer) over the last several months, where potential candidates are applying specifically because of the high-quality training they have heard they would receive here.

Chief Dexter has not only developed the curriculum, but actively participates in the instruction of the newest members of the department, passing along his knowledge and experience. He continues to help improve the department's policies and procedures and is instrumental in creating the Volunteer Support Division for Klein FD.

Chief Dexter has shown unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership, and positive impact, at Klein Fire Department and beyond. His tireless efforts have not only elevated the quality of training within the fire service, but also inspired others to strive for excellence. SFFMA does his remarkable contributions great honor by naming Chief Dexter Firefighter of the Year.

## HCESD 16/ Klein Fire Dept July Recap



Engine 38 and HILT 33 crew at the Gleannloch

Engine 33 and HCY 33 crew at the Clearfork Farms 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration with State Representative Sam Harless (July 04)



Engine 37 crew cooling off participants after the Spring Creek Forest bike parade. (July 04)

*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 or wish to learn more about the Klein Fire Department, please visit our online homes: [www.HCESD16.org](http://www.HCESD16.org) | [KFD Facebook](#) | [KFD Instagram](#) | [KFD Twitter](#) | [KFD Threads](#)*

ESD 16 Website

## ESD 29 - Champions Fire Department Monthly Update





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](#)



## Lithium Battery Safety

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices, including smartphones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

### The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

### Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

### Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems:

- odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises.
- If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire.
- Call 9-1-1.

### Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or business ([Google: Battery Disposal near me](#)).
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Lithium-Ion-Battery-Safety> for more information.

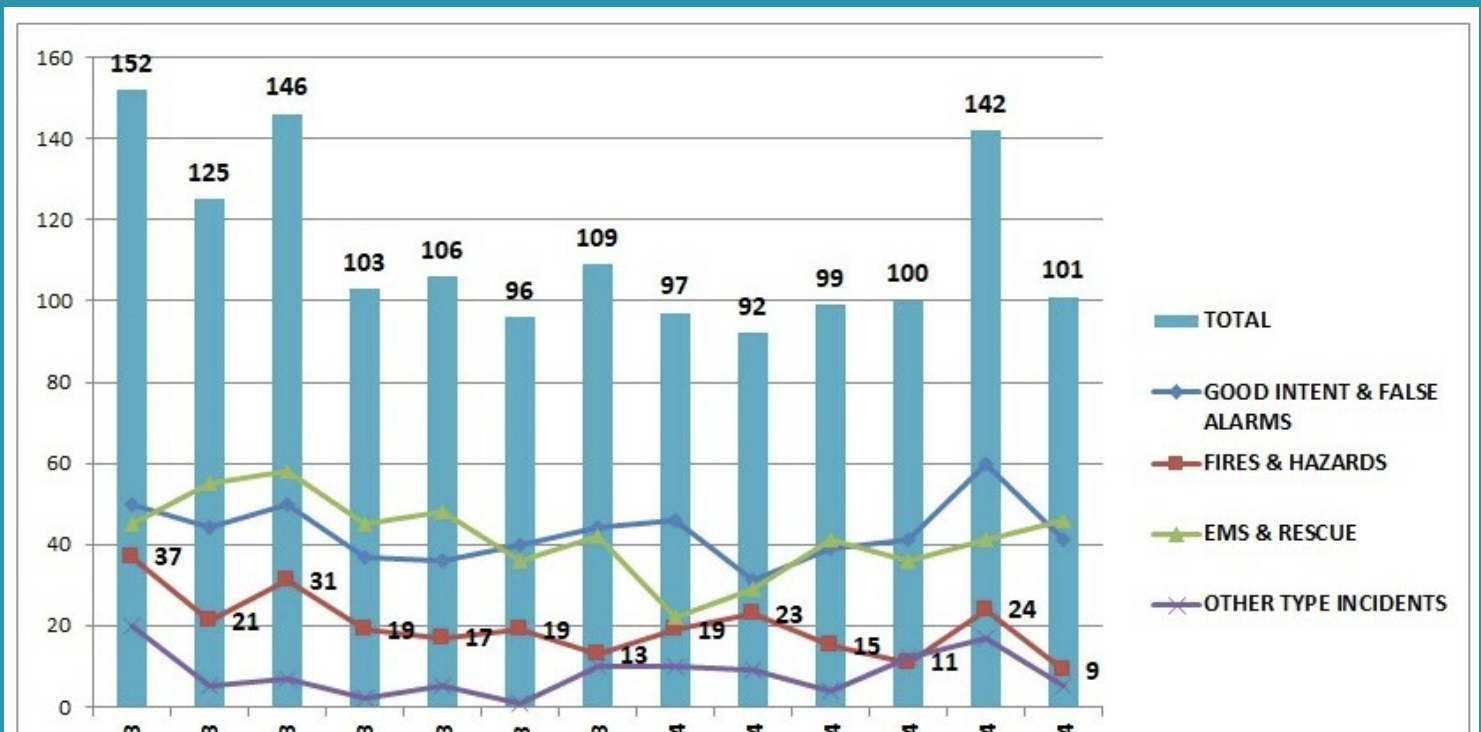
### ALERT PASSERSBY NOTICE SMOKE FROM HOUSE – FIREFIGHTERS SAVE TWO

Two minutes before midnight on Monday, July 29, 2024, a driver noticed what appeared to be smoke coming from the back of a house in the Champions subdivision and turned around to investigate further. Noting that the smoke seemed to be coming from inside the home, he called 911. The Champions, Klein, Little York, Northwest Fire Departments, and Haris County ESD 11 EMS units responded to the report, arriving to confirm a working fire in the structure. District Chief 10 arrived and assigned Klein Engine 32 for fire attack and Champions Engine 12 for primary search. District Chief 31 arrived and conducted a 360 survey of the structure. Engine 12 crew made entry and immediately encountered near zero visibility conditions, beginning their search of the residence. Engine 12 crew located the fire on the Bravo side of the structure and reported its location to Engine 32, which was making entry with a hose line. Engine 12 continued their search and soon heard a faint cry from the rear of the home. The crew refocused their search toward the sound. Engine 12 battled lights-out conditions until they located the open door to the master bedroom, where the officer scanned with a Thermal Imaging Camera and identified two persons on the bed. The three-person crew was able to assist one occupant, who was still conscious, and drag the second occupant, who was breathing but incoherent, back to the front entry, where they met with EMS and were subsequently transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation. Both occupants were removed from the home within two minutes of being located.

The fire was quickly extinguished, and crews searched the remainder of the building. Smoke was removed from the structure. This incident highlights several important takeaways to share:

1. Keep working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors can alert occupants to danger before conditions deteriorate beyond self-evacuation.
2. Close your door when you sleep. A closed door can significantly prevent smoke from spreading into sleeping areas and maintain air quality to sustain life. In short, it can buy significant time in a fire. For further information on this topic, visit <https://closeyourdoor.org/>
3. Even small fires can produce thick, toxic smoke. Due to the increased use of synthetics and the lack of a supply of fresh oxygen, fires in homes produce a great deal of harmful and toxic particulates and gases so thick that you can't even see through.

[www.championsfire.org](http://www.championsfire.org)



## Schools In Our District



Klein ISD Website

Klein ISD will resume school for the 2023-2024 session on August 9th and run through May 24th. To see the Klein ISD Calendar of important dates, go to their website [here](#).



Tomball ISD Website

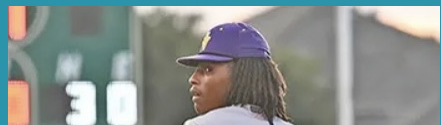
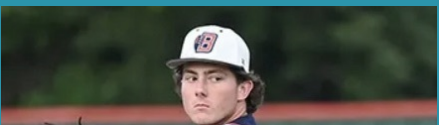
Tomball ISD will resume school for the 2023-2024 session on August 15th and run through May 23rd. To see the Tomball ISD Calendar of important dates, go to their website [here](#).



CyFair ISD Website

Cypress Fairbanks ISD will resume school for the 2023-2024 session on August 28th and run through May 31st. To see the CyFair ISD Calendar of important dates, go to their website [here](#).

## Cy-Fair ISD News





## CFISD baseball athletes qualify for 2024 academic all-district teams

July 17, 2024—More than 160 CFISD student-athletes qualified for the Academic All-District 16-6A and 17-6A baseball teams.

All 12 high school programs were represented by the 162 students who earned the academic all-district recognition. Those who earned the honor finished the 2023-2024 season in good standing and earned a composite weighted grade point average of 5.5 or higher for all classes for the two identified six weeks that make up the majority of their regular season.

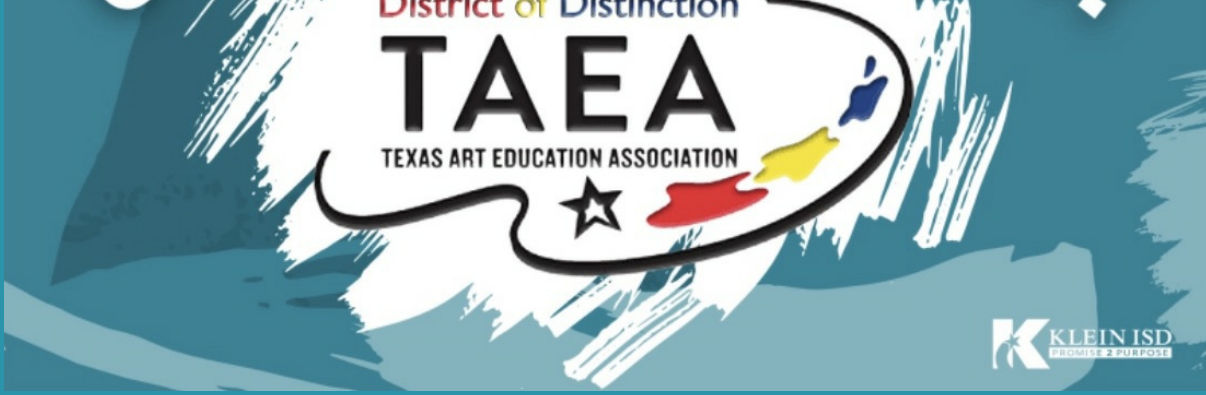
To see the full list of athletes recognized and read the full article on the CyFair ISD website [here](#):

Cy-Fair ISD Website



Klein ISD News





## Klein ISD Named District of Distinction for 6th Year in a Row by the TAEA

Klein, Texas—For the sixth year in a row, Klein ISD has been named a Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) District of Distinction, placing Klein ISD in the top 1.3 percent of all visual arts programs in Texas. More than 1,200 districts were eligible for the 2024 award, and only 94 districts met the high standard and received the outstanding honor.

"I am incredibly proud of our talented students and educators who continue to uphold our tradition of excellence in the Arts," Klein ISD Superintendent Dr. Jenny McGown said. "Congratulations to our top-notch Fine Arts department and Visual Arts programs on earning yet another outstanding accolade!" Only 16 districts have been recognized each year in the six years the TAEA has honored Texas school districts with this outstanding honor.

"To say it is incredible to be ranked in the Top 1.3 percent of Visual Art Departments in Texas would be an understatement," Fine Arts Coordinator Leah McWhorter said. "This is a testament to the ongoing commitment of our Klein ISD visual arts teachers to their students, their programs, and the district." The TAEA considered field experiences, community service, and community exhibitions as part of the award's rigorous selection process.

Congratulations to the entire Klein ISD Arts Department for your continued success. Your Klein Family is proud of all your hard work!

Read the full article by Terencia Lee from Klein ISD's website [here](#):

Klein ISD Website

## Tomball ISD News





## Tomball ISD Celebrates Opening of West Elementary with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Jul 29 2024 - Tomball ISD celebrated the opening of West Elementary, the District's 12th elementary school and a Bond 2021 project, during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"We are so excited to celebrate yet another milestone in the history of Tomball ISD with the ribbon cutting ceremony for West Elementary," said Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Tomball ISD Superintendent of Schools. "There is something special about monumental days like today and when I think about an elementary school, I think about the history of Tomball, and the fact that Tomball has always had such a strong foundation, and continues to only get stronger. An elementary school is the foundation campus. This is a beautiful space where our youngest learners will come for the beginning of their formal education, and experience our Destination District for the very first time. I'm very grateful to so many people who played an integral role in making today a success, and proud of the endless support from our dedicated School Board throughout this journey."

West Elementary is a Bond 2021 project and is the first of three campuses to open within the West Complex. Home of the Tigers, West Elementary, is the 24th campus to open in Tomball ISD, and will serve students Pre-K through fourth grade. Mr. Chad Schmidt will lead the campus as the school's first Principal.

Read the full article [here](#):







Tomball ISD Website

## TWC Unemployment Resources

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 health and safety policies - 832-839-6941

Precinct 3 Commissioner Community Assistance - [Pct 3 Community Assistance](#)

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

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.

## Homeless Resources

### Sheriff's Department - Homeless Outreach

- [Online Contact Form](#)
- [Email](#)

### Houston Police - Homeless Outreach

- (832) 394-4200 - Operating hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:00pm
- [Online Referral](#)
- [Email](#)

### TxDOT Trash & Litter

- [Complaints and reports](#)

## Federal Resources / Websites

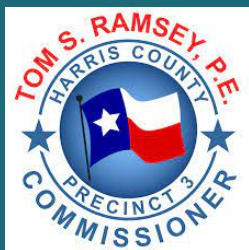
CDC- Center for Disease Control: [CDC Coronavirus](#)

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](#)

[Pct 3 Request for Service](#)

### 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 the button below.

[Pct 3 Capitol Improvement Projects](#)



# 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



Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Location:  
29201 Quinn Rd.  
Tomball, Texas 77375  
Upstairs Conference Room

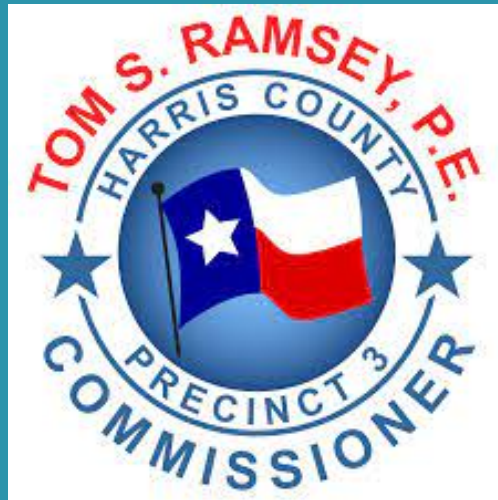
Tomball Government Affairs Committee

**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 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 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. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require reasonable accommodations during the application process, please call (512) 463-0865.

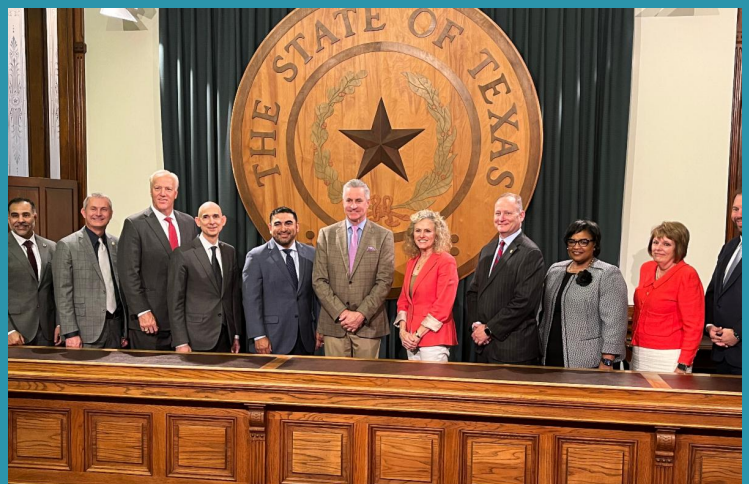
This email is not distributed at taxpayer expense.

### Contact Us

Capital Office E2.810  
Capitol Office Phone - 512-463-0496  
District Office Phone - 281-251-0194  
District Office Address - 6630 Cypresswood Dr #150  
Spring, Tx 77379

James Cook, Chief of Staff  
[Email James](#)

Ron Hickman, Senior Policy Advisory  
[Email Ron](#)



Kelly Peterson, District Director  
[Email Kelly](#)

Josh Bonham, Legislative Aide  
[Email Josh](#)

[Email Sam](#)



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