

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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TUESDAY



Rotary Club gives out Backpacks & Supplies Saturday Sept. 26th

NORTH SHORE HOUSTON- The Rotary Club of North Shore in association with the Galena Park Independent School district will hold a drive through backpack and school supply give away for children under 18 years of age to be held on Saturday, September 26, 2020 at the North Shore Senior High School. The event will begin at 9 a.m. Children must be in the vehicle to receive the backpack. Participants are asked to enter on Evanston Lane by the stadium and follow the designated path. Give away will be held rain or shine.

The event is being sponsored by the Rotary club of North Shore and a donation from the Rotary Club of Torreon, Mexico. GPISD is partnering with the Rotary Clubs and donating the use of the facility and providing security and promoting the event. There will be 1000 backpacks with supplies to be given away and the event will continue while supplies last.

For more information contact Donald R. Niño, MD at 281-452-4747 or email at drnino2003@yahoo.com

The Rotary Club of North Shore was chartered in 1958 and is one of the most famous Rotary Clubs in the Houston area. They host their annual Catfish Fry, Crawfish Boil, Raffle and Auction every year to raise funds for service projects in the local community and around the world. One of the main projects is scholarships to area students granting more than \$100,000 every year. To date, the club has donated more than \$4,000,000 for their service projects.

THREE NEW DRONES

Jacinto City's Eyes in the Sky

By Allan Jamail

September 21, 2020 – Jacinto City's newest budget has provided for acquiring three drone planes to improve city services and to make it safer for emergency personnel.

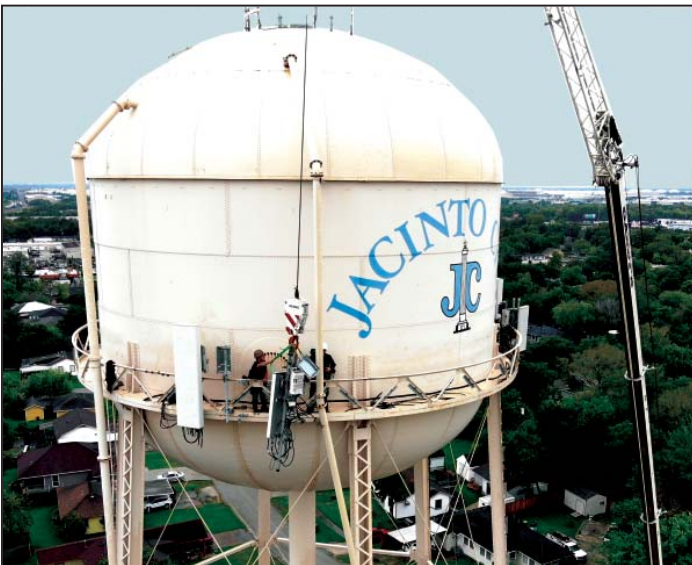
City Manager Lon Squyres said the city's police, fire and emergency management departments each has one. The drones have speakers, night lights as well as infra red night vision cameras, costing about \$4,500 each.

Lt. Mark Longrigg one of the police department's drone operators said, "These drones are and will be used for many purposes, such as assisting us in locating lost children, elderly and etc. Ariel surveillance to locate suspects, suspect vehicles, etc. We'll use them to access locations that might be inaccessible to patrol vehicles and personnel."

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has restrictions on where drones can and cannot fly, rules regarding air space use and they cannot be flown over 400 feet high.

The Texas law governing drone use by law enforcement can be found in the Government Code:

Title 4. Executive Branch
Subtitle b. Law Enforcement and Public Protection, Chap-



ABOVE: A flying drone plane took this photo 150 feet up in the air of the two communication workers (center of photo) removing the obsolete equipment from the water tower. Workers used the crane's hook and cable to take the equipment off the towers handrail and lower it to the ground. (Photo by Lt. Mark Longrigg, Jacinto City Police Drone Operator)

RIGHT: Lt. Mark Longrigg a 14 year veteran of the Jacinto City Police Department is one of the city's drone operators. (Photo by Allan Jamail).



ter 423. *Use of Unmanned Aircraft.* Police must first get a search warrant under most circumstances before conducting surveillance on a person or on private property unless they have sufficient information the person is a suspect in a crime. There's other exceptions law enforcement has without the need of a search warrant.

Sec. 423.003.AA OFFENSE: ILLEGAL USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT TO CAPTURE IMAGE.

A(a) A person commits an offense if the person uses an unmanned aircraft to capture an image of an individual or privately owned real property in this state with the intent to conduct surveillance on the individual or property captured in the image.

Cities and the drone operator can be sued if a person's constitutional rights have been violated by the illegal use of a drone.

"This is just another tool that we can utilize to assist us in protecting and serving this great community," Longrigg said.

Governmental personnel and citizens can use drones as long as they register it with the FAA pass a test and comply with the FAA regulations and have a Remote Pilot Certificate.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS BURN, HS FOOTBALL RETURNS

BY LEWIS SPEARMAN

NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY – The approach of fall like weather did herald the return of Friday night lights to local football fields, although many locals feared COVID 19 would forestall this season.

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, Galena Park I.S.D. Athletic Facilities will be at limited capacity for the 2020-2021 season. North Shore Mustang and Galena Park Yellow Jacket fans can watch all home games live, on the new GPISD Athletics YouTube Channel. Although you will not be able to cheer on your team in person, we hope you will root on the Mustangs or Yellow Jackets from afar for each home game.

GALENA PARK

Galena Park plays Baytown Lee in a non-conference game Friday, Sept. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

October 2 the Yellow Jackets stay home to take on Caney Creek of Conroe in a nonconference game.

Friday, Oct. 9 the Yellow Jackets travel to Missouri City, Texas to play Fort Bend Marshall in a conference game.

Baytown Sterling comes to town Oct. 16 at 7:00 for a conference game.

Madison takes on the Yellow Jackets at 7:00 p.m. in an away conference game.

Northside comes to the Yellow Jackets for a home conference game. November 6 at 7:00.

Waltrip comes to play the Yellow Jackets in a home conference game on

Nov. 12.

Sharpstown plays the Yellow Jackets a home conference game on Nov. 20 at 7:00 p.m.

The away conference game with Austin is November 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Fort Bend Willowridge offers the last home conference game on Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m.

NORTH SHORE

Sep 25 7:00 PM VS Shadow Creek Galena Park ISD Stadium

Oct 1 7:00 Klein Collins comes to Galena Park ISD Stadium

Oct 9 7:00 Willis travels to Galena Park ISD Stadium

Oct 16 7:00 North Shore Mustangs travel to Manvel's Freedom Field

Manvel High School

Oct 23 7:00 Beaumont Westbrook comes to Gale-

na Park ISD Stadium

Oct 29 7:00 Mustangs go to Humble Turner Stadium

Nov 6 7:00 Kingwood comes to Galena Park ISD Stadium.

Nov 13 7:00 Mustangs travel to Summer Creek Turner Stadium

Nov 19 7:00 CE King Panthers come to Galena Park ISD Stadium

Nov 27 7:00 Mustangs travel to Atascocita Turner Stadium.

CHANNELVIEW FALCONS

Fri, 9/18 7:00 PLAYED Beaumont United Timewolves in Beaumont, lost 13-21 Away game non-conference

Fri, 9/25 7:00 Falcons travel to Humble.

Fri, 10/2 7:00 Cinco Ranch of Katy comes to play the Falcons. Maddry Stadium.

Fri, 10/2 7:00 Eisenhower comes for a home non-conference game.

Fri, 10/9 7:00 Falcons to Alvin Yellow Jackets a non-Conference game.

Fri, 10/16 7:00 Dobie Loghorns face the Falcons at home conference match.

Thu, 10/22 7:00 Eagles of Pasadena host the Falcons in a conference game.

Fri, 10/30 7:00 Deer Park Deer come to Channelview for a conference game.

Fri, 11/6 7:00 Pasadena Memorial Mavericks host the Falcons.

Thu, 11/12 7:00 Sam Rayburn Texans come to Channelview from Pasadena, Conference.

Fri, 11/20 7:00 PM South Houston Trojans host the Falcons.

THEA/SJRC Zoom meeting

Waste Pits schedule extended 160 days

HIGHLANDS – Concerns for the Coronavirus have put a temporary end to public meetings regarding the remediation of the toxic waste pits in the San Jacinto River.

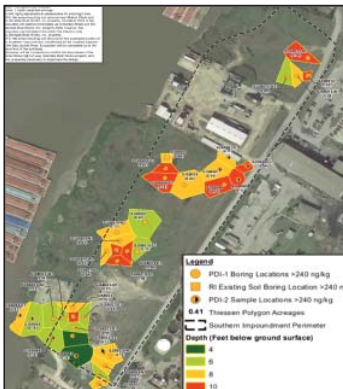
But twice this month, Jackie Young Medcalf, the director of the San Jacinto River Coalition and THEA, held ZOOM meetings on July 1 and 15, to inform the public on the status of the remediation project for the pits.

The concentration of meetings was due to the release by the EPA of the 30% RD, or Remedial Design documents. There were over 30,000 pages of data and narrative, covering the Northern and Southern impoundment areas, and the Sand Sepa-

ration area.

In addition to the report, EPA confirmed that the toxic material was deeper than first thought, and that remediation would take longer than announced.

The time line has stretched from a 2 year project, to now what is expected to take 7 years to complet, according to the engineering consultant, GHD Corp. On top of that, Jackie announced in the July 15 Zoom meeting that EPA had just granted a 160 day extension to the start of the project, moving it well into the year 2028. This will likely conflict with TxDOT's plans to replace the I-10 bridge with a higher, wider highway. Jackie said that in ex-



Map of Southern Impoundment. Colors indicate the depth below the surface at which toxic material exceeding >240 ng/kg was found. Dark Green is the worst, at 4 feet. Red indicates the material is 10 feet below the surface. Market Street south of I-10 is the street shown.

aming the RD documents, she was concerned about omissions and inconsistencies. She said that there was not enough "due diligence" exhibited in the work process, nor transparency. In the health and safety section of the RD, she said it was too generic and did not address the specific problems of this site, such as barge traffic and weather extremes such as hurricanes and floods.

She also faulted the study for characterizing the toxic waste as too low a type of hazardous industrial waste, and calls for the sampling and classification to be done again. She notes that the PRP asked the consultant to omit certain test results, without explanation or reason.

In addition to the Northern Impoundment area, Jackie spoke of the Sand Separation area. Although the RD calls for monitoring natural remediation, with no intervention or removal, she said that sampling had revealed "hot spots" and

See WASTE PITS, page 8

COVID-19
Cases as of
September 22, 2020

HOUSTON AREA
19 COUNTIES

193,353 POSITIVE
2,655 DEATHS
163,016 RECOVERED

TEXAS

735,290 POSITIVE
15,133 DEATHS
611,856 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

6,875,085 POSITIVE
200,284 DEATHS
2,615,974 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

31,424,898 POSITIVE
966,776 DEATHS
21,546,587 RECOVERED

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. #36 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 13, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. It is anticipated said meeting will be held via telephone and/or video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Teleconference Dial-In Number: 1-346-248-7799, Meeting ID Number: 962 9898 8806, Passcode: 822042.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Ronald S. Holder, Gerardo Parra, Maria E. Koukoulakis, Felix C. Eddy, Jr., Eddie Cantu

AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.32000/\$100	\$.29800/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$.02200/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	-6.87%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 70,458	\$ 76,697
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 14,092	\$ 15,339
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 56,366	\$ 61,358
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 180.37	\$ 182.84
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ 2.47	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	1.36%	

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY F.W.S.D. #51 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 14, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. It is anticipated said meeting will be held via telephone conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Telephone: 1-888-363-4735, Access Code: 6275923.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Jerry Dominy, Cary Stephens, Mike Bilnoski and Les LeBleu

AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.25000/\$100	\$.25000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$.00000/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	.00%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 149,236	\$ 156,726
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 29,847	\$ 31,345
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 119,389	\$ 125,381
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 298.47	\$ 313.45
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ 14.98	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	5.01%	

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23601, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. #84 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. It is anticipated said meeting will be held via telephone and/or video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Telephone 1-346-248-7799, Meeting ID: 968 7683 4834, Password: 982696.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Allen Hall, Hugo Arriaga, Tomas Fernandez, Edna Ponder, and Bud Mills

AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.60000/\$100	\$.58000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$.02000/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	-3.33%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 163,882	\$ 175,997
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 163,882	\$ 175,997
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 983.29	\$ 1,020.78
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ 37.49	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	3.81%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of 0.026000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District 6.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.026000 per \$100
NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.012999 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.013468 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.026752 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District 6 from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District 6 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 6 exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 6.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 6, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 6.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District 6 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held on October 07, 2020 at 6:00 PM at 911 Hollywood, Houston, TX 77015.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate, but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Services District 6 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the Harris County Emergency Services District 6 may petition the Harris County Emergency Services District 6 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District 6 will be the voter-approval tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District 6.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

property tax amount=(tax rate) X (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax increase as follows:

FOR:
Danny Naramore
Margie Buentello
Theresa Parker

Dennis Murray
Roger Hamilton

AGAINST: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District 6 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District 6 this year:

	2019	2020	Change
Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.013400	\$0.026000	increase of \$0.012600 OR
Average homestead taxable value	\$139,118	\$149,031	increase of 7.12%
Tax on average homestead	\$19	\$39	increase of \$20 OR 107.88%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$471,671	\$946,207	increase of \$474,536 OR 100.61%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District 6 at 713-274-8000 or tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

ASK THE EXPERT

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “How Old are Natural Diamonds?”



Most natural diamonds are formed at high temperature and pressure at depths of 140 to 190 kilometers (87 to 118 mi) in the Earth's mantle. Carbon-containing minerals provide the carbon source, and the growth occurs over periods from 1 billion to 3.3 billion years (25% to 75% of the age of the Earth). Diamonds are brought close to the Earth's surface through deep volcanic eruptions by magma, which cools into igneous rocks known as kimberlites and lamproites.

Diamonds have been treasured as gemstones since their use as religious icons in ancient India. Their usage in engraving tools also dates to early human history. The popularity of diamonds has risen since the 19th century because of increased supply, improved cutting and polishing techniques, growth in the world economy, and innovative and successful advertising campaigns.

The most familiar uses of diamonds today are as gemstones used for adornment, a use which dates back into antiquity, and as industrial abrasives for cutting hard materials. The dispersion of white light into spectral colors is the primary gemological characteristic of gem diamonds. In the 20th century, experts in gemology developed methods of grading diamonds and other gemstones based on the characteristics most important to their value as a gem. Four characteristics, known informally as the *four Cs*, are now commonly used as the basic descriptors of diamonds: these are *carat* (its weight), *cut* (quality of the cut is graded according to proportions, symmetry and polish), *color* (how close to white or colorless; for fancy diamonds how intense is its hue), and *clarity* (how free is it from inclusions). A large, flawless diamond is known as a paragon.

Not all diamonds found on Earth originated on Earth. Primitive interstellar meteorites were

found to contain carbon possibly in the form of diamond. A type of diamond called carbonado that is found in South America and Africa may have been deposited there via an asteroid impact (not formed from the impact) about 3 billion years ago. These diamonds may have formed in the intrastellar environment, but as of 2008, there was no scientific consensus on how carbonado diamonds originated.

Misconception about diamonds forming from compressed coal

Few diamonds are formed from highly compressed coal. More than 99% of diamonds ever mined have formed in the conditions of extreme heat and pressure about 90 miles (140 km) below the Earth's surface. Coal is formed from prehistoric plants buried much closer to the surface and is unlikely to migrate below 2 miles (3.2 km) through common geological processes. Most diamonds that have been dated are older than the first land plants and are therefore older than coal. It is possible that diamonds can form from coal in subduction zones and in meteoroid impacts, but diamonds formed in this way are rare, and the carbon source is more likely carbonate rocks and organic carbon in sediments, rather than coal. To learn even more about diamonds, come see the incredible selection of loose diamonds and diamond jewelry at Pineforest Jewelry.

Thank you for reading the “Ask Diamond Jim” column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at:

www.pineforestjewelry.com

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.



September Community Update

Dear Friend,

The start of the school year is looking different for many of us as our state continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The continued opening of restaurants and other businesses across our state can give you a false sense of normalcy but we must continue to follow the guidelines set by our public health officials. We must all do our part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by following simple daily precautions. Wear face coverings correctly when you leave your home, wash your hands frequently, stay home as much as possible and avoid gathering in groups, even with family members. If you must go out, always stay 6ft. away from other people. If you feel sick, do not wait for your condition to worsen and get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible. Below you will find some important COVID-19 updates, information and resources on a wide range of issues. We remain ready to assist Texans with unemployment, SNAP benefits, connecting them with social services and answering any questions they may have in these uncertain times. As always, if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us. If we all do our part, together, we can overcome this health crisis!

Kind regards,

Ana Hernandez

P.S. Have you filled out your 2020 Census?

September 30th is quickly approaching! Fill out the 2020 Census now! The Census is extremely important as census data is used to determine funding for crucial resources for our community. Our children's future depends on it! It only takes a few minutes, but the impact will be felt for years. Let's make sure Texas counts! You can self-respond until September 30th online at www.my2020census.gov, by phone (1-844-330-2020 English, 1-844-468-2020 Spanish) or by mail.

It's important for everyone to know the COVID-19 symptoms and emergency warning signs. If you are sick, please get tested and stay home. Call your doctor if you have concerning or worsening symptoms and seek medical attention right away if you or someone else has COVID-19 warning signs.

For more information and to see a list of the warning signs and symptoms you need to be aware of, visit bit.ly/2IV3uRh

Harris County COVID-19 Testing Information- If you need to get tested for COVID-19, below are the agencies conducting testing in the Houston area.

Houston Health Department

- Call 832-393-4220 for access code and directions to nearest site

- Visit <https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing/> for more information

Harris County Public Health

- Call (832) 927-7575 to get access to Harris County Public Health's drive-thru or mobile site

- Visit covcheck.hctx.net for the Harris County COVID-19 Assessment Tool and for more information

Texas Department of Emergency Management

- Call 512-883-2400 for an appointment and directions to the nearest site

- Visit <https://texas.curativeinc.com> for more information Monday, October 5th is the last day to register to vote in the 2020 November Election!

To check your voter registration status, register to vote, update your address or for more voting information, visit www.VoteTexas.gov. The Latino community has had a profound and positive influence on our country through our commitment to family, hard work, and service.

This Hispanic Heritage Month, let's learn, celebrate and embrace the generations of multi-ethnic and multicultural history and customs that have positively influenced and enriched our nation.

State Updates

On September 7, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation extending his Disaster Declaration for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19. The Governor had originally issued a disaster declaration on March 13th.

On September 17, 2020, Governor Abbott issued executive orders expanding occupancy levels for restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums, and libraries, and re-authorizing elective surgeries for a majority of the state of Texas. The Governor also announced new guidance related to visitations at nursing homes and long-term care facilities across the state. For a list of the executive order's issued by Governor Abbott during the COVID-19 pandemic, click [here](#). For a list of other actions the State and Governor Abbott have taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, click [here](#). Information about Texas case counts can now be found online on the [COVID-19 Case Dashboard](#).

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Why the Passion

Recently a middle school student asked why I am so involved in the community. I had to remind her that if we do not speak up for others, who will. She has lived her entire life in the North Channel Community, so she knows diversity and empathy. I had to explain to her that not every community is as special as ours.

She was watching national news and was extremely distraught over the protests and marches she has seen this summer. She asked if I had ever been involved in one and I reflected on my life and while I may not have been out marching in the streets, I learned how to use my voice to get my message across. She could not understand that at first, so I explained.

When I attended high school, the government teacher, Ms. Mary Lou Dillard, would pass out a Voter Registration card the first day of class. She asked us to fill them out and not sign them or date them. She then took the time to add each of our birthdays to a calendar. She did not list our name on our 18th birthday, but instead one month in advance. As our date on her special calendar rolled around, she had us to sign them and date the card. Then she mailed them. We were told that once we received the actual card in the mail stating we were registered, to bring it to her. We were then given extra credit for her class. If we were fortunate enough to have an election after our 18th birthday and during our Senior year, we were given opportunities for addition credit

If we researched a

candidate that we believed in, we would volunteer with their campaign. And we received extra credit. If we voted in an election and brought her proof, we earned more extra credit. And if we were really adventurous and invited a candidate to speak to the class, she would give even more credit. We were an interesting group. Of the 365 graduates, many are still active in elections today. Some have ran for office, some have worked for elected officials and some have been advocates for the causes that matter most to us. After each election, I take the time to write a letter to the official. Not typed on the computer, not an email, but a handwritten note. (When you open the mailbox and find a handwritten envelope, I bet it is the first one you open.)

I tell them congratulations. I tell them my story and which issues are important to me. I let them know why domestic violence, mental illness, prison reform and homelessness matter to me. I remind them that I am blessed to have both parents still alive and work with 500+ Seniors on a weekly basis. I let them know they can call on me if they think there is something I can help with. I also remind them that I will pray for them daily. I realize that they are taking a job which many will not want, spending money of their own savings and not spending enough time with their loved ones. It matters to me who is elected. Their actions while in office affect me. I cannot help but be passionate. I invite you to join me as well.



NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of 0.050000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District 12.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.050000 per \$100
NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.048719 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.052692 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.062748 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District 12 from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District 12 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 12 exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 12.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 12, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 12.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District 12 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held on October 06, 2020 at 6:00 PM at Cloverleaf Fire Station No. 1, 911 Hollywood Street, Houston, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District 12 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Directors of Harris County Emergency Services District 12 at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

property tax amount=(tax rate) X (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax increase as follows:

FOR: W. Anders, D. Proctor, L. Helgesen, F. Staley and B. Clements

AGAINST:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District 12 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District 12 this year:

	2019	2020	Change
Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.050000	\$0.050000	decrease of \$0.000000 OR
Average homestead taxable value	\$135,446	\$145,283	increase of 7.26%
Tax on average homestead	\$68	\$73	increase of \$5 OR 7.26%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,740,700	\$1,790,909	increase of \$50,209 OR 2.88%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District 12 at 713-274-8000 or tax.office@hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

11/02 1:21

Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 5, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., via teleconference. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

To participate: (713) 888-2500

Pass code: 400

FOR the proposal: Pete Brady, R.L. McRae, Wesley Hutchins, Jimmy Ramsey & Jimmy Smith

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	2019 Last Year	2020 This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.366/\$100 Adopted	\$0.366/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100 0.00%
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	\$ 109,439	\$ 93,207
Average appraised residence homestead value		
General homestead exemptions available		
(excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ -	\$ -
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 109,439	\$ 93,207
Average residence homestead tax value	\$ 400.55	\$ 341.14
Tax on average residence homestead		
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		-\$59.41 -14.83%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23601, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

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SPORTS NEWS

Big 12 play begins as UT visits Tech:
Texans face another tough road test at Pittsburgh

It's been a long time coming, but the Big 12 will begin conference play this weekend with Texas visiting Texas Tech and West Virginia heading to Stillwater, OK to take on Oklahoma State in what could be a very high-scoring game.

SEC teams will also begin their seasons after almost two months of practices, as Jimbo Fisher's Texas A&M Aggies will host Vanderbilt in College Station.

It will be interesting to see if the long layoff will affect league favorites such as Alabama, Georgia and Florida, while Aggie fans are hoping Fisher's third team in College Station is his best yet. Chances are good the Aggies could have a big year ahead of them what with 17 starters returning from last year's 8-5 squad.

In the NFL, the Texans face another tough road test when they travel to Pittsburgh to take on a healthy Steelers team and rejuvenated quarterback Ben Rothlisberger who looked like his old self two weeks ago on Monday Night Football as he led the Steelers to a 26-16 road win over the Giants. Big Ben threw for 229 yards and three touchdowns, as Pittsburgh looked solid on both sides of the ball. The only glitch was an injury to starting running back James Conner, who sprained an ankle, but it does not appear to be the dreaded high ankle sprain that New Orleans wide receiver Michael Thomas in the Saints' season opening wins over Tom Brady and Tampa Bay. With Conner out, the Steelers turned to backup running back Benny Snell, who produced 113 yards on the ground. It appears Mike Tomlin's team has the depth it lacked a year ago when injuries decimated the offense.

The Cowboys, who laid an egg in their opener two weeks ago by falling to the Rams 20-17, face another tough West Coast trip when they play the explosive Seattle Seahawks Sunday afternoon.

The Sunday Night game is a good one as Aaron Rodgers and the Packers visit the Saints and Drew Brees. But it's the Monday Night Football game that should cause a lot of buzz as Patrick Mahomes and the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City



Chiefs visit Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens. This could be a preview of the AFC title game.

Before we take a look at those games and a handful of others, let's review Week 1's record. A 6-6 (50%) was nothing to get excited about, but there's a lot of season left, well, let's hope so.

Now, onto this week's games.

NCAA

Texas at Tech Tech: Tom Herman's had an impressive start to the season two weeks ago with a 59-3 route of UTEP, the same can't be said for Matt Wells' Red Raiders who barley beat Houston Baptist, 35-33 in Lubbock. Could be a long year for my Red Raiders (when does basketball practice start Coach Beard?). UT QB Sam Ehlinger threw for 426 and five TDs in the route of the Minors and it appears he's found replacements for the departed Devin Duvernay and Collin Johnson as Joshua Moore grabbed 6 passes for 127 yards and a score, while Tarik Black added five catches for 80 yards and a TD. This one could get ugly early. My pick, Texas 42, Texas Tech 20

West Virginia at Oklahoma State: West Virginia opened its season two weeks ago with a 56-10 route of a bad Eastern Kentucky team as quarterback Jarrett Doege passes for 228 yards and three touchdowns. The Mountaineers definitely will face a much better opponent this week when they face an OSU team that many think can win the Big 12. The Cowboys opened the season last week against Tulsa and will give WVU a steady dose of running back Chubba Hubbard, who led the nation in rushing a year ago with 2,094 yards to go along with 21 TDs. OSU is loaded on offense and a win over WVU should let the rest of the Big 12 know they just might be the team to beat in 2020. My pick, Oklahoma State 36, West

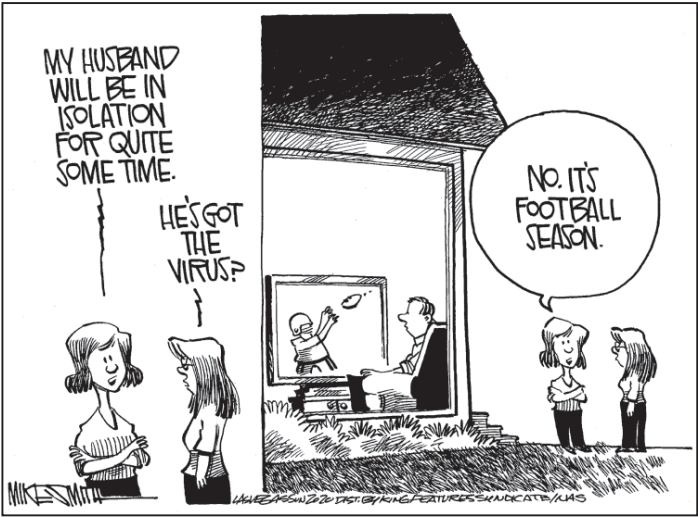
Virginia 30

Vanderbilt at Texas A&M: The Aggies open at home against one of the weakest teams in the SEC, so look for Fisher's team to come out swinging on Saturday at Kyle Field. A&M will be led by senior quarterback Kellen Mond and sophomore running back Isaiah Spiller. They need to find some help at wide receiver as the team's leading receiver Jhamon Ausbon has opted out of the 2020 season to prepare for the NFL draft. Gone are Ausbon's 66 receptions for 872 yards and five TDs. This should be a good game for the young receiving corps to find its footing against an outmanned Vandy team. My pick, Texas A&M 36, Vanderbilt 12

NFL

Los Angeles Rams at Buffalo: The Rams make the long trip to the East Coast to take on a very solid Buffalo team. This will mark the second straight trip east for Sean McVay's team as they played at Philadelphia in Week 2. The Rams opened their \$5 billion new SoFi Stadium in fine fashion two weeks ago with a 20-17 win over the Cowboys, while Buffalo took care of business against the Jets, 27-17 as quarterback Josh Allen threw for 312 yards, passed for two touchdowns and ran for another. LA QB Jared Goff was efficient in the opener against Dallas throwing for 275 yards and turning the running game over to Malcolm Brown (77 yards, 2 TDs). I think the Bills defense is the difference maker in this one as Buffalo gets off to a good start in the early season. My pick, Buffalo 26, Los Angeles Rams 16

Houston at Pittsburgh: Things don't get any easier for Bill O'Brien's team on Sunday when they head to the Steel City to take on a Pittsburgh team that looked very good on both sides of the ball in their season-opening win against the Giants. The Texans struggled against



the Chiefs in their opener, falling behind 31-7 before scoring two late TDs to make the score closer than it really was.

Quarterback Deshaun Watson (253 yards, 1 TD) will have his hands full against the Steelers solid pass rush. He will need another productive day from running back David Johnson (77 yards, 1 TD) and someone from the receiving corps needs to step up. Look for the Steelers to roll behind Big Ben and wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster (6 receptions, 69 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Pittsburgh 31, Houston 20

Las Vegas at New England: The Raiders head east for the second time in two weeks to take on a revamped Patriots team. In their season-opening win at Carolina, second-year running back Josh Jacobs had a big day rushing for 93 yards and three touchdowns. He'll face a much better defense this week when he faces Bill Belichick's defense. That unit looked solid in its 21-11 win over the Dolphins and Cam Newton (75 yards rushing, 2 TDs) proved there is life after Tom Brady in Chowder Land. Look for another solid effort from the defense as the Patriots roll on Sunday. My pick, New England 26, Las Vegas 13

Tennessee at Minnesota: The Titans play their second road game in three weeks when they visit the Vikings on Sunday. Mike Vrabel's team opened the season on Monday Night Football with a win at Denver as running back Derrick Henry (116 rushing yards) led the way and QB Ryan Tannehill (249 yards, 2 TDs) was his efficient self. Tennessee will face a Minnesota team that was devastated by Green Bay, 43-34 in their home opener. Mike Zimmer, a defensive coach, needs to shore things up on that side of the ball. The offense looked OK as Kirk Cousins threw for 259 yards and two scores and running back Dalvin Cook scored twice. Look for an improved effort by the defense as the Vikings pick up a home

win. My pick, Minnesota 23, Tennessee 16

Dallas at Seattle: Another tough road game for Mike McCarthy's Cowboys as they will face the high-scoring Seahawks in Seattle on Sunday. Dak Prescott (266 passing yards, 1 TD) sure didn't look like a \$40 million quarterback in the opener against LA and he will need to bring his "A" game to the Pacific Northwest on Sunday. Running back Ezekiel Elliott (96 yards rushing) ran for a score and caught a TD pass, but Prescott needs more from his receiving corps. Seattle QB Russell Wilson (322 passing yards, 4 TDs) was sharp their win at Atlanta as running back Chris Carson rushed for 100 yards and scored twice and second-year wide receiver DK Metcalf grabbed four passes for 95 yards and a touchdown. I think it's going to be a long day for the Pokes on Sunday. My pick, Seattle 31, Dallas 23

Tampa Bay at Denver: Tom Brady's Tampa Bay debut was a bid disappointing as he tossed two interceptions (one that went for a pick six) and two touchdowns in the Buc's 34-23 loss at New Orleans. Look for Brady to get tight end Rob Gronkowski more involved in the offense, along with wide receiver Mike Evans, who caught one pass (that went for a TD) against the Saints. Denver played hard in its opener against Tennessee but lost on a last-second field goal. Look for quarterback Drew Locke (216 yards, 1 TD) to keep throwing to tight end Noah Fant (5 receptions, 81 yards, 1 TD) and use running back Melvin Gordon (78 yards, 1 TD) more in the running game on Sunday. My pick, Tampa Bay 26, Denver 21

Green Bay at New Orleans: A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew pits the Packers against the Saints. It's a shame no fans will be allowed to see this one in the Mercedes Benz Superdome, but that's the world we're currently living in. In their season opener at Minnesota, the

Packers put up 43 points as Aaron Rodgers threw for 364 yards and four touchdowns, while wide receiver Davante Adams grabbed 14 passes for 156 yards and two scores. The Pack can also run the ball with Aaron Jones, but the Saints have a pretty fair runner as well in Alvin Kamara, who scored on a run and a pass reception against Tampa Bay. Drew Brees had a pedestrian outing (160 yards) and two scores, so look for him to pick things up on Sunday night. The offense will be without wide receiver Michael Thomas, one of the best wideouts in the league, after he sustained a high ankle sprain against the Bucs. Look for Brees to use Kamara more in the passing game and spread the ball around as he and Rodgers duel in the Dome. My pick, New Orleans 34, Green Bay 31

Kansas City at Baltimore: The Game of the Week occurs on Monday Night Football as Patrick Mahomes (211 yards, 3 TDs) brings the high-scoring Chiefs into Baltimore to face Lamar Jackson (275 yards, 3 TDs in his debut) and the equally explosive Ravens. Mahomes and the Chiefs rolled over the Texans in their opener while the Ravens did the same against the hapless Browns by a 38-6 score. The Chiefs have to be delighted with the debut of rookie running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire, who rushed for 138 yards and scored a TD against the Texans. Mahomes did a good job of spreading the ball around to his talented receiving corps, but they will face a much better defense this week when they face the Ravens. The Chiefs aren't as good on defense and Jackson will test them all night long with passes to speedy wide receiver Marquise Brown (5 receptions, 101 yards) and tight end Mark Andrews (5 receptions, 58 yards, 2 TDs). Mahomes will keep his team in this one, but look for Jackson to make a play or plays late to lead the Ravens to a big early-season win. My pick, Baltimore 36, Kansas City 33



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To Filiberto Garcia of
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Page 7,
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Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

suggested that the area needed to be remediated like the other areas.

Jackie pointed out that the RD did not call for berms to protect the cofferdams from a barge strike, a design feature requested by Harris County. On Zoom, Carolyn Stone commented that the RD “overall had a lack of seriousness about the site.”

Jackie noted that the EPA had not only granted a 160 day extension to the consultant as requested, but also asked that the TWG (Technical Working Group) be expanded to include Harris County and the Port of Houston. It now officially includes TxDOT, the Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, and TCEQ.

Jackie made the following statement regarding waste characterization:

Upon our review of the 30% design for the Northern Waste Pits, multiple items raised red flags and prompted our call for integrity.

It is known that the Pits contain 2,3,7,8-TCDD in concentrations greater than 90,000 parts per trillion (ppt) yet over 75% of the samples taken for “waste characterization” contained concentrations of 2,3,7,8-TCDD below 30 ppt. This is in no way representative of the actual waste material that will be removed from the San Jacinto River and permanently disposed of. How this waste will be handled, transported, and disposed of, hinges on the waste characterization.

The Waste Pits Superfund Site has made considerable progress through the Superfund process in the last decade. Our communities want this process to keep moving forward, as the risk to public health

and the environment remain as long as the Pits are in the river, however adequate work must be done now to ensure remediation is done safely and with integrity.

In the Southern Impoundment, Jackie noted that the acceptable clean-up level was >240 ng/kg, considerably lower than in the Northern Impoundment, where >30 ng/kg is the standard for material to be removed. She noted that the Southern Impoundment also had “hot spots” where dioxins had tested to 152,000 ppt (parts per trillion).

She called for new sampling to be done on all the sites, with reclassification standards for the disposal

of the waste.

The schedule now calls for the Pre-final Design for the Southern Impoundment to be submitted to EPA by September 2020, and the Northern Impoundment by April 2021.

Final Design, which will allow the PRP (Potential Responsible Parties) to negotiate completion of the remediation, is scheduled for the Southern Impoundment by November 2020, but for the Northern Impoundment is listed as indefinite.

THEA's next Zoom meeting is scheduled in two months, but recorded sessions are available on YouTube, and THEA's blog on their website, TxHEA.org.



Let's be counted in the Census

Dear Friends,

Time is running out to complete your census! The deadline is one week from today on September 30th. The census is important because the roads you drive on, the schools you send your children to and the hospitals that care for your loved ones are all funded based on how

many people in your area complete the short census survey.

Filling out the census takes less than 10 minutes and is safe, easy and confidential. By law, your responses are private and can not be shared with anyone, including other government agencies. No information you provide will be shared with immigration authorities or used against you in any way.

Harris County currently has a response rate of 61.7%. We can do better! Visit my2020census.gov today to fill out the census. If you have already filled out your census, please share this email with at least 3 people who you think should hear this. If we come together to make sure everyone is counted, our community will have the funding it needs for a prosperous 10 years.

United States[®]
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2020**

Shape Your Future.
START HERE.

What Does the Census Mean for My Community?
The Census is a count of everyone residing in the U.S. every 10 years. Accurate reporting is critical in determining funding for communities like ours.

Fair Representation
Determines U.S. House of Representatives seats.

Emergency Response
Helps allocate disaster resources.

Program Funding
Determines funding for programs like Medicaid and school lunches.

Your Health
Helps hospitals and communities predict the spread of diseases.

Infrastructure
Drives decisions for housing, safety resources and community improvements.

By law, Census responses are private and cannot be shared with anyone, including other Federal agencies and law enforcement.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE? To learn more, visit census.gov.
You will have three options for responding: ☒ Online ☒ By Phone ☒ By Mail

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

We're the only funeral home in the Houston area providing full-time, certified therapy dogs for the comfort of our families and guests

AXEL and IZZY are both certified grief therapy dogs. You can follow them on Facebook and Instagram @GriefTherapyDood

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2020 TX Election Deadlines

- REGISTER TO VOTE: OCT 5
- UPDATE REGISTRATION: OCT 5
- IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING STARTS: OCT 13
- APPLY TO VOTE BY MAIL: OCT 23
- IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING ENDS: OCT 30
- VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT BY: NOV 3
- ELECTION DAY: NOV 3

<https://my.lvw.org/texas/voting-elections>

WE NEED
YOUR TRADES

2020 BLAZER
\$7,500
OFF MSRP

2020 SILVERADO CREWCAB
\$10,000
OFF

2020 BOLT
TWO AT
THIS PRICE
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