

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

*Your News, Your Newspaper*

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 9, NO. 31 (#382) THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### THUR. AUGUST 5 Sheriff's Town Hall Meeting

SHERIFF'S SAFETY FORUM  
Thursday, August 5, 2021 from 6pm to 7pm.  
Leon Z. Grayson Community Center, 13828 Corpus Christi Street, Houston 77015.

Program:  
HCSO Patrol Deputies for the Southeast Harris County area, will talk to the community about concerns in the area.

### FRI. AUGUST 6 Chamber Luncheon

Friday, August 6, 2021 11:30am | Jacinto City Town Center  
1025 Oates Rd., Jacinto City, TX 77029

Program:  
Port Houston MWBE/Business Equity Initiative  
Speakers:  
Gilda Ramirez, Port Houston Sr. Director of Business Equity  
MEMBERS: \$20 | NON-MEMBERS: \$25  
NEW MEMBERS (Time in program to introduce yourself and your business / organization.)  
RSVP DEADLINE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021 | LATE RSVPS MEMBERS: \$25 | NON-MEMBERS \$30  
R S V P : YESENIA@NCACHAMBER.COM | 713.450.3600 | WWW.NORTHCHANNELAREA.COM

### FRI. AUGUST 13 Roaring Twenties Casino Night

NORTH CHANNEL AREA FOUNDATION ROARING TWENTIES CASINO NIGHT

Friday, August 13, 2021  
7:00 - 11:00 pm, Jacinto City Town Center

TOGETHER AGAIN, OVERCOMING THE PANDEMIC TO RING IN THE TWENTIES!

Help support a local area student's education by raising funds for the Bill Palko Scholarship!

COME DRESSED IN YOUR ROARING 20'S BEST!

Our NCA Foundation Casino Night Fundraiser will be here in the blink of an eye! Join us as we ring in the twenties by coming together and funding the education of a bright and promising North Channel Area student through our Casino Night Fundraiser. We encourage you to consider participating or donating to our event. Break the stigma around Friday the Thirteenth, and bring your luck in support of our Chamber Foundation!

## Sheldon Fire Dept. expands Services

Four new High Water Fire Engines, new stations

SHELDON – The Sheldon Community Fire & Rescue department held a traditional "push-in" ceremony last Sunday at Station 2 on the Beaumont Highway. The occasion was the start of service for their newest fire engine, a specially designed high-water truck by W. S. Darley & Co. of Itasca, Illinois.

In addition, the event included the "pinning" of two probationary fireman to full status in the department. These new firemen are Joshua Simmonds and Diego Villarreal. Four junior firemen were also promoted at this time.

Chief Sidney Webb explained to the invited crowd that the department had four of the new specially-designed high water trucks on order, and due for service in the next month. One each will be assigned to the existing stations on C.E. King Parkway, Beaumont Highway, South Lake Houston Parkway at Beltway 8, and the new station scheduled for Uvalde at Kinsman.

Chief Webb announced that the new station would break ground this month, will include administration offices as well as fire-



These 4 new High-Water Fire Engines will be in service in Sheldon. Each has unique safety features built especially for Sheldon Community Fire & Rescue.



FIREMEN at Station 2 on Beaumont Highway at the Push-in Ceremony last Sunday. At right, Chief Sydney Webb and Assistant Chief Roland Balderas.

fighting equipment, and would be about 21,900 sq. ft. and costing about \$14 million dollars. It will go into service by November 2022.

As the Sheldon area has grown quickly over the past few years, the SCF&R department has grown also, and is now responsible for an area of about 60 square miles, with 175,000 residents.

The new fire trucks were designed to drive through moderate flood waters several feet deep safely. During Hurricane Harvey in 2017, the area got 60 inches of rain, according to Assistant Chief Roland Balderas.

The new engines have a CAFS compressed air foam system, a 1750 gpm pump, a 1000 gallon water tank, a 30 gallon foam cell, and the 220 cfm air compressor. Their engine air intake and exhaust systems were custom designed to be above high water levels. All electrical components were waterproofed.

In commenting on the custom design of the fire

*Continued. See SHELDON FD, Page 5*

## Dutton holds Volunteer Appreciation Day

By Allan Jamail

Saturday July 31, 2021 at the new Generation Park several hundred participants gathered for music, free barbeque and refreshments at State Rep. 142 Harold Dutton Jr.'s Volunteer Appreciation Day.

Ann Tillis was the Mistress of Ceremony, Janice Thomas made the welcoming address, Mary Fontenot explained the day's occasion, James Joseph introduced guest speakers and Abner Lyons, Dutton's Community Liaison was the agenda's director keeping everything flowing smoothly. Numerous churches and church leaders were present offering prayers.

It was hard to keep up with what elected officials attended because they drifted in and out making



Rep. Dutton's Friends & Family Volunteer Day Awardees: Houston Councilwoman District B, Tarsha Jackson, Dr. Linda Robertson (for Rep. Senfronia Thompson), Pct. # Deputy Sgt. Julia Davis, Rep. Harold Dutton Jr., Pct. 6 Constable Sylvia Trevino & Linda Jamail, Community Liaison (for Rep. Ana Hernandez) Photo by Allan Jamail

speeches during the 11 to 3pm event. Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Councilwoman

Tarsha Jackson, Constable Sylvia Trevino to name a few. No members of the Texas House were present except Rep. Dutton,

most all of the Texas House of Representatives members of Harris County were in Washington DC and are still there protest-

ing the Republicans new Texas voting law changes.

Charlotte Jackson with Pct. 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton office was soliciting seniors to sign-up for RUOK (are you okay) program where Harris County's seniors will get a phone call from Eagleton's office checking on their welfare. Jackson said the program now has over 650 seniors getting calls checking on them. To sign up call 713-274-2513 or email: charlotte.jacksoncn3.hctx.net.

Harris County's Public Health Department was passing out flyers to anyone wanting the free Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine shot. They'll be giving the shots on Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 8am to 4pm at 6003 Woodbend Dr. (77049) No insurance, no ID required and accepting walk-

*Continued. See Page 5*

## GLO removing sunken barges from San Jacinto River

By Carolyn Stone and Gilbert Hoffman

SAN JACINTO RIVER – Residents of the San Jacinto River Estates area along River Road, were surprised early in July to see excavation work barges lifting old sunken hulks of barges from the water along the waterfront.

This area is near the Superfund site, and also the area next to Riverside Inn where the Holtmar/TimTom company has been trying to install new barge mooring facilities.

Residents were concerned the cleanup was in preparation for the instal-



Workers clean mud off barge that has been raised from underwater.

lation of the barge facility and the possible approval of the 03/04/21 Holtmar Letter of Permission from the Corps of Engineers.

However, closer inspection of the vessels and personnel performing the cleanup revealed they were from the TX GLO, or Texas General Land Office.

Residents say they are still concerned it may be related. Removal of the sunken vessels and other debris in the river would be a necessary step prior to construction of a barge facility in that area. Carolyn Stone reached out to Ana Hernandez's office to hear if they had any information on why the GLO was in the proposed area for the barge facility

*Continued. See Barges removed, Page 2*



# Template Jump Line,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Several work barges, with cranes and other excavation equipment, are anchored along the bank near the San Jacinto River Estates neighborhood. They are removing sunken barges and other debris that impede the flow of the river and pose a hazard during flood conditions. Beyond the work barges can be seen the Riverside Inn, to the far left Meadowbrook Park, and to the far right the area for a proposed barge mooring facility. Work on that project has halted due to a question about whether it was properly permitted by the Corps of Engineers. (All photos courtesy of Greg Moss)

removing the sunken vessels.

We informed Hernandez' office of what was witnessed and the crew and vessels were identified as being from the GLO, but since Holtmar/TimTom had been trying to get US-ACE approval to construct a barge facility in that area we wanted clarification as to why the cleanup was being performed. If it was just a clean up of the San Jacinto River we wholeheartedly supported it, but if it was in conjunction with the installation of a barge facility or barge parking lot by any entity we strongly opposed it. Adriana Aguirre-Hernandez of Ana Hernandez office was interested in what we knew about the Holtmar/TimTom/Holt attempts to install barges in the area, the LOP, and the Riverside remodeling and planned re-opening, wanting the information we had so she could research it and to help her when she contacted the GLO.

Adriana learned that the cleanup was related to funding recently received by the GLO from the legislature for the removal of 20

identified sunken vessels which were impeding the waterflow. The GLO had just made it to our area to remove the identified vessels in our portion of the river. The cleanup was not related to the attempts by Holtmar/TimTom to install a barge facility.

Residents are continuing the discussion with Rep. Hernandez's office to enlist her opposition and

help in preventing the Holtmar/TimTom barge facility or any other marine industry, barge facility, or barge parking lots in this area and other areas north of I-10 East. They have a detrimental effect on the residential neighborhood, and are a threat to buildings and the Waste Pits during flooding or hurricane events, as seen in the near past.



Two GLO contractor's work barges, with cranes and excavators, lifting portions of sunken barges.

# K. Hovnanian® Homes opens Crosby Park Village



The Crosby/Huffman Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting for Crosby Park Village last month as a kick-off of the community.

K. Hovnanian® Homes is excited to announce the opening of Crosby Park Village, a new community of single-family homes in the heart of Crosby, Texas. This elegant community offers 9 stunning home designs with luxurious owner's suites, covered patios, and optional fireplaces with select floor plans.

Crosby Park Village is close to all that city life has to offer while keeping the quiet charm of a small town. Residents enjoy easy access to shopping, dining, and recreation, all within the excellent Crosby Independent School District.



One of many available designs, this is the Auburn.

This beautiful community has something for everyone. Contact us at 281-957-1744 to learn more and schedule a tour. We can't wait to help you find your new K. Hovnanian home!



CROSBY PARK VILLAGE

## Now Open!

New, single-family homes are now selling at Crosby Park Village! Residents enjoy an excellent location in Crosby.

**CALL 713-590-4342 TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!**

KHOV.COM/CROSBYPARKVILLAGE | 713-590-4342 | MON-SAT 10AM-7PM, SUN 12PM-7PM | 415 CALAMINT, CROSBY, TX 77532

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CROSBY EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

## HOWL AT THE MOON GALA

Saturday, August 21, 2021  
5:30pm  
American Legion Hall in Crosby


FEATURING ENTERTAINMENT BY THE BUSCH ADMINISTRATION AND HOWL AT THE MOON DUELING PIANOS SHOW

DINNER, DANCING, LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS, AND MORE


Tickets: \$65/person, \$120/couple, \$500/table  
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Nuevo servicio de Harris County Transit :  
HARRIS COUNTY TRANSIT PLUS  
¡En Generation Park!






Encuesta




Mapa





Harris County Transit Plus sera un nuevo servicio de transporte a pedido dentro de zonas definidas dentro del Norte Este del Condado de Harris. Esto incluye proporcionar destinos preestablecidos como: supermercados, centros comerciales, hospitals, universidades y otros destinos laborales.


Harris County Transit le gustaria recibir sus comentarios sobre las necesidades de transporte en su comunidad.

Escanee los codigos QR para realizar nuestra encuesta y comentar sobre nuestra nueva area de servicio O visite nuestro sitio web en [HarrisCountyTransit.com](http://HarrisCountyTransit.com) para acceder a las mismas encuestas.

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Harris County Transit's new service:  
HARRIS COUNTY TRANSIT PLUS  
in Generation Park!






Survey




Map





Harris County Transit Plus will be a new on-demand transportation service within defined zones of North East Harris County. This includes providing pre-set destinations such as: grocery stores, shopping centers, hospitals, colleges and other job destinations.


Harris County Transit would like your feedback on transportation needs within your community.

Scan the QR Codes to take our survey and comment on our new service area OR visit our website at [HarrisCountyTransit.com](http://HarrisCountyTransit.com) to access the same surveys.

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COUNTY NEWS

Harris County Judge  
Lina Hidalgo



### New Initiatives to reduce Criminal Court Backlog

Right now, all across the nation, violent crime is increasing due to the pandemic and the associated economic challenges — unfortunately, the same is true here in Harris County. And, while some categories of crime are increasing, around 100,000 criminal cases are pending in Harris County, including 40,000 cases that are well past national standards in how long it should take for them to be addressed. This backlog of cases has increased by 40% since 2017, when Hurricane Harvey first spurred delays. As more and more time passes from when a crime is committed to the resolution of a case, victims feel ignored, perpetrators feel empowered, and those accused who are innocent feel left behind.

To build on other efforts to address the violent crime rate, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioners County approved new actions last week to help the judicial branch of our government move through this backlog of criminal cases, including:

- The addition of six additional associate judges to assist the 22 Criminal District Courts to reduce the backlog.
- The approval of \$600,000 dollars in funds to expand jury operations at NRG.
- Funding for visiting judges to help support our associate judges get through cases.

A major and historic \$15M investment in technology for law enforcement which will make body cam systems more efficient to speed up processing of court cases by making necessary evidence available quickly. It currently takes 6 months for body cam evidence that is required for a case to move forward to become available.

Previously, Commissioners Court has allocated additional overtime funding for detectives in the Harris County Sheriff's Office's Violent Crimes, Adult Special Crimes, and Child Abuse Units to work cases in the most violent crimes through improved information sharing, expedited investigations, and targeted investigations focusing on repeat offenders and organized criminal activity in known hotspots. Commissioners Court also previously approved a resolution for the Texas legislature to add an additional criminal district court in Harris County, which passed this session. These aren't the first actions we have taken to address the crime increase in Harris County and they won't be the last.

### Feds Order Pause of I-45 Expansion Project

Harris County has been fighting hard to improve the proposed TxDOT I-45 expansion project, which, as currently planned, won't solve our traffic problems and will only worsen our air quality. Though we do need and deserve an I-45 project to improve this outdated roadway, we also need the plan to respect the wishes of our community and be forward thinking in terms of transportation policy.

Under law, TxDOT is required to incorporate community and environmental concerns into their design. However, after many meetings and conversations, those concerns seem to have fallen on deaf ears. In May, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and the County Attorney announced a lawsuit against TxDOT which would require them to take community and environmental concerns into consideration for their design. Late last month, the Federal Highway Administration sent a letter to TxDOT sharing the concerns we have about their lack of engagement with the community violating the Environmental Protection Act. The federal government asked TxDOT to pause the project over environmental concerns and to review their compliance with the Environmental Protection Act.

This message from the Biden Administration to TxDOT is clear: You can't bulldoze your way to a massive infrastructure project without community input or considering smarter transportation options. We can have a region with world class transportation infrastructure where people don't spend hours in traffic, and with the highest accident rate in the nation. This is the first win in our war to get the I-45 plan our community needs and deserves.

### Reforms to Jury Duty System

In Harris County, serving jury duty is about to get a lot more convenient. Last month, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and the Commissioner's Court approved several much-needed reforms to promote increased participation in Jury Duty, an essential component of administering our justice system. The first part of the Juror Participation Plans will require \$500k to implement reforms which include providing meal vouchers, free parking, distinct parking signage to help jurors find their way, free coffee and water, and an awareness campaign to draw attention to the changes. Stay tuned for more jury duty reforms to come later this year.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## Eight proposed Amendments on November ballot

The order has been drawn for eight proposed amendments to the much-amended Texas Constitution that will appear on the Nov. 2 ballot. The proposed amendments were approved by at least two thirds of both houses of the state Legislature. According to the Austin American-Statesman, they include:

- Allowing families to designate an "essential caregiver" to have access to loved ones in nursing homes and other long-term facilities. The issue came up when visitors were banned from such facilities during the pandemic.
  - Banning all government entities — state, cities, counties, etc. — from limiting or preventing religious services, also an issue that arose during the pandemic.
  - Providing property tax exemptions to spouses of soldiers killed in the line of duty.
  - Barring attorneys whose law license has previously been suspended or revoked from serving as judges, and requiring district judges to be practicing lawyers for at least eight years. The minimum required now is four years.
  - Allowing counties to issue bonds to finance transportation or other infrastructure projects in blighted or unproductive areas.
  - Allowing the state's professional rodeo associations to raise money through raffles, as other charities can do.
  - Authorizing the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, which investigates complaints against judges, to also oversee the conduct of judicial candidates.
  - Allowing school taxes to continue to be reduced for those 55 and older upon the death of a spouse with a disability.
- As the Statesman reported, Texas voters to date have approved 507 amendments, making the Texas Constitution one of the longest in the nation.



#### ADVICE ON TREES RECOVERING FROM WINTER STORM URI

As August arrives, landowners wondering about trees stricken during Winter Storm Uri in mid-February can quit wondering what to do about trees that are still completely bare: they are almost certainly not going to come back.

Specialists with the Texas A&M Forest Service, along with Neil Sperry, a widely known gardening and horticulture expert, teamed up last May to urge Texans to wait until mid-July before cutting down leafless trees. The vast majority of trees that were slow to leaf out have mostly recovered.

"The waiting was important, because we're just now beginning to differentiate between those trees that are obviously not going to survive; those that are wounded and we hope will survive; and those that are definitely going to survive, but are going to take a little while to come back," Sperry said.

Gretchen Riley, the Urban and Community Forestry Program Leader at Texas A&M Forest Service, said if a tree is bare and hasn't put out a single leaf, it is almost certainly dead. This also applies to palm trees, which were especially hard hit by the storm.

"Anything green means that the tree has a chance for recovery," Riley said. "But a single small frond should have grown and

opened on palm trees by now. No green means it is dead and has already started rotting internally."

She added that trees that lost much of their canopy may or may not survive. A good rule of thumb is imagining a circle around all a tree's branches. A fourth of that circle should be filled in with leaves. If not, the tree is most likely doing to die, Riley said.

#### STATE REPORTS FIRST WEST NILE CASE

The state's first case of illness caused by West Nile virus this year was reported in Dallas County, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The virus is transmitted through bites from infected mosquitoes. While most people exposed to West Nile don't get sick, about 20% develop symptoms such as headache, fever, joint and muscle aches, nausea and fatigue.

DSHS urges Texans venturing outdoors to wear long sleeves and pants and apply insect repellent. The agency also recommends removing standing water from tires, toys, buckets and other items.

Over the past five years, the state has had 805 cases of West Nile virus and 63 deaths.

#### TCEQ PLANS TO USE DRONES DURING DISASTERS

The next time a hurricane or other natural disaster hits Texas, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality plans to use drones to help staff survey land difficult for personnel to visit by foot or in a vehicle.

TCEQ now has 25 drones equipped to allow live-streaming video during disaster events. More than two dozen staff members have completed classroom instruction, with 17 having passed the FAA exam for what are formally called Unmanned Aerial Systems.

#### DSHS AWARDS \$10 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR VACCINE EFFORTS

As COVID-19 vaccination rates lag and cases of the delta variant spike, DSHS will award \$10 million to local groups working to promote vaccination efforts. The grants of \$50,000 to \$150,000 will go to a wide range of organizations providing vaccine education across the state.

A total of 6,251 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients were in Texas hospitals as of Sunday, according to DSHS. That is quadruple the number reported a month ago and the most seen since February.

The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported 62,722 new cases in Texas during the past week and 271 deaths — a five-fold increase from a month ago. A total of 12.67 million Texans are fully vaccinated — about 43% of the state's population.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

### Bad Gardener

I have never been a gardener.

This makes me feel like a misfit in my family. My mother is a wonderful gardener. She had an enormous vegetable garden in the suburbs before it became fashionable to do so. Her mother was also an avid gardener. She escaped the demands of 11 children by spending time with her flowers. There are photos of my grandma in her garden and she looks as if she is having a wonderful time, but I figure any activity that would allow you to escape the demands of cooking for 13 people three times a day would be a welcome relief.

My sister is also an amazing gardener. She has flowerbeds everywhere and a raspberry patch that produces 3 gallons of berries a day. She is always expanding gardens and digging things up and putting new things in. Her entire yard is beautifully landscaped and all I can think is that it looks like an awful lot of work.

I am a bad gardener.

My attempts are gardening have never been successful. One year, I planted flowers I thought would do well, and they did so well I created an impenetrable jungle. I had flowers as tall as me. I couldn't get in to weed, and after a while, I stopped trying. The next year I tore it all up and mulched it. Mulching is not gardening.

The next year, I planted rose bushes. The deer ate every rosebud as soon as it appeared. Then I planted peonies. They wilted in the sun. I planted lupines in a place I thought would be perfect for them. They never bloomed. Whatever sort of green thumb my mother and grandmother and sister have seems to have missed me entirely.

Only recently have I had the courage to admit the truth: I don't like gardening.

I was sure that if I just worked a bit harder, all the pleasant feelings everyone seems to have about gardening would magically land on me. But I've realized that I just don't enjoy gardening. It feels like work to me, and not work I enjoy. So when my husband, Peter, and I bought the new condominium, one of my first thoughts was, "Now I don't have to feel guilty about not gardening!"

I left my rakes and shovels and gardening gloves behind, and I was delighted to be moving to a place where the only outdoor space I had was a balcony. Gardening was the furthest thing from my mind when a funny thing happened.

I wanted to plant something.

Arriving in the midsummer, there wasn't a lot of selection. But I found some plant hangers and pots and six different kinds of plants and I repotted them and made attractive groupings until I had eight pots hanging in a row on the balcony, filled with brightly colored foliage. They are out there now, waving in the breeze. They have already grown since I put them out last weekend. I call them my "balcony babies," and those eight pots are giving me more satisfaction than anything I've ever planted.

"The balcony is beautiful!" Peter said last night. I believe it's the first compliment I've ever gotten on my gardening efforts. And finally, I feel at peace.

I do have an inner gardener after all.

She just works in a smaller medium than the giant gardens my mother and grandmother had or the sprawling flowerbeds my sister creates. My gardens are tiny. They are in little red pots hanging from the railing and, quite honestly, I think they are perfect.

Till next time,

Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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# Dutton holds Volunteer Appreciation Day

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ins. For other locations for the virus shot and free virus testing call: (713) 439-6000 or visit their website at [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov). Some of the sponsors were, United Health Care, Sing On Food Store, Pay-less Discount Food Store, DJ Lupe Gallo, Houston Tool Bank, Byron Dunham The BBQ Man, Double Platinum, HEB, CWA (Communication Workers Union) Centerwell Primary Care Events (free events 281-609-6150), Humana Insurance, IHC Specialty Benefits Group ([slegacy@thesb.com](mailto:slegacy@thesb.com) or 262-903-1014), Heavenly Choice BBQ (832-491-0352), Harris County Public Health Dept. and Generation Park.



Yuroba Harris, receives from Rep. Harold Dutton's the Community Leader Volunteer Coordinator of the Year trophy award. L-R: Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Yuroba Harris, Chief District Director for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee of the 18th Congressional District & State Rep. Harold Dutton Jr. District 142. Photo by Allan Jamail

PHOTO ABOVE: Rep. Dutton's Friends & Family Volunteer Day Awardees: Civic Club, Organization Representatives etc.: Pleasantville, New Progressive, Impacting Houston, R.H. Heart Ministries, Gustavia Pearls Women's Outreach, Discovering Youth, Unicorn Treats Inc., Riverwood Civic, Clinton Park Civic, Sunbeam Curry Civic, Kashmere Garden Super Neighborhood #52, Fifth Ward New Progressive, El Dorado, Houston Gardens, Everyone Counts, Bridgette Murray - Act's, Deborah Adams - Precinct Chair, Pine Trails Community Association, Glen Manor Wayburne Place / Rosewood, East Houston, Glenwood Forest, Neighborhood Enrichment Exchange, Fifth Ward, Fifth Ward Super Neighborhood #55, East Houston Economic Development Inc. Photo by Allan Jamail

## Sheila Jackson Lee arrested in DC protest for Voters Rights bill



Capitol Police arrest U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee and several others last week, for blocking the entrance to the Hart Senate Office Building. Lee was protesting in favor of action on Voting Rights bills.

## Sheldon FD Expands Service,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



An Age-old tradition for putting a new fire engine into service is the "push-in" as seen above at Station 2 on Sunday.

engines, Chief Webb said "Some of what makes these rigs special is the things done to allow the engines to survive if they need to be driven through flood waters. Our general rule of thumb is not to drive through any water that touches the blue striping on the sides. Many engines are ruined due to the air intakes being down low and sucking water into the engine. Horizontal exhaust under the vehicle can also

cause issues as does sucking flood water into the transmission or rear differential vents. Even the vents on fuel tanks have led to water contamination if they are not protected by raising them up into the fire apparatus body. The typical air filter canister has been changed and moved from down low in front of the passenger's side front tire to above the radiator and the design is now more like a home furnace filter.

The transmission, pump gearcase, rear differential, fuel tank, and all other vents have been elevated up higher to avoid sucking in flood water. The vertical stack was designed and chosen to keep the engine exhaust flowing smoothly." Also present for the ceremonies on Sunday were members of ESD60, and families of the new pinned firemen. Refreshments and a social hour followed the ceremonies.

WASHINGTON, DC – Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee was arrested Thursday during a protest in Washington D.C. where she was fighting for the expansion of voting rights. Lee, who represents the state's 18th district, posted several photos on her Twitter account showing herself being restrained during the protest. "I will never stop fighting for voting rights. The time is now to move the voting rights bills in the US Senate forward. Enough is enough," she tweeted. In a video posted on her social media account, Lee said she engaged in civil disobedience in front of the Senate Hart building in Washington D.C. and was

arrested. "I believe when you're getting into good trouble, when you realize that the 15th Amendment has guaranteed the fundamental right to vote, any action that is a peaceful act of civil disobedience is worth of more to push all of us to do better and to do more," Lee said. Lee said during the protest she and several others decided to block the doors of the Hart building, which led to them being handcuffed and taken into custody. "We did civilly disobey. We knew that the police officers had to do their job, but we were blocking the door — that we intended to do — block the doors of the United States Senate, Lee

said. "We were handcuffed, they used the plastic handcuffs. We went into the paddy wagon. There is a DC jail near the grounds of the United States Capitol. The paddy wagon took us to that. We were booked. We were placed in a jail cell. We stayed in the jail cell. At some point, they proceeded to process us. So we spent time being processed. We were able, if we had the money, to be able to process out. But we were booked, we were put in jail, we were put in a jail cell." Lee said she spent about three hours in jail before she posted her \$1,000 bail. "The time that we spent in jail, being handcuffed, it's not pretty. It hurts. But the women did it because we believed in what we were doing," Lee said.



New fireman Joshua Simmonds received his pin and helmet from his father.



New Fireman Diego Villarreal received his pin and helmet from his mother.

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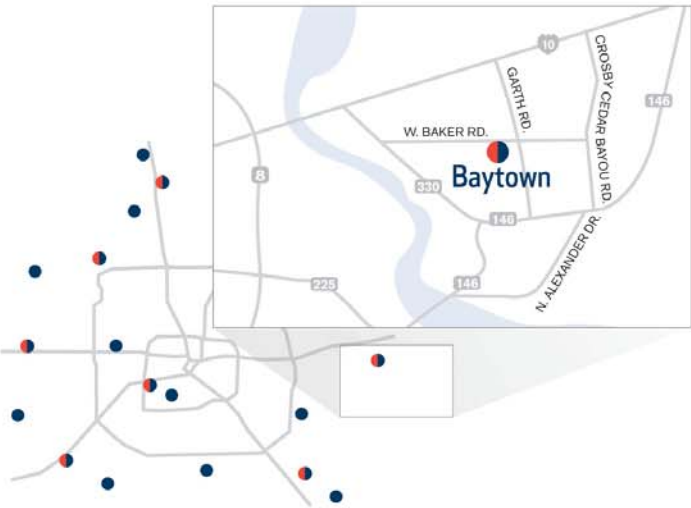
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# Ask The Expert

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



## Develop Your Gifts

There are times that it seems like you do and do, yet you go unnoticed. Other people who just show up are recognized for work that has perhaps been a group project. Just as there are many ingredients that go into an amazing gumbo, there will always been one item that rises above the others. When you think about that awesome cobbler that the pastor's wife would make each year to the church picnic, you immediately remember the taste of those fresh blackberries.

When you reach a place, as my friend Doc calls it "your sweet spot" you suddenly do not care if others are getting the attention. You look deeper and realize that the blackberry cobbler was made even better because of all the ingredients that went into the crust as well as what all the blackberries were cooked in. And let's not forget the love that was used to stir up the ingredients and the years of expertise in rolling the perfect crust on the flour dusted wax paper.

Likewise, when years of planning and meetings go into a project and there is finally a ribbon-cutting, nobody remembers who laid the first boards to "frame" the foundation. Instead, there are cheers of excitement and prideful smiles. The feeling of excitement in the air takes away any negative thoughts that someone did not get their recognition. And the similarities are simple, they complement each other. Yes, the items in the cobbler work together just like the items in the gumbo. They complement each other. And when there is a project at work or withing an organization, those involved each have special gifts and should be used to completement each other.

There is always a leader who is responsible for the outcome. There are typically those in middle management who hear the idea and then assign others that can implement the plans to make the project happen. Along the timeline, there will be those who have longevity with the company as well as those who have titles. There will be some members who are skilled in graphics and some in finances. There are usually members who know the plan and are prepared to execute it no matter what. There are those who are like a cement, as they fill in the gaps to help make the project happen.

Each one of us has special gifts and talents. We are all called to be a part of a much larger picture. Life is not about us, but instead, about how we can use out gifts to help others. When we learn that helping others brings out the best in people, we want to be a part of it. In the weeks and months ahead, we all could reach out and see how we can use our strengths to help others. As school gets ready to start, maybe it is time to see who can carpool with you to get all of your children to school. Maybe you need to check with the local school and see if you can help in some way, maybe as a Career Day speaker or as an after-school tutor. The opportunities are endless as to how YOU can make a difference.

## SHELDON ISD NEWS

### Regular hours resume in Sheldon

Normal operating hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday will resume beginning the week of August 2.

### Back to School website is available with updated information for school year

The first day of school for the 2021-22 school year is Wednesday, August 11. The back to school website is located at [www.sheldonisd.com/start2021/](http://www.sheldonisd.com/start2021/) and contains information on registration for new students, verifying residency for returning students, pre-kindergarten registration, school supplies, school start times, and more. Current students should verify their residency information is up to date by logging in to Skyward Family Access located on the district's website.

### New online registration for bus services

New this year, Sheldon ISD families can register online for transportation services for the 2021-22 school year. Families should complete the form for each student that needs transportation. This online process should take no more than five-minutes to complete and will help simplify the registration process for the 2021-22 school year. To register, go to [www.sheldonisd.com](http://www.sheldonisd.com).

### Brand new calendar for families to use for 2021-22 school year

In an effort to make finding activities easier for Sheldon families and community, we have launched a brand new activity calendar that will include all school and program activities in a one-stop-shop format. To find the calendar, click on any campus or the district home page and find the image that says 'District Calendar Events.' Next, you will find two calendars: the instructional 2021-22 calendar with all important academic dates and the activity calendar which includes all extracurricular activities. Families can filter by location to load all activities relevant to their children. To filter by location, click on the funnel icon in the search bar located on the top right corner of the page (see images below) and choose 'advanced filter.' Once a choice is selected, the appropriate calendar/calendars will appear. For screen shot instructions, visit [www.sheldonisd.com](http://www.sheldonisd.com).

### Sheldon offers Blue Card program for senior citizen residents

The Blue Card Program is an initiative to honor all of our supporters in the district who are age 65 or older. One of Sheldon ISD's goals is to create and foster an environment where all stakeholders are engaged and actively involved in the work we do for children. The success of our students is a shared responsibility of community members, parents, and educators, and we believe a community's collective power is greater than individual efforts. To sign up to be a Blue Card member, go to [www.sheldonisd.com/bluecard/](http://www.sheldonisd.com/bluecard/)

Members receive free entry to district-sponsored fine arts and sporting events as well as a free luncheon each year with an opportunity to learn more about the district and engage with district leaders.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

## Diamond Jim: “What is the Bill of Rights?”

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the united States of America make up the Bill of Rights. James Madison wrote the amendments, which list specific prohibitions on governmental power, in response to calls from several states for greater constitutional protection for individual liberties. For example, the Founders saw the ability to speak and worship freely as a natural right protected by the First Amendment. Congress is prohibited from making laws establishing religion or abridging freedom of speech. The Fourth Amendment safeguards citizens' right to be free from unreasonable government intrusion in their homes through the requirement of a warrant.

If you do not know the Bill of Rights, you have no rights. Here are your rights:

**AMENDMENT I**  
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

**AMENDMENT II**  
A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

**AMENDMENT III**  
No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

**AMENDMENT IV**  
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

**AMENDMENT V**  
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

**AMENDMENT VI**  
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

**AMENDMENT VII**  
In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

**AMENDMENT VIII**  
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

**AMENDMENT IX**  
The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

**AMENDMENT X**  
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

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

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](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

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## How mad is she?

 **A little.**  
 **A little bigger.**  
 **Oops.**

  
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