

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Kelsey-Seybold, Page 2
- Superintendent's Message, Page 3
- Keeney's Korner, Page 4
- Westfield FD, Page 6
- Prosperity Bank/HOPP, Page 6
- CenterWell Senior Care, Page 6

NORTHEAST NEWS



REMEMBERING 9/11

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 44 Years
VOL. 45, NO. 37 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

CenterWell Senior Primary Care Grand Opening Tuesday, Sept. 14

New Senior Primary Care facility at 388 W. Little York Road in the Yorktown Plaza shopping center, near Foodtown. 10:30am to 2:00pm, you are invited to tour the center, enjoy live music, and have food trucks and giveaways. See more details on Page 6. More at bit.ly/littleYorkGO, or call 346-292-5869. CenterWell Little York is a primary care office focused specifically on the needs of seniors. Come learn about the difference of senior-focused primary care, and the free educational and social programs available in the community Activity Center.

Prosperity Bank HOPP Lending Program

Prosperity Bank lending program is specifically designed to help families get the affordable home they want, or refinance the home they love. The program features 100% Financing, up to \$350,000; Long Term Fixed Rate; and Refinance Available.

For more information, see details on page 6 of this issue, or call 346-428-8019. Member FDIC, and EHL.

Bonding Against Adversity Workshop Sept. 18

Volunteers Needed In-Person

Citizenship Application Workshop
Join our next In-Person opportunity for Helping Others Help Themselves by assisting an applicant complete the Application for Naturalization (N-400) to become a U.S. Citizen. Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. at Hosanna Lutheran Church 16526 Ella Boulevard Houston, Texas 77090

This is not a walk-in event; pre-registration is required, and more than 20 applicants have registered.

Drainage project underway in Castlewood

By Gilbert Hoffman

EAST ALDINE – Groundbreaking ceremonies were held last Wednesday, September 8th to mark the start of construction for Subdivision Drainage project E-09 in Castlewood Addition Sections 3 and 4. This is one of over 100 subdivision drainage projects in the county that Harris County Flood Control District is undertaking with bond money from the 2018 Flood Bond issue.

Commissioner Garcia refers to these projects as turning into “smart communities” to mitigate future flooding.

The project will cost about \$14.9 million dollars, including an addition-



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES were held last Wednesday, Sept. 8th and included Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Castlewood's Connie Esparza, Selina Valdez, and representatives of the HC Flood Control and Engineering Departments.

al \$1.2 million to replace water lines not in the original plan.

Construction will start September 15, at Connorvale, and end up 14 months later at Woodgate.

Original planning took place two years ago, with the community participating in a meeting held at the East Aldine Management District offices, September 10, 2019. At that meeting Harris County Engineering consultant CivilTech Engineering, Inc. presented recommended drainage improvements.

Planned improvements include replacing the existing asphalt pavement and roadside ditches with a full

Continued on Page 4 See Castlewood project.

FROM COMMISSIONER ADRIAN GARCIA:

Pct. 2 Liaison Valdez keeps busy helping Aldine

By Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia

When I first took office, my goal was to build a Community Relations team featuring liaisons who would represent the various areas of Precinct 2, act as a direct line to our office, and whenever needed, assist our residents in getting help. Considering the massive geographic size of Precinct 2, and the varied concerns that come from all corners, I rely on these



SELINA VALDEZ

liaisons to be my eyes, ears, and action on the ground.

The East Aldine community is one of my high-

est priorities because previously it was an area that had been forgotten by those in charge of serving it. That's why when I found Selina Valdez to be our Aldine community liaison, I was thrilled to have her on our team. Selina's connection to Aldine runs deep. Even if not on my staff, she would still be advocating and serving the people Aldine, as this is the area she has called home from birth.

Selina's Aldine roots are deep: she attended Johnson Elementary



SELINA REFLECTS THE SPIRIT OF ALDINE

when the campus was off Hamill Rd, went to Hambrick Jr. High and Mac-

Arthur High School, and she's lived here ever

Continued on Page 4

HARRIS COUNTY \$30 Million Relief funding for Small Businesses recovering from Pandemic

Harris County has created a new \$30 Million Small Business Relief Fund to support micro and small businesses recovering from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The application window will open Monday, September 20 at 9:30AM and close Monday, October 4 at 5:30PM Central Standard Time. The application process is not first-come, first-served; all completed applications will be reviewed for eligibility and prioritized based on small business impact parameters. Below you will find more details about this program, including eligibility, funding methodology and timeframe.

Eligibility Criteria

- Located within Harris County

- Registered business operating in Harris County. Check this map see if your business address is located in the county
- Must have 30 or fewer employees (including part time, contractors and full-time employees and owners)
- In operation before April 2020
- Experienced negative impact on operations due to the pandemic
- Annual revenue of less than \$500,000 dollars in 2019 and 2020
- Be in good standing Texas Comptroller's office with no outstanding tax obligations or liabilities

Tax-exempt businesses, gambling businesses, residential builders, speculative real estate investors, government entities and sexually-oriented businesses are not eligible. You can view the list of prohibited NAICS codes here.

Grant Awards & Limitations
The Harris County Small Business Relief Fund will provide grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 to eligible micro and small businesses. Funds must be used for

Continued. See Small Business Relief, page 5

Abbott calls 3rd Special Session, for redistricting and other “priority issues”

By James Barragán Texas Tribune

Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday announced a third special legislative session that will begin on Sept. 20 and tackle redistricting, restrictions on transgender student athletes and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Texas Legislature now has the opportunity to redraw legislative and congressional districts in accordance with the new census numbers,” Abbott said in a statement. “In addition to redistricting, there are still issues remaining that are critical to building a stronger and brighter future for all Texans.”

Lawmakers, who will meet in Austin for the fourth time this year, will also be tasked with allocating \$16 billion in federal COVID-19 relief funds and with deciding whether state or local governments can mandate COVID-19 vaccines. Abbott also included on his five-item agenda a bill that would ban the tethering of dogs outside with heavy chains, which he had vetoed earlier this year. Abbott asked lawmakers to address concerns he had about the specificity of the bill and “over-crimi-

nalization.”

The Legislature just wrapped its second overtime round on Thursday, delivering on major conservative priorities like an elections law that restricts how and when voters cast ballots, a ban on how teachers can talk about race and history in classrooms, billions of dollars in additional border security funding and further restricting abortion access.

But lawmakers failed to deliver on two issues pushed by the GOP base: requiring transgender student athletes to play on teams based on the gender assigned to them at or near birth, and banning COVID-19 mandates.

Abbott had asked law-

Continued. See 3rd Special Session, page 2

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AND THURSDAY
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SATURDAYS
FROM 4 TO 4:50 PM,
FROM 6:30 PM TO 6:50 PM

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501 TIDWELL RD, HOUSTON, TX
BETWEEN I-45N & HARDY TOLL RD
713-692-6303

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

We're Here For You!

Executive Director: David Hawes
713.595.1209 » DHawes@AldineDistrict.org

Operations Manager: Veronica Sanches
713.595.1226 » VSanches@AldineDistrict.org

Assistant Operations Manager: Nataly Perez
713.595.1231 » NPerez@AldineDistrict.org

AldineDistrict.org

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Wednesday 3 Bolillos for \$1

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KELSEY-SEYBOLD ANNOUNCES 27th CLINIC LOCATION

The new North Channel Area Clinic will expand access to coordinated, evidence-based care

HOUSTON (March 9, 2021) – Kelsey-Seybold Clinic announced plans today to build a 7,500-square-foot clinic in The Shops at Stone Park in the North Channel area. The new North Channel Clinic represents another significant investment in Kelsey-Seybold's plan to bring comprehensive care closer to area residents and their families.

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic – North Channel will be located at the northeast corner of Beltway 8 and Wallisville Road, at 5820 E. Sam Houston Parkway North, Houston TX 77049. This new location is expected to open for patient care in the summer 2021.

"We have many patients who live in and around the North Channel area who have

to drive to our clinics in Baytown, Humble, and Pasadena. We believe our patients, and other residents in the area, would benefit from having a convenient Kelsey-Seybold Clinic near their home, school, and place of employment," said Victor Simms, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Chair, Clinic Planning Committee, and Chief of Internal Medicine,

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic. "We are all looking forward to greeting new and current patients at our new location in North Channel a few months from now."

The new North Channel clinic will continue Kelsey-Seybold's expansion of coordinated, evidence-based care in the ship channel area, in an area that is currently

underserved with limited options for primary care. Patients will have access to an on-site laboratory, X-ray, and up to four primary care providers, with an extensive referral network for Kelsey-Seybold specialists in Summer Creek and Pasadena.

"Kelsey-Seybold's growth into the North Channel area demonstrates our commit-

ment to patients living in and around the area," said John Lyle, Vice President, Operations, Kelsey-Seybold Clinic.

The new Kelsey-Seybold Clinic – North Channel location was designed by architects at Powers Brown Architecture. United Constructors has been named the general contractor.

MORE COMMUNITIES. MORE CONNECTED CARE.

NOW OPEN!

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic – North Channel

Comprehensive, connected Kelsey-Seybold care is right in your neighborhood. With a focus on Family and Internal Medicine, our new state-of-the-art clinic also features an on-site lab and diagnostics. Best of all, we offer same-day or next-day primary care appointments.

WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS AND ACCEPTING 50+ HEALTH PLANS
including Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cigna, Humana, UnitedHealthcare, and more!

We also accept these Medicare Advantage plans:
KelseyCare Advantage, WellCare Texan Plus, and Aetna PPO.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!
713-442-0000

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
Changing the way health cares.

Adam Mitchell, M.D.
Managing Physician

"We welcome the opportunity to care for you and your family."

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic – North Channel
The Shops at Stone Park
5820 E. Sam Houston Parkway N.
kelsey-seybold.com/northchannel

Harris County Small Business Relief Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

business-related expenses, including payroll, working capital, business rent, inventory, supplies, equipment, and other operating costs.

Grant applicants are only eligible to receive one grant award

Only one grant may be awarded per business with more than one location

Limited to one grant per physical address within Harris County

Documentation Required

The grant application will require verification of pertinent documentation.

Personal Identification
Driver's license or government-issued photo ID

Business Information
Proof of business registration with Harris County or TX Secretary of State

Q1 2021 941, payroll report or 1099 to verify number of employees

Business utility bill (water, gas, electric) Home based businesses may provide a home utility bill.

Business Financials: 2019 and 2020 business tax return (additional financial documents, such as bank statements or P&L may be requested if losses cannot be verified by the tax returns)

Other
DD 214 proof of military discharge (veterans only)

Scoring Methodology
The Harris Small Business Relief Fund awards will not be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications will be assessed and scored using the following methodology.

Applications with the highest scores will be reviewed and approved first. Applications will have up to 150 points based on the following five elements, each with a maximum of

30 points.

Ownership

The program has a priority for woman, minority and veteran-owned businesses

Previous access to financial support
Receipt of previous federal COVID-19 funding through PPP loan, EIDL or Harris County grants

Social Vulnerability Index of business location
To learn more about the SVI, visit this website.

Employee count

The program has a priority for businesses with fewer than 10 employees

Industry

To learn more about industry prioritization, click here.

Timeline & Award Schedule

Applications will be accepted from Monday, September 20 at 9:30AM to Monday, October 4 at 5:30PM.

The application review period will start on October 5, 2021 and continue through January 9, 2022.

The grant funds will be awarded monthly beginning in November 2021 and through January 2022. Eligible applications with the highest scores will be reviewed and awarded first, followed by applications with lower scores.

All grants will be awarded by January 2022.

Partner Organizations

We are proud to partner with local community organizations collaborating as partners. These local agencies will with the application process to help overcome technological or language barriers. A list of our partner agencies and their contact information can be found here.

View our Outreach Toolkit and download the promotional materials for this program.

Harris County Small Business Relief Fund Info Sessions
We will be hosting virtual info sessions to provide an overview of this grant program.

Wednesday, September 8th @ 9:00 a.m.
Monday, September 13th @ 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 23th @ 12:00 p.m.

Questions? Connect with us!
Ask A Question
Call Us: 281-378-3282
Email Us: sbgrants@liftfund.com

Abbott calls 3rd Special Session,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

makers to ban mask mandates in schools during the second special session but lawmakers could not get that proposal over the hump. Now, Abbott is asking the Legislature to decide whether state or local governments can mandate COVID-19 vaccines.

The bills about transgender student athletes and COVID-19 mandates will likely turn up the heat on an already contentious 30-day session. Lawmakers will take up their decennial redrawing of the state's political maps, meaning some legislators will be fighting for their political lives. (Redistricting usually takes place during the first legislative session after the census, but it was delayed this year because of setbacks spurred by the coronavirus and the Trump administration's handling of the census data.)

After a contentious year in which House Democrats broke quorum three times to avoid legislation they said would restrict the voting rights of Texans, those same lawmakers will now have to work with the Republican majority to redraw the state's legislative and congressional maps. Republicans currently dominate both chambers in the Texas Legislature and the state's congressional delegation, which will grow by two additional seats due to its population increase.

They are expected to draw the maps to continue their political dominance in the state for the next decade.

Harris County Public Health Opens New Sheldon ISD Stadium and Dick Graves Park Vaccination Sites

NRG Park's last day of operation set for August 25th

Houston – Due to the increase in demand for COVID-19 vaccinations, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is announcing two important changes to better meet the vaccination needs of Harris County residents.

MASS VACCINATION SITE AT SHELDON ISD OPENS TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

Open six days a week. Closed every Tuesday (Will be operational today)
Hours of operation 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Address: 11411 C. E. King Parkway, Houston, TX 77044

Vaccine operations will take place in the parking lot and HCPH will have the ability to provide 1,500 vaccinations per day.

THE COMMUNITY VACCINATION CENTER CURRENTLY LOCATED AT NRG PARK WILL TRANSFER TO DICK GRAVES PARK ON REED ROAD EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021.

Open six days a week. Closed every Monday
Hours of operation 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Address: 2000 Reed Rd, Houston, TX 77051

HCPH will have the ability to provide 3,000 vaccinations per day and provide COVID-19 testing.

Due to the recent rise in first dose vaccinations, appointments are encouraged and residents can schedule through vacstrac.hctx.net or call 832-927-8787. While HCPH will have some availability for walk-up vaccinations, those opportunities will be limited so we recommend residents call or sign up in advance.

Currently all HCPH vaccination sites are participating in the \$100 cash card vaccination incentive. If you are a Harris County resident and receive your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine between August 17th and August 31st, you will receive a \$100 cash card. For more information, please review our announcement release.

Face coverings will be required for individuals seeking a vaccination and we urge residents to take additional COVID-19 prevention measures such as maintain social distancing, staying at home as much as possible and continue regularly washing their hands.

Parents must accompany their children, ages 12-17, to be vaccinated or children must bring a consent form signed by their parent or guardian. Consent forms can be found via vacstrac.hctx.net and 12 to 17-year-olds are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Adults over the age of 17 can choose from 3 vaccines: the one-dose Johnson & Johnson and the multi-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

UNITED TAX FIX

¡NEGOCIE Y RESUELVA SU DEUDA FISCAL AHORA!

PUUEEE CALIFICAR PARA UN ACUERDO CON EL PROGRAMA DE INICIATIVA DE ALIVIO DEL CONTRIBUYENTE

- 🔴 DETENER LAS ACCIONES DE COBRO NEGATIVAS
- 🔴 ELIMINAR O REDUCIR LAS SANCIONES
- 🔴 NEGOCIAR PAGOS MENSUALES ASEQUIBLES

844-441-7754

LLAME PARA UNA CONSULTA GRATUITA

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE



Vardeman EC/PK/K celebrated their annual "Go Texan NFL Day!"



Students marched and paraded through the Vardeman Gym displaying Banners and pom poms!



This event happens the Friday before the first home game for the Houston Texan Football Team.



Coach Nigro is so happy for the great support and turnout from the students and staff at Vardeman. Thank you Aldine parents for cooperating and making this a successful event!



BakerRipley East Aldine Campus los invita a participar en el:

DIA DE LA CULTURA HISPANA

Viernes, 17 de Septiembre, 2021
4P.M. - 7P.M.

Unase con BakerRipley para celebrar el día de la cultura hispana. Tendremos diferentes estaciones sobre todas las culturas de Latinoamérica. ¡Además tendremos shows de baile, lotería, rifas y más!

BakerRipley East Aldine Campus
3000 Aldine Mail Route Rd.
Houston, TX 77039
346.570.4463

BakerRipley Community Developers

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

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Off Jensen between
Berry Road & Aldine
Westfield



Message from the Superintendent, September 7, 2021

Dear Aldine Community,

I want to start this week's message by acknowledging the devastation that our neighbors in Louisiana are experiencing, along with those in the northeast. While we may feel helpless, as it seems like so many heavy occurrences are happening all around us, and sometimes in our day-to-day lives, I want to encourage each of you to take a moment to do something kind for someone else today. It does not have to be elaborate. It could be as simple as sharing a smile or opening the door for someone. Turning our attention to doing something, no matter how small, for someone else is a great way to lift the spirits of not only yourself but those around you.

I also want to take a moment to remember Mr. Lawrence Eckert, who passed away on August 19, 2021. Mr. Eckert was a graduate of Aldine High School, a successful oil businessman, and a former Aldine ISD board member. He proudly served Aldine and, as a thank you, the district named Eckert Elementary in his honor. You can read more about his exciting life on our website.

I wish you a great week of school!

With Aldine Pride,

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney
Superintendent



National School Attendance Month

(September) — Research shows that daily school attendance positively impacts students' social, emotional, and academic development. School participation maximizes learning opportunities for all students.

National Suicide Prevention Week

(September 5-11) — Suicide is preventable when we ask questions that help identify at-risk individuals and get them the help they need. Click here to read more about how we can prevent unnecessary tragedies.

Upcoming Events

COVID Virtual Town Hall

— A Memorial Hermann Health System clinical expert will answer the most pressing questions from the community. Hosted by the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Department.

Tuesday, September 7, 6 p.m. — Spanish Town Hall / Click to access the session.

Wednesday, September 8, 6 p.m. — English Town Hall / Click here to access the session.

Strengthening Families Program (Presented by Santa Maria Hostel)

Thursday, September 9, 9 a.m. — Virtual English Session / Click here to access the presentation.

Information Session About Family and Community University

Thursday, September 9, 6 p.m. @ M.B. Sonny Donaldson Child Nutrition Center

1802 Aldine Bender Road. Houston, TX 77032

The United States Naval Academy Admissions Forum

Thursday, September 23, Houston — The top-ranked public school offers college opportunities, financial aid, summer STEM programs for grades 8-10, and a seminar for current high school juniors considering the USNA as their college of choice. Financial aid is available for fees and travel for the Summer STEM and Summer Seminar programs. To learn more, click here.

Transition Expo (Hosted by the AISD Special Education Dept.)

Thursday, October 7, 5 p.m. — This event is geared to families of children of all ages with disabilities and will feature programs and resources that help prepare students for life after high school. Click here for more information.

REMINDERS

The Aldine Education Foundation Scholarship Program gives students the opportunity to start earning college money in their freshman year of high school by achieving high academic standards for all four years of high school. Students who successfully meet the program's criteria will have \$3,000 of scholarship funds ready at graduation — no applications necessary! Click here for more information.

Free Breakfast and Lunch for All Students

All students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch meals this school year through a USDA program. While not required to submit a free/reduced meal application, families are encouraged to apply for meal benefits at www.SchoolCafe.com. To learn more, click here.

State-Required School Vaccines

State law requires students to be fully vaccinated to enroll and remain enrolled in school. Students are to be excluded from attendance until fully compliant. Learn more on the district website.

COVID-19

Aldine ISD's top priorities continue to be the safety and academic success of all students. Please follow the three Ws — Wash your hands, Wear a mask, and Watch your distance. In addition, masks are required for anyone age two and older at every Aldine ISD campus, district building, and school bus. Protocols and information for families have been updated for the 2021-2022 school year and will be revisited to address changes from the Texas Education Agency, CDC, state and local health guidelines. Information and updates related to our operations will be posted here: www.aldineisd.org/healthalerts.

Stay Connected

Please make sure to check out the District News page to stay up to date on all the wonderful things happening in our district. You can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

By Jennifer Nandlal Sr Adult Program Specialist

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH:

Our virtual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration begins with a variety of online programs. Check us out on Facebook and Instagram (@highmeadowslibrary) for storytimes, crafts, and more! Each program will have a take and make kit that you can pick up at the library for free. While you're at the library, pick up a passport and explore our Hispanic Heritage Around the World display.

BACKPACK BUDDY PROGRAM:

We are looking for

school age children and teens who are interested in receiving food during the school year. We are partnering with the Houston Food Bank to provide Backpack Buddies: a weekly food distribution. Registration is required.

ONLINE CITIZENSHIP CLASS:

Join us every Tuesday and Thursday at 5pm for our virtual citizenship class. Learn about the rights and responsibilities that come with being a citizen, tips for the official citizenship interview, and review questions that are on the test.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY:

We need YOU to become a friend of the library. We

are currently looking for individuals who would like to help us form a group to be the voice of the community! If you have what it takes, please contact Jennifer at jennifer.nandlal@hclpl.net.

For information on any of the above events or programs, please call us at 832-927-5540 or stop by the library.

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY
4500 ALDINE MAIL RT
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77039
Library Hours:
Mondays-Thursdays:
10am to 6pm
Fridays: 1pm to 6pm
Saturdays: 10am to 5pm
Sundays: Closed

Pct. 2 Liaison Selina Valdez,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

since.

In speaking with her, Selina says she views her community liaison role as being a direct extension from my office to the community. With her ears to the ground, she has a handle on all that's going on in the area. She shines a light on issues and helps our local neighborhoods know they're being heard.

Selina will tell you without a pause, that she's proud that her community has embraced the improvements my team has implemented, like repaved roads, new sidewalks built, ditches dug, stormwater detention basins excavated and even the stripping on Sellers Road.

In a moment she'll rattle off a list of important improvements brought about by Precinct 2 including: Lauder Rd., Aldine Westfield, Hopper Rd. and Little York Stormwater Detention Basins, the Kowis Street Improvement Project, new sidewalks on JFK and E Mt Houston Rd, and of course, newly repaved streets. Selina's especially proud to have assisted the effort in stopping another concrete batch plant from opening in one of our neighborhoods near James Driver Park.

Long-time East Aldine resident Shirley Ronquillo told us it was a breath of fresh air when for the first time in ages Precinct 2 representatives began asking residents, "how

can we help?" She described how Precinct 2 responds to make things happen, with Selina helping her research and file a formal complaint about water boil notices not being made available in Spanish, which needed to change, and quickly it did. Shirley exclaimed, "Selina was my researcher and navigator, to bring about important changes!"

Marina Flores Sugg, an East Aldine resident since 1975, told us Selina Valdez is "the best thing ever, at the very top," describing how she takes the reins to resolve issues. In particular, Marina loves that our projects, such as bayou and culvert cleaning, pothole repairs, ACCESS2HEALTH SmartPods, and street light improvements truly make a difference in the community. Marina added, "We actually never had someone who listens like (you) do!"

When Guadalupe Jimenez first saw new local detention basin, she could've sworn she heard music, saying, "it makes you feel secure and safe. You need to let people know how appreciative you are and that you've noticed improvements. We need to convey to people that they need to vote for improvements... like these, it's your tax dollars at work."

It's critical to understand though, this good work would not happen

Castlewood Drainage Project,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

curb and gutter concrete roadway and sidewalks and underground storm sewer. The new roadway will be lower, to allow it to serve as a detention facility in storms.

A detention pond is proposed as well to offset the

changes imposed by the improvements. The proposed improvements will reduce flood risk during extreme events, and significantly improve drainage during smaller, more common rain events.

Phase 2 of the project

will be similar improvements in the Northern section of Castlewood. This is expected to start in 2022.

2018 BOND PROGRAM

On August 25, 2018, Harris County voters ap-

proved \$2.5 billion in bonds to finance flood damage reduction projects. This additional funding, together with other funding sources, supports a wide variety of recovery and resiliency initiatives.

Castlewood Addition, Sections 3 and 4

Recommended Alternative – Curb & Gutter Streets and Storm Sewers

Legend

- Proposed Storm Sewer System
-) Proposed Inlets and Manholes
- (Outfalls
- Proposed Extreme Event Swale
- Proposed Roadway Replacement (Curb and Gutter)
- Harris County Streams

PROJECT PROGRESS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2018 | BOND PROGRAM

Pct. 2 Liaison

CONTINUED

without folks like Selina Valdez. Her understanding of the community's needs is how our office knows what projects will make a difference.

Don't hesitate to contact Selina or my office. Selina can be reached via email at Selina.Valdez@pct2.hctx.net. When she hears from you, she takes those concerns to our team, and then I

bring that to Commissioners Court as I push for more resources for Aldine.

We're helping our neighborhoods become resilient to flooding, more walkable, and better to raise a family, now and in the future, and folks like Selina are critical in these efforts. Join me in thanking Selina for all she does you and your neighbors!

County expands support services for homeless or at risk persons

Across the nation, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated housing insecurity, homelessness, and social issues related to these problems, such as mental illness and domestic violence. Last month, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioners Court unanimously approved \$5.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Emergency Housing Vouchers to expand

support services that help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness obtain and keep permanent housing. The Harris Center and the Coalition for the Homeless will carry out the support services including case management, navigation, move-in support, mental health and substance abuse services, and domestic violence-related services.

SPORTS PAGE

Texans, Cowboys face tough road tests Against Browns, and Chargers on Sunday

The Texans head to Cleveland to face one of the top teams in the AFC in the Browns, while the Cowboys play a second straight road game to begin their season when they take on a young and dangerous Los Angeles Chargers team in SoFi Stadium.

Houston definitely takes a step up in class when it faces Baker Mayfield and the talented Browns, a team that is a legitimate contender to win the AFC title in 2021.

The Browns were a playoff team a year ago, beat Pittsburgh in the first round before falling to eventual AFC champ KC 22-17 in the Divisional Round of the playoffs. The Browns tasted success last year and are hungry for more.

Dallas faces another tough road test against an up-and-coming Chargers team led by second-year quarterback Justin Herbert (4,336 yards, 31 passing TDs as a rookie). The rebuilt Dallas defense, especially the secondary, will get a real test against the strong-armed Herbert on Sunday in LA.

Other interesting games have Buffalo visiting Miami in an early-season AFC East showdown, while the Los Angeles Rams visit Indianapolis. Tennessee also heads west to take on Seattle, while the Sunday Night Football game should be a good one when Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs take on Lamar Jackson and the Ravens in prime time. Week 2 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Packers hosting the Lions before a packed house at Lambeau Field.

In college action, No. 1-ranked Alabama (so much for a 'rebuilding' season after their 44-13 throttling of No. 13-ranked Miami in their season opener) begin SEC play with a road game at Florida. Auburn visits Happy Valley to take on a Penn State team that used a stingy defense to open with a win at Wisconsin two weeks ago. Texas hosts Rice as Steve Sarkisian looks



to build on the 'Horns' 38-18 season-opening season win, and his first as UT's head coach, against Louisiana Lafayette.

Before we take a look at this weekend's schedule, let's review Week 1's results. We opened with an 8-4 week (66%). Not a bad start.

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Rice at Texas: Look for Sarkisian to unleash the dogs in this one as Texas looks to improve to 3-0 heading into their Big 12 opener against Texas Tech on Sept. 25. In his UT debut, redshirt sophomore quarterback Hudson Card had a solid game passing for 224 yards and two touchdowns and running for another score. Wide receiver Jordan Whittington had a nice day with seven catches for 113 yards and a touchdown, but the star of the day was sophomore running back Bijan Robinson, who rushed for 103 yards and a TD and caught four passes for 73 yards and another TD. Look for Robinson to wear down the Owls as UT sets its sites on Big 12 play. My pick, Texas 41, Rice 15

Auburn at Penn State: The SEC and the Big 10 meet on Saturday in Happy Valley. Both teams opened their seasons with victories as Auburn cruised by Akron 60-10, and Penn State picked up a big road win with their 16-10 win at Wisconsin. Auburn QB Bo Nix threw for 275 yards and three TDs, while running back Tank Bigsby rushed for 169 yards and two scores. Auburn will face a much better defense this week. The Penn State defense saved the day against the Badgers picking off two passes late with

the Badgers driving for the game-winning score. The offense needs to get things going and if they do, Penn State could be a team to watch in the Big 10. My pick, Penn State 23, Auburn 18

Alabama at Florida: The No. 1-ranked Crimson Tide looked like the best team in the country with their crushing season opening win over Miami on Labor Day Weekend. First-year starter Bryce Young looked like a seasoned vet in directing Nick Saban's offense. Young passed for 344 yards and 4 touchdowns, while veteran wide receiver John Metchie grabbed six passes for 70 yards and a touchdown. Saban also has a new weapon on offense in tight end Cameron Latu, who caught four passes for 43 yards and 2 TDs. The defense was solid limiting Miami 87 rushing yards in the game. Florida opened the season with a 35-14 win over FAU. New starting quarterback Emory Jones was so-so in the game passing for a paltry 113 yards and one TD, but the running game was strong as Anthony Richardson rushed for 160 yards and 1 TD, while running mate Malik Davis added 104 yards and one TD. The Gators' offense will get its first real test of the year when they face a very good Crimson Tide defense. My pick, Alabama 33, Florida 20

NFL

Buffalo at Miami: Josh Allen and the Bills head to South Beach to take on Tua Tagovailoa (1,814 passing yards, 11 TDs in 2020) in an early-season AFC East contest. Miami could challenge Buffalo for the division title, but Tua must improve as a passer, especially on deep routes. The Dolphins like to get things done with defense

and the running game, but they will face an explosive Bills team that is led by Allen, one of the best young QBs in the league. Buffalo has to be considered a favorite to win the AFC title and earning a tough road win should do a lot for the team's confidence. My pick, Buffalo 26, Miami 23

Houston at Cleveland: The Texans face a tough road test against a very good Cleveland team. Mayfield (3,563 yards, 26 TDs/8 interceptions) improved a lot in his second year and is surrounded by a lot of talent on offense. The Texans are supposed to be improved on defense, especially the run defense, and fans should get an idea of just how improved they are when they take on Cleveland's one-two running back punch of Nick Chubb (1,067 yards, 12 TDs) and Kareem Hunt (841 rushing yards, 11 total TDs). Mayfield also has two good targets to throw to in wide receivers Odell Beckham and Jarvis Landry. The Browns are tough on defense as well, which could mean it's going to be a long day for Texans QB Tyrod Taylor. My pick, Cleveland 31, Houston 13

Los Angeles Rams at Indianapolis: Another good AFC-AFC matchup pits two of the league's best defenses at Lucas Oil Stadium on Sunday. The Rams have a new weapon on offense in quarterback Matthew Stafford, as do the Colts, who traded for former Eagles QB Carson Wentz in the offseason. Wentz is hoping to turn his career around after things went sour in Philly due to a combination of poor play and injuries. The Colts have the better running game led by second-year man Jonathan Taylor, but the Rams can light it up in the passing game behind Stafford and wide receivers Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp. This would be a good time for Wentz to regain his once magic touch. My pick, Indianapolis 24, Los Angeles Rams 23

San Francisco at Philadelphia: The 49ers could be a team to keep an eye on this year. After suffering through

a number of key injuries a year ago, Kyle Shanahan's team could be one of those teams that goes from worst in their division to a playoff team. It appears Shanahan will use both quarterbacks, veteran Jimmy Garoppolo and rookie sensation Trey Lance. Lance is a speedy runner and the 49ers used him in the preseason on their zone option look. Look for the 49ers to take care of the Eagles who could be in for a long, long season. My pick, San Francisco 30, Philadelphia 19

Minnesota at Arizona: The Cardinals host the Vikings in their home opener and are hoping quarterback Kyler Murray continues to progress as both a passer and a runner. He still has DeAndre Hopkins, one of the top wide receivers in the league, to throw to and the Cards added former Bengal A.J. Green to bring in a veteran presence this season. Minnesota hopes to turn things around after last year's 7-9 finish. The Vikings have a lot of weapons on offense with quarterback Kirk Cousins, 1,500-yard rusher Dalvin Cook and big-play wide receivers Justin Jefferson and Adam Thielen. This could turn into an offensive shootout in the desert. My pick, Arizona 34, Minnesota 31

Dallas at Los Angeles Chargers: The Cowboys have another tough road opponent when they take on the Chargers on Sunday afternoon in LA. Herbert is one of the top young QBs in the league and if running back Austin Ekeler (530 rushing yards, 1 TD/54 reception, 403 yards, 2 TDs) bounces back after a subpar 2020 campaign, the Chargers could be lethal on offense. Herbert still has the dependable Keenan Allen (100 receptions, 992 yards, 8 TDs in 14 games) to throw to. LA also has a young and coming defense, so it would behoove the Cowboys to bring their best effort on offense if they hope to pick up the win. Something tells me Herbert will outduel Dak Prescott in Week 2. My pick, Los Angeles

Chargers 31, Dallas 27

Tennessee at Seattle: Another good AFC-NFC matchup pits the Titans against the Seahawks. Look for the Titans to give the suspect Seattle defense a heavy diet of running back Derrick Henry, while Seattle QB Russell Wilson will use his talent at wide receiver in DK Metcalf and Tyler Lockett to attack a suspect Tennessee secondary. This could also turn into a high-scoring affair and Wilson is pretty good in those types of games. My pick, Seattle 33, Tennessee 31

Kansas City at Baltimore: A good one for Al and Cris and the Sunday Night Football crew. Mahomes and the high-scoring Chiefs visit Lamar Jackson and the Ravens. With starting running back J.K. Dobbins out for the season, and backup Justin Hill also gone for the season, Jackson is going to be called on to carry an even bigger load in the running game. He has the talent to do so, but the NFL QBs don't last a long time running the football. Jackson rushed for more than 1,000 yards a year ago, but needs to be a more effective passer. Throwing the ball is no problem for Mahomes, who has targets all over the place, led by tight end Travis Kelce and speedy wide receiver Tyreek Hill. The Ravens get the nod on defense in this one, but look for Mahomes to outduel Jackson on Sunday night. My pick, Kansas City 30, Baltimore 28

Detroit at Green Bay: Aaron Rodgers and the Packers will play their first home game of the season and for the first time since the 2019 season in front out a packed Lambeau Field against what could be a very bad Detroit team. This one could be over by halftime. Look for Rodgers to have a big night throwing to Davante Adams and his host of pass catches, while running backs Aaron Jones and AJ Dillon. It should be a happy home opener for the Packers and their fans. My pick, Green Bay 38, Detroit 14

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA


by Wilson Casey —

1. Is the book of Corinth in the Old Testament, New Testament or neither?
2. In Matthew 5, how many Beatitudes did Jesus mention in His Sermon on the Mount? 4, 6, 8, 10
3. From Luke 2, what village was known as the "City of David"? Damascus, Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem
4. In 1 Kings 17, who ate a poor widow's last meal? Amos, Elijah, Matthew, Daniel

5. To what tribe of Israel did Paul belong? Asher, Benjamin, Issachar, Reuben
6. From Genesis 4, who built a city called Enoch? Adam, Moses, Noah, Cain

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) 8; 3) Bethlehem; 4) Elijah; 5) Benjamin; 6) Cain
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They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days.

Detail of "Jacob Weeping for Joseph" by Marc Chagall, 1956

GENESIS 37: 32-34

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East Aldine District COMMUNITY NEWS

Westfield Fire Department - More ready than ever to battle fires and floods

With hurricane season hitting its peak, the Westfield Fire Department is now fully equipped to perform high water rescues throughout the East Aldine area.

Through funding from Harris County Emergency Services District (ESD) 25, the department recently obtained a \$79,325 command vehicle, which will haul a \$26,964 swift water rescue boat purchased last year. A new, protective tarp was recently added to the high-water rescue truck, which was acquired as government surplus for about \$3,000. Subsequent repairs have cost about \$20,000.

"They're now fully prepared to do all kinds of rescues, if needed," said Royce Sunday, president of the five-member ESD 25 board that oversees funding for the Westfield Fire Department. Most of the equipment is housed at the department's \$3.6 million station at 4105 Lauder Rd. There is a second, smaller station at 11251 Bentley.



New High Water Rescue Vehicle

Through a 10-cent tax on every \$100 worth of property in the ESD, the department provides emergency medical assistance and fire suppression services to about 45,000 residents in northeast Harris County, primarily in the area served by the East Aldine Management District.

The department is composed of part-time paid professional firefighters and volunteers, including several Houston Fire Department firefighters like William Goodroe. An HFD captain, Goodroe also is chief of the Westfield Fire Department.

He proudly oversees a crew that he compares to "the best" firefighters in the county.

"I'm probably a little biased, but what we have here and what we work with, this community is literally receiving the best fire protection in the county," Goodroe said. "The guys we have here are some of the hardest-working, knowledgeable firefighters you could possibly have."

"What we do here is actually pretty incredible," Goodroe said.

The Fire Department was founded in 1942 by an all-volunteer force of men who built the first fire station, assembled a fire truck, paid for gasoline and held barbecue fundraisers to finance their work.

There are more than 300 emergency service districts serving unincorporated areas of Texas. ESD 25's elected board includes president Sunday, a 16-year veteran volunteer firefighter who is now retired. The other board members are vice president Vester Melancon, treasurer Shirley Cody, secretary Carol King and assistant secretary David Lindeen.

The board oversees purchases for the department and provides an annual operating budget of more than \$1 million.

Goodroe, who has worked for the Westfield Department since 2007, explained the workings of the department.

Because the Houston Fire Department gives firefighters 24-hour days of duty and several days off, Westfield is able to hire part-time, paid firefighters and paramedics to work on their days off from the city jobs. About 95 percent of the Westfield force is from the Houston department. But there's even a firefighter who flies in from Oklahoma to work in the force.

Westfield is always looking for more volunteers, as well as professional firefighters who want to work part-time, Goodroe said. The opportunity for on-the-job training for ambitious firefighters is a good reason to join, Goodroe said.

"This is such a dynamic environment in how we have to run, those young firefighters are given opportunities to work in other areas, such as district chief or captain. It gives them the opportunity to work in leadership roles," Goodroe said.

The East Aldine area also provides a variety of challenges for fire personnel, Goodroe said. Because of the area's propensity for flooding during heavy rainfall events, the department definitely needs the new water rescue equipment.

Also, there are several fires in the area. "Some of that is arson, some of that is accidental fires such as grease in the kitchen or vehicles too close to the house. But we really need better fire education" to prevent fires, Goodroe said. Far too many East Aldine area residents do not have reliable smoke alarms or carbon monoxide detectors in their homes, he explained.

Another factor that results in frequent house fires is the average age of houses in the area. Many homes constructed in the 1960s and 1970s were built with aluminum wiring, Goodroe said. "A lot of the fire, attic fires in particular, are due to that," Goodroe said. "And home renovations as well. When you have aluminum, you can't do renovations with copper wiring. The two metals don't match."

During the February freeze that caused power outages and deaths statewide, Goodroe said, people in the Aldine area used dangerous ways to heat their homes, often with tragic consequences. "We made several runs where whole families had to go to the emergency room, because they were using their barbecue pits inside with whatever would burn," Goodroe said. "It was very depressing, and in a lot of ways, heartbreaking, watching people struggling to heat their homes."

Goodroe is extremely proud of the firefighters who work for the department.

"How we operate is not conventional. We've got five individuals a day here. And, at our other station, we have two people," Goodroe said. "A lot of our guys are like John Wayne. They make it work, and they work very hard to make it work."

Next, Sunday hopes to get an emergency, flashing light installed in front of the fire station on Lauder Road. "We really need to get one installed. The traffic out there is really bad," Sunday said.

— by Anne Marie Kilday



Fireman Samuel Rogers, left, Fire Chief William Goodroe