

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Library News 2
- New Sunbelt Director 2
- Aldine ISD News 3
- Goffney awarded 3
- Art Competition Winner ... 3
- Houston ISD \$4.4b Bond . 4
- Spanish Page 5
- Donate Your Vehicle 6
- EAMD July Movies 8
- EAMD Town Center RFO .. 8
- EAMD REACH 8

NORTHEAST NEWS



PHOTO GALLERY ON PAGE 5

Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 48 Years
 VOL. 48, NO. 24 TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Small Business Seminar & Lunch at East Aldine Thursday June 27

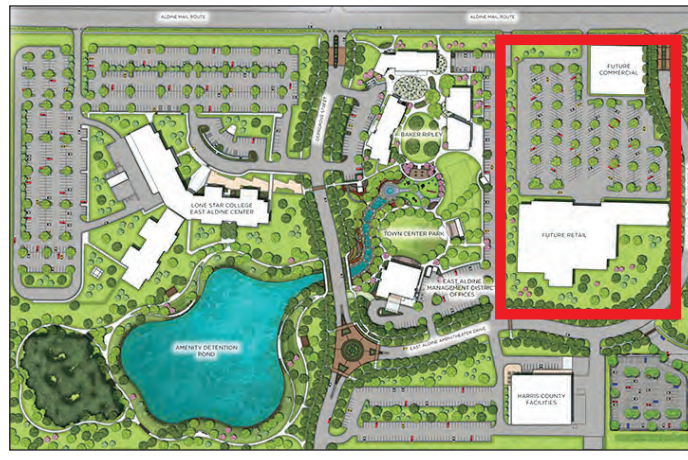
East Aldine District continues their Free Small Business Seminar Luncheon Series for all local businesses. Thursday, June 27 from 12noon to 1:30pm at the East Aldine offices, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive. Reservations appreciated, AldineDistrict.org/RSVP. Program will be on Insurance and Pensions, with representatives from WoodmenLife. Learn about benefits and options for affordable group or individual health options, self-funded pension plans, and more.

Tour East Aldine on a Bike Ride June 28th 6-8pm

Join the East Aldine community for our first ever "Tour de Aldine" bike ride with the Aldine Cruisers! Everyone is welcome to join this "tour" for an evening of fun and wellness. After the bike ride, join us at the Courtyard, at the BakerRipley East Aldine Campus, for some food trucks and well deserved relaxation. Call us to register! 346-570-4463. Sponsored by BakerRipley, East Aldine District, and Pct. 2 Adrian Garcia. An activity of the East Aldine District REACH wellness committee. EARN.LEARN.BELONG.BE.WELL. See more information in this issue of the NE NEWS.

East Aldine District requests Proposals for next step in development of Town Center

The East Aldine Management District (EAMD) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications for professional Town Center design services for development of improvements to the existing site. The District is requesting proposals from Design firms, for qualifications to be hired to design a new project on the 10 acre site facing Aldine Mail Route. This site is part of the 60 acre site known as Town Center, and was originally designated for a regional grocery store and supporting retail and parking. However, the local grocery chain that had purchased the site, and planned on building a Joe V's, as reported earlier in the Northeast News, has not moved forward in the three years they owned the property, and last month the East Aldine board terminated the contract and decided to proceed with a new plan and a new firm capable of designing a different facility.



MAP OF EAST ALDINE DISTRICT TOWN CENTER. PHASE III IS IN RED BOX.

The District has issued an RFQ, or Request For Qualifications, and will review proposals and make a decision on a Design firm by the end of July, according to EAMD Executive Director Richard Cantu. **NOTE: THE COMPLETE RFQ CAN BE VIEWED ON PAGE 8, INCLUDING SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND SCHEDULE DEADLINE.** **Project Background:** The EAD Town Center is a 60-acre site located in unincorporated Harris County at 2800 Aldine Mail Route. The Town Center complex additions are the third phase of a multi-million-dollar project aimed at future economic development of the long-overlooked area between Bush Intercontinental Airport and downtown Houston. Continued. See TOWN CENTER PROPOSALS, Page 2

July is Movie time In East Aldine

Join the East Aldine community for Free Movies on the Green in July. Movies are on Fridays, and start at 7:30pm. Popcorn and Snowcones provided, just bring a blanket or chair and sit on the amphitheatre green for a great Hollywood movie. Movie Cosplayers (costumed) welcome and encouraged. Come and have a good East Aldine time.



JULY 5th - WONKA
 Based on the extraordinary character at the center of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl's most iconic children's book and one of the best-selling children's books of all time, "Wonka" tells the wondrous story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the beloved Willy Wonka we know today.

JULY 12TH - A MILLION MILES AWAY
 Follows Jose Hernandez, the first migrant farmworker to travel to space. A tale of perseverance, community and sacrifice to accomplish an impossible dream. A Million Miles Away is a 2023 drama. It has received mostly positive reviews from critics and viewers, who have given it an IMDb score of 7.3.

JULY 19TH - BARBIE
 To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place. Unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you're a Ken. Since 1959, Barbie has shown us that you can be anything. Today, she continues to inspire fans of all ages to dream big! In her world, the possibilities are endless. Join us and come live the dream life!

JULY 26TH - GHOSTBUSTERS FROZEN EMPIRE
 The Spengler family returns to where it all started - the iconic New York City firehouse - to team up with the original Ghostbusters. But when the discovery of an ancient artifact unleashes an army of ghosts that casts a death chill upon the city, Ghostbusters new and old must join forces to protect their home and save the world.

Beltway 8 construction will close lanes for 12 months

Delays expected: TXDOT advises Alternates

HOUSTON – The Texas Department of Transportation Houston District announces the start of an \$8.3 million roadway rehabilitation project at Beltway 8 starting Friday, June 21, 2024. There will be multiple extended closures associated with the work. Motorists will experience delays during the closures and should consider alternate routes. Additional closure information can be found at HoustonTranStar. Closures are subject to change due to adverse weather. Work is being performed by I.S.I. Consulting, Inc., with the project limits extending from west of Hardy Toll Road to east of Aldine Westfield Road. The estimated completion is spring 2025. There will be multiple extended closures associated with the work as follows. — I-45 North Freeway northbound connector ramp to Beltway 8 eastbound: Total closure from 8 p.m. on Friday, June 21 until 5 a.m. on Monday, June 24. — I-45 North Freeway northbound connector ramp to Beltway 8 westbound: Total closure from 8 p.m. on Friday, June 21 until 5 a.m. on Monday, June 24. — I-45 North Freeway southbound connector ramp to Beltway 8 eastbound: Total closure from 8 p.m. on Friday, June 21 until 5 a.m. on Monday, June 24. — Beltway 8 eastbound entrance ramp from Greenspoint Drive/Greensgate Drive and Northchase Drive: Total closure from 8 p.m. on Friday, June 21 to 5 a.m. on Monday, June 24. — Beltway 8 eastbound entrance ramp from Imperial Valley Drive: Total closure from 8 p.m. on Friday, June 21 to 5 a.m. on Monday, December 16. — Beltway 8 eastbound main lanes between Ella Boulevard and Imperial Valley Dr.: Multiple alternate lanes closed from 9 p.m. on Friday, June 21 to 5 a.m. on Monday, June 24.

New job center opens in East Aldine



East Aldine District staff attended the grand opening for Workforce Solutions in Northeast Houston located at 11939 Eastex Fwy Frontage Rd. Congratulations to Workforce Solutions on this new office serving employers and job seekers in our community!

NORTHEAST NEWS - Send News Tips and Ad Inquiries to 713-266-3444 or nenewsroom@aol.com

EAST ALDINE DISTRICT

We're Here For You!

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Operations Manager: Veronica Sanches
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Fatal Shooting at 706 Greens Road

COMMUNITY WATCH

Sheriff's office investigates stabbing death on Reeveston Road

Investigators are piecing together what led up to a man's death in north Harris County after he was found with several stab wounds Tuesday night, June 18th. It happened at a home on Reeveston near Hardy Toll Rd. and Aldine Bender around 9:45 p.m. That's when deputies

with the Harris County Sheriff's Office said they got a call for a welfare check. When they arrived, responding officers said they found an unidentified man in his late 30s dead from several stab wounds. Investigators also said there appeared to be signs of a struggle. No additional information was

shared, as of this writing, Homicide detectives said they do not have a description of the man's killer nor do they have any witnesses. At last check, translators were working with officers to interview the caller to learn more as the investigation continues.

Fatal Shooting at 706 Greens Road

The fatal shooting of a man at 706 Greens Road about 10:30 a.m. today (May 14) will be referred to a Harris County grand jury. The identity of the

deceased male, 34, is pending verification by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences. The male shooter was not injured.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeant J. Stroble and Detective K. Collier reported: HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting in the parking lot of a store at the above address and found an unresponsive man with a gunshot wound. Houston Fire Department paramedics transported the man to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased. A preliminary investigation indicated the males got into an argument prior to the shooting.

Town Center Proposals,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The first phase of the complex included the Lone Star College East Aldine Campus with Avalos Early College High School, BakerRipley East Aldine Center with a non-profit clinic, and state of the art Harris County Sheriff's Office 911 Dispatch Center.

At the center of the complex is the 30,000 square foot EAMD office building (Phase II) surrounded by other community amenities, including the amphitheater and green space, a playground with a splash pad, a river-like water feature and beautiful fountain in a flood detention lake. There are also wide sidewalks and lush landscaping, with trees and native plantings that meander through the complex.

The third phase of the complex will be the development of 10 acre (100,000-300,000 square feet of multi-use space) to primarily include a mix of retail/commercial, as well as possible residential and community partner expansion space.

In 2024, the EAMD Board of Directors decided to enhance the Town Center amenities to improve the quality of the park appearance and increase utilization. The current East Aldine Town Center can be viewed here https://aldinedistrict.org/towncenter/.

Potential Scope of Work: The East Aldine Management District seeks to engage a firm to perform conceptual design through detailed design and construction services for the area designated as the Phase III improvements of the EAD Town Center.

- The scope of work will include: -- Creation of a master plan for design and construction of Phase III, including options for retail/commercial development, optional residential and community partner/ agency expansion space; additional greenspace/amenities, seasonal lighting, outdoor sound system/speakers, and other enhancements -- Electrical work (underground) for around the designated areas to include lighting of landscaped paths. -- Signage (digital and wayfinding signs) -- PA System for bandstand and greenspace -- Splashpad and water feature (lazy river) enhancements

The East Aldine District staff and board of directors will review the submittals, and decide whether to engage a design firm to complete a Master Plan for Phase III.

Salazar elected to board of Sunbelt Water utility

By: East Aldine Civic Association Board of Directors

The East Aldine Civic Association Board of Directors would like to congratulate our Board President, Ruben A. Salazar, on being elected as the newest Director for the Sunbelt Fresh Water Supply District!

Salazar is the youngest person ever to be elected to the board in the district's history and will serve a four year term.

The Sunbelt FWSD encompasses a good portion of the East Aldine District area. Former EAMD chairman Gerald Overturff was a founding member of Sunbelt FWSD and spearheaded the district's creation after his retirement.

We send our warmest regards



RUBEN SALAZAR and best wishes as he takes on this new role of representing his constituents and hope to see him achieve great things in the future!

Beltway 8 Construction,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

—Beltway 8 eastbound from Imperial Valley Dr. and the entrance ramp from the Hardy Frontage Road: Total closure from 9:00 p.m. on Friday, June 21 to 5:00 a.m. Monday, June 24.

—Beltway 8 eastbound connector ramp to Hardy Toll Road northbound: Total closure from 9:00 p.m. on Friday, June 21 to 5:00

a.m. Monday, June 24. —Beltway 8 eastbound exit to Aldine Westfield Road: Total closure from 9:00 p.m. on Friday, June 21 to 5:00 a.m. Monday, June 24.

—Beltway 8 westbound main lanes between Aldine Westfield Rd. and Imperial Valley Dr.: One (1) left, (inside) lane closed from 9:00 p.m. on Friday,

June 21 to 5:00 a.m. Monday, June 24.

TxDOT says it appreciates your patience and reminds you to please drive with caution through work zones and be on the lookout for work crews and their equipment. Area residents should exercise caution if driving, walking, or biking near any construction activity.

Advertisement for East Aldine District with logo and text: 'Take Pride in our Community Keep it Clean'

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Advertisement for Airline Library News listing various workshops like Music and Patterns, Free Project Management Workshop, Adult Anime & Manga Club, etc.

Advertisement for H.U.D. Efficiency/One Bedroom Housing for the Elderly and Disabled, including contact info: 713-692-8541

Advertisement for 'Help keep East Aldine clean...' featuring a trash can and the slogan 'Toss it into the can. It's a neat idea.'

Advertisement for Aldine Cruisers: Tour de Aldine Bike Ride, including dates (June 28th & 29th) and contact info for BakerRipley East Aldine Campus.

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Student at Aldine ISD's Nimitz High School Wins Congressional Art Competition



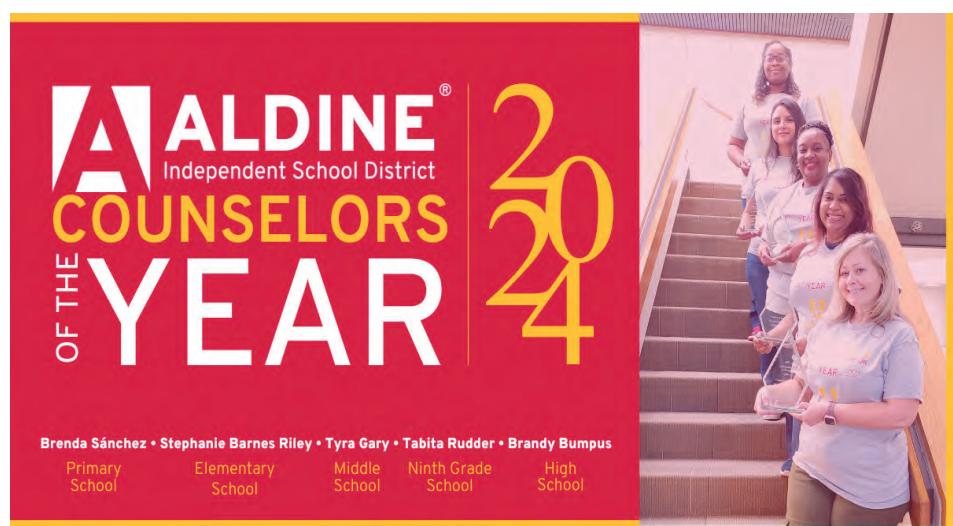
"Changing Everything" by Nimitz High School student Daniela Santodomingo Donaire won the first prize in the 2024 Congressional Art Competition for Texas' 18th Congressional District, provided by the Office of U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee.

Nimitz High School student Daniela Santodomingo Donaire won first place in the 2024 Congressional Art Competition for Texas' District 18. Sheila Jackson Lee represents District 18. Daniela's winning artwork, Changing Everything, has earned her a unique honor. It will be prominently displayed for a year in the halls of Congress at the U.S. Capitol Building, alongside the winning pieces from 433 other districts across the nation. This recognition is a testament to her talent and creativity — Daniela graduated with the Class of 2024. On her LinkedIn page, the high-achiever shows that she earned her associate degree in business administration/management and general

studies. Before graduating, she showed an interest in pursuing a degree in business or a career in the medical field. "I am so proud of Daniela and grateful to Mr. Jorge Ivan Vásquez Pérez (Daniela's art teacher) for preparing the artwork for judging," said Kaileigh Newman, visual arts director. "This is a unique and rare honor for Daniela and a wonderful partnership to amplify the impact of visual arts." The House of Representatives and the Congressional Institute sponsor the annual visual art competition. The platform showcases artistic talent nationwide and in each congressional district. Since its inception in 1982, the Congressional

Art Competition has been a platform for high school students to showcase their artistic talent. With a participation of about 650,000 students, it has become a prestigious event. Winners are recognized in their districts and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. The competition, which began in 1982 and has seen the participation of about 650,000 high school students, accepts a wide range of art forms. Students can submit paintings, drawings, collages, prints, mixed media, computer-generated art, and photography. The only requirement is that all entries be original in concept, design, and execution, as stated on the competition website.

District Names School Counselors of the Year



Counselors Brenda Sánchez, Stephanie Barnes Riley, Tyra Gary, Tabitha Rudder, and Brandy Bumpus have been named 2024 Aldine ISD Counselors of the Year. Aldine ISD has a total of 188 outstanding counselors across the district. This is the district's inaugural year to give special recognition to an elementary and a secondary counselor as Counselors of the Year. School counselors assist students at all levels. As vital school leadership team members, school counselors create a school culture of success for all. Sánchez, Barnes Riley, Gary, Rudder, and Bumpus demonstrate attributes and qualities of supporting students in career, personal/social, and academic development and have the highest professional and personal ethical standards. "These exceptional individuals have consistently gone above and beyond, showcasing their unwavering dedication," praised D'Shanna Moss, program director of secondary counseling. "Their tireless efforts and steadfast commitment have not gone unnoticed." The honorees — Gary, Sánchez, Barnes Riley, Rudder, and Bumpus — are pictured above (top to bottom).

Sánchez shared, "I've been part of Aldine ISD since kindergarten; I graduated from MacArthur High School. Just as Gandhi once said, 'Be the change you wish to see in the world.' I wanted to impact the AISD community by becoming a School Counselor and supporting students." Elementary School Counselor of the Year Stephanie Barnes Riley is the school counselor at Black Elementary School. She has 31 years of experience in education, with those years in Aldine ISD. Before becoming a counselor, Barnes Riley taught at Thompson Elementary School and Reed Academy. Barnes Riley has been the counselor at Black Elementary for the last 24 years; she retired at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Barnes Riley shared, "As Dr. Maya Angelou said, 'People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' I hope I made the Black Elementary students, staff, and community feel I provided resources and support to the best of my ability. Every day, I aimed to ensure that every student felt safe, protected, and empowered to be the best student." Middle School Counselor of the Year Tyra Gary is the school counselor at Hambrick Middle School. Gary has 22 years of experience in education, with six years in Aldine ISD. Before serving as a school counselor for the last 19 years, she previously taught math for special education, which is her passion. Gary shared, "It is imperative for students, families, and educators to believe all students can excel! Exposure leads to expansion!"

Ninth Grade School Counselor of the Year Tabitha Rudder is the school counselor at Nimitz Ninth Grade School. She taught 12 at Magrill Elementary School before becoming a school counselor. Before her current role at Nimitz Ninth Grade School, Rudder was a Drew Academy and Houston Academy counselor. Rudder shared that this is her second year at Nimitz Ninth, and she truly enjoys working with high school students and helping them prepare for life after high school. A favorite inspirational quote she shared "Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you imagine." High School Counselor of the Year Brandy Bumpus is the school counselor at Davis Senior High School. Bumpus has 28 years of experience in education, with 18 of those years in Aldine ISD. She shared that she taught for 10 years before becoming a school counselor at Shotwell Middle School. * Details provided by the honorees. All recipients were recognized at a special awards ceremony on May 24. We invite you to explore the Guidance, Counseling, and Student Support Services website, a valuable resource that provides deeper insights into our counselors' important work and the support they offer to our students. This is an opportunity to understand the role of school counseling better and appreciate our counselors' significant impact on our community. Their dedication and expertise ensure that our students receive the best possible support for their academic, personal, and career development.

Houston Metropolitan Chapter of NCBW® 100 to Honor Superintendent Goffney With Award



The Houston Metropolitan Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. (NCBW@100) is recognizing Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney for her contributions to education at its 3rd Annual Blackshear-Rockwell Scholarship & Community Heroine Awards Reception. Goffney took the helm of Aldine ISD in July 2018. She has increased student achievement in every district she's served, including Aldine ISD, by focusing on early childhood education, literacy, targeted professional development for teachers, and collaboration across the community, including developing business and school partnerships, parent engagement, and increased communication. Dr. Goffney has received numerous awards and honors for her efforts. The superintendent also believes in maximizing opportu-

nities, developing leaders, and providing opportunities for all students. As a result, Goffney is active in many organizations. Click HERE to learn more about the Aldine ISD Superintendent. The mission of the NCBW@100 is to advocate on behalf of black women and girls to promote leadership development and gender equity in the areas of health, education, economic empowerment, and public policy. NCBW@100's education advocacy agenda focuses on eliminating disparities, improving outcomes and graduation rates, preparation for vocational school or college, and promoting an emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics) education, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and access affordability. The organization delivers support

services that help black women and girls achieve their educational goals by supporting positive experiences, fostering a positive self-perception and self-respect, encouraging excellence in education, and promoting positive lifelong goals to create future leaders. A letter to Goffney stated, "Your contributions align with our education national program, exemplifying the core values and mission of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. ... Thank you for being a guiding light in the Houston area community." The reception honoring Goffney and the Houston chapter's scholarship recipients will occur on Saturday, June 29, at 12 p.m. at The Houston Room. Attendance is by invitation only. At the reception, Dr. Goffney will speak briefly to scholarship recipients about her journey, encouraging them on their path.

District's 2024 Student Educational Equity & Diversity (SEED) Conference Starts Monday, July 8

The Aldine ISD Special Education and Multilingual departments are hosting the annual Student Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) Conference on July 8, 9, and 12, 2024. Conference Registration Registration Link: <https://shorturl.at/xKYba> The SEED conference provides innovative and engaging face-to-face and virtual professional development opportunities for teachers and staff who serve students with disabilities and our emergent bilingual population in Aldine ISD. The conference, thoughtfully designed with the diverse needs of our student population in mind, aims to build teachers' capacity by providing sessions focused on supporting students using evidence-based practices to ensure our diverse student population has access to equitable learning opportunities. Information shared during the conference will help enhance teaching and learning for all students. This year's theme, Grow to Glow, symbolizes our commitment to continuous growth and improvement in our teaching practices. All teachers are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities. Face-to-Face Sessions July 8 and July 9 Davis High School 12525 Ella Blvd. Houston, TX 77067 Virtual Sessions July 12 ONLY Participants can attend virtual sessions from anywhere they have an internet connection, giving you the flexibility to tailor your learning experience to your needs and schedule.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By Asher Lehrer-Small

What's in Houston ISD's \$4.4 billion bond plan?

As Houston ISD leaders consider asking voters to endorse the largest school bond package in Texas history, the specifics of their plan are beginning to come into focus.

A successful bond election authorizes school districts to use property tax money to finance investments in campus facilities, technology and other items.

Recent polling suggests voters may be receptive to the current proposal, with about two-thirds of nearly 3,000 HISD residents surveyed by Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research saying they would support a bond if it does not raise property taxes by more than \$25 per year.

However, some community members also have said they don't have confidence in Superintendent Mike Miles, who was appointed last year by Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath, to responsibly spend bond money.

As the HISD community takes stock of the proposed investments and what they would mean, here are five takeaways from the plans released so far. For details about proposed plans for each campus, search below or click here for more information.

1. Elementary and middle schools to see the biggest upgrades

All schools will see some level of investment under the bond plan, but elementary and middle schools will receive the vast majority of the funds — roughly \$3.1 billion of \$3.3 billion total slated for campus-level improvements.

HISD's youngest learners stand to benefit most from the investments because those campuses have gone the longest without receiving facilities upgrades.

Two dozen of HISD's elementary and middle schools were built in the 1930s or earlier, and families interviewed by the Houston Landing in April said some of the campuses are in dire need of fixes.

2. Over 30 schools to be rebuilt, undergo major renovations

HISD plans to rebuild or renovate about 35 schools in need of the largest improvements, at a total cost of \$2.5 billion.

Of the 18 schools to get rebuilt, eight would receive investments over \$100 million. Those schools are:

- Lanier Middle School (\$180 million)
--Black Middle School (\$178 million)
--Revere Middle School (\$162 million)
--Fleming Middle School (\$150 million)
--Holland Middle School (\$149 million)
--Hamilton Middle School (\$144 million)
--Bonham Elementary School (\$121 million)
--McNamara Elementary School (\$120 million).

Full details for those and other campuses are available at the Landing's searchable database of HISD's stated bond plans.

The roughly 35 campuses slated for rebuilds and renovations collectively use 500 temporary trailer-like structures to educate students. The classrooms, which are located on campus property but outside of the main building, can be hard to heat and cool.

Superintendent Mike Miles walks to the front of Ashford Elementary during a tour Aug. 31, 2023, in Houston. Ashford Elementary would see \$4.5 million in upgrades as part of a bond proposal crafted by Miles' administration.

3. Some schools to "co-locate" at another campus, but keep staff

Eight schools could relocate and merge onto another campus. Under that arrangement, the joined schools would operate separately and maintain much of their own staffing, though they would share some facilities like cafeterias and gymnasiums, Miles said.

Under the bond plan, six elementary schools would move to existing middle school campuses, while two middle schools would join existing elementary school campuses.

- The proposed moves include:
--Blackshear Elementary School, moving to Baylor College of Medicine at Ryan Middle School
--Kashmere Gardens Elementary School, moving to Key Middle School
--Sanchez Elementary School, moving to Deady Middle School
--Isaacs Elementary School, moving to Fleming Middle School
--Port Houston and Pleasantville elementary schools, joining Holland Middle School
--Edison Middle School, moving to Franklin Elementary School
--Project Chrysalis Middle School, which is already co-located with Cage Elementary School, moving to a newly built Cage Elementary campus

4. New pre-K classrooms, career and technical education campuses

HISD said it plans to use roughly \$1 billion from the bond package to finance investments in pre-kindergarten, new technology and career and technical education, though details on the plans remain scarce.

The district currently has enough pre-K seats for about 14,000 students, equivalent to only one-third of the 3- and 4-year-olds in the district. The bond proposal would allow HISD to open roughly 4,000 new seats, district officials said, accounting for less than one-fifth of the existing gap.

HISD has not said where the new pre-K classrooms would open, but it identified the Wisdom and Lamar high school feeder patterns as the areas with the greatest need.

For career and technical education, HISD said it plans to open four new campuses in addition to the current Barbara Jordan Career Center, which functions as a districtwide hub. Officials have not released exact price tags or locations for the potential new schools, but indicated they would be spread across the district, with one in each quadrant.

5. HISD expects enrollment to continue to decline

District officials expect HISD to continue to bleed students in coming years, losing roughly 10,000 students by 2028-29, according to projections included in the bond plan.

The 269 HISD campuses included plan, which excludes the district's virtual charter school and several other in-district charter schools, enrolled about 171,000 children this past school year. That total is projected to drop to 161,000 in 2028-29.

HISD has lost students over the past eight years, with districtwide enrollment falling from 216,000 in 2016-17 to roughly 184,000 in 2023-24.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Drought Conditions Ease Slightly While Heat Dome Returns

Drought conditions across the state dropped a percentage point in May compared to the previous month, with 26% of the state in some stage of drought, primarily in West and South Texas and parts of the Panhandle.

Massive storms in late April and into May caused flooding and wind damage in East and North Texas but did pull those regions out of drought. Some parts of Central and East Texas received three times their average rainfall in May, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

Meanwhile, Texans are starting down another miserably hot summer and wondering if it will be as bad as last year's, which was the second hottest on record. A heat dome, which is a high-pressure system that traps heat and keeps it sticking around, is making its way across the state.

The heat dome is also driving up temperatures on land. San Antonio last week saw a record heat index of 117 degrees. Some South Texas cities are already seeing heat temperatures broken, and not just by a small amount.

"They usually might beat it by half a degree and maybe, at most, 1 degree," said Victor Murphy of the National Weather service. "So, to see 120-, 150-year records shatter by 2 to 3 degrees is pretty significant. It shows you the magnitude and the strength of this heat ridge."

On the somewhat-bright side, Murphy said summer in Texas is not likely to be quite as bad as last year, which brought 45 days straight of triple-digit heat to much of the state.

ELECTION OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE HOLES IN BALLOT SECRECY

During a Texas House Election Committee hearing last week, election officials acknowledged holes in election laws that have exposed some ballots cast by Texas voters to public scrutiny, The Dallas Morning News reported.

A group of activists suing the Texas secretary of state claim they have created an algorithm that can match any voter to an anonymous ballot, though their legal filing redacted details on



how their hack of ballot security works.

The secretary of state's office, which oversees the state's elections, has sent guidance to county election officials on how to adopt procedures to ensure ballots available for public inspection are scrubbed of any identifying information, The News reported.

"Every Texan has the right to a secret ballot, and that right must remain sacred. It is unacceptable for any voter to have their ballot choices publicized," Secretary of State Jane Nelson said. "I am issuing emergency guidance to protect the privacy of Texas voters."

MOST SCHOOLS STILL DON'T HAVE ARMED GUARDS, DESPITE LAW

Despite a law that went into effect nine months ago requiring an armed officer at every public school in Texas, most schools have not done so, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Hearst Newspapers, owner of the Chronicle and other Texas newspapers, conducted an analysis of 100 randomly selected school districts around the state and found that at least half adopted an exception provided in the law to avoid having to hire an armed guard. Just one fourth of the surveyed districts had an armed security guard at each campus, while another 22 did not respond.

Some district leaders told the newspaper they were struggling to both pay for the added security or find people to take the jobs. Grafrod ISD Superintendent Brandon Perry said his single-campus district west of Fort Worth got about \$18,500 in state dollars but needed \$80,000 to hire an officer.

"They require us to hire armed security, hire a school resource officer, but they did not attach additional funding to pay for that expense," Perry said.

State Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, was one of the bill's backers. He acknowledged that legislators had "set a standard that is not attainable," largely because there aren't enough qualified officers willing to take the positions.

"There's physically not enough law enforcement in the state of Texas trained to this level to fill all the positions," he said, making the exemption clause necessary. Otherwise, campuses would be forced to shut down.

FAR FEWER MIGRANTS BEING BUDED OUT OF STATE

While Gov. Greg Abbott insists he intends to keep busing migrants to cities led by Democratic mayors outside Texas, there has been a dramatic drop in the past six months, the Chronicle reported.

In the last half of 2023, the governor's busing program sent about 77,000 migrants to six U.S. cities with Democratic mayors. That number over the past six months has dropped to about 17,000 amidst court cases and more aggressive efforts by Mexico to stop migrants from getting to Texas.

Abbott's office declined to comment on the dropping busing numbers.

Since 2021, the state has spent \$11 billion on Operation Lone Star in an attempt to stem the tide of migrant arrivals, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The GOP chair of the Senate Border Security Committee has questioned how long Texans will be asked to bear the cost for the operation.

"How long can we do this?" Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, who has chaired the Border Security Committee since its inception in 2023, asked officials in charge of oversight of the border initiative. "Because the day will come when the comptroller is going to tell us there's a (budget) shortfall; that means some tough decisions here."

BESIDES HEAT WOES, IT'S MATING SEASON FOR TARANTULAS

It is time for male tarantulas to start looking for love, sometimes in all the wrong places, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The state is home to 14 species of the creature, the most common of which is the Texas brown tarantula. Males are out looking for mates, according to

Texas A&M's Field Guide to Common Insects.

Starting next month, female tarantulas will begin laying eggs, anywhere from 100 to 1,000 in a web. While the furry critters are venomous and can be downright scary looking, severe reactions to a bite are rare. And tarantulas will often warn before striking by raising their front legs in a "threat pose."

That means it is time to back off, in case you were wondering.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Rewriting my Story



I've been working on a script with a producer named Eli.

I'm going to perform a show made from pieces of columns I've written over the years. I've been looking for themes and ideas and stringing them together, and I thought I'd done a pretty good job, so I sent off a draft to Eli.

"This is not what we talked about!" Eli told me.

I was hurt. When we first spoke, I wasn't sure what to write. I had a lot of ideas about different things. But, since then, I'd read a bunch of books about how to write a script properly, and everything I read said I needed to be focused. I needed to know exactly what topic I wanted to talk about and stay on track.

Staying on track is sometimes hard for me when there are so many enticing bunny trails along the way. So I'd spent the last few weeks tossing out all the stray ideas. I made the whole thing one streamlined thesis, and I was pretty pleased with myself—until I talked to Eli.

"You were going to write about all kinds of things, not just one subject!" he went on, not sounding happy with me at all.

"Well, yes," I admitted, "but that was before I understood how important it was to find one main topic and stick to it and..."

"I like the other idea better!"

I didn't know what to say. I don't know Eli very well, but I respect him a lot. I thought he'd be pleased I had done all this research and was so much better organized.

"But the 'other idea' wasn't really an idea!" I told him. "I just had a picture in my head of a lot of stories about different things that may or may not be connected."

"I like that better!" he said.

So then I had to think. And I've been thinking ever since.

Because Eli wants this script to be something bigger than a few funny stories. He doesn't want a single, easy-to-digest theme. Eli wants the whole shebang. He wants me to tell a story about how I see the world and why. He wants me to take the happy and funny and sad and the painful and mix them in a way that makes sense of them as a whole.

And he's made me realize that we are all storytellers, telling ourselves our story every day.

We take stories from our youth and struggles we've had as adults and heartache and disappointments and moments of indescribable joy, and we make sense of them in a way that defines us—to ourselves. All the happiest parts and all the hardest parts and every part in between, all the things that happened to us and what we thought about them afterward and how they changed us and become the story of who we are.

And Eli is right.

There is no point in trying to tell one piece of the story. The advice from the books I read would be great if I had some terrific new idea about how to do something faster or cheaper or more efficiently—but I don't have any ideas like that.

I just have this idea that it's good to embrace our stories—because they are ours, because we have the power to tell them in a way that allows us to change and grow. We can use our stories to make the rest of our lives a little better and more compassionate.

So now I'm rewriting my story for Eli—and for me.

Till next time, Carrie

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Lone Star College - Houston North Celebrates JUNETEENTH

LSC JUNETEENTH
By Quentin Wright, President Lone Star College - Houston North

A major highlight was participating in the 16th Annual Acres Homes Juneteenth Parade, where I had the tremendous honor of serving as a Grand Marshal. To be recognized by this historic community on such a symbolic day is an accolade I will forever cherish. Words cannot express my gratitude.

Following the parade, our annual Juneteenth celebration at Lone Star College-Houston North Victory was a resounding success. Over 650 community members joined us for BBQ, snow cones, lively Zydeco music, and activities for kids.

We would like to give a special thanks to Mayor Emeritus Sylvester Turner, State Senator Molly Cook, State Representative Jolanda Jones, HCC Trustee/Democratic Primary Candidate for State Representative District 139 Charlene Johnson, and Lone Star College Foundation Board member Dr. Alton Smith for joining us at the celebration along with fellow Grand Marshals Janice Weaver and the family of the late State Representative Al Edwards who is known as the "Father of Juneteenth".

Most meaningful to me were the individuals who expressed interest in pursuing higher education, with one remarking, "It's been thirty years since I was in college, I think it's time for me to come back and get my degree." Impacting lives through education is our core mission.



Mayor John Whitmire with Friends



Dr. Alton Smith with Pres. Wright



Linda and Pastor David Smith with Pres. Wright



City Officials, Fire Chief Peña, Police Chief Satterfield with others.



SPANISH PAGE

Aldine Applause 2024: Celebramos Nuestras Estrellas en Educacion

El evento 2024 Aldine Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) celebró la excelencia en la enseñanza y honró a educadores destacados. La Agencia de Educación de Texas (TEA) anunció que se otorgaron más de 290 millones de dólares en fondos TIA a casi 25,000 maestros de Texas designados durante el año escolar 2023-24. Aproximadamente 590 educadores de Aldine, reconocidos como algunos de los mejores de Texas, se encontraban entre los beneficiarios, recibiendo 6,3 millones de dólares de la financiación;

El Programa TIA, abierto a todos los profesores de Texas que cumplan determinados criterios, pretende retener a los educadores de alta calidad ofreciéndoles vías para que ganen sueldos de hasta seis cifras. Un estudio reciente de la TEA mostró que la retención de maestros designados en el estado superó el promedio estatal en ocho puntos porcentuales du-

rante el año escolar 2023-24. Aldine fue aceptado en el programa TIA en 2021-2022 y comenzó a rastrear datos para ver qué maestros califican para ser aceptados, y los maestros de Aldine fueron otorgados por el tiempo en la primavera de 2023.

Michael Irvin Jackson, profesor designado activo de TIA de la Academia Anderson, expresó su gratitud por el reconocimiento recibido, declarando: «Estoy orgulloso de recibir el reconocimiento basado en el crecimiento de mis alumnos y es el mayor reconocimiento de mi carrera.» Además, compartió sus planes para los fondos que se le han concedido, haciendo hincapié en su compromiso con el bienestar y el entorno de aprendizaje de sus alumnos. «Utilizaré los fondos para comprar ropa y calzado escolar para mis alumnos y para hacer mi aula más acogedora para los estudiantes», añadió Jackson,



destacando su dedicación a crear un espacio educativo propicio y enriquecedor.

Los sistemas escolares participantes utilizan los datos de las observaciones en el aula y los resultados de crecimiento

de los alumnos para determinar la designación de los profesores. Aldine ISD honró a sus maestros beneficiarios del TIA por sus logros como educadores excepcionales con una pequeña celebración para reconocer su destacada

dedicación y compromiso con el aprendizaje de los estudiantes.

Saber más

Pulse aquí para aprender más sobre TIA y el Sistema de Evaluación y Apoyo de Maestros de Texas, T-TESS, en Aldi-

ne ISD. T-TESS es el sistema estatal de evaluación de profesores del estado de Texas. Apoya el desarrollo profesional de los profesores y les ayuda a crecer y mejorar como educadores.



CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

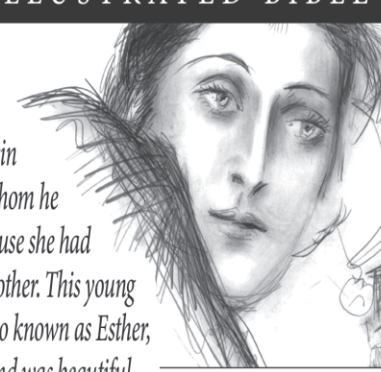
By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Thessalonians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Song of Solomon 8, what is so powerful that many waters cannot quench it? Hope, Love, Salvation, Peace
3. Which book begins, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past"? Philippians, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews

4. Thorns and what else grew from the ground that God cursed after Adam and Eve's sin? Vines, Ivy, Thistles, Weeds
5. According to Paul, in hardships, Christians are more than _____. Friends, Conquerors, Warriors, Innkeepers
6. From Luke 19, what town was home to Zacchaeus? Jericho, Tarsus, Thessalonica, Corinth

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Love, 3) Hebrews, 4) Thistles, 5) Conquerors, 6) Jericho -Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful.

Detail of "Portrait of Dora Maar" by Pablo Picasso (1937)

ESTHER 2:7

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celebrity extra by Dana Jackson

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

FQ: I just started watching the comedy series "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia." I know that two people on the series are married in real life. Did they meet on the show? — G.W.

A: Debuting in 2005 and still going strong, this hit FX (and FXX) network sitcom is the longest-running, non-animated comedy series ever, surpassing the previous record holder "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet." It was created by Rob McElhenney, who plays Mac on show, and stars his off-screen wife Kaitlin Olson as Dee, Glenn Howerton as Dennis, and Charlie Day as Charlie.

Olson and McElhenney fell in love on the set of "It's Always Sunny," but initially kept their romance a secret from their co-stars. They wed two years later and now have two sons.

The strikes in Hollywood pushed back production, but there will be a 17th season — just don't expect it until late 2024 or early 2025.



Rob McElhenney and Kaitlin Olson star in "It's Always Sunny"

HOLLYWOOD — Fifty-five-year-old Hugh Jackman put his Broadway musical training to good use when making "Deadpool & Wolverine."

"When I came back to it, it was really fun, and I was thrilled," Jackman confessed. "My body was still responding, and I realized how good it was for your brain. The hardest bit ... [was] the food! ... For me, for my body type, I'm naturally skinny. To get the size on, that's the hardest bit." Poor Jackman!

Ryan Reynolds said of Jackman, "Just the sheer relentlessness that [he] dedicated [himself] toward stunts, choreography. It was the first time I'd ever seen how invaluable a background in song and dance is when you are doing an action movie!"



Actor and comedian Dick Van Dyke

Another actor eating his way to stardom is Chris Hemsworth, who bounced from the animated Paramount/Hasbro film "Transformers One" (due Sept. 20) to the upcoming "Transformers/G.I. Joe" crossover movie. Why keep making "Transformer" films? Maybe the \$439 million grosses for "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" last summer explain it.

The Barnes & Noble bookstore at The Grove in Hollywood had to call for extra security to handle throngs of fans of Thaa Penghli (of "Days of Our Lives" and "General Hospital" fame), who came for his book signing of "Seducing Celebrities One Meal at a Time." He regaled them with delicious tales about Claudette Colbert, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Charlton Heston and more. But his favorite moments came when he was joined by his "Days" co-stars Susan Seaforth Hayes and Leanne Hunley, who came to celebrate his book.

of big stars. One such star was Dick Van Dyke, who came to events with his wife at the time, Margie Willett. Dick taught me a great lesson. Back in 1974 at a publicity event, I saw Dick standing in a corner by himself. I approached him, asking, "All alone, Dick? Where's your lovely wife?" He replied, "We separated today. She got the house, I got the mortgage. She got the car, I got the payments. She got the elevator, I got the shaft!"

Undaunted, I forged ahead, trying to save myself, and said, "Well, at least you have 'The New Dick Van Dyke Show' to keep you busy!" "It was canceled today," he sadly said. And from then on, I learned not to mention spouses or TV series to actors ever again!

Now at 98, Dick has announced, "I'd still like to do a one-man show. Cary Grant did it. And Gregory Peck. Went on the road and talked about their careers. I think it'd be fun!" What I'd never dare say to him is that Grant died doing that show in Davenport, Iowa! Can you say swan song?!

Q: Whatever happened to actress Jennifer Love Hewitt? I loved her show "Ghost Whisperer" and would love to see her do a supernatural theme again. — W.J.

A: Jennifer Love Hewitt first gained fame as Sarah in the 1990s drama series "Party of Five." She followed that up with the hit scary film "I Know What You Did Last Summer" before starring in the TV show "Ghost Whisperer," which ended in 2010 after five seasons. Since then, she's starred in three other hit series: "The Client List," "Criminal Minds" and "9-1-1."

Next up, she'll star, direct and produce "The Holiday Junkie," a TV movie for Lifetime later in 2024. Her husband, Brian Hallisay, and their children will also appear in the film. It's a very personal project for Hewitt about moving on during the winter holiday season while coping with the loss of her mother.

Elaine Frontain Bryant (EVP, head of programming genres for A&E, Lifetime and LMN) stated that "Jennifer is beloved by Lifetime and our viewers. We're excited to work with her again on this special project near and dear to her and to have it as one of our cornerstones for our 'It's a Wonderful Lifetime' slate."

In addition, Hewitt launched her marketing and consumer brand The Holiday

Junkie last year and is also releasing a book titled "Inheriting Magic," which is set for publication this December.

Q: Did Bette Midler get cast as one of the cast members on "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" like she wanted? I never heard anything further about it. — W.M.

A: Back in March, film actress Bette Midler ("The First Wives Club") asked via social media if it was "too late" for her to be a "Real Housewife." She was in the mood to "talk some s**t" and get paid for it. Alas, her name was not among the cast of the upcoming season, but she does have a new project on the horizon.

She's part of the ensemble cast of the comedy "The Fabulous Four," which hits theaters this July. Midler stars as a bride whose old college pals (played by Susan Sarandon, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Megan Mullaly) make up her bridal party at her destination wedding.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Having covered Hollywood parties for decades, I became friends with lots

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

Comic strip panels by Dave T. Phipps featuring a pig talking about summer weather.

TIGER

Comic strip panels by Bud Blake featuring a boy and a girl building a treehouse.

The Spats

Comic strip panels by Jeff Pickering featuring a couple talking about marriage.

Weekly SUDOKU puzzle by Linda Thistle with difficulty level: Moderate.

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle by Henry Boltinoff with instructions to find differences between panels.

King Crossword puzzle with grid and clues for ACROSS and DOWN.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions on history, geography, and science.

Answers for the King Crossword and Trivia test.

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East Aldine's REACH committee promotes health and wellness



East Aldine District
Two miles completed in the community walk! All are welcome to join the REACH initiative as we continue to promote active living health styles. Did you go for a walk or attend a community event? Submit your completed challenge at aldinedistrict.org/reach for your chance to win a prize! Stay tuned to see where we'll meet up next.



About a dozen community members showed up for our run/walk today! REACH is committed to promoting active living health styles. Join us at our next event, a Bike Ride around East Aldine. Complete a challenge and enter to win a REACH prize! Learn more:



EAST ALDINE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES for PHASE III OF TOWN CENTER

The East Aldine Management District (EAMD) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications for professional Town Center design services for development of improvements to the existing site.

Project Background: The EAD Town Center is a 60-acre site located in unincorporated Harris County at 2800 Aldine Mail Route. The Town Center complex additions are the third phase of a multi-million-dollar project aimed at future economic development of the long-overlooked area between Bush Intercontinental Airport and downtown Houston.

The first phase of the complex included the Lone Star College East Aldine Campus with Avalos Early College High School, BakerRipley East Aldine Center with a non-profit clinic, and state of the art Harris County Sheriff's Office 911 Dispatch Center.

At the center of the complex is the 30,000 square foot EAMD office building (Phase II) surrounded by other community amenities, including the amphitheater and green space, a playground with a splash pad, a river-like water feature and beautiful fountain in a flood detention lake. There are also wide sidewalks and lush landscaping, with trees and native plantings that meander through the complex.

The third phase of the complex will be the development of 10 acre (100,000-300,000 square feet of multi-use space) to primarily include a mix of retail/commercial, as well as possible residential and community partner expansion space.

In 2024, the EAMD Board of Directors decided to enhance the Town Center amenities to improve the quality of the park appearance and increase utilization. The current East Aldine Town Center can be viewed here <https://aldinedistrict.org/towncenter/>.

About the East Aldine Management District: The East Aldine District was created by the Texas Legislature in June 2001 to enhance the physical, social, and economic wellbeing of Aldine. It is a governmental entity administered by a nine-member volunteer board of directors. Projects and services of the district are funded through a 1-cent sales tax that generates approximately \$13.6 million in annual revenue as of 2023. This sales tax was adopted by area voters in August 2001 and took effect on January 1, 2002, bringing the effective total tax rate within the district to 8.25 percent.

The 20-square-mile management district is located in unincorporated Harris County, 15 miles north of downtown Houston. It is bordered approximately by Little York, the Hardy Toll Road, Beltway, U.S. 59, and Homestead Road.

In August 2002, the board of directors adopted an eight-point Service and Action Plan to address Aldine's water/sewer infrastructure, transportation, environment, health, public safety, and economy. Since then, the district has taken direct action to fulfill the goals outlined in this plan.

More information about the East Aldine Management District can be found at <https://aldinedistrict.org/>.

Potential Scope of Work: The East Aldine Management District seeks to engage a firm to perform conceptual design through detailed design and construction services for the area designated as the Phase III improvements of the EAD Town Center.

The scope of work will include:

- Creation of a master plan for design and construction of Phase III, including options for

retail/commercial development, optional residential and community partner/ agency expansion space; additional greenspace/amenities, seasonal lighting, outdoor sound system/speakers, and other enhancements

- Electrical work (underground) for around the designated areas to include lighting of landscaped paths.
- Signage (digital and wayfinding signs)
- PA System for bandstand and greenspace
- Splashpad and water feature (lazy river) enhancements

Submittal Requirements: If your firm is interested in submitting qualifications, please submit six (6) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy to Veronica Sanches at 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr., Suite 200, Houston, TX 77039 no later than 3:00pm on Friday, July 26th, 2024. Late submittals will not be accepted. Each firm is responsible for delivery of their submittal by the due date and time to the appropriate location. By submitting your response, it is understood and acknowledged that you have read and understood this RFQ and all its requirements. Please direct your questions to Veronica Sanches at 832.677.0139 or via email: vsanches@haweshill.com.

Submittal Instructions: Prepare a statement of qualifications with a cover letter that illustrates your firm's history and contact information, project manager and roles of key personnel, personnel experience, at least three representative projects with current photos of finished products, references from public agencies. If submitting as a team with subconsultants, similar information should be provided for each subconsultant as appropriate. Please limit your response to twenty-five (25) pages. Responses shall be delivered in a sealed envelope or container clearly marked with the RFQ information. All responses submitted shall become the property of the East Aldine Management District.

- Selection Criteria:** Firms submitting qualifications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- 25% Past experience with Public Agencies and Management Districts.
 - 20% Firm/Team reputation and experience in Professional Landscape Architecture Services.
 - 20% Qualifications and experience of the Proposed Project Manager and team.
 - 15% Clarity of roles of each firm and key personnel
 - 10% Firm's local resources and location of local office as well as those of subconsultants, if any.
 - 10% Firm/Team reflection of the multi-cultural diversity of the East Aldine community.

Award of Contract: The East Aldine Management District reserves the right to choose the landscape architecture firm or team whose submittal of qualifications to this solicitation will be most advantageous to its goals. The authority further reserves the right to reject any or all submittals or qualifications and to waive informalities and minor irregularities in submittals received. Firms not selected may request a debriefing after the EAMD board of directors has approved the selection of a successful design firm.



PHASE III AREA