

HIGHLANDS CROSBY
Star  Courier

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Pct. 2 developing Community Plans

Seeks input from Highlands, Lynchburg, McNair, Linus

PCT. 2 HARRIS COUNTY - Commissioner Adrian Garcia is heading an effort to develop a Community Plan for each of the neighborhoods in his precinct, to guide future development and improve quality of life issues.

Last week he held ZOOM meetings with interested members of the public, to introduce his design team, to explain the scope of the planning project, and to encourage residents to participate in the planning process.

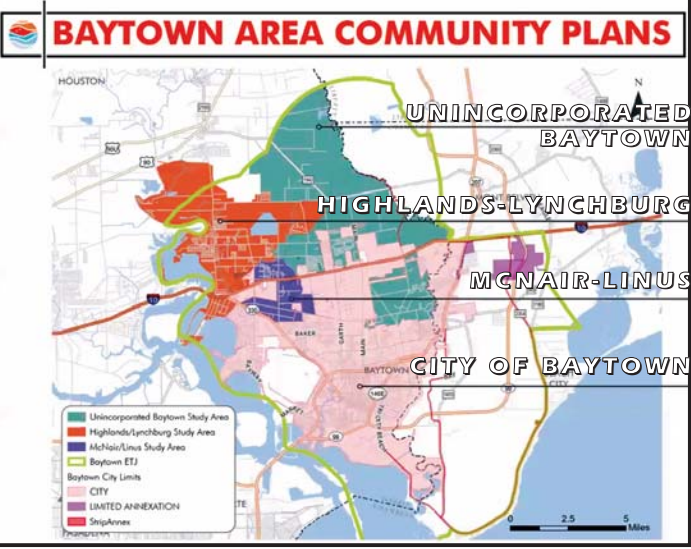
On Wednesday evening he focused on the Highlands and Lynchburg communities, and on Thursday

he met with member of the McNair and Linus communities. Previously he had held a meeting with the Channelview residents.

Planning teams involve urban planning professionals, and members of the Pct. 2 and Harris County staffs. Gretchen Knowles and Jorge Bustamante lead the group in this area.

Goals of the group will be to develop a shared vision to enhance quality of life, identify infrastructure and community enhancing projects, and develop strategies to implement the vision through tangible projects.

Areas of focus will in-



clude parks and open spaces, connectivity, mobility and transportation, environmental quality, economic development, and cultural assets.

The process will include data collection, public participation, and concept development, then an implementation plan. The final plan will be developed through a citizen Task Force working with the Planning professionals.

The Harris County Public Health department is also part of the design team, with the mantra that community design and healthy lifestyle are integral to the plan. They will be conducting a

Continued. See Community Plans, p. 4

GC Superintendent tells Chamber of School plans

HIGHLANDS - The Chamber of Commerce returned to their regular monthly luncheons last Thursday, after a long hiatus due to the COVID Pandemic.

The featured speaker was Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Randal O'Brien, who told the audience about a number of initiatives and projects to be accomplished in the coming school year.

Due to continued population growth, the school district is adding three



Goose Creek Superintendent Randal O'Brien at the Highlands/Lynchburg monthly luncheon.

new schools and other support facilities. O'Brien said their are currently 23,000 students, 1800 teachers, and a total of 3200 employees in the system, with 28 current schools.

In addition the district runs 650 bus routes daily, with 242 buses.

Continued on Page 6.

State Senator Alvarado filibusters to block Voter Restriction bill

AUSTIN, Texas - Since before sunset Wednesday, state Sen. Carol Alvarado had been on her feet speaking, not allowed to sit or lean against her desk, on the Senate floor.

Unable to take bathroom breaks or drink water, she had worn a back brace, eyeglasses and running shoes and talked slowly behind a desk stacked with papers and with a microphone in her hand as she mounted a 15-hour filibuster. The target

Texas Senate outlasts 15-hour filibuster by Senator Carol Alvarado to pass GOP voting restrictions bill



Senator Carol Alvarado speaking at the Texas Legislature during her 15-hour filibuster.

Let's **END ELDER ABUSE**

With more than half a million people over the age of 65 in Harris County, the District Attorney's Office urges you to report those who hurt our elders.

Report abuse or suspected abuse to the **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400**



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*All loans subject to credit approval. Under certain circumstances, private mortgage insurance (PMI) and an escrow account for taxes and insurance may be required. Other eligibility includes a credit score of 695 or greater, no bankruptcy in the previous 36 months, debt-to-income ratio not to exceed 36%. Loan will consist of a 95% loan-to-value first lien mortgage, and a second lien mortgage up to 15% loan-to-value, with a maximum combined loan-to-value of 110%. Minimum down payment = 5% with seasoned funds, which can be applied to closing costs or down payment. No gifts or borrowed funds. Max purchase = \$250,000. Other credit and income qualifications will apply. Minimum finance amount of \$15,000. Offer does not include FHA, VA, and USDA mortgages or other government backed mortgage loans. Investment properties and Jumbo Loans are not eligible for this offer. Verifiable employment required and time on job required of 1 year plus. *Investment properties, Home Equity Loans and Jumbo Mortgage Loans are not eligible for the Best Rate Guarantee. Real estate promotions cannot be combined with any other offer. Certain other credit and income qualifications may apply. A Competitor Mortgage Loan Estimate dated within three business days of CRCU's mortgage loan offer is required in order to qualify for Best Rate Guarantee. CRCU reserves the right to cancel or change these promotions at any time. Please contact a representative for more details. CRCU membership required.

OPINION
By State Senator
Carol Alvarado



Alvarado filibusters against voter bill

Dear Friends,

Yesterday I stood for democracy, literally stood for 15 hours to filibuster the voter suppression bill #SB1 and give a voice to the constituents who this bill aims to silence. Trust me, standing and talking for 15 hours is beyond uncomfortable. Take peek at the transcript of my final speech to understand why I was willing to tough it out.

Senator Carol Alvarado Closing Speech August 12, 2021

“My friends, voter suppression anywhere is a threat to democracy everywhere. And as we draw this discussion to an end, it is my sincere hope that simple acts by everyday Texans from the senate floor to the ballot box can help to shed light on this all important issue. What do we want our democracy to look like? Do we want our state to be more or less inclusive? Do we want to make it harder or easier to vote for seniors who cherish their right to make their voice heard? Do we want access to our electoral process to be more difficult for people with disabilities or do we want to remove barriers for them? For our communities of color do we want to defend the tremendous progress they have made in civil rights and equality or chip away at their voting rights one SB 1 at a time?”

Let’s be clear, instead of making it easier to vote, SB 1 makes it easier to intimidate. Instead of making it harder to cheat, it makes it harder to vote. After all the rhetoric by practiced politicians, consultants and partisan operators this truly comes down to the people that entrusted us with their vote and sent us to Austin to empower their voices, not silence them.

I stand today for my constituents who are not only targeted by the GOP under this bill, but will



Senator Alvarado near the end of her 15 hour filibuster, with supporting House members standing with her in support.

be disproportionately harmed. I think about the multi-generational family in the East End whose abuela has never missed an election but still needs a little help filling out her ballot by mail.

I stand and speak for the single mother from the Near-Northside of Houston, who out of concern for Covid exposure and the inability of her little children to stand in long lines, took advantage of the drive-thru option. Does her vote not count? Does that sound like fraud to you?

I stand and speak for the persons with disabilities from Pasadena who rely on assistance from loved ones and others for access to their polling locations and ballot boxes.

I rise to speak for the shift worker from Galena Park who day in and day out works long and hard hours on the docks of the Houston Ship Channel and who took advantage of the 24 hour voting option in Harris County.

I rise to speak for the poll worker from Aldine who loves the electoral process so much that they signed up to be a poll worker and sacrifice their time, energy and talents to help administer our elections in a fair, safe and secure way. Under this bill, this poll worker will now have to contend with untrained partisan poll watchers bullying and profiling voters and exposing them to retaliatory partisan lawsuits and excessive criminal penalties for honest clerical mistakes.

I am proud member of this body and as every other member of this distinguished body understands, my duty is first to my constituents. So I do thank the members of this body for listening and allowing me to represent my constituents today and speak on their behalf. I am confident that any other member of this body does and would do the same for their people.

To my local colleagues and friends in Houston

and Harris County, I felt like I needed speak up for you. As the third largest county in America, I am so incredibly proud of the way my county conducted our elections during the general election in way that was as safe as possible, as secure as possible and as accessible as possible. Harris County proved to the rest of the country that you don’t have to sacrifice election integrity in order increase access to our electoral process. You can make it easier to vote in a safe and secure way. Despite the overwhelming success that elected many of my colleagues into office, my county was targeted with partisan attacks. In fact many of the provisions of this bill are shamelessly aimed at stopping Harris County from making our elections safe and effective. What’s wrong with drive-thru voting during a pandemic? What about voting in a car is so offensive or fraudulent? What’s wrong with 24 hour voting? Why can’t we have expanded voting hours for the people who have to work late? Where is all the “so called fraud?” The people are still waiting for someone to actually demonstrate real evidence of fraud in these measures.

Where does it end? Today it’s SB 1, tomorrow it will be some other manufactured crisis to justify the systematic chipping away of our voting rights. And little by little every session we just keep chipping away until one day we will wake up and realize our democracy is unrecognizable.

As I gaze at the portrait of Texan and President Lyndon Baines Johnson I am reminded of his words on that day in 1965 when he signed the Voting Rights Act when he said “the vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.” It is on his legacy that Texas Democrats in both chambers draw a line in the sand and say unapologetically and in one accord for the world to hear that VOTER SUPPRESSION ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY EVERYWHERE.

Thank you.”

WHAT’S YOUR OPINION?

Your opinion on this subject or any other is welcome. Send us a letter or email. We may publish an edited version of your letter.
MAIL: 5906 STAR LANE, HOUSTON, TX 77057
EMAIL: GRAFIKSTAR@AOL.COM



50-304
General
Property
Taxes
(Rev.3-2016)

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 213-B will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 12:00 PM via teleconference at 1 (877) 746-4263, access code: 2687404#. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Mark Prause, Stacy Lord, Jimmy Flowers
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Juanita Orsak

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

	Last Year \$0.80000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.80000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.80000 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.80000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$234,005.00	\$249,370.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$234,005.00	\$249,370.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,872.04	\$1,994.96
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$122.92 6.57%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE
If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.


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

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

The Property Tax Assistance Division at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts provides property tax information and resources for taxpayers, local taxing entities, appraisal districts and appraisal review boards. For more information, visit our website: comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Abbott sued over mask mandate ban

A growing number of school districts, counties and cities have defied Gov. Greg Abbott’s executive order banning mask mandates, as COVID-19 cases continue to spike due to the delta variant and a low rate of vaccination among Texans.

As KUT.org reported, officials in Dallas and Bexar counties won a first round in court in requiring masks in public schools and most government buildings. School districts in Austin, Houston, Dallas and San Antonio, among others, are requiring students, teachers and staff to wear masks.

Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton are appealing the initial district court decisions and have vowed to sue any government official who defies the governor’s order.

HOSPITALIZATIONS, COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO RISE

Meanwhile, the number of new cases of COVID-19, overwhelmingly among unvaccinated Texans, continues to rise with 98,383 reported in the past week along with 628 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations are approaching the peak levels of mid-January, with 11,381 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, up 27% from the week before.

As students return to classrooms across the state, the number of children in Texas hospitalized with COVID-19 is at one of



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

its highest levels since the pandemic began. In the 19-county region around Dallas and Fort Worth, there were no staffed pediatric beds available late last week, according to KUT.org.

DSHS reports 13.055 million Texans are full vaccinated, about 44.7% of the total population.

DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKERS STILL ABSENT; ARRESTS ORDERED

The Texas Senate last week passed Senate Bill 1, which would establish new restrictions on voting, despite a 15-hour filibuster by state Sen. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston. Meanwhile, Democratic lawmakers in the House continued to break quorum to stave off a House vote on the measure, despite arrest warrants issued by House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont.

The Texas Supreme Court on Thursday temporarily blocked district court orders that would have allowed more than 40 House Democrats to avoid

civil arrest warrants. The Democrats were expected to issue a response to the high court’s ruling this week, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Texas Democrats have denied Republicans a quorum since the closing days of the regular legislative session. The Legislature is now in its second special session, with Democrats decamping to Washington, D.C. to push for a federal voting rights bill. Some lawmakers have since returned to Texas but continue to stay away from the state Capitol.

PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLIST DEATHS CONTINUE TO CLIMB

While traffic casualties declined in 2020, Texas saw a steep rise in the number of people killed while walking or biking on the state’s roadways. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, 731 people died in pedestrian-related crashes last year, up 9% from 2019. Bicyclists killed in crashes totaled 82, up from 68 deaths the previous year. Overall, the number of pedestrian and bicyclist deaths has been steadily increasing the past five years, according to TxDOT.

The agency’s “Be Safe. Drive Smart” campaign features safety reminders on television, billboards, gas pumps, buses and social media. They are components of #EndTheStreakTX, which encourages driver safety. The last death-free day on Texas roadways was Nov. 7, 2000.



Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Back2School Vaccinations

It's almost time to head back to school! If your child needs their mandatory vaccines (hepatitis, DTap, varicella, etc.) and meets the qualifications below, they may be eligible to receive a low-cost vaccination through Chambers County Public Health.

Low-cost vaccines are provided to eligible children through the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) program as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

To receive vaccinations through the Back to School Vaccine program in Chambers County, a child must be 18-years of age or younger and meet one of the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in Medicaid or be Medicaid-eligible
- Be uninsured
- Be an American Indian or Alaskan Native (in accordance with 25 USC 1603)
- Be underinsured
- Have commercial (private) health insurance, but coverage does not include vaccines (or) be a child whose insurance only covers selected vaccines (TVFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only)
- Have Medicaid as their secondary insurance (Medicaid-eligible) or are eligible for TVFC vaccines and MUST NOT be refused vaccine administration. CHIPS insurance is not accepted

Vaccines are provided at all three CPH health clinics on a rotating schedule, so please be sure to read through the attached flyer carefully before scheduling your appointment.

Dayton Job Fair Sept. 22, 2021

Dayton JOB FAIR
SEPT. 22, 2021

This event is FREE for businesses and attendees.
--Bring copies of your resume.

--Come dressed to Interview.
Meet face to face with multiple companies in one day.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021
9am to 1pm
Dayton Community Center, 801 S. Cleveland St. Dayton, TX 77535.

Hosted by:
--Dayton Chamber of Commerce
--Dayton Community Development Corporation
--City of Dayton, TX

If you would like to reserve a table for your business or for more information, please call 926-258-6630 or 926-257-2393.

READY FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Hospital supports YMCA Operation Backpack

BAYTOWN — (August 13, 2021) — Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital staff donated 141 backpacks loaded with school supplies to Baytown area students in need on Friday, August 13 in the YMCA's Operation Backpack program.

The hospital partnered with the YMCA of Greater Houston and The Promise Center in the yearly program that helps students start the year with the supplies they need to be successful.



YMCA of Greater Houston Executive Director Lakeisha Harris (second from right), is joined by Houston Methodist Baytown staff members (from left) Chris Chisum, Claudia Garcia, Stewart Dallas and Kiska Boyd.

Give Blood. Get Ice Cream! Eagle Pointe, Aug. 30

Save Lives on Monday, August 30th!
EAGLE POINTE RECREATION CENTER BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Bus is coming back!
We're saving lives by donating on MONDAY, August 30th from 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM! Every person that successfully donates will receive a free voucher for a pint of Blue Bell Ice Cream.

Avoid any wait times. Reserve your spot online!
> > Reserve Spot In Line Here < <
www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/328927

The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center's mission is to partner with the community to save and sustain lives by providing a safe supply of blood, blood components and related services.



Houston Methodist Baytown

Avoid Heart Health Dangers

BAYTOWN — (July 1, 2021) — With more people vaccinated, many of us are itching to return to hosting and attending backyard barbecues and other get-togethers this summer. But whether it's from over-indulging at the table, to an increase in alcohol consumption, parties and holiday celebrations—like the long Independence Day weekend—bring the temptation of a host of lifestyle choices that can negatively impact heart health.

Nadia Fida, MD, an advanced heart failure, pulmonary hypertension and cardiac transplant cardiologist and director of the Heart Failure Clinic at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, says it's possible to still enjoy parties and celebrations while not increasing your risk of heart attack.

Too much food and too little exercise

"Don't entirely forget about your healthy lifestyle, but a little indulgence on special occasions is generally not a problem," Fida said. She suggests substituting low-fat or nonfat yogurt for mayonnaise in dips and dressings and adding a few veggies to your menu. She also recommends logging some miles around the neighborhood or walking trail.

gests substituting low-fat or nonfat yogurt for mayonnaise in dips and dressings and adding a few veggies to your menu. She also recommends logging some miles around the neighborhood or walking trail.

Too much alcohol and smoke exposure

Drinking too much alcohol can raise the level of some fats in the blood and increase the risk of high blood pressure, alcoholism, obesity, stroke, suicide and accidents. There are also more opportunities for exposure to secondhand smoke, which has been linked to cardiovascular-related death and disability.

Stress and anxiety

Being "The Host With the Most" by returning to hosting large parties can mean upping your stress level, but Fida says there are ways to prevent what should be a source of fun and relaxation from increasing your anxiety.

"Acute and chronic stress may contribute to



DR. NADIA FIDA

high blood pressure. Relaxation techniques like deep breathing or taking a yoga class may help alleviate stress," Fida said. "Also, understand your limits and don't aim for being perfect."

Hosting or attending a party may also trigger COVID-19 concerns. If you're fully vaccinated, you're more protected from the coronavirus, which provides a level of flexibility in regard to what you can feel safe doing again, including hosting the backyard barbecue you had to skip last summer. However, you should continue to be cautious about gathering in large groups and

A Really BIG Fish story:



Blaine Brooks, left, of Dayton, pulled in a 7'8" alligator gar at the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Champion Lake on July 7. With him is son Laine. Brooks said that he custom builds leaders before every trip to the pier. Photo by Bobby Horn Jr.

Dayton Library Meeting Aug. 23

The Friends of the Jones Public Library will be hosting a meeting on Monday August 23rd, at 4:00 PM in the library. This will be an informational meeting for anyone wishing to join The Friends of the Library. The Friends will also be discussing upcoming projects and fundraising ideas. For any additional information you may contact the library directly at 936-258-7060. Jones Public Library 801 S Cleveland St Ste A Dayton TX 77535

The mission of the Jones Public Library is to enhance the scholarly

pursuit of knowledge, to foster intellectual curiosity, to promote life-long learning, and cultural programs. Social development improves and enriches the lives of our users through information, education, and recreation. The Library values the citizens of Dayton Texas and responds to their needs by providing clean and inviting space, well-organized and up-to-date collections, friendly professional service, and well-trained staff who are committed to the Library vision. "A thriving Library that is an integral part of the lives within our community"

About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has provided Baytown and east Harris, Liberty and Chambers counties with excellent medical care since its opening in 1948. The hospital continues to grow to meet the health care needs of its growing community through an ongoing construction and renovation program that has seen the opening of a new emergency center, outpatient center and medical-surgical units. A new five-story patient tower is scheduled to open in 2023. As a health care leader, the hospital is proud to have a fully integrated residency program focused on educating and inspiring future practitioners. Today, Houston Methodist Baytown provides the most advanced and innovative procedures while never wavering from its focus on compassionate care and providing a safe, patient-centered healing environment. Houstonmethodist.org/baytown.



**112 Denny St.
Highlands, TX 77562
281-426-3670**

8/24-8/27

Desserts of Week- Strawberry 4 Layer & Bread Pudding \$3.95 each

Tuesday: Traditional Lasagna, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Chocolate Bread
\$48.50 Family Meal & \$10.95 Individual

Wednesday: King Ranch Chicken, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Sopapilla Cheesecake
\$47.50 Family Meal!! \$10.95 Individual

Thursday: Hamburger Beef Stroganoff Served over egg noodles, Green Beans, Rolls & Brownies
\$48.50 Family Meal & \$10.95 Individual

Friday: Taco Salad with seasoned hamburger meat, garnished with Chips, Sour Cream, Tomatoes, Black Olives and Avocado served with Black Beans, Salsa and Fresh Fruit.
Family Meal \$45.00 & \$10.95 Individual

Saturday: We will offer our Full Lunch Menu & Boutique Shopping 10:30-2!

We Deliver Dinner!
Family Meals Feed 6-8
Lunch delivery available with advanced notice & \$40.00 minimum order!
Shop our Boutique Daily!

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Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

A tax rate of \$0.05 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.**

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0500 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0491 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0509 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.0588 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60** from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 23, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., at Sheldon Community Fire & Rescue Station No. 1, located at 8407 C.E. King Parkway, Houston, Texas 77044.

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 shall take action on the proposed tax rate on August 23, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., following the hearing to be held.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60** is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the **Board of Commissioners of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60** at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

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

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: **James Collins, Helen Lauersdorf and Daron McCaslin**
 AGAINST: **None**
 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING: **None**
 ABSENT: **Alfred A. Adams and Dale Langdon**

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60** this year.

	2020	2021	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0500	\$0.0500	increase of 0.0000, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$151,160	\$164,022	increase of \$12,862, or 8.51%
Tax on average homestead	\$75.58	\$82.01	increase of \$6.43, or 8.51%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,468,711	\$2,591,996	increase of \$123,285, or 4.99%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60** at (713) 984-8222 or pierce@covelev.com or visit www.esd60.org for more information.

Community Plans,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Health Impact Assessment for the Community Plan.

The plan information and sign-up for the Task Force can be seen at highlandslynchburgplan.com. Many community leaders were on the ZOOM meeting last week, and can be expected to participate as well as others. A total of 70 persons were signed into the ZOOM meeting. On the website, you can click on a button "Get Involved" and learn more about how to participate. The McNairLinus

meeting on Thursday night was very similar, but with a different professional planning team. There were 66 participants signed up from these two communities. The plan information can be seen at mcnairlinusplan.com.

The consultants explained that the Outreach Strategies would include Public Meetings, and Stakeholders Task Force meetings, of which three were anticipated.

A timeline for the planning was expected to be several months, and implementation of the plan

might start immediately, Commissioner Garcia said, but short term goals might take up to 4 years, and long term goals as much as ten years. Of course, planning, engineering, and funding sources are all factors in achieving the results, he said.

Contacts for more information or to sign up include Gretchen Knowles, Community Liaison at 281-928-2954, and Jorge Bustamante, Planning Manager at 713-456-9452.

Or by email, gretchen.knowles@pct2.hctx.net and jorge.bustamante@pct2.hctx.net.

Sen. Alvarado Filibusters,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of her efforts was Senate Bill 1, the GOP's priority bill that would place new restrictions on voting that many opponents say would disproportionately suppress ballots from voters of color and disabled voters.

But ultimately, her speaking marathon could only delay the passage of the bill in the Republican-controlled Senate. Shortly after she finally stepped away from her desk around 9 a.m., the Senate voted to advance the measure on a 18-11 party-line vote.

With her Democratic colleagues surrounding her desk on the Senate floor after her marathon, Alvarado invoked her Houston constituents - the voters who took advantage of the voting options SB 1 would ban - and asked why they should not be allowed as many opportunities to vote as the county was willing to offer.

"As we draw this discussion to an end, it is my sincere hope that civil acts by everyday Texans, from the Senate floor to the ballot box, can help to shed the light on all important issues," Alvarado

said Thursday morning. "What do we want our democracy to look like?"

Alvarado's filibuster began just before 5:50 p.m. Wednesday, and likely will end up being more of a symbolic gesture than a credible attempt to block passage of the voting bill. Her ending the filibuster clears a path for the Senate to grant final passage to SB 1 on Thursday. When she took the floor, the Legislature was on just the fifth day of a 30-day special session, called as Democrats have left the House without enough members present for the Republican majority in that chamber to pass legislation.

That left plenty of time for the Senate to pass the legislation despite the temporary delay. But Alvarado said she felt compelled to filibuster to "put the brakes on" the bill and delay its final approval to shine a spotlight on its provisions.

"Senate Bill 1 slowly but surely chips away at our democracy. It adds rather than removes barriers for Texas seniors, persons with disabilities, African Americans, Asian and Latino voters from the political process," Alvarado said at the onset of her effort. "[President Lyndon B. Johnson] said the Vot-

ing Rights Act struck away the last major shackle of the fierce and ancient bond of slavery. Senate Bill 1 is a regressive step back in the direction of that dark and painful history."

Alvarado filled the time by recounting portions of the history of the fight for voting rights, reading testimony on the bill that her office collected from the public and going over portions of the bill in excruciating detail with assists from Democratic Senate colleagues who took turns asking her lengthy questions, often speaking at a much slower tempo than usual, in what appeared at times to be a largely empty Senate chamber.

As the filibuster stretched into the early morning, Alvarado read messages being sent to her by voters and Democratic elected officials urging her effort on.

Republican senators and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the chamber, appeared to be drifting in and out as the night went on, but made no efforts in to raise procedural objections that might cut her off.

-Article courtesy of the Texas Tribune.

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

A tax rate of \$0.05 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80.**

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.050000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.049779 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.052129 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.072522 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 23, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at Crosby Fire Station No. 2, 123 Diamondhead Boulevard, Crosby, Texas 77532.

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80 shall take action on the proposed tax rate on August 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., following the hearing to be held.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the **Board of Commissioners of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

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

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: **Raymond St. Julian, Randy Foster, Buddy Brewer and Derek Elkins**
 AGAINST: **None**
 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING: **None**
 ABSENT: **Chuck Murray**

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** this year.

	2020	2021	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.050000	\$0.050000	increase of 0.000000, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$154,616	\$143,310	decrease of -\$11,306, or -7.31%
Tax on average homestead	\$77.31	\$71.66	decrease of -\$5.65, or -7.31%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,102,090	\$1,128,389	increase of \$26,299, or 2.39%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 80** at (713) 984-8222 or pierce@covelev.com or visit www.hcesd80.org for more information.

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— *Bonnie Raitt*

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Goose Creek CISD plans,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Currently the district is not requiring anyone to wear masks, due to the Governor’s orders. But since the CDC has said students should be masked, O’Brien said the district is encouraging all to wear them. He said the state has threatened a \$1000 per student/per day fine if they mandate masks. He said this could amount to \$3 million per day if enforced.

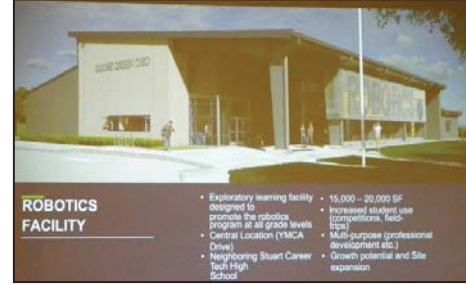
New schools include Green Junior School on Wallisville Road, San Jacinto Elementary, Pumphrey Elementary, an Education Service Center, a Robotics Facility for all grades, and a PreK Early Childhood Center.

The latter has an innovative approach to learning which O’Brien is very enthusiastic about. If successful, the district will actually have 3 of these Centers when done. Based on Brain Science studies that O’Brien has taken, the new centers will be more “experiential” than educational. The first central center will have 16 classrooms. It was designed by Exhibit Concepts and Huckabee architects to the district’s specifications.

O’Brien said that all of this new construction is part of the needed growth strategy, since 5500 new homes are under construction and the district expects a surge of new students in the future.

Other advanced educational approaches that O’Brien discussed were the establishment of 10 Career Academies, so that students have a choice of careers that they can prepare for while still in high school.

Academics are bolstered by Dual credit programs, where a student gets college credit for his course work, and AP courses.



The Robotics Facility will be both instructional and an experimental lab, where students from all grades can develop knowledge in this future field.



The PreK Early Childhood Center will have 16 classrooms, each with a different theme based on real world experiences around the community, which will teach them about things they see but may not understand. In this illustration, the waterfront with boats and fishing is presented. There are no desks or traditional classroom features in this new method of learning.



Each of the 16 Early Childhood Center classrooms will have a different theme and set of experiences for the PreK child. Here is an aerial view of one of the classrooms, showing a “build” theme, with features such as a Bobcat Loader, a LEGO wall, Lincoln Logs, Foam blocks for constructing shapes, safety signs, a magnetic white board, and a workbench. All of these experiences would include instruction on what they are and what they mean in the real world.

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