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Council Member Dave Martin's District E Newsletter

Issue 3

April 2013



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District E

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Residents of District E,

March Madness has been in full swing in the District E Office. We just completed the last of four community meetings. Both the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and Town Hall Meetings were well attended and provided an opportunity for myself and city department directors to hear your support, concerns, and suggestions for our area. I want to say a special thank you to all of the presenters that attended the meeting who provided helpful information to District E residents. My office will hold a second round of town hall meetings in the fall. I encourage you to read our newsletter and follow me on Facebook and Twitter for future meeting dates.

In my first two months at City Hall, I have worked diligently to learn about the budgetary process that we, as a City, will go through in the coming months as our fiscal year (FY13) will end on June 30. The Mayor's office will prepare a proposed FY14 budget, which we anticipate receiving by mid-May. Next in the process, the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee will host a series of budget meetings that will allow each city department to present an overview of their budget with budgetary priorities and recommendations. These meetings provide Council Members the opportunity to examine each department's finances and ask critical questions. Following those meetings, Council Members are able to offer amendments to the proposed budget; these amendments will then be discussed and voted on during a City Council meeting, typically held in June. Please feel free send me realistic budget reduction suggestions you may have. I am here to represent you, and I want to ensure you I am here to fight for what you, as taxpayers, want me to fight for or fight against.

In closing, I want to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve you. I am deeply enjoying learning about District E, meeting residents, attending community meetings, and most importantly, representing you. I look forward to continuing to being your voice here at City Hall. As promised, constituent service is my number one priority. My staff and I work day in and day out to uphold that promise to you. Please never hesitate to contact my office to share your thoughts or concerns.

I thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave Martin

Kingwood Town Hall Meeting

[City of Houston 311
\(713\) 837-0311](tel:7138370311)

[Mayor's Citizens
Assistance Office
\(832\) 393-0955](tel:8323930955)

[Kingwood
Community Center
\(281\) 348-2570](tel:2813482570)

[City of Houston Solid
Waste Management](#)

[City of Houston
Public Works
Department](#)

[Department of
Neighborhoods](#)

[District E Community Contacts](#)

[Lake Houston Area
Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Kingwood Chamber of
Commerce](#)

[Clear Lake Area
Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Southbelt-Ellington
Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Bay Area Houston
Economic Partnership](#)

[Kingwood Service
Association](#)

[Kingwood Super
Neighborhood Council](#)

[South Belt-Ellington
Super Neighborhood
Council](#)

[Clear Lake Super](#)

On Monday, March 18 nearly 350 people attended Council Member Martin's town hall meeting at the Kingwood Community Center. State Representative Dan Huberty gave a legislative update reporting on several issues resulting from the 83rd Legislature while Charlie Dromgroole, president of the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on local community updates. Additionally, a variety of other topics were addressed including the proposed expansion of Kingwood Drive, the proposed senior housing development, Main Street Kingwood, as well as updates from General Services Department, Houston Police Department, Houston Fire Department, Public Works and Engineering, Office of Emergency Management and Solid Waste Management.



Council Member Martin thanks all those who attended the meeting and contributed to the dialogue regarding the various projects.

Generator Installation Begins at Kingwood Groundwater Facilities

On Monday, March 25, the City of Houston's Drinking Water Operations began the process of installing emergency back-up generators at the Kingwood groundwater facilities as required by state mandate. The next phase of this project will require a shutdown of the Kingwood Water Plant A located at 2310 Northpark Drive, which was scheduled for Wednesday, March 27 and should last approximately one week. While every attempt is made to avoid impacting the customers, a shutdown like this potentially could result in changes in water color due to the change in flow direction in the distribution lines that disturbs particles that may have settled in the line.

City officials from the Public Works and Engineering Department state that they do not anticipate a reduction in water pressure that would lead to reductions in service or public safety concerns. Additionally, officials do not anticipate any water quality issues and state that tap water will remain safe to drink. If customers should experience any changes in water pressure or coloration of water, they are encouraged to report them by calling the City of Houston's 311 customer service line.

For more information, please call Council Member Martin's office at (832) 393-3008.

Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Third Tuesday Luncheon

Last month, Council Member Martin, his chief of staff, Allie Smart, and YES Prep Senior, Selena Suarez, attended the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's Third Tuesday Luncheon at Kingwood Country Club. Guest speaker, Pete Garcia, spoke to luncheon attendees regarding the best way to grow your business. Garcia is the Executive Director of The United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce The Woodlands-Gulf Coast Chapter. He is also President/CEO and Principal of Pete Garcia

[Neighborhood](#)

International Inc., Airline Market Data Consultants and Blue Green Aviation & Hospitality.

Congressman Ted Poe's Open House

Council Member Martin attended U.S. Representative Ted Poe's open house on Tuesday, March 26 celebrating the opening of the congressman's new Harris County West Office located at 710 N. Post Oak Road, Suite 510. Council Member Martin looks forward to working with Congressman Poe on behalf of their shared constituency base, and encourages his residents of the district to utilize the Congressman's new office.

Space Center Rotary Meeting

Council Member Martin attended the weekly Space Center Rotary Meeting on Monday, March 4 at Bay Oaks Country Club. Harris County Commissioner Jack Morman was the guest speaker and addressed Rotary members about the status of a variety of projects currently in design and construction phases in the County.



Council Member Martin will be the featured guest speaker during the Rotary Club's April 8 meeting at Bay Oaks Country Club. Topics to be discussed will include an overview of the council member's first 90 days, thoughts about the city's current budget status as well as updates on District E related projects.

Clear Lake Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Martin hosted his first town hall meeting in Clear Lake on March 4 at the University of Houston Clear Lake. Residents from Clear Lake and nearby Southeast Houston attended and learned about numerous community and economic



development updates from Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership President, Bob Mitchell; legislative updates from Lisa Holbrook from Representative John Davis' office; as well as a variety of updates from city departments. Council Member Martin thanks all those who attended and presented.

Clear Lake CIP Meeting

On Wednesday, March 27 Council Member Dave Martin, in coordination with the Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office, hosted a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) meeting



in Clear Lake. Representatives from Rebuild Houston, Parks and Recreation, General Services and Public Works and Engineering gave project updates and presented department overviews to those in attendance. Additionally, attendees were given the opportunity to suggest their recommended projects and voice their concerns and questions.



Brook Forest HOA Meeting

Brook Forest Homeowners Association president, Susan Macki, invited Council Member Martin to speak at the association's March general meeting. Council Member Martin spoke about a variety of different topics including his first 70 days in office and developments in District E including updates to Sylvan Rodriguez Park, Trendmaker Homes site development, Clear Lake Super Neighborhood Council reorganization, Ellington Airport planned projects as well as upcoming announcements and events. Council Member Martin thanks Ms. Macki for inviting him to speak and giving him the opportunity to meet many new faces in the community.

South Shaver Road Reconstruction Update

Houston City Council Member Dave Martin is pleased to announce that construction on the South Shaver Road Reconstruction Project is scheduled to begin Summer 2013. Improvements include widening the road from four to six lanes with a raised median, curb and gutter drainage, sidewalks, street lighting and improved underground utilities.

"Residents of South Houston have patiently waited decades to have this road reconstructed," said Council Member Martin. "These new infrastructure improvements will provide a better quality of life for the community by aiding in less congestion and preventing future flooding."

The project also includes storm water capacity improvements for a portion of the Berry Bayou and a new detention pond. The construction of the \$13.5 million dollar improvement project is being managed by the Texas Department of Transportation and is scheduled for completion by early 2015.

Council Member Martin's office will follow progress on this project and will continue to keep the public updated of any changes.

Please contact Council Member Martin's office at (832) 393-3008 should you have any questions.

Take a Senior to Work Day

As part of YES Prep's "Take a Senior to Work Day," Council Member Martin and his staff hosted senior, Selena Suarez, who was given the opportunity to spend a day



downtown experiencing a normal day in the life of Council Member Martin.

Ms. Suarez visited the council member's Marsh and McClennan office before heading to the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's Third Tuesday Luncheon as well as City Council's public session. She also shadowed his staff during the afternoon learning day-to-day responsibilities of a city council office. Council Member Martin thanks YES Prep for extending the invitation to him to participate in the program that opens students' eyes to different professional organizations and careers.



Proclamation Presentation to HP Officer Randy Derr

Council Member Martin had the privilege of presenting an official City of Houston proclamation to Houston Police Department Officer Randy Derr during City Council's public session on Tuesday, March 26. Officer Derr retired last month after 33 years of service to the city.



Throughout his career, he has made a long lasting impact on the Clear Lake area.

Officer Derr started the Houston Police Academy on July 2, 1979 and upon graduating on November 2, 1979 was assigned Probationary Police duties at the Southwest (Beechnut) Patrol Station. After completion of his Field Training and Probationary duties Randy was then transferred to Southeast (Park Place) Patrol Station March 24, 1980.

In April 1984 Randy transferred to the Clear Lake Station where he worked until his retirement. While assigned to the Clear Lake Station Randy rode patrol responding to calls and working proactive crime initiatives. In early 1986 he was approached by the late Lieutenant John Neely to help with the Crime Prevention and Crime Watch Programs that were growing for the area. Randy, being the vigilant crime fighter, was reluctant to take the job because he felt he wasn't going to be able to be respond to the citizen's needs; he was wrong.

The Houston Police Department's Clear Lake Patrol Division became the model for citizen crime watch programs throughout the city. His diligence and tenacity made the "National Night Out" block parties at the Clear Lake Division the top performer for number of parties as well as number of citizen's participating at the parties throughout the city year after year. He was also instrumental for organizing and conducting one of the longest standing PIP programs.

Officer Derr will be greatly missed by District E, but we wish him nothing but the best in his retirement.

South Channel Region Chambers of Commerce Luncheon

The South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce and Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce in coordination with Pasadena, Deer Park, City of South Houston, and La Porte-Bayshore Chambers of Commerce held their first annual South Channel Region Chamber luncheon on March 21. Harris County Commissioner Jack Morman gave his State of the County address focusing on key issues, including budget and projects, affecting the county. Council Member Martin thanks Memorial Hermann and the South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce for inviting him to sit at their table.



CCISD Certified Teachers Job Fair

The Clear Creek Independent School District is hosting two job fairs in April. Qualified teachers with valid teaching certificates are encouraged to attend.

*Leading the Way
in the 21st Century*



Elementary Job Fair

Thursday, April 4, 2013
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Clear Springs High School
501 Palomino Lane
League City, TX 77573

Secondary Job Fair

Saturday, April 13, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Clear Creek Intermediate School
2451 East Main
League City, TX 77573

To learn more, please visit

www.ccisd.net/departments/humanresources/jobfair.

Thank you HPD and HFD

Earlier this year, Council Member Martin participated on a ride along with Houston Police Officer Keith Cook to observe the day to day duties of an officer and the calls in which they respond to. During the ride, the officer and council member responded to a call from a hearing impaired woman that lived in an apartment complex in the south part of District E.

Council Member Martin mentioned the ride along at his Clear Lake town hall meeting on March 4. As a result, Captain Mark Fougousse with the Houston Police Department's Clear Lake Substation and Chief Thomas Munoz with the Houston Fire Department tracked the woman down and provided her with a hearing impaired smoke alarm.

The city is fortunate to have these outstanding first responders on their team. Council Member Martin thanks them for the unparalleled commitment and dedication to the citizens of Houston.

"Lemonade Day" Kickoff

Council Member Martin attended a press conference Mayor Parker held kicking off and recognizing Lemonade Day as May 5. The event takes place annually and encourages youth how to become successful entrepreneurs. Lemonade Day is a free, fun experiential learning program that teaches youth how to start, own and



operate their own business. Young and aspiring entrepreneurs benefit from a strategic 14-step process that walks them from a dream of owning and operating their own business to a business plan. The youth are encouraged to work hard and make a profit. They learn how to spend as well as how to save wisely. They are also encouraged to give back to their communities.

As a parent and former school board member, Council Member Martin knows how important it is to teach these principals to youth, and encourages many to get involved at a young age.

For more information about Lemonade Day Houston, please visit www.houston.lemonadeday.org.

Ch. 26 Parking Ordinance

City Council approved changes to the City's Off-Street Parking Ordinance, found in Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances. The current Off-Street Parking Ordinance has remained largely untouched since it was first adopted in 1989. The amendments attempt to balance the changing development trends with the need to protect our neighborhoods by creating of flexible parking regulations that encourage parking and land use efficiencies.

The primary benefits includes rules that require and incentivize bike parking for new businesses, the ability for an area to establish a Special Parking Area with alternative standards to account for unique parking demands, reduced parking requirements for designated historic buildings and greater shared parking options between uses to reduce the total number of parking spaces needed. The Ordinance includes revised parking standards for many uses such as barber shops and beauty salons, schools, self-storage facilities, and large shopping centers to more accurately reflect today's needs.

A last minute addition to the Ordinance included a 20% reduction in parking for new businesses along a transit street that incorporate greater pedestrian standards from the Transit Corridor rules in Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinance.

In one of the more publicized changes, the Food and Beverage category was revised from two to eight classifications to create greater flexibility for

businesses. The requirement shown in () is the spaces per 1,000 square feet of gross floor area. The category now includes: Take-Out Restaurant (4); Dessert Shop (6); Small Restaurant (8); Neighborhood Restaurant (9); Restaurant (10); Tavern or Pub (10); Small Bar (12); and Bar, Club or Lounge (14).

The new standards will not retroactively apply to existing businesses. Only new construction, building additions, or buildings that change use classification will be required to meet the new standards.

Information about the Parking Ordinance can be found at www.HoustonPlanning.com under Parking Ordinance Review.

Hurricane Preparedness

As the 2013 hurricane season approaches, Council Member Martin encourages his constituents to take the proper steps to prepare. To begin, build an emergency kit, create a communication plan with your family, make plans to secure your property and know proper evacuation routes. Please note, in collaboration with the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the Office of Emergency Management has a digital [Hurricane Evacuation Map](#) that is available to view online and is also available for download. Please utilize this resource as well as others that are available through the Office of Emergency Management.



For more information, please contact Council Member Martin's office at (832) 393-3008.

Proposed Amendments to the Construction Code

After the adoption of the Residential Buffer Ordinance, issues were raised about noise from mechanical equipment adjacent to single family residential properties. The Planning and Development Department along with the Public Works and Engineering Department have produced a companion amendment to the Construction Code that addresses mechanical equipment in the buffer zone. The proposed amendments will establish permissible sound levels for mechanical equipment.

The proposed amendments will also correct the screening criteria for garages and add garage screening criteria for multifamily development. Comments can be sent on the City of Houston's website through April 12. If you have any questions, please email pd.planning@houstontx.gov or call (713) 837-7701.

Republic of the Congo Delegation Welcoming

On Friday, March 22, Council Member Martin had the opportunity to welcome a delegation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the City of Houston. The



delegation visited Houston to learn more about best practices in pollution control/management and environmental care and remediation. While visting, they also learned about fuel and emissions standards in Houston as well as existing enforcement mechanisms. The group also met with the Solid Waste Management Department, Pollution Control and Prevention and the Office of Sustainability during their visit. Council Member Martin thanks the Mayor's Office of International Trade and Development for the opportunity to greet and meet with the delegation.



Upcoming Events

Please refer to Council Martin's District E [website](#) for location, time and more event details. Email the District E office if you would like us to include your upcoming event in future newsletters!



City Wides

April 3

City Council Meeting

April 10

The 3rd Annual Mayor's Earth Day Breakfast

April 10

City Council Meeting

April 17

City Council Meeting

April 24

City Council Meeting

April 26

Greater Houston Partnership's State of the City

Kingwood

April 13

Emergency Preparedness Fair

April 16

Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's Third Tuesday Luncheon

April 16

Kingwood PIP Meeting

*April 20
Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's Party on the Green*

*April 22
Humble ISD School Board Candidate Forum*

*April 23
Wired That Way Workshop at Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce*

*April 25
5th Annual Lake Houston Family YMCA Dancing for Partners*

South Houston/Clear Lake

*April 3
South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce Networking Event at the Redford Apartments*

*April 4
Cyber Security Collaboration Forum at the University of Houston Clear Lake in cooperation with NASA-JSC and the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership*

*April 12
Fire Fighter Safety Day at Freeman Library*

*April 16
Clear Lake PIP Meeting*

*April 16
CCISD Candidates Forum at the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's Office*

*April 24
Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's General Luncheon*

*May 11
Aeros & Autos at Ellington Airport*

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