

Council Member Dave Martin's District E Newsletter

Issue 6

June 2013



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Residents of District E,

As I sit here writing the opening to the June newsletter I can't help but continue to pray for the firefighters that lost their lives fighting a blaze in Southwest Houston on May 31. The four brave first responders aggressively responded to a five-alarm fire and ultimately gave their lives trying to save others that were potentially still in the building. May we also remember those that are recuperating in the hospital. We owe countless thanks for those individuals as well as their family, friends and the entire Houston Fire Department. The city is working closely with the 100 Club and ask that those who would like to make monetary donations contribute to the organization which supports the dependents of firefighters and law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Please join me in continuing to pray for all those affected and for those who continue to protect us on a daily basis. We owe it to them.

Fiscal Year 2014 budget process is in full swing at City Hall. We have started this comprehensive process with "budget workshops." These workshops allow the opportunity for council members to examine each department's budget, gain in-depth information and ask crucial questions of each department director. Thus far, the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee has held ten workshops, which include Planning and Development, Public Works and Engineering, Health and Human Services, Administration and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Neighborhoods, Controller's Office, Human Resources, Municipal Courts, City Council and the Mayor's Office. These budget workshops have provided clarification and prompted questions from all members in attendance.

I have gone into each of these workshops with specific expectations and questions to try and establish an "Executive Summary" from each department. This summary, I believe will be beneficial to council members while they study each individual budget. The questions I am seeking are related to each department's anticipated 2012-2013 actuals, expenses incurred in FY13 that they do not foresee incurring in FY14, anticipated expenses in FY14 that did not occur in FY13, any uncontrollable expenses (fuel increases, cost of living adjustments and unanticipated expenses) and a overview of the department's 2013-2014 projected budget.

Following this series of workshops, each council member will be able to develop amendments they would like to offer to the Proposed FY14 Budget, these amendments can range from citywide to district specific additions and alterations. Once all amendments have been turned in to the Mayor's Administration, each council member will be allowed to discuss their amendments at a council meeting and then vote on each of them on June 12th.

With eleven more workshops scheduled this month, I plan to learn an abundance more about not only each department but the city as a whole. As I stated in my April newsletter, please feel free to send me realistic

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Assistance Office
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Kingwood
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(281) 348-2570

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

budget reduction suggestions, I will be glad to review them thoroughly. Please never hesitate to contact my office and share your thoughts and suggestions. My office is 100% dedicated to constituent service and we are here to serve you.

Sincerely,



Dave Martin

Kingwood Library Hours Extended

On Thursday, May 23, Council Member Martin joined Harris County Pct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle and the Harris County Public Library system to celebrate the expansion of the Kingwood Library hours from five to six days a week. These new hours began June 1, meet the needs of the community and allow for increased usage during the summer months, just in time for student's summer reading programs. Council Member Martin thanks Commissioner Cagle and Rhoda Goldberg, Director of Harris County Public Library, who both have been instrumental in making these new hours a reality.



New Kingwood Annex Court Hours

Effective Wednesday, July 3, 2013, the Houston Municipal Courts Department Kingwood Annex Court location will have new hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and continue to be closed noon to 1:00 p.m. The court is located at 3915 Rustic Woods. For more information please visit the Municipal Courts website at www.houstontx.gov/courts or call 281.361.6574.

Sycamore Springs Park Grand Re-Opening

The Elm Grove Village Community Association hosted a grand re-opening of the Sycamore Springs Park on May 4. Starting last year, the association began a complete renovation of the park including the replacement of the old playground equipment, the addition of new ADA compliant equipment and the clearing out of overgrown brush and trees. Council Member Martin was excited to be able to participate in the ceremony, and presented the Elm Grove Village Community Association with a certificate recognizing them for their hard work and efforts to clean up the park.

Clear Lake Super Neighborhood

Holy Comforter Church's 40th Anniversary

The Holy Comforter Lutheran Church in Kingwood celebrated the 40th anniversary of its HCLC pre-school on Sunday, May 6. Responding to the public's needs, the school opened its doors in 1973 and has since been a vital part of the community. Council Member Martin helped celebrate the school's anniversary by recognizing and thanking the leaders for providing significant experiences in early education to Kingwood residents and their children.



Kingwood Super Neighborhood Council Meeting

Council Member Martin attended the Kingwood Super Neighborhood Council meeting on May 8 at the city's Kingwood Community Center where the board and super neighborhood council members elected a new president, Stan Sarman. Council Member Martin looks forward to working with Mr. Sarman along with the other representatives on the council. For more information about the Kingwood Super Neighborhood Council, please visit their website at www.kingwoodsnc.com.

Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's Third Tuesday Luncheon

The Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce hosted their monthly Third Tuesday Luncheon on May 21. Area police officers and firefighters were honored for their courageous service and support to the community including the city of Houston's Fire Department - District 102 and HPD Officer Johnny Jennings.



Officer Jennings was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Council Member Martin and thanked for his dedicated service to the citizens of Houston.

Shaver Road Construction Update

On May 22, TXDot hosted a pre-construction meeting to discuss construction schedule, safety and contract agreements regarding the South Shaver Road Reconstruction Project. During the meeting, the contractor James Construction was told that they would be given a "Notice to Proceed" with construction to begin on June 17, 2013.



This \$13.5 million project will take place during the five day work week with lane

closures only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Infrastructure improvements include widening the road from four to six lanes with raised medians, curb and gutter drainage, sidewalks, street lighting and improved underground utilities. The project also includes storm water capacity improvements for a portion of the Berry Bayou and a new detention pond.

Council Member Martin's office will continue to stay updated on construction progress and lane closures that may effect the immediate area.

8th Annual State of the Lake

The Bay Area Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the 8th Annual State of the Lake Tourism Address on May 2 at South Shore Harbour. Representing Council Member Martin, his Director of Special Projects, Lauren Doak, attended the meeting alongside area elected officials and community leaders. Representatives from various cities in the Bay Area gave updates on the health of the hospitality and tourism industry, the impact it has on the local and state economies and future initiatives each of the cities are pursuing in the coming year.

According to the Office of the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Division, preliminary estimates show that travel spending in Texas totaled more than \$65 billion in 2012, an increase of 6% over 2011 and the highest level of travel spending recorded to date. This directly supported 564,000 jobs and generated nearly \$4.4 billion in local and state taxes.

The State of the Lake Tourism Address coincides with National Travel and Tourism Week, which was celebrated May 4-12.

National Police Week Awards Breakfast

The Houston Police Department participated in the nationally recognized Police Week activities last month. Council Member Martin helped recognize the men and women in blue of the department by attending the Police Week Awards Breakfast where the Mayor's official proclamation was read and dozens of awards were presented to those who give the ultimate sacrifice to protect the citizens of Houston. Houston Police Officers Union president, Ray Hunt, invited the council member to participate, and Council Member Martin thanks him for the opportunity to attend.

Space Center Houston Acquires Space Carrier Aircraft

NASA officially agreed to transfer ownership of the iconic Shuttle Carrier Aircraft (SCA-905) to Space Center Houston last month. The Shuttle and 747 Carrier will be a new \$12 million



complex that will include the legendary airplane and full-scale Space Shuttle model and is poised to become Texas'



newest landmark tribute to America's legendary Space Shuttle. In addition, Space Center Houston plans to utilize the Shuttle and 747 Carrier to implement new educational programs to its already impressive arsenal of award-winning activities as part of their ongoing mission to inspire students to consider careers in the field of math and science.

The Shuttle and 747 Carrier will give visitors the world's first and only all-access pass to an authentic and realistic journey through the inside of the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft as well as an unforgettable experience aboard the full-scale Shuttle model. The up close and personal access to American aviation history will reveal the Space Shuttle program's amazing ingenuity, clever innovation and awe-inspiring complexity.

Once the massive undertaking of getting the iconic airplane from Ellington Field to Space Center Houston is completed by November 2013, and the Shuttle model has been mounted, the six-story, \$12 million complex is expected to open to the public in February 2015.

BAHEP General Membership Meeting

City of Houston Mayor Annise Parker was the featured guest speaker at the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's general membership meeting last month. As her newly elected colleague, Council Member Dave Martin had the privilege of introducing the 61st City of Houston Mayor to his Clear Lake constituents, local elected officials and community



leaders. Mayor Parker spoke about the accolades Houston has achieved over the last couple of years, the challenges that face the city ahead, the strong job climate of Houston, and lastly the city budget that will have to be passed by June 30.

Wounded Warriors Welcome Celebration

Families, volunteers, civilians and community leaders patriotically joined together on May 17 to welcome 200 Wounded Warriors to Houston as they arrived in Terminal C at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. Following the welcome reception where the men and women were greeted and thanked for their service and sacrifice, they boarded buses for a fun-filled weekend in Port O'Connor with an itinerary that



included fishing excursions, live music and helicopter rides.

Houston Selected to Host Super Bowl LI

After months of community efforts to put together a successful Super Bowl bid, Houston is proud to announce that the city has been selected as the host for the 2017 game. Council Member Martin joined Mayor Annise Parker and his colleagues for the official announcement on Tuesday, May 21 at City Hall. During the press conference, Mayor Parker announced that the city will actually host two weeks worth of events leading up to the Super Bowl bringing an estimated 1 million visitors to Houston with more than a \$480 million economic impact. The new Marriott Marquis Hotel by the George R. Brown Convention Center, three new rail lines and other improvements will be added over the next four years to accommodate the out of town visitors who will be traveling from all over the world to experience all that Houston has to offer.



Single Stream Recycling Expansion

As of June 30, 2013 the City of Houston's contract with RecycleBank, a points based rewards system for recycling, will end. All registered customers will receive a notification through the Solid Waste Management Department at which time they will have 12 months to redeem any unclaimed accumulated points.



With the cancellation of the RecycleBank program, the city's Solid Waste Management Department intends to expand the Single Stream Recycling Program to nearly 33,000 homes over the summer with nearly 70,000 - 100,000 more homes being added later this year. The expansion will impact neighborhoods citywide rather than be limited to one specific area of town. The list of neighborhoods that will be added to the expansion should be released within the coming months. Council Member Martin will make sure to send out information to District E constituents should any neighborhoods fall within the council district.

For more information or if you would like your neighborhood to be considered for future expansions, please contact Council Member Martin's office.

New Cyclist Ordinance Passed

Mayor Annise Parker and the Houston City Council last month unanimously approved an ordinance to protect Houston's cyclists and other vulnerable road users by requiring cars and other motor vehicles to keep a separation of more than three feet while passing, and trucks or commercial vehicles to keep a separation of more than six feet. The ordinance is effective

immediately.

Vulnerable road users are defined as a walkers or runners; the physically disabled, such as someone in a wheelchair; a stranded motorist or passengers; highway construction, utility or maintenance workers; tow truck operators; cyclists; moped, motor-driven cycle and scooter drivers; or horseback riders.

In addition to requiring safe passing and trailing distances from vulnerable road users, this ordinance prohibits any motor vehicle occupant from throwing or projecting any object or substance at or against them.

For more information on cycling in Houston visit the Public Works website at www.bikeways.publicworks.houstontx.gov.

Houston Forensic Science LGC Team

Eight nationally-recognized scientists met in Houston May 1 to begin advising the board of the Houston Forensic Science Local Government Corporation, Inc. (HFSLGC) on best practices in forensic science and laboratory operations.

The scientists have agreed to donate their time and expertise as members of the HFSLGC's Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG includes experts in DNA analysis, drug chemistry, toxicology, document analysis, management of forensic and scientific laboratories, and other areas. The HFSLGC board selected these scientists based on accomplishments in their respective fields, recommendations of peers, and publications in peer-reviewed journals related to their experience in research, methodology, statistics and/or quality assurance.

The HFSLGC was established by Mayor Annise Parker and the Houston City Council as an independent city-chartered organization to assume the operations of the current Houston Police Department Forensic Division. The Technical Advisory Group will help the HFSLGC board establish, meet and maintain high standards of technical performance and accreditation, and will advise the board of new developments in rapidly changing fields in forensic science.

Mayor Parker called the establishment of the TAG "an important milestone in the process of forming an independent forensic science center of the highest quality".

GHP Power Series

Council Member Martin's Director of Special Projects, Lauren Doak, attended the Greater Houston Partnership's Public Policy "Power Hours Series" featuring Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX-2) on May 31. Congressman Poe, who also represents District E constituents in Kingwood, addressed several issues including his congressional work on issues affecting our



nation's ports like the Port of Houston, victims rights and immigration reform. Council Member Martin looks forward to working with Congressman Poe during his tenure on City Council while serving their shared constituent base together.



Demolition Day in District E

Last month, Mayor Parker kicked off her demolition initiative with the promise of demolishing nearly 136 buildings and structures over the course of the next two months. In coordination with the Houston Contractor's Association who have donated their time and materials to the initiative, the city demolished four structures in District E that were in disrepair and considered a blight to the community. Properties like these are unsafe and are often times related to crime, drug use and illegal activity. Council Member Martin appreciates the work that was done in District E and across the city and thanks the Houston Contractors Association for giving back to help make neighborhoods safer.

9/11 Run at Ellington Airport

Organizers of the third annual 9/11 Heroes Run met last month to begin planning for this year's event. On September 7, 2013 peace officers, firefighters and military men and women will converge at Ellington Airport to participate in a 5k run in honor the 9,000 who have lost their lives since 9/11. This year, the Houston area organizers have set their goal to raise \$100,000 and are anticipating nearly 5,000 runners. If interested in participating this year please visit the [9/11 Heroes Run website](#) to register. Additionally, events such as these rely heavily on volunteers and this year is no different. Please contact Council Member Martin's office for more information if interested.



CCISD School Board Trustee's Retirement Celebration

Last month, Bob Davee of the Clear Creek Independent School District's Board of Trustees officially retired after 12 years of serving the public. Council Member Martin thanks Mr. Davee for his dedicated commitment to the students and staff of CCISD and wishes him nothing but the best in his retirement years. He also welcomes Laura Dupont who was recently elected to replace Mr. Davee on the Board of Trustees.



HCA Luncheon with Judge Ed Emmett

The Houston Contractor's Association welcomed Harris County Judge Ed Emmett as their featured speaker at their May luncheon. Council Member Martin attended the monthly meeting where Judge Emmett gave an update on County related initiatives, status on projects and answered questions from audience members. Council Member Martin looks forward to working with Judge Emmett during his time on council for the betterment of the city and the county.



ACRP Breakfast with Allen Watson of METRO

The Association of Commercial Real Estate Professionals came together last month for their monthly meeting featuring the Vice Chairman of METRO, Allen Watson. Mr. Watson gave a timely update on how Houston continues to grow its mass transit mobility system successfully moving the Houston area forward. As a city representative, Council Member Martin attended the breakfast to learn more about the future plans of METRO and to continue to be part of the discussion as Houston continues to grow and expand.

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

June 7

Houston Police Department's Moonlight Bike Ride

July 4

Freedom Over Texas

Kingwood

June 6

Bizcom Kingwood presented by The Kingwood Monthly

June 18

Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's Third Tuesday Luncheon

June 18

Kingwood PIP Meeting

South Houston/Clear Lake

June 5

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's "No Experience Necessary" Bowling Tournament

June 18

Clear Lake/Southeast Houston PIP Meeting

June 19

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's General Membership Meeting

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