

Friendswood Edition REPORTER NEWS

Your Independent Local News Source Since 1984

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 32

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023

USPS 013362

50 CENTS

Around Town NOW UNTIL AUGUST 12

KIDZ PACZ FOOD PROGRAM
 The Kidz Pacz Summer Program will offer free food packs for qualifying children, ages 3-18 years old, from June 5 to August 12 at the Friendswood Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr. Registration is required. Library hours are: Monday-Thursday 10am to 9pm, Friday & Saturday 10am to 6pm. Call 281-482-7135 or email chicks@friendswood.com to register or for more information. The program is provided by the Galveston County Food Bank.

AUGUST 9

CROCHET ALL TOGETHER
 Enjoy making some cute, feel good items such as hearts and teddy bears. Or help make community crochet wraps for the library's trees. Come make a crochet block to contribute. You may also bring your own project (e.g. knitting, needle point, sewing, embroidery, cross stitch). Some crochet instruction will be provided. Beginners welcome. For ages 11 and older. Meeting will be held at the Friendswood Library from 4:30 to 5:30pm.

ADULT ESL CLASS
 Practice your English conversation skills with Martha on Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the Computer Room at the Friendswood Library. This is an in-person program. No registration needed.

AUGUST 10

MOVIE ON THE LAWN
 Outdoor free screening of the film, "Never-ending Story" begins at 7 p.m. in the parking lot of Baybrook Mall, 500 Baybrook Mall, Friendswood. Blankets and lawn chairs recommended. Baybrook's Movies on the Lawn series is held Thursdays during the summer through Aug. 31. Baybrookmall.com.

AUGUST 11

BLOOD DRIVE
 Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is bringing a blood drive bus to the Friendswood Library parking lot from 1:30 to 5pm. If you would like to give blood, appointments are preferred. You can schedule an appointment at giveblood.org.

ADULT ESL CLASS
 Practice your English conversation skills with Vincet on Fridays from 3:30pm to 5:00pm in the Computer Room at the Friendswood Library. This is an in-person program. No registration needed.

AUGUST 12

SANDCASTLE CONTEST
 The 36th annual AIA Houston Sandcastle Competition takes place at Galveston's East Beach, 1923 Boddeker, beginning at 10 a.m. Sculptures are complete at 3 p.m. with judging at 4:30 p.m. Event is free and open to the public, but parking at East Beach is \$15 cash only; there are no ATM machines in that area. Visit aiahouston.org.

AUGUST 14

WORD LOVERS MEETUP
 For all logophiles, etymology enthusiasts, students, creatives, vocabulary buffs, SAT/ACT test preppers, English language lovers, linguists, home schoolers, teachers, high-brow, lowbrow, unibrow, innocent bystanders, and everyone in between. Add to your "word horde" in a casual environment and bring a few treasures of your own to share. Meetings are held at the Friendswood Library from 2pm to 3:30pm.

TABLE TOPPERS
 For youth ages 11-18. Meets weekly on Mondays from 5pm to 6pm. Explore different "themed" board games each month at the Friendswood Library! For August, the theme is "Jolly Cooperation," so the selected games are cooperative ones where players have to work together to win. This session we'll be playing The Captain is Dead.

CHESS NIGHT
 Come enjoy a friendly game of chess at the Friendswood Library on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30. The library provides some chess sets, and patrons are welcome to bring their own. This event is for all ages. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. No fees and no registration required.

AUGUST 15

BACK TO SCHOOL
 First day of classes for students in Friendswood ISD. Watch for flashing school zone signs and buses loading and unloading.

AUGUST 16

STITCHING BEE
 Bring your project to the Friendswood Library from 1:30 to 3pm. Whether it be crochet, knitting, embroidery, huck, macrame, tatting, or other handcraft. Come enjoy some camaraderie with fellow crafters. Beginners are welcome.

CROCHET ALL TOGETHER
 Enjoy making some cute, feel good items such as hearts and teddy bears. Or help make community crochet wraps for the library's trees. Come make a crochet block to contribute. You may also bring your own project (e.g. knitting, needle point, sewing, embroidery, cross stitch). Some crochet instruction will be provided. Beginners welcome. For ages 11 and older. Meeting will be held at the Friendswood Library from 4:30 to 5:30pm.

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FVFD pins eight new firefighters



Mayor Mike congratulates newly pinned Friendswood Volunteer Firefighters

This Summer may have brought extreme heat to Friendswood, but it has also given rise to eight new firefighters fresh out of the Fire Academy. Last week the Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD) proudly hosted not one, but two New Member Pinning Ceremonies. The ceremonies recognized and celebrated eight individuals who have been newly certified as volunteer firefighters within the department.

The rigorous journey to certification is not an easy one. All

volunteer firefighters at FVFD are required to hold certifications from the State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association (SFFMA), the governing body that oversees the training and certification of volunteer firefighters. In order to achieve the prestigious SFFMA certification, aspiring firefighters must successfully pass through the College of the Mainland's Fire Academy. Furthermore, they must conquer state exams, ensuring they meet the rigorous standards set by the SFFMA.

While the path to certification involves exposure to intense heat, challenging physical conditions, and long hours of studying, eight dedicated individuals emerged triumphant. Richard Christensen, Jon Harkness, Regina Hartman, Garret Leitko, Evan McDonald, Kyle Speck, Kandess Stepanki, and Todd Valderas have all demonstrated commendable resilience and dedication, proving that they were indeed up for the task.

Mataro Becomes Friendswood "Mayor for the Day"

By Sienna Shutts

While history typically sees mayors much older than 20, 8-year-old Oliver Mataro defied norms by becoming Mayor for the Day on August 1 in Friendswood.

Mataro, a student of Friendswood ISD, spent a day shadowing Mayor Mike Foreman, a unique experience purchased by his parents at an auction supporting the Friendswood Education Foundation.

Donning his official Mayor polo and neatly combed hair, Mataro started his day at City Hall with Mayor Foreman. In the Council

Chambers, City Secretary Lettie Brysch swore him in, after which he jovially declared his intentions to "extend the summer and lower taxes."

The young mayor's packed agenda featured an executive staff meeting, interactions with city staff, a City Hall tour, and a filming session with multimedia communications specialist Katy Harris for the Mayor's Public Service Announcement or "Mayor Mike's Minute". He also visited the Fire Marshal's Office, the Office of Emergency Management, the Police Department, court facilities, and the library. His tenure

concluded with a delightful lunch alongside Mayor Foreman.

As Fall approaches, Mataro is set to begin second grade at Windsong Elementary. One of six siblings, Mataro recalls a summer highlight being a visit to Florida's Portofino Adventure Cove waterpark. When not delving into civic duties, he enjoys video games, swimming, gym sessions, and watching "Adventure Time." His father, Steven, remains his pillar of strength during challenging times.

While his tenure may have been brief, Mataro will surely go down in Friendswood history as one of its youngest mayors.



Oliver Mataro

Armstrong to speak at Friendswood Community Prayer Breakfast

The Friendswood Community Prayer Breakfast is set to make its return on Saturday, August 19th, featuring guest speaker Saceia Armstrong. Ms. Armstrong founded Providence Outreach Ministries (POM) in 2014 to support those ensnared in abuse and sexual exploitation.

Drawing from her personal experiences with abuse, Saceia is ardently devoted to helping victims break free, heal, and reclaim their futures. Learn more about POM's mission and activities at www.provom.org.

POM reaches out to about 15 spas and 3 strip clubs monthly, offering gift bags and prayers to workers, presenting them with a route to liberation. The organization also organizes regular bible studies, prayer sessions, and engages with churches and community leaders to raise awareness about sex trafficking and exploitation issues.

Saceia, an Ordained Minister affiliated with the World Ministry Fellowship, is a graduate of the L.W.C.O.C School of Ministry and has attended the School of Supernatural Ministry. Further, she is an Ordained Chaplain with the International Fellowship of Chaplains and is recognized as a Board-Certified Christian Counselor.

Join the community for this enlightening event at the Mary Queen Catholic Church. Doors will open at 7:10 am, followed by breakfast at 7:30 am and the main program commencing at 8:00 am.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The PEARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 5:00 PM, August 21, 2023 in the District's Board Room at 1928 N. Main Street in Pearland, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Table with 2 columns: Tax Category and Rate. Categories include Maintenance Tax, School Debt Service Tax, and Approved by Local Voters.

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Percentage Increase. Categories include Maintenance and operations, Debt Service, and Total Expenditures.

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

Table with 3 columns: Category, Preceding Tax Year, and Current Tax Year. Categories include Total appraised value, Total taxable value, and Total appraised value of new property.

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$358,840,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

Table with 6 columns: Category, Maintenance & Operations, Interest & Sinking Fund, Total, Local Revenue Per Student, and State Revenue Per Student.

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

Table with 3 columns: Category, Last Year, and This Year. Categories include Average Market Value, Average Taxable Value, and Taxes Due on Average Residence.

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.047300. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.047300.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Table with 2 columns: Fund Name and Balance. Funds include Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) and Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s).

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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.

PEARLAND POLICE REPORT

Tuesday, Aug. 1

Two people were arrested for family violence assault during a disturbance around 5 a.m. at an apartment in the 1300 block of Broadway St. Police arrested a woman for criminal trespass just before 10 a.m. at 2600 Pearland Parkway. A 29-year-old Houston man was arrested at 1:30 p.m. for criminal mischief and felony drug possession, 1100 block of Chesterwood Drive. DWI arrest was made at 11:12 p.m., 2800 block of Business Center Drive.

Wednesday, Aug. 2

An arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia was made at 3:30 a.m., 6600 block of Broadway St. A 21-year-old Pearland woman was arrested at 1:30 p.m. and charged with fraudulent possession of a credit or debit card and fraudulent use/possession of identifying information, 9002 Broadway St. An Alvin woman, 43, was arrested at 7:45 p.m. and charged with felony DWI, third or more, and accident involving damage to vehicle, a misdemeanor, 11200 Broadway St. Death investigation was conducted at 8:13 p.m., 16100 block of South Freeway. An arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia was made at 9 p.m., 10100 block of Dawn Brook Drive.

An arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia was made at 2 p.m., 14700 South Freeway. Two people were arrested at 5 a.m. for possession of drug paraphernalia in the 4800 block of Northfork Drive. An arrest for theft was made at 11 a.m., 1710 Broadway St. An arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia was made at 12:26 p.m., 1400 Main St. An arrest for public intoxication was made at 6:28 p.m., 11100 block of Broadway St.

Friday, Aug. 4

A Houston man, 34, was arrested for his second DWI and accident involving injury at West Orem/CityScape. A 32-year-old Houston woman was arrested for delivering drug paraphernalia to a minor at 6 a.m., E. Orem at Highway 288. An arrest for assault causing bodily injury was made at 8:18 a.m., 9900 Broadway St. An arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia was made at 10 a.m., 1600 Main St. An arrest for felony drug possession was made at 2 p.m., 2804 Business Center Drive. An arrest for theft was made at 2:30 p.m., 2804 Business Center Drive.

An arrest for felony drug possession was made at 2:25 Country Place Parkway at 2:27 p.m. A DWI arrest was made at 7:23 p.m., 17447 Highway 288 North.

Two men, one from Beaumont and one from Spring, were arrested for disorderly conduct, fighting, at 8:36 p.m., 2555 Cullen Parkway. An arrest for assault by threat was made at 10:14 p.m., 3700 Whitlam Court.

Saturday, Aug. 5

An arrest for family violence assault was made at 2:35 p.m., 2400 block of Old Alvin Road. Death investigation was conducted at 3:11 p.m., 3500 block of Old Chocolate Bayou Road.

FRIENDSWOOD POLICE REPORT JULY 31 thru AUGUST 7

Burglary

Aug. 7 (10:04 a.m.) An on-line citizen report was made regarding a vehicle burglary in the 1900 block of Carriage Creek Lane that occurred on July 22nd. A purse was stolen from an unlocked vehicle.

Theft

An employee theft was reported at the 7-Eleven located at 1551 W. Parkwood Avenue. The employee is accused of stealing \$1500 worth of Vanilla gift cards. The entire incident was captured on video.

Aug. 5 (5:10 p.m.) HEB employees at the 701 W. Parkwood Avenue store reported a theft that occurred on August 4th. A white male and a white female grabbed items from the seafood/meat department and left the store without paying for the merchandise. The suspects left in a black 2012 Ford Edge with Texas plate NZL1385.

Aug. 5 (10:52 p.m.) A Pizza Hut delivery driver was paid with counterfeit money. The delivery was made for an address in the 16700 block of Forest Bend Avenue. However, when the delivery driver arrived, he discovered that the address was incorrect. While in the area, the driver was approached by a black male who stated that the pizza order belonged to him. The transaction was made at that time. The counterfeit money included ten \$20 bills.

Aug. 6 (10:30 a.m.) A resident in the 1100 block of Killarney Avenue reported the theft of two firearms. The firearms have not been seen in three weeks. The owner would not provide names of non-family members who had access to the firearms, and he was unable to provide serial numbers for the stolen firearms.

Fraud

July 31 (1:50 p.m.) A Friendswood reported received a credit inquiry through her credit report showing that an ULTA credit card was opened using her personal identifying information. After the card was opened, a charge was declined. The card was canceled, and the fraudulent activity was reported. The same day, her Macy's credit card was compromised and used to make a purchase. Fortunately, the transaction was declined. The next day her Banana Republic card was compromised, but the charge was declined.

Aug. 1 (10:22 p.m.) A Friendswood man's identity was used to purchase a Harley Davidson motorcycle through Harley credit. He discovered the identity theft when he was turned down for a loan due to the fraudulent loan that was outstanding.

Aug. 3 (9:25 a.m.) A Friendswood man conducted an eBay transaction for the purchase of an Apple iPhone 14. When he received the

package from the seller, the package was empty.

Aug. 3 (3:43 p.m.) A Friendswood woman's identity was stolen and used to open a line of credit with a spa in Hollywood, Florida. She believed her identity may have been stolen when she applied for a credit card with the lending bank who authorized the line of credit in Florida.

Aug. 3 (4:18 p.m.) A Friendswood man was scammed during the purchase of a vehicle. The seller and victim corresponded online regarding the purchase of a 1972 Dodge Challenger. A price was negotiated, and the victim was asked to deposit the funds into a third-party escrow account. The vehicle was then to be shipped by a shipping company. The victim wire transferred the money but has never received the vehicle. Now, he is unable to contact the seller or the shipping company.

Criminal Mischief

Aug. 2 (8:35 p.m.) An Alvin woman had two of her tires slashed while she was at Calvary Church located at 3700 E. FM 528. A suspect has been named.

Aug. 7 (8:27 a.m.) Apartment complex management at the Salem Square Apartments located at 107 Clearview Avenue reported criminal mischief. On August 1st, three minors entered the complex fitness center, lit paper on fire, causing damage to the flooring.

Traffic

July 31 (3:45 p.m.) A hit and run accident was reported the Beldon located at 555 N. Friendswood Drive. A parked vehicle was hit near the passenger side wheel well and blue paint transfer was left.

Arrests

A 34-year-old woman, of Friendswood, was charged with Violation of a Protective Order/Bond Conditions. A 44-year-old man, of Houston, was charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. A woman, age 51, of Friendswood, was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 1.

A 37-year-old man, of Pasadena, was charged with Failure to Identify - Fugitive and Possession of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 1.

A 35-year-old Friendswood man was charged with Assault Causing Bodily Injury - Family Member.

A 23-year-old man, of South Houston, was charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

A 30-year-old Beaumont man was charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. During this arrest, a stolen rental vehicle was recovered in the 300 block of W. Edgewood Drive.

A 52-year-old man, of Friendswood, was charged with Assault Causing Bodily Injury.

A 22-year-old man, of League City, was charged with Driving While Intoxicated.

A 41-year-old woman of Friendswood was arrested on a Galveston County warrant for failure to appear in court. She was previously reported as a missing person. She was found at her ex-husband's residence in the 1200 block of Red Wing Drive, with a locksmith, attempting to drill a lock out of the back door. The ex-husband did not want to file charges.

HomeTown Bank advertisement with logo and contact information: 601 S. Friendswood Drive • 281-996-4900, 3211 FM 528 • 281-648-9000, www.hometown.bank

CROSSWORD PUZZLE The Original Mobile Game

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a word list. Clues include '1. Attempt', '5. A lot', '10. "La Scala di ___" (Rossini opera)', etc. Word list includes '1. Trades', '2. Join securely', '3. Come to mind', etc.

POSTAL NOTICE: Pearland and Friendswood ReporterNews (USPS 013362) is published weekly at 103 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546. Second class postage is paid at Pearland, TX 77581.

THE REPORTER NEWS Woodland Publishing, Inc. Serving Friendswood and Pearland (GALVESTON, BRAZORIA AND HARRIS COUNTIES) P. O. Box 954, Friendswood, TX 77549 281-485-7501

girl scouts
of san jacinto

Your Year of Adventure!



This year is a new opportunity to forge your own path and discover amazing things about yourself. Don't miss your chance to grow, learn, and laugh with new friends by your side!

Be a Girl Scout.

What's it like being a Girl Scout?

It's late-night laughter on an overnight trip with your besties. It's teaming up with your troop to help your town. It's starting your own business and learning how to make your dreams come true.

Now is your chance to join the fun!

As a Girl Scout, you'll discover hidden talents, take fun trips, and—most importantly—find the space to be truly, totally yourself.

Now's the perfect time to start your Girl Scout journey. Get ready to make amazing memories with forever friends today!

How can you get involved?

Membership dues are just \$25 annually, and financial aid is available. You can start a new troop for your girl and her friends or join an existing troop.

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Brock Foster

Friendswood facing real challenge in district this season

By Dr. David Davis
Sports Reporter

There's a real positive atmosphere that is evident among the Friendswood gridiron warriors as the Mustangs have welcomed the arrival of new head coach Jordan Johnson. Jordan comes to Friendswood as a hometown prod-

uct, so he is one of them. Plus -- he arrives as the former offensive coordinator of Denton Guyer that has a championship DNA as the Wildcats were 14-1 last season while advancing to the Class 6A DII state semifinals.

Jordan recently said, "I love Friendswood and we have had such a warm welcome from everybody we have come in contact with. We are thankful to be in Friendswood."

The Mustangs were 4-6 in 2022 and missed the post-season in former head coach Robert Koopmann's last season before retiring.

District 10-5A Div. I may be one of the toughest leagues in the state and the Mustangs are a pre-season pick to finish seventh out of the nine team district.

But Jordan knows that games are not decided on pre-season polls, and he believes that his players are going to answer the bell when it comes time to actually play the games.

"The players have answered the call daily and as a program, we have taken it a day at a time," Jordan said. "As far as a swell in participation, thankfully there has been. I have had numerous players tell me they want to play football and be a part of the program. Those players have acclimated well."

Friendswood has seven offensive and five defensive players returning with 23 lettermen this year.

Offensively, Jordan will have some key skill players returning with QB Brock Foster (6-5, 225, 4.8) and QB Michael Butler (5-10, 175) vying to lead the Mustangs on that side of the ball.

Foster threw for 380 yards and 4 TDs last year while Butler threw for 350 yards and four scores.

RB Walker Wintes (5-7, 175, 4.6) and WR Adam Buffington (6-1, 170, 4.5) return as Buffington had 411 yards and 3 TDs receiving while Wintes will pace the ground attack.

Others on offense who will provide leadership include OL Jackson Grantham, OL Trent Baker, and OL Luke Bryant.

"There have been challenges offensively due to the change in scheme, pace of play, and terminology," Jordan said. "Thankfully, the players have done their part in soaking up information, practicing at a high level, and learning from mistakes."

Defensively, the Mustangs will be led by LB Caleb Allen (6-2, 215, 4.6) who had a banner year as a sophomore with five sacks. LB Mason Sindelar (5-10, 215, 4.7) had three sacks and two INTs.

Others making an impact on the defensive side of the ball include DB Sawyer Skeel (6-3, 185, 4.8), DL Cooper Hopkins (6-0, 230), DL Noah Abebe (6-3, 210, 4.8), LB Marcus Quintero, LB Nathan Doremus, DB Nicholas Ruffeno, DL Caleb Goins, and DB Landon Davis.

"Defensively, there have been challenges that are very similar to the offensive side of the ball," Jordan said. "Everything is new to everybody-- terminology, practice plan, pace of play, and positions. Basically, if there is an aspect of football that can be new on either side of the ball...it is."

"Our defensive players have picked up teaching and a very fast pace, practiced hard, and have responded well to coaching."

There will be stiff competition in District 10-5A Div. I. The pre-season prediction has Fulshear winning the league title followed by Manvel, Angleton, Magnolia West, Richmond Foster, Magnolia, Friendswood, Rosenberg Terry, and FB Kempner.

"As a program, we have goals in place that revolve largely around our process," Jordan said. "Like I said earlier, there is no aspect of our program that is not thought out, intentional, and serves a purpose regarding a Thursday or Friday night."

"With that being said, one goal I have for our team is that we learn what it looks like and feels like to prepare the right way daily. From there, we have to learn to take our preparation and apply it when the lights are brightest."



Coach Jordan Johnson

Published August 9

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.508360 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of the City of Friendswood.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.508360 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.463141 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.598630 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Friendswood from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year. The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that City of Friendswood 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 City of Friendswood is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Friendswood City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77546.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Friendswood 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 City Council of City of Friendswood at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: Mayor Mike Foreman Mayor Pro-tem Steve Rockey Sally Branson
Trish Hanks Robert J. Griffon Joe Matranga
Brent Erenwert

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property. 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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Friendswood last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Friendswood this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.487314	\$0.508360	increase of 0.021046, or 4.32%
Average homestead taxable value	\$288,636	\$339,102	increase of 50,466, or 17.48%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,406.56	\$1,723.86	increase of 317.30, or 22.56%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$20,084,897	\$22,328,875*	increase of 2,243,978, or 11.17%

*Total tax levy excludes approximately \$3.2 million from properties with tax ceilings.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Friendswood at 1-877-766-2284 or galcotax@co.galveston.tx.us, or visit www.galcotax.com for more information.

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SPORTS

Volleyball Pre-Season Preview

By Steven Thomson

Pearland Lady Oilers

Fresh off the program's first district championship since 2015, an experienced and hungry Pearland squad will begin the 2023 season striving to achieve higher goals.

The Oilers took the first steps last season, winning the District 23-5A title with a 12-0 record.

Pearland advanced to the third round of the playoff before dropping a five-set decision to Clear Springs.

The third round has been perennial roadblock for the Oilers. A 15-11 loss in the deciding fifth set against Clear Springs showed how close the team came to the elusive regional tournament spot.

"(The regional tournament) is definitely a goal of ours," Pearland coach Jamie Gill said. "When the match was over against Clear Springs, they realized that if a couple of things had gone a different way, they could have had that match. A lot of it is believing that you can win."

Five returning starters and a solid supporting cast has produced a lot of confidence that this is the season that the Oilers can take that next step.

Gill was a setter for Friendswood when it made three trips to the state tournament in the early 2000s, so she knows what needs to be accomplished.

Pearland's chances will revolve around junior setters Cora Wofford and Emily Brock. Both are veterans of last year's team.

"As a setter, I take that position very seriously," Gill said. "The setter is the quarterback of the team, so they need to be successful. Both of my setters have done a fantastic job. They are leaps and bounds ahead of where they were last year."

Returning middle blockers Kimanni Rugley and Allie Schwartz will also be crucial to the Oiler attack.

"I love using the middle," Gill said. "A fast option is very important to establish the block on the other side. Both of our middles are dominant."

Pearland's volleyball tradition has always emphasized a strong defense. Gill believes that can continue this season with a strong group battling to see who can take the court on the back row.

A large contingent of returning varsity players allowed the Oilers to jump start their preparations for the 2023 season.

"We are light years ahead of where we were last year," Gill said. "This is a totally different group of girls, mentally and physically. They have already talked about what their season goals are and what they want to accomplish."

Early practice sessions and scrimmages created a large pool of prospective varsity players to choose from. Competition for starting spots on the other two levels should be stiff as well.

Gill used a lot of six-on-six practice sessions to give everyone a chance to showcase their skills and abilities.

"I have some amazing freshmen and my JV team is stacked," Gill said. "From (grades) nine through twelve, we have players we can pull from. On varsity, we have girls who are so versatile that they can play back and front row and hit left side and right. That is what is going to make us special. If one person is struggling, we have a team that has their back."

Dawson Lady Eagles

Dawson volleyball coach Lauren Leth is tasked with solving a problem that many programs would love to have.

The Eagles made it to the 6A region III tournament for the sixth consecutive season in 2022 before losing in the semifinals to

Cinco Ranch.

Leth has been at the helm for the last five of those after taking over from former coach Jason Karim.

It was an unexpected bonus for a inexperienced team featuring a repurposed setter. And it got Leth to thinking about how Dawson could overcome the final hurdle and make it to the state level.

"This year, we are changing up some of our game strategies to try to win more small moments," Leth said. "At the regional tournament, it is point for point. It boils down to a lot of those small moments."

Starting with the first week of practice, Eagles players are working on new practice and game strategies to achieve that purpose. Gone are setting advance goals of winning district and making a deep playoff run.

"It's a different approach," Leth said. "It's not forward thinking at all. We are working in the moment. When we get to where it counts, at the regional tournament, we are able to string those small moments together."

Dawson should be well prepared to make that challenge with a squad that includes four returning starters and nine seniors. It is the most experience laden team that Leth has had.

That has allowed the Eagles to hit the ground running after a hectic start in 2022.

Needing to replace a four-year starter at setter, Leth encountered another setback when she lost Makenzie Petten.

"We did not have another setter ready at that time that could run the pace that our varsity plays at," Leth said. "I had to take one of our outsides (Addison Moss) and train her fast and furious in August. She did an excellent job."

Moss, a Boise State commit, was able to helm Dawson's 5-1 offense well enough to lead a run to the region semis.

Petten is back at setter this season, allowing Moss to return to a front line stacked with experience.

"That gives us the ability to run our drills more quickly," Leth said. "We can immediately jump into running higher level things in a competitive environment."

The Eagles have a lot of choices in the middle and on the outside.

Kennedy Jones, Keaton Points and Gracie Williams are set to run the middle, with Moss joining Dominique Phills, Emmarie McFarland, Hailey Prodan and Kendyll Knox on the outside.

"They are even," Leth said. "There is not an obvious one or two. They have all worked hard in the off season and are coming in ready."

Having options at every position is a rarity for Leth.

"At Dawson, we have already struggled with quality depth," Leth said. "We don't have the numbers coming through our program that larger schools have."

Friendswood Lady Mustangs

The past two seasons have been unusual and unsatisfying ones for the Friendswood volleyball. Both saw the Mustangs place second in district and advance to the third round of the playoffs.

Those results might be acceptable to some, but not to a program that has made 10 trips to the state tournament.

After using a youthful lineup to fashion a 34-12 record in the 2022 season, Friendswood coach Sarah Paulk hopes the added experience will return her team to the level of



Allie Schwartz



Kimanni Rugley



Kennedy Jones



Emily Brock



Addison Moss



Cora Wolford

past achievements.

"All through the off season, we talked about not wanting to finish in the third round," Paulk said. "We want to get back to competing for district championships. It is something that they are all focused on. It is definitely our goal to get back to the regional tournament."

The primary obstacle in the path to both achievements is district rival Manvel. The Mavericks has swept the Mustangs the past two seasons and made it to the regional finals in 2022.

Nine seniors highlight a squad that features six returning starters. Paulk began practices needing to replace a libero and a middle blocker.

Competition for all spots on the floor will be tough with the addition of younger players.

"Last year, we had a lot of young kids that had to play big roles,"

Paulk said. "They were talented, but they had to grow a bit more. We have better chemistry than we started with last year. The kids get along better."

Expected to step in at middle blocker is Preslee Alaniz, a 5-11 junior who is stepping up from the junior varsity level.

Filling the libero position will be senior Andi Vaught, who Paulk describes as a good leader.

Sophomore Nadi'ya Shelby, a 6-0 outside hitter, put together an impressive freshman campaign that earned her District 18-5A newcomer of the year honors. Shelby is currently ranked as one of the top 25 players in the nation.

Senior Meghan Donoghue and sophomore Caroline Adams return as the two setters.

"We are working on running the middle a lot," Paulk said. "Service receive is going to be huge. We want a lot of depth, so we need to know who can play certain positions and what rotations work the best."

Injuries and illness derailed the Mustangs playoff chances last season, leaving them shorthanded when it counted most.

"By the time we got to Fulshear (in the third round), we were pretty beat up," Paulk said. "We had eight kids with the flu. That is why you have to prepare for it. You have to focus on your depth."

Friendswood's pre-district schedule is stacked with high quality competition. Included are a return to the competitive Pearland tournament and a long-awaited journey to a similar event in Orlando.

Paulk hopes that will prepare the Mustangs for league play, where Manvel will again pose the toughest challenge.

Friendswood Lady Mustangs



FRIENDSWOOD LADY MUSTANGS - Front row (l-r): Olivia Thompson, Nadi'Ya Shelby, Mackenzie Harris, Haley Patton, Andi Vaught, Meghan Donoghue, Alex Garcia, Hallie Harris, Anna Melgren
Second row (l-r): Sydney Gibson, Taliah Benson, Preslee Alaniz, Natalie Williams, Isabella Thompson, Caroline Adams, Charley Mcbee, Jordyn Sims

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LEGALS

Published August 2 & 9

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS
FRIENDSWOOD I.S.D.
RFP #23-010-SUPP**

**SUPPLEMENT to PROMOTIONAL ITEMS & APPAREL
(INCLUDING SCREENPRINTING & EMBROIDERY)**

The Friendswood Independent School District will be accepting Sealed Proposals (Texas Education Code 44.031) to supplement our existing contract for PROMOTIONAL ITEMS & APPAREL (INCLUDING SCREENPRINTING & EMBROIDERY). Vendors already approved and renewed under RFP #21-010 do not need to submit. Sealed proposals can be submitted online or to FISD's Administration Building at 302 Laurel Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77546. Proposals must be received on or before 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 30, 2023. Bid packets are available on FISD's website www.myfisd.com/information-for-vendors or through the Public Purchase website www.publicpurchase.com. Please contact cbain@fisd12.net with any questions. The Friendswood Independent School District reserves the right to postpone, to accept or to reject any and all proposals as it deems to be in its best interest and to waive formalities and reasonable irregularities.

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LEGALS

LEGALS

Published August 9 & 16

**CITY OF PEARLAND, TEXAS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Pearland Purchasing Division, 3523 Liberty Dr., until **2:00 PM on Wednesday September 13, 2023**, and all bids will be read aloud via virtual meeting. Interested parties may join meeting by calling: #281-652-1775; Meeting: #1790, Access Code: #0971 on that date for:

RFQ 0823-01 City of Pearland Audit Services

Bid forms, specifications and all necessary information may be obtained from the following website: <https://pearland.ionwave.net>. Vendors are encouraged to return the bid response electronically using the City's e-bid system, but may submit by hard-copy, with either manner due by the closing date and time stated above.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Council Chambers located at 3519 Liberty Drive, Pearland, Texas 77581 at **2:00 PM on Wednesday, August 23, 2023**. See bid solicitation for virtual link option if preferred.

Vendors should register on the City's e-bid system <https://pearland.ionwave.net>. Once registered on the City's e-bid system, bid documents may be viewed on the site. If further assistance is needed, please email ebids@pearlandtx.gov no later than 5:00 PM Monday, August 28, 2023, and refer to RFQ 0823-01. Bid Closing Date: **2:00 PM on Wednesday, September 13, 2023**.

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AREA BRIEFS

Pearl to present 'The Revolutionists'

Pearland Theatre Guild kicks off fall 2023 with a play opening Sept. 8.

"The Revolutionists" by Lauren Gunderson will run Sept. 8 through 24 at the Pearl Theatre, 14803 Park Alameda Drive.

In its 13th performing arts season, the nonprofit community playhouse relies on grants, donations, sponsorships and ticket sales.

Directed by Jonathan Gonzalez and set in 1793 Paris, "The Revolutionists" is about four real women who lived boldly in France during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror.

The cast includes Laura Hernandez as playwright Olympe de Gouges, Joy Germany as assassin Charlotte Cordray, Morgan Hughs as former queen Marie Antoinette and Renee van Nifterik as Haitian rebel Marianne Angelle.

The season continues with "A Christmas Carol: Ghost Story" Dec. 1-17 followed by "The Play that Goes Wrong" March 22-April 7, and "American Son" June 14-30.

Regular showtimes are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. A buy one ticket, get one free night will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14.

Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 students and seniors. For information, call 832-459-4674.

Applications open for arts grants

Pearland Convention and Visitors Bureau has announced applications are open through Sept. 22 for its The Cultural Arts Grant program, which provides funding for arts programs in Pearland from hotel occupancy tax monies.

Applications close Sept. 22 and will be reviewed and awarded by Oct. 30 of this year. Applications should be for programs that will run between Oct. 1, 2023. Funding for the Cultural Arts/Fine Arts Grant Program is limited up to \$40,000 for the coming fiscal year, and the maximum grant application awarded will be \$6,000.

For more information, contact the Pearland Convention and Visitors Bureau via email at pearlandcvb@pearlandtx.gov or by phone at 281-997-5970.

Fall Adopt-A-Beach cleanup announced

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham announced the fall Adopt-A-Beach coastwide cleanup in 24 locations, including Surfside Beach, Quintana Beach, Bolivar Peninsula and Galveston Island.

The event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up before Sept. 23 at TexasAdoptABeach.org. Check-in for volunteers begins at 8:30 a.m. on cleanup day, and they need close-toed shoes, drinking water and a hat. Adopt-A-Beach provides all necessary cleanup supplies.

The Adopt-A-Beach program began in 1986. Two coastwide cleanups per year are held, one usually on the fourth Saturday of September and the other typically on the fourth Saturday in April.

TxDOT: Stop for buses, put away phones

As a new school year begins, state transportation officials remind drivers that cellphone use is prohibited within school zones, and that failing to stop for a school bus carries a hefty fine.

Drivers must stop for flashing red lights or a stop sign on a school bus, regardless of their direction of travel. Violations can lead to a fine of up to \$1,250 for a first offense.

Statewide, seven people were killed and 51 seriously injured last year in crashes involving school buses. Driver inattention and speed were top factors in those crashes, TxDOT officials said.

Children walking to school are instructed to use sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the street, facing traffic, and cross only at intersections or marked crosswalks.

Volunteers needed as peak storm season nears

The American Red Cross, Texas Gulf Coast Region is recruiting volunteers as the peak of hurricane season approaches.

The Red Cross is launching nearly twice as many major disaster relief operations as it did a decade ago, says spokesman Vanessa Valdez, and volunteers make up 90 percent of its workforce.

Most-needed volunteer positions include shelter support, health services and disaster action team members to assist in events such as house fires.

More information on volunteering can be found at redcross.org/volunteertoday.

More details on building an emergency kit, evacuation plans and how to stay informed can be accessed through the organization's free app at redcross.org/apps.

PISD hosts meetings on VATRE

Pearland Independent School District invites parents, staff and community members to attend two upcoming meetings to learn more, ask questions and share their feedback about the upcoming proposed Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE). The feedback gathered during the community meetings will help inform the Board of Trustees' decision for the November 2023 election during the upcoming board meeting to be held on Monday, August 21.

The meetings will be open to all individuals interested in learning about the proposed tax rate adoption, the implications of the passing or failing of the VATRE for the district and for Pearland citizens and more.

"We are asking the community to engage with us as we look at measures that will allow us to continue to Build Pearland Proud," Pearland ISD

Superintendent Larry Berger said. "A proposed VATRE is one way to help us continue to fund student programs, cover increasing maintenance and operation cost, and allow us to recruit and retain quality employees."

The two community meetings will

be hosted at the Virgil Gant Education Support Center (1928 N. Main), from 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8, and Thursday, August 17.

The meetings will also be live streamed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ThePearlandISD/live>



Alisd earns TAEA district award

For the first time, the Alvin ISD was honored by the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) as one of 68 winners statewide of the District of Distinction Award.

The district received the honor for providing a well-rounded education that advocates and integrates visual arts curriculum to inspire creativity and build social emotional learning that connects learners to their community and beyond. Over 1,200 districts were eligible to apply for this TAEA Visual Arts Award and just sixty-eight districts will receive this outstanding honor for the 2022-23 academic year. The Visual Art Administrators of Texas, a division of

TAEA, recognizes districts with outstanding leadership in promoting the arts in their district and community. They recognize districts that are actively participating members in TAEA and beyond. Alvin ISD's visual arts program met or exceeded a rigorous 14-point rubric. The rubric examines the district's visual art program from participation in TAEA through

membership, exhibitions, contests, and community engagement in the visual arts through field experiences, community service, and collaboration with other content areas.

"This recognition would not be possible were it not for our district prioritizing dynamic art programs for "every student, every day." I am honored to accept this award on behalf of the talented and dedicated art teachers throughout our district and the students who benefit from creating in their classrooms," said Lisa Savage, Alvin ISD's Director of Fine Arts.

Alvin ISD will be recognized during the 2023 TAEA Conference in November.



DHS Athletic Trainers: The Glenda Dawson Student Athletic Training Aid Program traveled to Stephenville, TX to compete in the Texas Athletic Trainers Association (TSATA) State Student Athletic Training Aid Competition at Tarleton State University. The state competition was comprised of three rounds. Dawson received a nearly perfect combined score for the overall third round, securing them the state championship. The State Championship team (left to right) is comprised of sophomore Laila Groves, junior Omar Mohammad, sophomore Haile Pamoja, sophomore Maddie Locklear and Mustafa Madinnawala, senior Vanessa Martinez Ruiz and Associate Athletic Trainer Joseph Eberhardt.

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