Your Independent Local News Source Since 1984

**VOLUME 54, ISSUE 32** 

### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023**

USPS 013363 **50 CENTS** 

## **Around Town**

652-1677 or email pearland@bcls.lib.tx.us for information.

### **AUGUST 10**

AISD BACK TO SCHOOL

First day of classes for students in Alvin ISD. Watch for flashing school zone signs and bus loading and unloading.

### PARKS BOARD MEETING

City of Pearland Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board meets at 8:30 a.m. at the Recreation Center and Natatorium, 4141 Bailey Road. Meetings are open to the public.

### 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. Baybook's Movies on the Lawn series is held Thursdays during the summer through Aug. 31. Baybrookmall.

### **AUGUST 11**

WRITERS MEETUP

A local writer's group meets to hone and share creative writing skills and discuss projects at 6:30 p.m. at the Tom Reid Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. For information, call 281-652-1677.

### CLOGGING CLASS

Beginning clogging class for seniors is every Friday at 12:15 p.m. at the Melvin Knapp Center, 2424 South Park Ave. Membership at the Knapp Center is \$25 per year for Pearland residents and \$50 for non-residents. For information, call 281-652-1890.

### **AUGUST 12**

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Pearland City Council workshop to discuss the upcoming budget is 8:30 a.m. at Council Chambers at City Hall, 3519 Liberty Drive. Workshops are open to the public.

### 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 13**

FARMERS MARKET

Brookside Village Farmers Market is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lawhon Elementary, 5810 Brookside Road with produce, homemade goods, children's activities and live music. The market is typically open on the second Sunday of the month. For information, visit brooksidevillagemarket.com.

### **AUGUST 14**

PISD ENROLLMENT HELP

Pearland ISD offers enrollment help for new and returning students between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays until school begins at the Virgil Gant Education Support Center, 1928 North Main St

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING

City Council holds a special meeting to hear a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan at 4 p.m. at City Hall, 3519 Liberty Drive. Regular meeting will follow.

### **AUGUST 15**

PISD BACK TO SCHOOL

First day of classes for students in Pearland ISD. Watch for flashing school zone signs and bus loading and unloading.

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Meetings address possible tax election **AUGUST 9** By N. Bradford **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** A possible tax ratification election in Pearland Family Fun Night is 6 to 7 p.m. at the Tom ISD is the topic of two community meetings Reid Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. Call 281called this month by district administrators.

> Facing a budget deficit and long list of needs plus inflation, Pearland ISD leaders this year are considering a VATRE, or Voter Approval Tax Rate Election.

> The school district in adopted a budget for the coming fiscal year with a tax rate won't be determined until August. State law requires

school districts get voter approval if they opt to raise their maintenance and operations tax rate above a maximum specified amount.

"A proposed VATRE is one way to help us continue to fund student programs, cover increasing maintenance and operation costs and allow us to recruit and retain quality employees," Superintendent Larry Berger said in a statement announcing the meetings, the first of which was scheduled Tuesday.

Tuesday was the first of two community meetings about a possible Voter Approval Tax

Rate Election, or VATRE.

A second meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Virgil Gant Education Center, 1928 N. Main St. From 6 to 7 p.m., the public is invited to hear more about the proposed election and ask questions.

Input heard during the public meetings will be considered when the school board discusses proposing the election this November. That discussion will be held at the board's Aug. 21 regular meeting.

## FOOTBALL JUST AROUND THE CORNER



FOOTBALL JUST AROUND THE CORNER - Pearland senior quarterback Cole Morkovsky tosses a pass at the first practice of the 2023 football season. Morkovsky takes the helm at QB and will get a test on Thursday, August 17 when the Oilers travel to face the College Station Cougars in a scrimmage before starting the season at home vs the Clear Falls Knights on Friday August 25 at the Rig. (Photo by Lloyd Hendricks)

## Rezoning requests concern neighbors

By N. Bradford

To the dismay of nearby residents, Pearland's Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday voted to support a requested rezone of a lot in the city's Old Townsite.

The owner of 2430 South Austin Avenue is requesting a zone change from residential to mixed use. That request will be decided by Pearland City Council, but the council does take Planning and Zoning's recommendations into consideration.

"This is an application for a zone change that would increase some of the use that could go in that land," P&Z Commissioner Ashlee Boswell said. "It's already zoned residential, so this isn't a situation where we're able to control what comes in there."

"I don't know that it would be vacant land forever," she added.

Applicant Tessie Gurley said her family purchased the property in 2019.

"I feel like it's a historic home, and I'm really just trying to preserve that," she said. "I'm proposing an office or something like that. I feel like it's historical enough it needs to be kept."

Several nearby property owners addressed the commission Mon-

"My concern is if somebody is going to build something like townhomes or condominiums, I've already flooded twice," said nearby property owner Richard

Wheeler. "Leave it like it is, Old Town Pearland."

Potential flooding was high on their list of concerns, along with cut-through traffic, crime and cona home site in 1938 and annexed into the city in 1960.

Since the site is already zoned as residential, building on it within the zoning limits is something that

My concern is if somebody is going to build something like townhomes or condominiums, I've already flooded twice,"

Comp plan topic of

Monday presentation

Several years in the making, a draft of Pearland's long range, "com-

The special city council meeting and presentation on the plan takes

The state encourages all municipalities to maintain a comprehensive

plan — a regularly updated, long-range document used to guide deci-

sions on land use, development and long-range goals. It includes cate-

Pearland's first comprehensive plan was adopted in 1968. Its most

In 2021, the city hired the firm Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. to

develop a new plan. A public feedback and visioning campaign known

as Pearland 2040 included a website, stakeholder interviews and input

More information on the plan and process is available at pearland 2040.

place at 4 p.m. Monday at City Hall, 3519 Liberty Drive. The council's

regular meeting follows at 6:30 p.m. in the same location.

gories such as parks, transportation and future land use.

sessions. Those were to be incorporated into the draft plan.

recent update to the plan was adopted in 2015.

prehensive plan" will be presented and discussed by city leaders this

By N. Bradford

"It's a field that's flooded for years," said Meaghan Cobbs.

The property was developed as

the owner can do by right, Commissioner Derrell Isenberg said.

"As far as having the ability to avoid anything ever being built on

Also on Monday, the commission addressed a request to rezone two acres on Pearland Parkway from single family to general business -- issuing a recommendation

there, that's not realistic," he said

"From what the owner said, all

they're wanting to do is fix it up

and make it useful."

intense and more limiting zoning called neighborhood services. "Not everybody is going to be happy, but you buy a piece of property, and you have a right to

not for general business, but a less

within reason to sell that piece of property," Isenberg said. Residents whose homes are located near the property, 3888 Pearland Parkway, expressed ob-

jections to more traffic and congestion that a retail center would bring to their street.

Justin Barnett of R. West Development said the property has been zoned residential and listed as such for 23 years.

"We've never had a builder or anybody ever interested in building residential," he said. "It wouldn't work there because of the size and shape."

The commission voted to forward a recommendation for a conditional use permit that would allow construction of a gas station at 4109 Manvel Road, adding conditions that include an 8-foot fence.

Planning and Zoning action along with conditions and notes are forwarded to Pearland City Council to decide requests at a future meeting.

## Dry conditions spark worry among officials

Dry vegetation and lack of rain has drawn concern about fires as a growing number of Texas counties enact outdoor burn bans.

Brazoria County is not among them -- yet, but officials urge extreme caution with fires of any kind in unincorporated areas.

An important note: Outdoor burning, campfires or fireworks are never allowed within 5,000 feet of Pearland City limits. Brazoria County Commissioners considered a ban their July meeting

"We have a good recipe for having a bad situation," Brazoria County

Fire Marshal Martin Vela told commissioners. Recent rains have not been enough to keep vegetation from drying out guickly, he said. This week, 155 of the state's 254 were under a

burn ban, including most of east and central Texas.

"It's definitely coming into our area pretty quick," Vela said.

Texas counties issue burn bans based on a number of factors, including a numbered drought scale maintained by the Texas A&M Forest Service. The scale is known as the Keetch-Byram Drought Index and ranges from zero to 800. A zero represents completely saturated soil and an 800 is absolutely dry and poses the highest risk. Brazoria County's average was 469 early Tuesday, with some parts of

the county were as high as 712. Commissioners agreed a ban would be enacted by the county judge if

the county's average KBDI goes over 600.

"If we don't get a significant amount of rain, we will definitely be in the 700s," Vela said.

Published August 9

### 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.

\$0.789200/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations) \$0.348100/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

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.

Maintenance and operations 9.12 % increase

Debt Service 9.88 % increase Total Expenditures

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

Preceding Tax Year Current Tax Year

\$15,827,746,846 \$12,882,895,429

**Bonded Indebtedness** 

Total appraised value\* of all property Total appraised value\* of new property\*\* \$93,924,976 \$91,760,081

Total taxable value\*\*\* of all property \$10,166,272,070 \$10,705,413,981 Total taxable value\*\*\* of new property\*\* \$87,421,782 \$74,059,788

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.

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

\*Outstanding principal.

**Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates** 

Maintenance & Interest & State Revenue Per Student **Operations** Sinking Fund\* Total Per Student

Last Year's Rate \$0.954600 \$0.348100 \$1.302700 \$6,357 \$4,678 Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance \$0.382530 \$0.702990 \$1.085520 \$5,796 \$5,471 & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service **Proposed Rate** \$1.137300 \$5,604

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

\*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.

Last Year Average Market Value of Residences \$310.301 \$370,301

\$251,963 \$240,441 Average Taxable Value of Residences Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value \$1.3027 \$1.1373 Taxes Due on Average Residence \$3,282.32 \$2,734.54 Increase (Decrease) in Taxes 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.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$28,159,660

\$11,087,749 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,

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

Across

**5.** A lot

1. Attempt

10. "La Scala di

(Rossini opera)

"Hot 100" list

19. Assortment

20. Letter fare

**24.** Folding art

28. Russian country

32. Big cat hybrid

33. Halloween mo.

41. Aquatic mammal

43. Like half a globe

**36.** Lead the way

**39.** Bring (out)

**42.** 100 kurus

23. Contemptuous look

16. Principal

**17.** Have \_

**18.** Bind

house

14. "The Way We

15. Magazine with a

\_\_ to pick

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 pm., 2800

block of Business Center Drive.



Helping Friendswood grow one business at a time. 601 S. Friendswood Drive • 281-996-4900 3211 FM 528 • 281-648-9000 www.hometown.bank

Wednesday, Aug. 2 An arrest for possession of drug parapherna-

including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property

lia was made at 3:30 a.m., 6600 block of Broad-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 in-

volving damage to ve-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. Thursday, Aug. 3

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 posses-

sion 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 sec-

hicle, a misdemeanor, ond 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 posses-

sion was made at 2255 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 con-

ducted at 3:11 p.m., 3500 block of Old Chocolate Bayou Road. POSTAL NOTICE

### FRIENDSWOOD POLICE REPORT JULY 31 thru AUGUST 7

### **Burglary**

Aug. 7 (10:04 a.m.) An onpackage was empty. 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 report-

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

ed at the 7-Eleven located at

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 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.

Aug. 6 (10:30 a.m.) A resident in the 1100 block of Killarney Avenue reported the theft of two firearms. The firearms Traffic 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.

ey included ten \$20 bills.

### Fraud

credit inquiry through her credit report showing that an ULTA credit card was opened using her personal identifying A 44-year-old man, of Housdeclined. 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.

swood man conducted an eBay transaction for the purchase of an Apple iPhone 14. When he received the

Aug. 3 (9:25 a.m.) A Friend-

package from the seller, the

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 Friend-

swood 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 on August 4th. A white male asked to deposit the funds into and a white female grabbed a third-party escrow account. items from the seafood/meat The vehicle was then to be shipped by a shipping compadepartment and left the store without paying for the merny. The victim wire transferred chandise. The suspects left 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 Bend Avenue. However, when 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 The transaction was made at that time. The counterfeit monreported criminal mischief. On August 1st, three minors entered the complex fitness center, lit paper on fire, causing damage to the flooring.

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.

July 31 (1:50 p.m.) A Friend- A 34-year-old woman, of swood reported received a Friendswood, was charged with Violation of a Protective Order/Bond Conditions.

information. After the card ton, was charged with Posses was opened, a charge was sion 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 Fail to Identity - 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.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE** 

The Original Mobile Game

### 1. Trades

**46.** "What's ?" **47.** Swelling

48. Apple beverage of

50. Badge of honor

53. Drench 57. Large female felines

61. "Shake a leg!" **64.** Bucket wheel 65. Camping gear

**66.** Colored eye part 67. Less cordial

**68.** Con 69. G.O.P. rivals

**70.** Boulderer's supply

**71.** Little, e.g.

## 2. Join securely

3. Come to mind 4. Placed a wager

13. "Much

Nothing'

5. Very pleased with oneself

**6.** Punish, in a way 7. x, y or z 8. "Likewise" **9.** Attack ad, maybe

**10.** 2005 Steve Martin film 11. Moray, e.g. 12. Clavell's "\_

-Pan"

Solution available online at myreporternews.com

About

22. Catcher's catcher 25. "Encore!" 26. Wavelike design

21. Kuwaiti, e.g.

27. Acquired relative 29. Hoof sound **30.** "What \_\_ God wrought?" 31. Montezuma, e.g.

33. Additional

34. Belief 35. Volumes 37. Mysterious: Var. 38. Bone-dry **40.** Always relevant **44.** Fill

45. Formally surrender

51. Bartender's supply **52.** Age 54. Deplete 55. Taste, e.g.

49. Forum platforms

56. Aromatic compound 58. Opera solo 59. Cambodian currency

61. Prefix with night **62.** Bauxite, e.g. 63. Animation

60. Dismal

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# 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.





# Friendswood facing real challenge in district this season

By Dr. David Davis Sports Reporter

There's a real positive gridiron warriors as the atmosphere that is evident Mustangs have welcomed among the Friendswood the arrival of new head

Jordan comes to Friendswood as a hometown prod-

Published August 9

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** ON TAX INCREASE

Coach Jordan Johnson

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

> PROPOSED TAX RATE NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE

\$0.508360 per \$100 \$0.463141 per \$100 \$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:

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

**FOR the proposal:** Mayor Mike Foreman

Friendswood this year.

Trish Hanks **Brent Erenwert**  Mayor Pro-tem Steve Rockey Robert J. Griffon

Sally Branson Joe Matranga

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

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

	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.

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 semifi-

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 Winters will pace the ground attack.

Others offense on 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 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."

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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

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 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 togeth-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 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







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,"







Cora Wolford

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 de-

scribes as a good leader. Sophomore Nadi'ya Shelby, a 6-0 outside hitter, put together an impressing 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 (I-r): Olivia Thompson, Nadi'Ya Shelby, Mackenzie Harris, Haley Patton, Andi Vaught, Meghan Donoughue, Alex Garcia, Hallie Harris, Anna Melgren Second row (I-r): Sydney Gibson, Taliah Benson, Preslee Alaniz, Natalie Williams, Isabella Thompson, Caroline Adams, Charley Mcbee,

### (281) 485-7501 CLASSIFIEDS

### **LEGALS**

Published August 2 & 9

**LEGALS** 

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 & EM-BROIDERY)

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 cblain@fisdk12.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.

### **Help Wanted!** SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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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

**LEGALS** 

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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# 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,

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

## 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 districts will receive this outstanding honor for the 2022-23 academic year.

The Visual Art Administra-

tors 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 with other content areas. 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



membership, exhibitions, contests, and community engagement in the TxDOT: Stop for buses, put away phones visual arts through field experiences, community service, and collaboration

"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

### 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

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 Char-

lotte 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"

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

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 on the fourth Saturday in April.

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/

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