As the classic song says, ’It’s the most wonderful time of the year.’ You may or may not agree, but there is no doubt that the Christmas holiday season is truly a special time. It’s a time of year when our country (hopefully) focuses on being together, giving gifts to others, and doing what we can to show ‘good will toward men.’ It can be a busy and hectic time as well. So, I would encourage you to be intentional about making sure you keep your priorities in line. It’s a terrible feeling to get through the Christmas season and feel like you never took the time to actually celebrate the event. And, in my humble opinion, the greatest way to keep the right focus, is to acknowledge and celebrate the Reason for the Season - the little baby born in a manger two thousand years ago. His life example of love, humility, and sacrifice are qualities we should try to emulate all year round - not just this most wonderful time of the year.”

Well, the craziness of the 2016 election is behind us. And I am grateful and humbled that the citizens of District 93 have once again elected me to represent them in Austin for the upcoming 85th Session.

Our office is working diligently to get ready for the session. While there are many issues out there of importance - our office will be focusing a lot of our efforts in the areas of criminal justice reform and preparedness. (Cyber security, grid security, etc.) These are areas of importance to our community and state and we want to be advocates on these issues during session. We will also be working on other high priority issues such as school finance, CPS and Foster Care, infrastructure policy, and preservation of the right of religious liberty. As always, I welcome your input on ideas for legislation or to hear from you on areas that need improving. It truly is an honor to represent HD 93 - thank you for the opportunity to do so for another two years!”
Imagine at 6 years old having a terrible secret. A secret so terrible that you can’t eat, you can’t sleep, and you can’t focus in school. Imagine that your secret is you are being abused, and not by a stranger, but by someone in your family. In your 6 year-old mind, it’s your fault. You let it happen, then you let it happen again. Besides, no one will believe you anyway.

At school one day, your teacher notices that you’ve changed. She asks you what is happening and you tell her everything. She tells you that she can help you, that you did the right thing, that she believes you and that it’s not your fault. The teacher calls Child Protective Services and makes a report. At 6 years old you don’t understand it, but that teacher just helped you take a first step towards healing.

That is where Alliance For Children, Tarrant County’s Children’s Advocacy Center, comes in. All four of our centers in Tarrant County are set up to serve the needs of abused children and their protective family members. Alliance For Children partners with 17 local law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney’s Office, and Cook Children’s Medical Center to create a seamless process from initial investigation, to healing services through prosecution. Alliance For Children has a team of Family Advocates and Therapists who offer individualized services and treatment to the children served and all are provided at no cost to families. Since opening in 1992, Alliance For Children has served more than 50,000 children. For more information about Alliance For Children, please visit http://www.allianceforchildren.org/.
CALENDAR

HD 93 Chambers of Commerce Events

- **Arlington**: December 13, 2016 [Business Over Breakfast](#)
- **Arlington**: December 16, 2016 [Chamber Orientation Luncheon](#)
- **Fort Worth**: December 13, 2016 [Leaders in Government - Legislative Preview](#)
- **Keller**: December 10, 2016 [Fort Keller City Limits Festival and SEVEN Ribbon Cuttings](#)
- **Northeast Tarrant**: December 3, 2016 [Super Science Saturday](#)
- **Northeast Tarrant**: December 12, 2016 [Holiday Movie Night](#)
- **Northwest Metroport**: December 3, 2016 [City of Haslet Christmas in the Park](#)
- **Northwest Metroport**: December 6, 2016 [Holiday Food Drive](#)
- **Northwest Metroport**: December 9, 2016 [Lone Star Legislative Report](#)
- **Saginaw**: December 2, 2016 [Christmas Tree Lighting](#)
- **Saginaw**: December 10, 2016 [Advanced Auto Parts Grand Opening](#)

People Helping People in District 93

*Veterans & First Responders Breakfast, hosted by Tehama Ridge HOA in north Fort Worth*

Hat Tip to local community expressing appreciation on Veterans Day weekend.

Veterans & First Responders were honored at a Breakfast, hosted by the Tehama Ridge Homeowner’s Association, in North Fort Worth, on Saturday, November 12. The Breakfast was held at O.A. Peterson Elementary School.

Guests included local veterans of various military branches, sharing their common and unique experiences from the eras in which they served.

A few noted guests were Fort Worth City Councilmember / Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Shingleton, who retired from the Army as a Colonel after serving 20 years, and current members of the Fort Worth Fire Department.

The camaraderie shared by those who serve in various capacities was evident. A big HD 93 thanks to those who serve, past and present, and the Tehama Ridge Homeowner’s Association for their initiative in honoring these great neighbors.

Redemption Bridge

The holidays are anticipated by most as a time of returning, giving thanks for the simple things and looking forward. For some of our neighbors, it is a time of returning to begin a new life, thankful for the opportunity to re-establish the foundations of their everyday lives. Whether former members of the military, or those coming back from time in a juvenile or adult correctional facility, all face the need to secure jobs, housing, etc. It is a time of new beginnings. Still, it can be a bit daunting.

[RedemptionBridge.com](#) is a website that helps individuals connect with various resources to address these basic elements of getting re-established in today’s society. The coordinating services of Redemption Bridge can help clarify and organize next steps. And that could be the greatest gift some have received yet, with hope for the new year ahead.
TRIVIA

The Texas Legislature meets next month for the 85th Regular Session!
From the Texas House of Representatives

The Legislature of the State of Texas, operating under the biennial system, convenes its regular sessions at noon on the second Tuesday in January of odd-numbered years. The maximum duration of a regular session is 140 days. The governor is given authority under the state constitution to convene the legislature at other times during the biennium. Such sessions are known as called or special sessions and are reserved for legislation that the governor deems critically important in the conduct of state affairs. Called sessions are limited to a period of 30 days, during which the legislature is permitted to pass laws only on subjects submitted by the governor in calling for the session.

SPORTS-ENTERTAINMENT-TOURISM

Texas Rangers to build new ballpark in Arlington
From the Texas Rangers’ New Ballpark Homepage

The Texas Rangers would like to thank the City of Arlington, its residents, and all of the fans who attend games annually for choosing to keep the Rangers in Arlington. We can’t wait to build our new home and continue a Texas Rangers tradition in Arlington....

Above all, we want our new home to continue serving as a community asset where fans can build a lifetime of memories.

Also, for a look at Texas Live, the new Business Development / Entertainment Complex currently being developed, go to Texas-Live.com

EDUCATION

Christmas Ornament Contest
By State Rep. Matt Krause

Congratulations to Thomas Nguyen on winning this year’s HD 93 Christmas Ornament design competition! Thomas is a senior at Fossil Ridge High School and is looking to major in engineering in college. Our runner up this year was Victoria Bush, who is a junior and also attends Fossil Ridge. She hopes to have a career in music education. Both of these students are incredibly talented as you can tell by the designs.
The winners were chosen by our terrific judges - Bill Thornton (Fort Worth Chamber), Michael Jacobson (Arlington Chamber), and Sally Michalak (Northwest Metroport Chamber). A special thank you to our judges for giving of their time to judge. As you can see, we had A LOT of entries this year. Thanks to every high schooler that participated.

Thomas’ ornament will hang on the Christmas tree in the House Chamber. Congrats on a job well done, Thomas!

Bonds Ranch Infrastructure and Business Development

Fort Worth Assistant City Manager Jay Chapa recently communicated to the the HD 93 office some exciting news regarding the business development at SH 287 and Bonds Ranch Road. HEB, Kroger, and QT each have purchased property at this busy intersection in northwest Fort Worth. HEB, known for both Central Market and HEB grocery, has purchased property at the southeast corner of the intersection. The highly anticipated retailer has not yet committed to commence building. Kroger and QT, however, both have plans to begin building in 2017 once the infrastructure improvements have securely gained momentum.

Local residents are encouraged to be patient while the new roads are put in place. Expanding growth occurs more quickly than the infrastructure can timely accommodate. This month, Fort Worth City Council will be reviewing preliminary projects for the area and is anxious to gain feedback and support from the community.

The best way to get updates is to visit the city website where the most current information can be found. For long term information, call the Public Information Office which has access to Engineering and City Planning. Specific questions can be directed to Public Information Officer, Marc Flake at 817-884-2535.
Road Conditions
For your holiday travel and shopping, stay informed on road construction before you get on the roadways.

www.drivetexas.org

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year for 2017!