MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

MATT’S CORNER

“It’s time for March Madness! I don’t know about you but this is one of my favorite times of the year. I love seeing the underdogs come out on top. I love watching the Cinderella teams advancing round after round. But, there’s also a lot of madness and craziness that takes place down in Austin during a session year. To keep up with everything that is going on, remember that you can live stream the House and Senate proceedings every day. While watching the live feeds, you will gain a greater understanding of the legislative process. Being an active and engaged citizen is a great way to make a difference in your community and state. Let the Madness begin!”

Find broadcast links to House and Senate activity on the TLO Home page.

TRIVIA

MARCH 17
Did you know?

The color BLUE was the first color used in association with St. Patrick’s day! Green only became associated with the holiday because of how green the landscape is in Ireland.

STATE

Via Matt Krause Facebook page

“February 9th we received our committee assignments in the Texas House. I am excited to be serving on these two committees:

- **Culture, Recreation, and Tourism** - HD 93 is the ultimate tourist destination in Texas with Six Flags, Hurricane Harbor, the home of the Rangers, the home of the Cowboys and the country’s #1 event venue in AT&T Stadium, and the Arlington Convention Center all within its borders. I look forward to representing the interests of HD 93 on this committee and working to keep Texas (and HD 93) a top tourist destination.

- **Land and Resource Management** - I served on this committee during the last session and thoroughly enjoyed the subject matter. Being on this committee will allow me to continue to advocate for a coastal barrier system and other issues that affect Texas’ preparedness. This is a main focus of our office this session, and I am delighted to serve on LRM once more to continue our efforts.

Really glad we have our assignments. Now it’s time to get to work!!!”

This month’s FAQ: **How are legislative committees created?**

“Standing committees are created in the rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate. House committee members are appointed by the Speaker of the House, while Senate committee members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.”

From Legislative Reference Library of Texas Committees of the 85th Legislature can be found [here](http://www.senate.state.tx.us/about_comms.htm).

[Clip Art courtesy of www.clker.com](http://www.clker.com)
People and commerce are drawn to HD 93, a region with vast and varied resources. The open plains landscape that distinguishes HD 93 makes it a desired location for living and livelihood.

Agriculture, livestock, and energy fuels are resources that bring people and business to the area we know as HD 93. Natural resources and innovation have lead to great economic and goods production.

These goods produced are transported around and beyond our great state of Texas, making Texas, for the 14th consecutive year, the top exporting state in the United States, per a 2016 U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis report.

What has distinguished this part of North Texas as an optimal hub for such vibrant commerce? One of the primary factors remains the railroad. The railroad was established in North Texas largely for the cattle and meat packing industries, both forming hub operations at the Fort Worth Stockyards.

The first railroad in Texas to be fulfilled to completion was chartered on February, 11, 1850. Actual work on this rail line began in 1851, with the first locomotive arriving in late 1852.

One hundred years later, driven by the need to move goods during the Second World War, the railroad grew even more through the communities of HD 93, drawing businesses to build in this bustling area.

With such a long history of operations, several railroad companies have merged to create HD 93’s own BNSF, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, headquartered in North Fort Worth.

BNSF is a national leader in intermodal, truck trailer and container, transport, optimizing efficiency and using significantly less fuel, with fewer emissions, than all-highway transport.

This Texas railway system also gives back to the community. In 2014, the BNSF Foundation donated $3.4 million to several local charities. The company also employs a vast number of military veterans. Of its 41,000 employees, approximately 7,000 of them are military veterans.

Now, that's interesting...

Rail transport is a very efficient means of moving goods over land. Rail is able to transport 1 ton of goods an incredible 500 miles on just 1 gallon of diesel fuel.

Hat Tip to the Lone Star State!

Congratulations to the State of Texas on being named Business Facilities 2016 State of the Year, as the most dynamic state economy in the United States.
CALENDAR

For more information and updates, you may visit our Facebook page at “Texas House District 93.”

HD 93 Chambers of Commerce Events

- **Arlington**: March 17, 2017 *Chamber Orientation*
- **Arlington**: March 11, 2017 *Explore and go on a Nature Walk*
- **Fort Worth**: March 13-17, 2017 *Spring Break Trip*
- **Fort Worth**: Nov. 11, 2016 - Jul. 6, 2017 *Bowling Through History: 5000 Years*
- **Halton City**: March 23, 2017 *Northeast Tarrant Chamber Monthly Membership Luncheon – Your Personal Productivity Matters*
- **Keller**: March 8, 2017 *Non Profit Lunch and Learn*
- **Northwest Metroport**: March 15, 2017 *Business Builders Networking Coffee in Haslet*

SPORTS/ENTERTAINMENT/TOURISM

Six Flags Early Spring Schedule is in Full Bloom!

Congratulations to former Texas Rangers #7, 14 time All Star Catcher Ivan “Pudge” Rodriguez on being elected to Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. Pudge started his Major League career wearing the number seven with the Texas Rangers and remains a record setting favorite with Rangers fans, compiling 2844 career hits, a record for Major League catchers. He holds the record for most putouts at the catcher position, at 14,864. Ivan is also a member of the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame.

EDUCATION

All school districts within House District 93 are out on Spring Break the week of March 11 to March 19.

International Leadership of Texas Keller High School - New home coming soon

Construction is underway for the new International Leadership of Texas Keller High School in northwest Fort Worth at the corner of SH287 and Bonds Ranch Road!

ILTexas KHS currently holds classes at Heritage Church of Christ on Heritage Trace Parkway.

*Photo courtesy of www.bestclipart.com*

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INFRASTRUCTURE

TXDOT is 100!
The Texas Department of Transportation is celebrating 100 years in service to Texans.
TXDOT has been making it possible for personal and economic commuting across this great state of Texas, in a century of unprecedented innovation and changes to everyday transportation.
HD 93 would like to extend a big Texas sized Thank You! Here's to the next 100!

Autonomous Shuttle
City of Arlington chosen as Test Market for New Transportation Technology

Arlington has been chosen to serve as a test market for the use of a self-driving, or autonomous, vehicle presented by ATI21-Alliance for Transportation Innovation and manufacturer Easy Mile, maker of the self-driving transit shuttle that was debuted Thursday, February 2, in the Entertainment District of Arlington.

Arlington is one of 10 U.S., and one of five Texas cities selected as offering a prime mix of characteristics that will serve well in testing new transportation technologies. Three city regions that have distinguished Arlington for this purpose are first, the UT Arlington campus, providing a close community area with high pedestrian traffic, second, The Entertainment District with peak traffic periods during seasonal attractions / game days, and third, the IH 30 corridor with multi lane (including HOV), high speed and high volume traffic.

“Arlington has a history of innovation dating back decades when we first recruited General Motors to bring its assembly plant to our community,” said Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams. “We now have a Transportation Committee made up of our residents to push the envelope on technology and innovation to take our City’s transportation plan into the future. That’s why we were so pleased to host the 2017 Autonomous Vehicle Road Trip in Arlington. Technology like this will be the future and signifies great opportunity for transportation.”

Says Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation for the North Central Texas Council of Governments, “The region needs to take steps like this to position itself as a leader on automated vehicle technology to bring safety, capacity, air quality, energy and mobility option improvements to our residents.” The NCTCG Transportation Department is taking an active role in working with this new technology and the plans for market testing, establishing communications to directly interface with the automated system, providing real time road condition updates for optimal safety and efficiency.

The future is looking bright as once again, the cities of HD 93 prove to be an optimal place for living and growing in the great state of Texas. Gotta love it!