



DELTA EDUCATION AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Education, Scholarships and Services

P.O. Box 42227

Houston, Texas 77242-2227

Together Everyone Achieves More

DECF NEWS/UPDATES

*Executive Board Meeting
TBA*

Membership Services

Membership in DECF is open. Contact Daphne Moss, Chair or visit decfonline.com for additional information.

Community Service Projects

**Hire Houston Youth
Greek Olympics

*2023 Scholarships
and
Special Recognition*

Hot Topics

**News You Can Use
*Health Observances
*4th of July Fireworks
*Hurricane Season
*TEA and HISD
July's Fun Facts

*Health Information
Monthly Health
Observances*

Greetings,

The month of July marks the midway point of the year. It's also considered a month of fun thanks to the biggest patriotic party of the year that starts the first week of July. It's also a favored month to take a vacation because of the consistently warm and sultry weather across much of the world. But if you're looking for a reason to celebrate anything related to chocolate and ice cream, you've landed in the right month where you'll find multiple days dedicated to these sugary delights in between more historical observances. Here are the some of the important Holidays Awarenesses for July: Family Fun Month, Family Meal Month, Family Reunion Month, National Black Family Month, National Fireworks Safety Month, National Grilling Month, National Hot Dog Month, National Ice Cream Month, National Peach Month, National Picnic Month.

We will all celebrate Independence Day (colloquially the Fourth of July) which is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the national day of the United States.

If you are traveling taking advantage of the three day weekend, attending family reunions, picnics, barbecues, concerts, parades, fireworks displays, engaging in one or more of the National events of the month as noted above or engaging in fireworks at home, always remember safety first.

Happy 4th of July!



*Pamela Cashaw, President
Dave Moss, President Emeritus*



HEALTH TOPICS

JULY 2023 HEALTH OBSERVANCES

Each month, different health awareness campaigns take place in the United States. They aim to raise awareness of various health conditions. July is a month full of awareness events for a variety of health-related issues, including:

- **Cord Blood Awareness:** To promote saving and storing cord blood and to illustrate its potentially life-saving properties include leukemia, blood diseases, Alzheimer's, as well as immune disorders.
- **International Group B Strep Awareness:** It was created to bring awareness of group B strep; About 1 in 4 pregnant women "carry" or are "colonized" with group B strep
- **Juvenile Arthritis Awareness:** Children can get arthritis just like adults. Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the term used to describe arthritis in children. JIA is an autoimmune disorder, which means that the body's immune system—which normally helps to fight off bacteria or viruses—mistakenly attacks some of its own healthy cells and tissues. It causes pain, swelling, stiffness, and loss of motion.
- **National Cleft & Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention:** Cleft and craniofacial conditions affect thousands of infants, children, teens and adults in the United States each year. Some are born with congenital anomalies like cleft lip and palate, others with more complex, life-threatening craniofacial conditions. Some are burned; others are injured in accidents and animal attacks, or diagnosed with various oral/head/neck and skin diseases
- **National Hemochromatosis:** Hemochromatosis is an iron storage disorder that can cause the body to absorb too much iron from foods and other sources, such as multivitamin supplements with iron. This extra iron can gradually build up in the body's tissues and organs, particularly in the liver cells, heart, pancreas, joints, and pituitary gland. If left untreated, this iron buildup may lead to tissue and organ damage over time.
- **National Minority Mental Health Awareness:** People are more focused on their mental health now than ever before. Employees increasingly expect their employers to offer mental health support. The World Health Organization (WHO) recently called on companies to promote workers' mental health and well-being.
- **Sarcoma Awareness:** If you are wondering what sarcoma is, it is a type of cancer that occurs in various locations of the body. 'Sarcoma' is the general term used to refer to a broad group of cancers that begin in the soft tissues and bones. Soft tissue sarcoma forms in the tissues that connect, support, and surround other body structures, including muscle, fat, blood vessels, nerves, tendons, and the lining of your joints. There is not only one type of sarcoma but actually more than 70 types. Sarcoma treatment varies depending on the type of sarcoma, location, and other factors.
- **UV Awareness:** is held during summer when most of us spend more time outside making the most of the warmer weather. The longer your exposure, however, the greater your risk of sun damage if you're unprotected
- **World Brain Day:** World Brain Day is framed by five key aims: **Prevention:** Brain disabilities can be prevented, treated and rehabilitated. **Awareness:** Global brain health awareness can reduce the disability associated with brain disorders. **Access:** Universal access to care, treatment, rehabilitation and assistive technology is essential. **Education:** Education increases equity for those living with brain disabilities. **Advocacy:** Brain health is a human right that applies to everyone, everywhere.
- **July 28: World Hepatitis Day:** Every year, more than a million lives are lost to hepatitis. We're not waiting for change – we're fighting to make it happen. People living with viral hepatitis unaware can't wait for testing, People living with hepatitis can't wait for life saving treatments, Expectant mothers can't wait for hepatitis screening and treatment, Newborn babies can't wait for birth dose vaccination, People affected by hepatitis can't wait to end stigma and discrimination, Community organizations can't wait for greater investment, Decision makers can't wait and must act now to make hepatitis elimination a reality through political will and funding.

The National Health Observances is an opportunity to raise funds: One of the most important aims is to raise funds to support the various disease foundations. **It is an opportunity to raise awareness:** Some people don't know. So during July, many awareness meetings and events are held to share information about various diseases. **It encourages check-ups:** Visit your doctor for a check-up.



HOT TOPICS – NEWS YOU CAN USE

CELEBRATING THE 4TH OF JULY WITH FIREWORKS

The Fourth of July is upon us, which means many people across the greater Houston area will be celebrating the holiday weekend with fireworks. The severe dry, very hot conditions may make fireworks all the more dangerous this year. The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office provided the following tips to ensure a safe holiday celebration: **Ensure fireworks are legal in your community; Read and follow directions and warning labels on fireworks packaging; Do not allow children to play with or ignite fireworks; light one firework at a time;** Before you get to the fun, there's a few things to keep in mind about safety. Officials provided the following tips on how to be safe with and around fireworks, as well as fireworks rules and regulations:

- Fireworks cannot be within 600 feet of a church, daycare, school, hospital, or any similar location.
- Fireworks cannot be within 100 feet of any places with explosive materials such as gas stations and other fireworks stands.
- If a firework does not go off, the HCFMO says do not approach the explosive and look over it in case it detonates.
- Keep neighbors and pets in mind.
- Many veterans suffer from PTSD and the sound of fireworks is difficult for them, so be courteous.
- Pets have a hard time with fireworks, so remember to bring them inside and give them a place where they feel safe. If they have to be outside, keep your pets on a leash.
- Set up a perimeter around the firework that children cannot cross to help keep them safe.
- Keep a bucket of water or a water hose nearby in case of an emergency and have a safety plan.
- After cleaning up, do not put your trash bin in your garage or near your house in case the hot remnants spark a fire. Keep the garbage containers at the curb or away from your home.
- Check your smoke alarms
- Don't let children handle sparklers -- they burn six times hotter than boiling water.
- Fireworks are not allowed within city limits.

Note: Anyone who has a complaint about the use of fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Harris County can email FMOsupport@fmo.hctx.net or call 281-999-2200.

Note: You can watch the Shell Freedom over Texas fireworks displays on the broadcast and Eleanor Tinsley Park will be open only for people viewing the fireworks in person.

HURRICANE SEASON

The 2023 Hurricane Season officially began June 1 and the Texas Department of State Health Services urges all Texans to prepare now before any Gulf storm threatens our state. The first step is to make a plan. Texas and the rest of the Gulf and East coasts are most likely to see a “near-normal” hurricane season this year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Federal forecasters are predicting between 12 and 17 named storms will form this season. **Every family or household should make their own severe weather plan and know it well.” Here are just a few things to include: protect and preserve essential documents, like drivers' licenses, passports, insurance policies, health cards and prescriptions, (store these in a waterproof bag), and also include at least the following items: bottled water, batteries, non-perishable food, and an evacuation plan.); it's critical to stay up to date on news and emergency directives.**



HOT TOPICS – NEWS YOU CAN USE

Governor Abbott signed two bills, making them law.

- SB 1750 abolished the newly created Elections Office in Harris County, only.
- SB 1933 will allow the Secretary State to take over elections in Harris County and change all aspects of local election policy which may include firing local election workers.

Note: The Secretary of State is a position appointed by the Governor. None of the other 253 counties in Texas are affected by these new laws.

WHAT DOES A TAKEOVER MEAN FOR THE HOUSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT?

It is still unclear what exactly this will mean for students, parents and staff of Houston ISD. Like a school board, decisions about the district's budget, staffing and instruction will largely be left up to the appointed board of managers.

- The TEA will not be involved in the day-to-day operations of the district, but the commissioner can replace a manager if there are issues, such as a resignation or malfeasance.
- The TEA announced four information sessions about the takeover process for Houston ISD members in March. You can find details here.
- The TEA has replaced a district's school board and superintendent with a board of managers seven times since 2000. It still manages Marlin ISD, outside of Waco, and Shepherd ISD, east of Conroe. The TEA has returned oversight of five other districts to local control. The agency has also annexed four districts to neighboring ones due to chronically low accountability ratings and financial struggles.
- More information to come before the school year start.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

DECF Volunteers on May 27th at Hire Houston Youth at Alief Community Center (See photos on page 8)

DECF volunteered as one of the sponsors on June 17th at Greek Olympics - HBCU Scholarship Fundraiser at Worthing High School where the local sororities and fraternities competed in sports activities to raise funds

DECF Members pictured with Delta's



Omega Psi Phi vs. Phi Beta Sigma





DID YOU KNOW ANY OF THE FOLLOWING A STRANGE AND PATRIOTIC COINCIDENCE

Three of America's founding fathers perished on a Fourth of July. John Adams (the nation's second president) and Thomas Jefferson (the nation's third president) died five hours apart on the same Fourth of July in 1826. James Monroe (the nation's fifth president) expired on the Fourth of July in 1831, exactly five years later

July Daily Holidays and Observances – Try some just for fun!

July 1: Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day	July 16: National Corn Fritter Day
July 2: National I Forgot and World UFO Day	July 17: Wrong Way, World Emoji, and National Lottery Day
July 3: National Eat Beans Day	July 18: National Caviar Day
July 4: Independence Day	July 19: National Daiquiri Day and Ice Cream Day
July 5: National Bikini and Graham Cracker Day	July 20: National Lollipop Day
July 6: National Fried Chicken Day	July 21: National Junk Food Day
July 7: National Strawberry Sundae and World Chocolate Day	July 22: National Hammock Day
July 8: Liberty Bell Day	July 23: National Hot Dog Day
July 9: National Sugar Cookie Day	July 24: National Tequila Day
July 10: National Piña Colada Day	July 25: National Hot Fudge Sundae and Wine and Cheese Day
July 11: Cheer Up the Lonely, Marine Corps Creation and World Population Day	July 26: National Parents Day* (fourth Sunday)
July 12: National Eat Your Jello Day	July 27: National Creme Brûlée and Scotch Day
July 13: National French Fry Day	July 28: National Milk Chocolate and Hamburger Day
July 14: National Mac and Cheese Day	July 29: National Chicken Wing Day, Lasagna and Lipstick Day
July 15: Gummi Worm Day	July 30: National Cheesecake and Chili Dog Day
	July 31: National Avocado Day

Trivia:

Why is July a popular month for vacations?

July is one of the busiest travel months due to the weather being warmer in most places, and summer vacations for many schools are happening. A lot of families take their vacations during the month of July.

Why do we celebrate the fourth of July?

July fourth is a historic moment in the United States, as it is the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776. It is considered the birthday of the USA and is also known as Independence Day.

Why is July considered the middle of the year?

There are 365 days a year, and July 1st is the 182nd day of the year, placing the month of July right in the middle of the annual calendar.



2023 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Delta Education and Charitable Foundation held its annual scholarship program on Saturday June 10th at Willie G's Restaurant where each recipient (Alvin Adamson, Kayla Michelle Gibson Colen, Jordan Ferguson, Jady E. Moody, Jesutofunmi Oluwaleke and Londyn Williams) received a \$1500 scholarship. Special recognition was also given to members of the Foundation (Joan Graham, Jan Matthews, Ava McFarland) that have consistently sold 10+ tables collectively to our annual Mardi Gras Scholarship Fundraiser.

Scholarship Program: **Welcome** - Helen Muhammed, **Meditation-** Fraulyn Baisey, **Special Recognition** – Pamela Cashaw, **Words of Encouragement** – Dave Moss, **Special Guest** – Mayor Sylvester Turner, **Scholarship Awards**, Barbara Branch, Joan Graham ,Victoria Lackey. A delicious lunch was served and pictures taken. Congratulations to the graduates and members receiving special recognition.







DEC Community Service Project with Hire Houston Youth Project





Together Everyone Achieves More
Membership and Donor Information

- Yes, I would like to become a member of the Delta Education and Charitable Foundation (DECF). Annual dues \$50.
- Yes, I would like to show my support through the enclosed donation of:
_____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$250 _____ Other Amount
- Yes, I wish to receive periodic updates of DECF’s programs and events.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Email: _____

DECF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. For more information contact the following:

Pamela Cashaw, President - 713-515-6252 or Daphne Moss, Vice-President - 713-824-7614

_____ I HAVE ENCLOSED A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO “DECF” FOR \$ _____

Please send check to: DECF, P.O. Box 42227 - Houston, TX 77242-2227 “or QR Code”



Zelle or Pay Pal – decf1974@gmail.com

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MISSION

DECF continues its commitment to service, scholarships and educational purposes, yet not limited to such purposes; we shall continue our endeavors in the areas of social awareness and cultural development in the communities we serve.