



## 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*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MARDI GRAS GALA**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2024**

#### *Membership Services*

*Membership in DECF is open. Contact Daphne Moss, Chair or visit [decfonline.com](http://decfonline.com) for additional information.*

#### *Community Service Projects*

*Events, activities, ideas are welcomed.*

#### *Good To Know*

- \*Health Topics
- \*Health Observances
- \*Wellness & a Healthy You
- \*Hot Topics
- \*Hurricane Season
- \*Summer Safety
- \*Topics of Concern for the 2024 Election

### *Greetings,*

The grueling heat of this summer is hopefully coming to an end as we face water restrictions and energy conservation in Harris and surrounding counties. However, as we enter the start of Fall, September is one of many parents and guardians favorite months. It means back to school, and the end of their children crying “I’m bored” and finding activities to keep them occupied. September brings about many changes, including a transition in the weather, leaves begin changing into beautiful colors, and the boiling hot tempratures will come to an end and football season for your favorite teams (High Schools, Universities and the NFL) begins.

This month we will also celebrate Labor Day, Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Labor Day celebrates the hard work and accomplishments of workers in America and how they helped make the country strong and successful.

If you want to make the most out of the 3-day weekend by taking the family out for some fun activities that won’t break the bank, there are great options in our area that are perfect for all ages. You may plan to take a road trip to Galveston Island, Kemah Boardwalk; go to a movie cinema, or the museum to name a few fun things. You can also choose to stay home with family and a few friends and have a great cook-out. With that, there are oodles of fun crafts, activities, and projects for the entire family. From Labor Day cookouts to bike riding on crisp fall days, there is something for everyone! Whatever you do, do it safely with God’s blessings. Have a Happy Labor Day Weekend!



*Pamela Cashaw, President*  
*Dave Moss, President Emeritus*



## HEALTH TOPICS

### *SEPTEMBER 2023 HEALTH OBSERVANCES*

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

September marks more than the start of fall. It's also packed with healthcare observances, including the following:

**Blood Cancer Awareness Month:** Throughout September, you might see iconic sites **TURN RED** as cities and organizations recognize Blood Cancer Awareness Month.

**Childhood Cancer Awareness Month:** If you see someone **WEARING A GOLD RIBBON** in September, it could be for childhood cancer awareness. The statistics around childhood cancer are flooring. Each day, three children under 15 die due to cancer. To recognize Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, consider **wearing only gold jewelry in September or sporting a gold ribbon all month.**

**Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month:** There are six types of gynecologic cancer, including ovarian, vulvar, uterine, vaginal, and cervical cancers. The sixth type, fallopian tube cancer, only accounts for 2% or less of gynecological cancers, and approximately 300 to 400 women are diagnosed with it annually. To raise awareness of these conditions, **WEAR A PURPLE RIBBON** to represent gynecological cancer or put on a teal ribbon to recognize fallopian tube cancer specifically.

**National Cholesterol Education Month:** Health experts report approximately 38% of the population has high cholesterol, a serious and symptom-free condition that can increase the risk of heart disease or stroke. You can encourage others to learn about their cholesterol health by checking your cholesterol levels or spreading facts on social media with #CholesterolEducationMonth.

**Prostate Cancer Awareness Month:** Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer among U.S. men. Greater awareness around prostate cancer is needed because it affects about 1 in 8 men.

**Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month:** Pulmonary fibrosis is a disease that damages and scars lung tissue, which makes it difficult for the lungs to function properly over time. There's still much to learn about this disease. You can help fund research and awareness efforts by donating during Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month or by posting a picture of yourself **WEARING BLUE**, explaining the cause, and using #BlueUp4PF on social media.

**Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month:** Your thyroid gland sits at the base of your neck and is the shape of a butterfly. Thyroid cancer can cause lumps, swelling, and pain in the neck, trouble swallowing or breathing, and voice changes. Raise awareness about thyroid cancer by **ROCKING A TRI-COLORED RIBBON OF PURPLE, TEAL, AND PINK** or virtually participating in the International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference in September.

**World Alzheimer's Month:** The Alzheimer's Association says nearly 11% of Americans older than 65 have Alzheimer's, a progressive disease that affects a person's mental capabilities. September is the month to go entirely **PURPLE** to support additional resources and research concerning this relentless disease. Wear a **PURPLE** ribbon on World Alzheimer's Day, held on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**If you are someone you know is suffering with one or more of these health issues join the fight to bring awareness and a cure. You may also send pictures wearing the designated colored ribbon(s). As always check with your primary health care provider if you are experiencing any of these symptoms.**



## HOT TOPICS

### HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BEGINS NEW SCHOOL YEAR UNDER STATE-APPOINTED LEADERSHIP

Another school year began August 28th for students at Houston ISD, but this year will look different from any in the past. The Texas Education Agency, the branch of state government that oversees public school districts, ousted former HISD Superintendent Millard House II and its elected board of trustees in June, replacing them with a new board of managers and superintendent. The new HISD superintendent is Mike Miles, who formerly served as superintendent of Dallas ISD from, 2012-15 and also founded a *public charter school network* that spans several states. He's been tasked with helping HISD improve its accountability ratings and board governance across the district. He said his top concern is preparing students for a future where he predicts a "locked in" skills gap between those who develop reading, math and technology skills and those who do not. Meanwhile, the timing of when HISD returns to *elected leadership* depends on how quickly the district can meet three requirements set by the TEA.

- HISD must be in full compliance with special education laws;
- It must have no schools that fail to meet state standards for two years; and
- It must demonstrate board procedures that "focus on student outcomes," according to TEA information.

However, even after HISD meets those requirements, only three elected trustees will be allowed to return each year from that point. Appointed board members will serve their positions until the elected leadership is allowed to return. There is no specific timeline or requirement set for when Miles will step down, a decision left entirely to TEA Commissioner Mike Morath.

### MASS SHOOTING - 3 PEOPLE DEAD AFTER GUNMAN TARGETED BLACK PEOPLE IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Three people were killed Saturday in a racially motivated attack after a gunman targeted Black people at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Florida, in one of several weekend shootings that again shocked Americans in public places – from stores to football games to parades. When will these acts of hatred end? The African American victims' tragic deaths are a consequence of the delay of political leaders who seek to downplay the need to take action against the awful toll of American gun violence.

### DISASTERS IN AMERICA

Throughout the year 2023, the U.S. has been struck with seven separate weather and climate disasters, each with losses exceeding \$1 billion and the latest wildfire disaster in Hawaii.

### HISTORIC LAHAINA TOWN DESTROYED BY THE FIRE

The historic Lahaina Town on Maui was devastated by the wildfire that tore through the island. Wildfires on Hawaii's Maui Island and Big Island have killed hundreds of people, forced thousands of residents and tourists to evacuate, and devastated the historic resort city of Lahaina. President Biden sent military to aid with response, U.S. Coast Guard and the Navy 3rd Fleet and Army are supporting response and rescue efforts.

### JOIN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM!

What would you do if you found yourself in the middle of a disaster or emergency situation? Would you be prepared to act? Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) is a national volunteer program that equips individuals with fundamental disaster preparedness skills, including those specific to the natural disasters that are prone in your local area. During the training you may learn anything from fire safety, search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. There are over 2,700 local programs nationwide and more than 600,000 people have been trained with CERT. For more information on how to join your local neighborhood program, visit <https://www.ready.gov/cert> and become a representative for DECF and the community.



## **YOUR VOICE YOUR VOICE YOUR VOTE YOUR VOTE**

### **NEW \$18B TAX CUT LEGISLATION - PUBLICIZED BY GOP AS LARGEST IN TEXAS HISTORY - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR ABBOTT**

The largest tax cut in Texas history is now in the hands of voters. Governor Greg Abbott signed into law property tax cuts that would cut the average homeowner's tax bill by roughly \$1,300. A host of state lawmakers joined the governor on stage in New Caney Wednesday afternoon. They applauded the \$18 billion legislation, which raises homestead exemptions from \$40,000 to \$100,000, reduces the school tax rate, and eliminates or lowers the franchise tax for small businesses. "This legislation will usher in a new era of appraisal reforms in the state of Texas. These monumental accomplishments were achieved because of the lieutenant governor (Dan Patrick) and the Speaker (of the House, Dade Phelan) working together and the House and Senate coming together to ensure Texans the tax relief they desperately deserve." The money comes from the record \$30 billion-plus budget surplus.

However, critics of the cut believe some of that money should have gone elsewhere - to expand access to healthcare coverage for uninsured Texans or to better fund public education.

Texas voters will have to approve the cuts when they go to the polls on Nov. 7.

### **2023 MAYORAL ELECTION**

As the race for Houston mayor heats up, and the campaign field becomes increasingly crowded, many candidates are faced with choosing key policy points to center their campaigns around. Recent surveying of Houston residents suggests that a few particular issues, specifically crime, infrastructure, housing and the economy, are at the forefront of the city's mind as the local election draws closer. This November 7th, Houstonians will elect a new mayor. Mayor Sylvester Turner's second and final term will end, and so far, there are now 15 candidates in the race to replace him.

Polls indicates Sheila Jackson-Lee and John Whitmire leading the Houston mayoral race. The thirteen other candidates include: Gilbert Garcia - Robert Gallegos - MJ Khan - Lee Kaplan - Naoufai Houjami - Robin Williams Julian Martinez - Derrick Broze - Gaylon Caldwell - Chanel Mbala - Theodis Daniel - Raykey Tezino and Former City Councilman Jack Christie joins the Houston mayoral race.

### **JUDGE LINA HIDALGO ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY LEAVE, CHECKS INTO INPATIENT CARE FOR CLINICAL DEPRESSION**

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo announced on Monday that she checked herself into inpatient care at an out-of-state facility for clinical depression, prompting a temporary leave from office. Hidalgo hopes to return to work by early September and added that it's important for her "personally and professionally to confront this issue swiftly."

The county judge's doctors advised her to focus on her health for the next several weeks, according to a news release. While she is seeking care, Hidalgo will still have communication with key county staff, but Commissioner Rodney Ellis will preside over official proceedings, including Commissioners Court. "Additionally, the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) has been notified and is fully engaged and prepared to respond to any potential incident or disaster during this time.

As difficult as this may be, Judge Lina Hidalgo is not alone in facing this challenge. A 2023 report showed that over 30% of adults meet the criteria for having depression and/or anxiety. We may all know someone who suffers from depression. The good news is that now more than ever, resources are available for those who need help. Let's encourage others who need support to seek it. We cannot let stigma stand in the way of treatment.



## HOT TOPICS – NEWS/INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

### ROBBERIES ARE AT AN ALL TIMES HIGH IN HOUSTON

Parking lot robberies are on the rise in Houston. Houston Police Department provides tips on how to stay safe while shopping, pumping gas, or returning from the bank. Since the pandemic, this is why so many people have opted for home deliveries.

- Be aware of your surroundings such as parking lots and vehicles parking next to you and/or behind you.
- If suspicious don't park, back up and go to another location.
- Make sure when you put your car in park that all the doors does not unlock at once making it convenient for the robber.
- HPD has warned there's a new push to help prevent violent crimes and keep shoppers safe. But, safe shopping starts with you. There have been several videos of crooks targeting innocent people in parking lots; from violent purse snatchings, and sometime deadly. Many surveys have shown negligence on the victim's part because people leave valuable items like shopping bags, backpacks, purses, and laptops out in the open. Plan to leave big expensive purses at home. Always keep your purse at your side. "When you get in your car, your purse should get in with you. Close your door and lock it. It only takes a few seconds for thieves to take what they want. Remember, people are watching you; they know what you are doing, and they know what they want, (money, jewelry, cellphones, credit cards to name a few). Park in well-lit areas at night and be sure to roll up your windows and lock your doors. It's important to shop safely because it's easy to become a victim, males and females alike.

### HURRICANE SEASON IS NOT OVER

**Hurricane season is still here**, and experts are urging residents to prepare. Don't wait until a storm approaches. As residents, we must still do our part to protect ourselves and our property in an area prone to flooding. In addition to getting the basics, like water, nonperishable food, a first-aid kit, flashlights, batteries and a full tank of gas, all adults need to think ahead. Anyone with medical issues who may need to go to a shelter should make those preparations early — before a weather event hits. "If you're evacuating, do it early versus later." "You don't want to be driving in the rain or through high water or on a road experiencing flooding." And make sure you have contact information for people you might need to notify if you leave home. "You don't want to leave them guessing," For more information on what to do to prepare for an emergency, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a list of information. Among the items the agency recommends you have on hand:

**A minimum three-day supply of medications, a cooler and ice packs if your medications require refrigeration, if needed, medical supplies such as syringes, contact lens solution, glasses and/or hearing aids and extra batteries for people who need them, an identification band with your full name, a list of any allergies and a family-member contact number, information about your medical devices, including oxygen, walkers and wheelchairs, the information should include model numbers and the vendor of the products, documents in a waterproof bag., they should include a personal care plan; contact information for family members; a medication list including the dosage, exact name, pharmacy information and the prescribing doctor for each medication; a list of food or medical allergies; copies of photo IDs and medical insurance cards; and durable power of attorney and/or medical power of attorney documents., cash to be used if automatic teller and credit card machines are not working.**

***BE PREPARED AND STAY SAFE!***



**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](mailto:decf1974@gmail.com)

***Thank you for your continuous support!***

**DECF BOARD MEMBERS**

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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.*