

# Hagar to deliver keynote address at Fort Bend Chamber summit



**GLENN HAGAR**

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

Power, mobility and drainage will be among the topics discussed at the Fort Bend County Chamber of Commerce's upcoming infrastructure conference on September 28th at Safari Ranch. The event will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 at the venue at 11627 FM 1464 in Richmond and will feature Texas Comptroller Glenn Hagar as the keynote speaker.

The conference begins at 8 a.m. with a presentation from Daryl Miller, general manager of WA Parish, who will speak on "Powering Fort Bend," taking a look inside generation in Texas and what's new at NRG's WA Parish plant. Fort Bend County Judge KP George will then deliver a welcome and opening remarks. A panel consisting of Commissioner Vincent Morales, Commissioner for

Precinct 1; Grady Prestage, Commissioner for Precinct 2; and Stacy Slawinski, P.E., Fort Bend County engineer, will discuss the Fort Bend County mobility bond. "Rising Water" will be the topic of the 10:30 panel discussion, with Mark Vogler, Fort Bend County Drainage District and Justin Bower, Houston-Galveston Area Council. Andy Meyers, Commissioner for

Precinct 3 and Dexter McCoy, Commissioner for Precinct 4, will speak on "Private and Public Partnerships" at 11:30 a.m. Hagar will take the stage at noon for his keynote address on "Fiber Optics/Broadband Connectivity." To register, or for more information, please contact Paige Hitchcock at [paige@fortbendcc.org](mailto:paige@fortbendcc.org) or by calling 281-566-2152.

## City of Katy offers tips for water conservation, dealing with extreme heat

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The City of Katy Public Works Department is asking residents and businesses to continue practicing water conservation techniques to help reduce water usage, according to the city's official Facebook page.

"Water conservation is important to us all because fresh clean water is a limited resource and conserving this natural resource is critical for the environment," according to the post. "Using water efficiently to reduce unnecessary water usage is imperative."

Here are a few helpful tips that can assist with water conservation:

- Monitor water usage on your monthly bill. It can be a good indicator of possible water leaks.
- Using a dishwasher is more efficient than hand washing but remember to only run full loads.
- Installing a low-flow shower head can save up to 15 gallons of water during a 10-minute shower.
- Turn water off while brushing teeth or shaving. Every little bit of conservation helps!
- Watering your lawn in the early morning or late evening is not only good for conservation but the water isn't evaporated by the hot sun.
- Equipping hoses with shut-off nozzles can prevent leaking.

Other weekly tips on how to conserve water can be found at [www.cityofkaty.com/pw-tip-of-the-week](http://www.cityofkaty.com/pw-tip-of-the-week).

The city's Facebook page also includes tips for dealing with the impact of high heat and humidity on the human body. With temperatures rising, it's important to pay attention to how the heat affects the body. "In extreme heat — which is a prolonged period of high heat and humidity — your body works extra hard to maintain a normal temperature," according to the post.

When the humidity is high, sweat won't evaporate as quickly. This keeps the body from releasing heat as fast as it may need to. To mitigate the effects of extreme heat, use these tips to keep cool in hot weather.

- Drink plenty of water, even when you're not thirsty. It helps to keep you hydrated.
- Take cool showers, it will cool the body down.
- Wear lightweight and breathable clothing.
- Stay in an air-conditioned indoor area as much as you can.
- Limit outdoor activity, especially mid-day when the sun is hottest.

For any other questions or concerns, please contact Public Works at 281-391-4820 or [PublicWorksInfo@CityofKaty.com](mailto:PublicWorksInfo@CityofKaty.com).

## Commissioner Lesley Briones establishes Precinct4Forward

### New nonprofit will accelerate progress in Precinct 4

**CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

In a unanimous vote Tuesday, August 8th, Harris County Commissioners approved the creation of Precinct4Forward, a nonprofit organization that will bring community partners together to improve the quality of life of Harris County Precinct 4's 1.2 million residents.

Precinct4Forward will be a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that will supplement the governmental work of Precinct 4. It will be an open, nimble way for community members to support Commissioner Briones's vision of advancing opportunity and justice in the region. Precinct4Forward will help enhance parks, develop resilient infrastructure, improve public safety, increase access to education and health care, and expand economic opportunity. It will also give help to augment disaster relief support.

"I am energized by the outreach from community members who want to support the mission of Precinct 4. Precinct4Forward will be a vehicle for us to further engage community members and leverage public-private partnerships to



**LESLEY BRIONES**

accelerate progress for the residents of Harris County," Commissioner Briones said. "We will have additional resources to invest in our parks, community centers, and beyond to make a tangible difference in the lives of Precinct 4 families. We will also cultivate new partners who are inspired by our work, welcoming their ideas and energy as we create lasting change. Together, Precinct4Forward will make our County a safer, more inclusive place to live and work."

Kara Cook-Schultz has been named Director of Innovation to support Precinct4Forward. In this role, Cook-Schultz will

facilitate collaboration, create new outreach projects, and raise and deploy funds to better serve the public.

"Harris County communities face unique challenges — dangerous shade deserts, workforce skill gaps, increasing demands on public safety partners, and more," Cook-Schultz said. "Precinct4Forward will tackle those challenges with holistic, innovative solutions that prioritize transparency, efficiency, and community engagement."

Former Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle will be graciously contributing \$10,000 as a donation from his previous nonprofit All4Fun to the new Precinct4Forward. "I am grateful to Commissioner Cagle for his partnership and continued commitment to the people of Precinct 4," stated Commissioner Briones.

Precinct 4 is one of four precincts located in Harris County, Texas and boasts a population of more than 1.2 million people. Precinct 4 maintains 1,423 miles of roads and nearly 4 miles of bridges, eight community centers with more than 700,000 visitors annually, and 54 parks, with 13,455 acres of greenspace.

## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 35 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at Schwartz, Page & Harding LLP, 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Ste. 2500, Houston, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](http://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.

<b>FOR</b> the proposal:	P. Battistini, S. Handal, T. Feng, S. Haleem & T. Eynon
<b>AGAINST</b> the proposal:	(none)
<b>PRESENT</b> and not voting:	(none)
<b>ABSENT</b> :	(none)

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>This Year</b>
Tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>\$0.380</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>\$0.355</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		<u>-\$0.025</u> /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>-6.5789%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	<u>\$446,327</u>	<u>\$492,412</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	<u>\$446,327</u>	<u>\$492,412</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	<u>\$ 1,696.04</u>	<u>\$1,748.06</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		<u>\$52.02</u> <u>3.0671%</u>

**NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE**

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The voter-approval tax rate is \$0.389326 and therefore, notwithstanding the above, no election is required.

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.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.



Signs along Avenue D alerted City of Katy residents to the new Stage 3 drought restrictions announced on Monday. SUSAN ROVEGNO

## City of Katy moves to Stage 3 drought, announces more water restrictions

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The City of Katy announced additional mandatory water restrictions in an August 14 press release, effective immediately.

The City of Katy has reached an unprecedented level of water demand to such a degree that the City of Katy is now at Stage 3 Severe Drought Conditions and mandatory restrictions for water usage are effective immediately based on the City's Drought Contingency Plan. In addition to preserving the integrity of the City's wells which have been running continually over the last several months battling the extreme heat and lack of rain. The decision to enter Stage 3 will help to preserve and protect wells and give them a much-needed opportunity to recover. The City Engineer has advised the City that a trigger in the City's Drought Contingency Plan to move to Stage 3 has been met: Total daily water demand equals or exceeds 85% of total well pumpage for three (3) consecutive days. Stage 3 is mandatory, and violations may result in enforcement action which may include a written warning, a citation, and/or disconnection of water service- subject to appeal.

In addition to Stage 1 and Stage 2 guidelines the following restrictions are in effect: Mandatory Restrictions for Residents/ Businesses:

- Limit landscape watering to the "Twice Per Week Water Schedule" (See Table Below)
- Exception: Foundations and new plantings (first-year trees and shrubs) may be watered for up to two hours on any day by a hand-held hose or a soaker hose without restrictions
- Prohibit hosing of paved areas, buildings, windows, and any hard-surfaced areas
- Prohibit operation of ornamental fountains
- Prohibit washing or rinsing of vehicles by hose
- Prohibit using water in such a manner as to allow runoff or other waste
- Prohibit no new establishment of landscaping
- Prohibit draining and filling of existing pools and filling of new pools

To report violations of this mandatory restriction, visit [www.cityofkaty.com/waterviolation](http://www.cityofkaty.com/waterviolation) to submit a Watering Violation Report or contact Public Works via email [droughtviolations@cityofkaty.com](mailto:droughtviolations@cityofkaty.com) or by phone at 281-391-4820. The City asks that citizens, businesses, and HOAs to continue to use their best efforts to reduce water usage and follow the Stage 3 restrictions/guidelines. Stage 3 mandatory restrictions shall remain in place until rescinded. Notification will be provided when Stage 3 restrictions have been rescinded.

Updates will be posted on the City's website and social media streams.

<b>TABLE 13.10B</b>	
<b>TWO DAYS PER WEEK WATERING SCHEDULE (12am TO 8am and 8pm TO 11:59pm)</b>	
<b>Last Digit of Address</b>	<b>Allowed Landscape Watering Days</b>
<b>Even Number (0,2,4,6,8)</b>	<b>Sunday and Thursday</b>
<b>Odd Number (1,3,5,7,9)</b>	<b>Saturday and Wednesday</b>
<b>Commercial, HOA, Greenspace, Right-of-Way</b>	<b>Tuesday and Friday</b>
<b>Monday- No Watering (Storage Recovery Days)</b>	