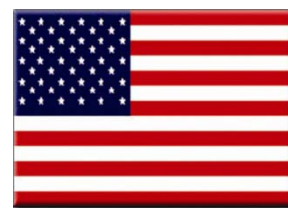




Village Republican Women

September 2010

Newsletter



www.VillageRepublicanWomen.org

PROGRAM

Houston Racquet Club
10709 Memorial Drive

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

9:30 Check-in and Coffee

10:00 Meeting

◆ Lunch is \$20.00 (Cash preferred) ◆

◆ RSVP required by Friday, Sep. 17 ◆

If you book you must pay as the Club has to pay

[Click Here to RSVP on the website](#)

Nolia Rohde: hospitality@villagerepublicanwomen.org

281-496-1195



The Honorable Ed Emmett

Harris County Judge

We are excited to have Harris County Judge Ed Emmett as our speaker this month. The County Judge is "Mayor of Harris County", and Judge Emmett will be the top Republican for the county-wide races in November. Judge Emmett has a distinguished resume, including serving as a State Representative from 1979-1987 as the Chair of the Committee on Energy. In 1989, President George H. W. Bush nominated him to the Interstate Commerce Commission, a position he held for three years. Afterward he began an international consulting and marketing firm serving the transportation industry. Judge Emmett attended Bellaire High School. He graduated from Rice University in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and from the University of Texas at Austin in 1974 with a Master of Public Affairs degree. We look forward to hearing the Judge's views on keeping Republicans engaged in the political process.

Executive Board

President

Beverly Roberts

President Elect

Carol Prince

Past President

Carol Prince

1st Vice President

Ellie Essalih

2nd Vice President

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3rd Vice President

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Kathleen Slaydon

Parliamentarian

Connie Castro

Publicity

Buffy Ingersoll

Chaplain

Clara Boyce

Webmaster

Chris Cobb

Americanism

Joan Akin

President's Message.....

I am eager to be gathering with Club members and guests as we draw near to this historic election. While many people have been spending the summer having a relaxing period, others have stayed in the forefront of the happenings in our nation. Village RW hosted a fantastic event in August that attracted a crowd of about 100 enthusiastic voters to hear a rousing presentation by Catherine Engelbrecht of King Street Patriots. A huge thank you goes to Buffy and Gary Ingersoll who opened their beautiful home for the event.

We all know this is a time to be fully engaged in the political realm, as the Government pokes its hand ever deeper into our pockets to continue its increasing control over our lives. We must not relent in our battle to retain and restore the freedoms for which many fought and died.

In May a measure was passed to increase the Club dues so that we can continue to provide the services necessary to stay vibrant and fiscally responsible. We have cut costs in every possible area but price increases continue to erode our buying power. To avoid regularly coming to the group for "donations" we feel it is best to have every Club member share the burdens equally. This way, even those who can't always attend meetings can share in the running of the organization.

Please review the proposed By-laws changes that were presented at the May meeting so we can vote on them with minimum discussion. Feel free to call or email Board members for clarification of the changes.

Welcome back from your travels; let's get to work!

Best regards, Beverly Roberts

Important Dates

September 21	9:00 a.m.	GHC Get Out the Vote Workshop
September 22	10:00 a.m.	VRW General Meeting
October 4		Last day to register to vote
October 18		Early voting begins
October 27	10:00 a.m.	VRW General Meeting
October 27		Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot
October 29		Early voting ends
November 2		Election Day!

For more information about our Club, please call 832-443-8109 or visit
www.villagerepublicanwomen.org

POLITICAL AD PAID FOR BY VILLAGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN PAC FUND



Proposition 1 will appear on the ballot and will amend the City of Houston charter to (1) allow City Council to require that all properties pay a “drainage fee” (2) require a new “development fee” for new construction in the city (3) require that the city property tax money that now pays the interest on debt-financed infrastructure and drainage projects (estimated at 1/6 of city revenues) be applied directly to new projects and (4) continuation of the program for at least 20 years, when City Council would be able to vote to stop it. The entire program is currently estimated at \$8 billion.

Read the proposal at <http://themightywizard.com/RenewHoustonPetition.pdf>

What’s to like:

- Everyone pays
- The “average” homeowner will pay an estimated \$60 per year and the “average” commercial property will pay \$1,080 per year,
- Doesn’t violate the revenue caps in the Houston City Charter
- Everyone gets new streets and drainage
- \$125 million will be available for projects the first year!
- A METRO Board member, Allan Watson, favors this and promoted Renew Houston
- No more bond financing for streets and drainage projects in the city of Houston
- Fees will be based on square footage covered by impermeable surface
- Developers pay “their fair share” (impact fee)

What’s not to like:

- NO exemptions: schools, nonprofits, and homeowners will carry most of the load
- No restriction on increases in the future
- The fee is regressive (i.e., not tied to the value of the property, so everyone pays the same)
- More money is more money, and a tax is a tax; this is equivalent to a 13% tax increase
- The main beneficiaries will be the civil engineering firms that bankrolled Renew Houston
- METRO isn’t paying the City of Houston the 18% sales taxes it collects, and the additional \$\$ will put the City in a better position to continue to waive those required METRO payments so METRO can continue floating bonds for light rail (more Danger Trains, anyone?)
- Houston City Council still has to come up with the details and amount of the fees
- New housing will be pricier (especially inside The Loop), and will ultimately make Houston a more expensive place to live
- The City of Houston faces a \$100+ million budget deficit in 2010 and again in 2011 and we’re in the middle of a RECESSION!



Barbara Bush Literacy Project



Presenting the book to Karen Hayes, Branch Librarian, is Patricia Fortune, Community Outreach Chair.

The Mamie Eisenhower Library Project celebrates more than forty-five years of Republican Women donating books, from an approved list, to schools and libraries all over the United States. The Village Republican Women selected the Spring Branch Memorial Library on Corbindale in Hedwig Village to receive *America: The Last Best Hope. Volume 1: From the Age of Discovery to a World at War*. The author is the former Secretary of Education under President Ronald Reagan, William J. Bennett.

Village Republican Women News

Did you receive this newsletter via email? If yes, you are in the loop and will automatically receive all news, updates, meeting reminders, event announcements and candidate information.

However, if you downloaded this newsletter from the website or it was forwarded to you or you received it in the mail, we encourage you to subscribe to the VRW News. Members should email webmaster@villagerepublicanwomen.org with instructions to subscribe.

If you are not a member, we are happy to keep you up to date with our activities. Simply go to www.VillageRepublicanWomen.org, scroll to the bottom of the page and fill out the form.