



Partnership

SPRING 2006

An Education Link with the Birdville ISD Community

All State band and choir students



Twenty-three BISD high school students were selected as All-State Band and All-State Choir members for 2006. These students performed in various bands and choirs at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio in February.

All State Choir Members - Jacqui Condray, Rachel Freeze and Molly Woodruff, Haltom High; Kelsey Hoar and Jillian Klaver, Richland High; and Brendan Fisher, Anni Freeman, Nick Hagen, Jade Kelly, Jeff Southerland and Collin Swafford, Birdville High.

All State Band Members - Haley Brazell, Ellen Briggs, Johnny Burrell, Heather Townson, Anne Thompson and Josh Withem, Haltom High; Jordan Standlee, Richland High; and Elliott Crouch, Heather Jackson, Curtis McConnell, Ryan Richmond and Tanner Trigg, Birdville High.

BISD presents "Birdville at the Bass" featuring combined middle school cluster choirs and all three high school varsity mixed choirs. This special event begins at 7 p.m. on April 25. Tickets are available at basshall.com. For information, call 817.547.5742.

BISD bond projects are... *results in action*

On September 10, 2005, voters approved \$40.315 million in bonds to be used for renovations and technology upgrades in the district. Proposition II included adding and/or replacing fire alarm systems at selected campuses, adding digital security systems at the elementary and middle schools (all high schools currently have digital security systems), removing miscellaneous asbestos as required by other renovations, and replacing carpet with vinyl flooring. In addition, the plan includes some structural renovations and provides the necessary electrical capacity and adequate Heating Ventilation/Air-conditioning (HVAC) to accommodate classroom computers and network equipment. (Campuses receiving the above mentioned renovations are listed on page 2.)

Those campuses that were a part of Proposition I in the September election were not included in Proposition II. The district did not duplicate the amount requested in the bond election by asking for the same items in Proposition I and II. Therefore, those campuses that would have been consolidated, closed or rebuilt did not receive money for renovations.

Proposition II does include money for computer and network equipment replacement and upgrades on each campus and additional cabling at selected campuses. (The computers will be purchased with short-term bonds.) (See Bond, page 2)



For health reasons, carpeting will be replaced with vinyl flooring.



Aging fire alarm systems will be replaced.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Superintendent's Exchange Page 2
- Bond Committee Update Page 3
- Highlights Page 4-5
- Surveys/TAKS Results. Page 6
- Financial Facts Page 7
- New Web site/B-News. Page 8

Upcoming Surveys

- Communications Survey- April 17-May 8
- Curriculum and Instruction Division Parent Survey - Late Spring 2006
- Safety Survey - April 17-May 8
- (See Survey, page 6)

An Education Link with the
Birdville ISD Community
Partnership

Published for the BISD community by the
Communications Office
Administration Building
6125 East Belknap Haltom City, Texas
76117-4204 817.547.5719
www.birdville.k12.tx.us

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President Dolores Webb
Vice President Ralph Kunkel
Sherry Dunn
David Pokluda
Wanda F. Strong

Stephen F. Waddell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Jay C. Thompson, Ph.D.
*Associate Superintendent
for Staff and Student Services*

Mark Thomas
Communications Officer
Partnership Editor

Stephanie Carter
Publications Specialist

Brenda Ryan and Kim Kirby
Assistants

Member of the Texas School
Public Relations Association

BIRDVILLE ISD MISSION

“BISD, in partnership with the community, pursues educational excellence and dedicates its resources to create a learning environment that encourages all students to become productive citizens and lifelong learners in a global society.”

**Annual Asbestos Notification:
2005-06 School Year**

Birdville Independent School District (BISD) is committed to providing a safe environment for our students, patrons, faculty and staff, and has made every effort to be in compliance with: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 40 CFR Part 763 Asbestos, Subpart E, “Asbestos-Containing-Materials in Schools”.

In accordance with 40 CFR, Part 763.84(c), you are hereby notified that an Asbestos Management Plan developed by an accredited asbestos management planner is in-place for every BISD facility. Each management plan was duly filed in accordance with section 763.93 on or before October 12, 1988 with the Texas Department of Health. A copy of the management plan is maintained in the administrative office of each facility and in the Buildings and Grounds office located at 6119 East Belknap Street, Haltom City, Texas 76117. Summaries of the response actions taken by the District are included in each management plan. The complete documentation of all response actions is available for review in the Buildings and Grounds Department offices during regular business hours. Qualified BISD personnel perform semi-annual inspections throughout the district. Every three years, Birdville hires accredited and licensed asbestos inspectors to re-inspect all areas. The most recent re-inspection was conducted in December 2003.

Superintendent's Exchange...



I am fortunate that an important part of my job gives me an opportunity to observe student excellence in academics, athletics and fine arts. A second grade class at North Ridge Elementary competed to explain their charts to me that showed progress in academics and class goals. High school students from Birdville, Richland, Haltom and Shannon shared with me in focus group discussions personal and stirring stories about their engagement in the work they do at school. From elementary to high school, I hear students describe how they want to learn; they want their work to challenge them; and, they want their work to be relevant and authentic.

Live performances epitomize the relevance and authenticity students seek in their learning. In February, I was never so proud of a sterling student performance as I was when the Birdville High School Chorale and the Smithfield Middle School Varsity Treble Choir performed at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio. These talented students rocked the house with their inspiring musical numbers. In fact, music educators from across the state remarked that the performance of the combined secondary choirs from BISD ranked among the best they had ever heard. They are an example of our performing groups across the district.

Yet another spectacular musical performance from Birdville ISD students will occur in *Birdville at the Bass* at 7 p.m. on April 25. This special evening at the Bass Performance Hall in downtown Fort Worth features middle school cluster choirs and all three high school varsity mixed choirs. The public is invited. Plan now to purchase your tickets by phoning the Bass Performance Hall directly at 817.212.4325 or by ordering them online at: <http://www.basshall.com/eventsnew.jsp?selDate=4/25/2006>.

Please join me in celebrating BISD students.
I look forward to seeing you at the Bass.



Prop II addresses miscellaneous electrical and fire alarm upgrades.

BISD bond projects are... *results in action (Cont.)*

A complete list of renovations is available on the district Web site at www.birdville.k12.tx.us.

Positive results of your bond dollars can be seen throughout Birdville ISD. The bond study committee is working to develop a long-range plan and a possible bond package for November.

Campuses receiving renovations under Proposition II

Elementary Campuses

- The Academy at C.F. Thomas
- Foster Village
- Green Valley
- Hardeman
- Holiday Heights
- North Ridge
- Porter
- Richland
- Spicer
- Watauga

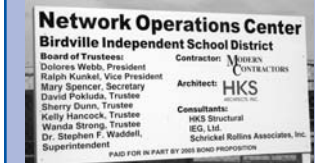
The Academy at West Birdville

Middle Schools

- Haltom
- North Oaks
- North Richland
- North Ridge
- Richland
- Smithfield
- Watauga

High Schools

- Birdville
- Haltom
- Shannon



Construction on the network operating center began in February.

Bond committee update

Debbie Tribble, Ph.D. - Facilitator



On January 10, 2006, the 64-member Birdville ISD Bond Committee had its first meeting at the Fine Arts/Athletic Complex. The Committee received this charge from the Superintendent, Dr. Stephen F. Waddell:



- No consolidation of schools;
- If the committee recommends a bond election, it should not exceed \$110 million;
- And, the committee will set the date for a future bond election.



The committee began its work enthusiastically agreeing on the following statements:

- The district has serious facilities needs;
- The needs of our children are our highest priorities;
- Finally, if nothing changes, the quality of education in our district could deteriorate; and our community could suffer economic and residential decline.

The committee divided itself into three sub-committees: an instruction committee; facilities committee; and a finance committee/public relations. The committee received information on building capacity, career and technology, fine arts, athletics, as well as school size and student outcomes.

On February 6, the committee heard the results of a local telephone survey, which included, in part, the willingness of the community to support future bond packages. Finally, on February 16, each sub-committee brought a report to the general bond committee as well as a preliminary tax rate impact analysis presented by RBC Capital Markets.



BISD's bond study committee voted to recommend to the board of trustees that the school district call a bond election for November 2006.

"With input from every committee member, each person was given the opportunity to choose a May or November election," committee member Rosemary Christensen said. "The process was fair and everyone's opinion was respected and consensus was reached to work hard to put together a package that represents what is best for the children of BISD."

The committee continues to study all materials in order to propose an appropriate plan to BISD's board of trustees and voters. Their work will continue until they have prioritized the district facilities needs. After completing their work, the final proposed plan will be brought as a recommendation to the board of trustees for approval.

Information on the final plan will be presented through the media, on the district's Web site, in community meetings, and through publications mailed to the community.

BISD wants to keep our community informed on the process of the committee. All agendas, minutes and handouts are available for access to the community on the district's Web site at www.birdville.k12.tx.us under "2006 Bond Study Information."



During the 2005-06 school year, Birdville ISD will administer the following federal programs to students who live within district boundaries.

- Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs)
- Title II, Part A (Teacher and Principal Training and Recruitment Fund)
- Title II, Part D (Enhancing Education through Technology)
- Title III (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students)
- Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Community Act)
- Title V (Innovative Education Program Strategies)
- IDEA-B (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Representatives of privately-educated students interested in participating in any of these programs may contact Dr. Betty Grubbs, director of special services, at 817.547.5740 or by e-mail at Betty_Grubbs@birdville.k12.tx.us.

Business Partners

The following business partners were recognized at recent board meetings: **Karen Bumgardner**, Grapevine-Colleyville Southlake Mom's League; **City Manager Tom Muir and the City of Haltom City; Best Buy; Georgette Radford**, Barnes and Noble Booksellers; **Rhonda Richardson**, Chick-fil-A, Hurst; and **Herb Williams**, Liberty Carton Company.

District Highlights



Richland High School band directors were recognized for their leadership. Richland placed seventh at the Bands of America Grand Nationals in Indianapolis. RHS's band is under the direction of Bill Watson.



Birdville High School band directors were recognized for their leadership. Birdville placed fourth at the 4A State Marching Contest in San Antonio. BHS's band is under the direction of Brian Gibbs.

Congratulations to North Oaks Middle School teacher Carolyn Hedgecock for winning the story competition with Web English Teacher.



Birdville High School's tennis coach, Celina Burris, and cross country coach, Eddie Brown, were recognized for winning District 4-A championships.

BISD's 2006 Teachers of the Year nominees are: Darla Hatcher, Birdville Elementary; Michelle Hughes, David E. Smith Elementary; Janet Wood, W.T. Francisco Elementary; Bob Bess, Jack C. Binion Elementary; Sarah Upchurch, Alliene Mullendore Elementary; Kay Waisanen, Richland Elementary; Annette Osborn, Smithfield Elementary; Connie Donahue, Snow Heights Elementary; Melinda McConathy, South Birdville Elementary; Jacy Epperson, O.H. Stowe Elementary; Lisa Wagoner, Academy at West Birdville; Claudia Ownby, Holiday Heights Elementary; Trish Henderson, Watauga Elementary; Melissa Minix, Grace E. Hardeman Elementary; Cynthia Dalton, W.A. Porter Elementary; Beverly Ellis, Academy at Carrie F. Thomas; Lisa Holder, Foster Village Elementary; Debbie Nauck, North Ridge Elementary; Karen Oseguera, John D. Spicer Elementary; Heather Madis, Green Valley Elementary; Cheryl Schwaebler, Walker Creek Elementary; David Holland, Haltom Middle School; Mark Biggs, North Richland Middle School; Matthew Cho, Richland Middle School; Angela Esstman, North Oaks Middle School; Heather Blum, Watauga Middle School; Amy Keener, Smithfield Middle School; Mary Barwinkel, North Ridge Middle School; Mike Moore, Haltom High School; Fursey Gotuaco, Richland High School; Karen Seimears, Shannon Learning Center; and Pam Bach, Birdville High School. The district's elementary, middle, and high school teachers of the year will be named on May 4 at the 2006 Golden Gala.

Score A Goal in the Classroom recognized BISD cafeteria workers Linda Johnson, Jane Barnette, Connie Soto, Paula Beltran, Ana Estrella, Jackie McGee, Amal Abdel-Fattah, Nancy Reyes, Lisa Wood, Kammy Rogers and Susan Cheatham came as "Heroes of the Lunchroom." These outstanding cafeteria workers were nominated as "Heroes of the Lunchroom" by their cafeteria managers. They received box seats to the rodeo where they were honored.



Congratulations to BISD's spelling bee winners: 1st Place - David Wennersten, 2nd Place - Sean Donohue, and 3rd Place - Elizabeth Paz.

Birdville Council of PTA's recently honored students who won at the PTA Council level of the annual Reflections Arts Program. Reflection winners include:



VISUAL ARTS - Madeline Duggins, Porter Elementary; Breanna Lucas, North Ridge Elementary; Hannah Fitch, Porter Elementary; Matthew Fitch, Porter Elementary; Madison Malmstrom, Porter Elementary; Alek Le, Foster Village Elementary; Natanael de la Cruz, North Oaks Middle; Reginald Whitney, North Oaks Middle; Kayla Smith, Smithfield Middle; Joanita Namara, Birdville High; Zachary Howell, Birdville High; and Amy Roden, Richland High.



LITERATURE - Caleb Plankey, The Academy at C. F. Thomas; Ross Alison, Hardeman Elementary; Victoria Enrriques, The Academy at C.F. Thomas; Meredith Gebo, Porter Elementary; Charlie Wang, Foster Village Elementary; Cameron Gailes, Hardeman Elementary; Sarah Brown, Smithfield Middle; McLaine Thomas, Smithfield Middle; Hannah Bradley, North Ridge Middle; Sharlyn Biscamp, Richland High; Lauren Woodside, Birdville High; and Gena Smith, Birdville High.



MUSIC - Erin McClure, Porter Elementary; Evan Hill, Hardeman Elementary; Hallie McGee, North Ridge Elementary; and Jacob Collins, Foster Village Elementary.



PHOTOGRAPHY - Jared Burlison, Walker Creek Elementary; Connor McClure, Porter Elementary; Robert Husbenet, North Ridge Elementary; Taylor Clift, North Ridge Elementary; Brooke Settlemyre, Hardeman Elementary; Madison Malmstrom, Porter Elementary; Paige Burroughs, Smithfield Middle; Marshall McGee, North Ridge Middle; Dayna Freeman, Birdville High; Lydia McIntosh, Richland High; and Elizabeth Thorn, Birdville High.

Did you know?

Birdville ISD has the **second lowest** combined tax rate in Tarrant County.

\$1.617
(Per \$100 value)

BISD owes the second least amount of debt **per student** in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

\$8,712

Birdville ISD spends more than **65 percent** of their annual operating budget on instruction.



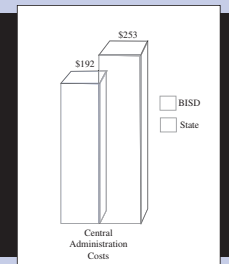
BISD received the Texas Education Agency's highest rating for financial responsibility.

"Superior Achievement"

BISD spends an average of \$63 less **per student** in central administrative costs than the State average.

BISD - \$192
State - \$253

(Source: 2005 AEIS Report)



BISD Foundation continues with rich history of supporting innovative programs

The Birdville ISD Foundation for Educational Excellence (FEE) has awarded more than \$507,000 since 1997 to support innovative programs throughout the district. Programs that support students and staff beyond the district's annual operating budget.

For more than nine years, the FEE has funded programs including the establishment of an elementary Spanish program, a library theatre program, a parent partners in literacy program, and a unit for experiencing forms of energy. Grants have also funded uniforms for students, teacher of the year awards, the district's curriculum audit, Birdville Council of PTA's Clothes Connection, and the Superintendent's Scholar program.

"BISD's Foundation is committed to supporting innovative teaching in the classroom and in providing students with an exciting and enriching learning environment," says C. A. Sanford, executive director of the Foundation. "These grants provide teachers with dollars needed to help their instructional dreams take flight."

BISD seeks community input

Birdville ISD is seeking community input on three surveys in the areas of communications, curriculum and instruction, and safety. The surveys will be used to evaluate and modify district programs. Links to these surveys are on the front page of the district's Web site at www.birdville.k12.tx.us. In addition, there will be a limited number of paper surveys available in each school office. Surveys being conducted are:

Communications Survey

The Communications Survey is being conducted to receive feedback concerning the district's efforts to communicate with the community. It also measures the level of satisfaction with the different media used.

Survey Timeline: April 17-May 8

Curriculum and Instruction Division Parent Survey

The Curriculum and Instruction Division Parent Survey will be conducted for the second time. Respondents are asked to provide feedback to the district regarding their level of satisfaction with the instructional programs of the district, how they receive information about academic programs, their level of satisfaction with their child's progress, and any expansions or additions they recommend within current financial resources.

Survey Timeline: Late Spring 2006

Safety Survey

The Safety Survey is also being conducted for the second time. Measuring student, parent and staff levels of satisfaction and/or concerns regarding school safety is a district goal. This survey will be used to monitor and address concerns raised in the results.

Survey Timeline: April 17-May 8

Third- and fifth-grade students' preliminary TAKS scores show progress

Third- and fifth-grade students from across the state took the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) reading test in February. The district has received preliminary results of the first administration of the test showing BISD students scoring above the state average at the commended performance level.

The state requires that students pass this test in order to promote to the next grade level. Third-grade students must pass the TAKS reading test, while fifth-grade students must pass the TAKS reading and math tests.

Overall, third-grade students passed at the same level as those from across the state. The district had 1,581 students take the tests with 87 percent passing. BISD is proud that 46 percent of our students scored at the very top of the test earning them the honor of "commended performance."

TAKS Commended Performance is the highest performance level set by the State Board of Education on the TAKS. Students who achieve commended performance have performed at a level that is considerably above the state passing standard and have shown a thorough understanding of the knowledge and skills at the grade level tested. BISD is

well above the state average for third-grade students earning the commended performance.

Fifth-grade student scores were higher than the state average. The district had 1,498 students take the test in February with 85 percent passing the reading portion. Of those passing the test, 24 percent earned the prestigious "commended scholar." Again, more fifth-graders in the district passed and earned commended performance than the state average.

The district will continue to work with those students who did not pass the TAKS the first time. The state offers two additional opportunities for students to pass the TAKS. They are in May and July.

In preparation for the retest, campuses are working with each individual student to help prepare them for the May test. Communication with parents, tutoring, and community volunteers helping at schools will play a vital part in the success of these students.

Individual campus scores are available on the district's Web site at www.birdville.k12.tx.us.

Grade 3 Reading (English and Spanish)

	Students tested	% passed	% Commended Performance
District	1,581	87%	46%
State	313,402	88%	41%

Grade 5 Reading (English and Spanish)

	Students tested	% passed	% Commended Performance
District	1,498	85%	24%
State	299,604	80%	22%

Facts about your school taxes

During the past year, misinformation has been circulated throughout the BISD community concerning finances in BISD. The district is striving to provide information to the public that is clear and factual.

Each fall BISD sets a tax rate based on the laws of the State of Texas. Under that law, for the 2005-06 school year, Birdville ISD is considered a "property poor" district. That means that BISD is not required to send any portion of its local tax revenue to the State under Robin Hood.

The district receives funds from the following sources to pay for the annual budget:

2005-06 School Year:

State Funds	25.0% *
Local Taxes	65.0%
(Because of decreased State funding, this amount continues to increase each year.)	
Other Local Sources	10.0%
(Federal Funds, Reserve)	

* **Declining State Revenues:** The decline in State revenue has been offset in part by the rise in local property taxes. Though BISD is still considered "property poor" by the State, the district is gradually becoming a wealthier district due to increasing property values and a slow student growth rate. Under the current State finance plan, as BISD becomes wealthier, state dollars decrease.

Since the 1999-2000 school year, state funding has decreased from 44 percent to 29 percent in 2004-05.

Each year, the board of trustees sets a tax rate comprised of two parts. One part is for maintenance and operations (M&O) and the other is for voter-approved debt called interest and sinking (I&S).

Maintenance and Operations (M&O) - Monies raised through the M&O tax rate may be used to pay for any district purpose such as salaries, utilities, facilities maintenance, instructional programs, fine arts/athletics programs and supplies-to name a few. State law limits a school district's M&O rate to \$1.50 per \$100 value. The M&O tax rate for the 2005-06 school year is \$1.465.

Debt Service, or Interest and Sinking (I&S) Funds - Monies raised from the I&S tax can only be used to pay the debt on bonds approved by citizens. By law, I&S funds cannot be used for salaries, utilities, or any other purpose. State law limits a school district's I&S rate to 50 cents.

BISD tax rate since 1997:

Year	1997 -98	1998 -99	1999 -00	2000 -01	2001 -02	2002 -03	2003 -04	2004 -05	2005 -06
M&O	1.20131	1.30145	1.38070	1.41630	1.4198	1.4550	1.4550	1.4650	1.4650
I & S	0.299	0.237	0.152	0.154	0.150	0.162	0.162	0.152 *	0.152 *
Total	\$1.5005	1.5385	1.5325	1.5698	1.5698	1.617	1.617	1.617	1.617

*Reserve funds were used to keep the rate lower than what was needed to make the annual debt payment.

For the 2006-07 school year, BISD expects the I&S tax rate to increase to approximately \$0.225 per \$100 value (an increase of about 7.3 cents) due to the sale of bonds approved by voters in the 1993 and 1996 bond elections. This scheduled increase has nothing to do with the Sept. 10, 2006 bond election.

With this increase, the district's I&S rate will be substantially lower than what was projected in 1996. Since the 2003-04 school year, the district has set an I&S tax rate, which is 30 cents less than the taxpayers were told when they approved the 1996 bonds.

Table comparing projected rates from 1996 bond election to actual rates set by BISD

Year	1997 -98	1998 -99	1999 -00	2000 -01	2001 -02	2002 -03	2003 -04	2004 -05	2005 -06
Projected	0.329	0.350	0.375	0.400	0.425	0.451	0.476	0.456	0.456
Actual	0.299	0.237	0.152	0.154	0.150	0.162	0.162	0.152	0.152
Difference	0.03	0.113	0.123	0.246	0.275	0.289	0.314	0.304	0.304

Over the past two years, the district has subsidized the I&S rate from its reserve funds instead of raising taxes. In 2005-06, the district subsidized the I&S rate by more than \$2 million from reserves funds-saving taxpayers approximately 4.5 cents on the tax rate.

The tax rate is set each year in August and depends on the taxable values of the district and the amount, if any, of unbudgeted reserve money the district may use to subsidize the rate. In 2007-08, the district expects an additional I&S tax increase of about 6.8 cents due to the 2005 bonds that were approved by voters on Sept. 10, 2005 and sold in January 2006; that increase is expected to raise the total I&S rate to a maximum of \$0.293 per \$100 valuation.

BISD takes great pride in the excellent reputation the district has enjoyed for its outstanding financial management of fiscal resources and is proud to have sold the 2006 bonds approved by voters in September 2005 at a low interest rate of 3.94 percent, saving taxpayers approximately \$1.7 million.

Additional information on BISD's finances is available online at www.birdville.k12.tx.us.

Projected BISD tax rate

Year	2006 -07	2007 -08	2008 -09
M&O	1.465	1.465	1.465
I&S	0.225	0.293	0.293
Total	1.69	1.758	1.758

BISD has new offerings for the community



District offers new user-friendly Web site

Providing a centralized location where parents, students, staff and community members come to find accurate information is the goal of Birdville ISD. The district's new design was developed so visitors can access information easier. Each of the key pages contains links to significant sites as well as up-to-date article and data about students, staff and the general district.

In addition to providing a more dynamic Web site, the district has provided a means for the community to submit feedback. When feedback is received it will be forwarded to the appropriate department or campus for review. It is important to BISD to keep the lines of communications open between the district and the community. Due to the number of e-mails received, the person submitting their question/comment may not receive a written response.

News for the BISD community



BISD is expanding communications to the community through an online electronic newsletter. "B-News" provides subscribers important weather related closings and delays as well as late breaking news. In addition, the newsletter contains public meeting notices and links to school calendars, online meal payments, athletic schedules, etc. To subscribe, go to www.birdville.k12.tx.us and join the "B-News" mailing list.

All graduation ceremonies will be held at: The Fort Worth Convention Center		
May 28	Halton High School	1:30 p.m.
May 28	Richland High School	4:30 p.m.
May 28	Birdville High School	7:30 p.m.

Graduation Schedule

Birdville Independent School District
6125 East Belknap
Halton City, Texas 76117-4204



Non-Profit Organ.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fort Worth TX
Permit No. 35
Standard Pre-Sort