

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul A. Hofmann, City Manager
Date: May 27, 2022
Subject: Weekly Memo, May 23 – May 27, 2022



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New Motorola Body-Worn Cameras

The Bastrop Police Department, with assistance from the IT Department, has implemented new Motorola body-worn cameras. The new system was purchased using funding from the FY 2022 budget with a partial grant of about \$12,000 from the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant. The new camera system will allow officers and administration to navigate the system more simply and efficiently. Most importantly, the new cameras will enhance safety, transparency, and community trust.

TXDot Loop 150 improvements

The Loop 150 (Chestnut Street) mill and overlay project runs from State Highway 71 to State Highway 95 and is scheduled to take 24 days with a start date of June 5. This project is scheduled to be performed at night from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily. The project will include full-depth repair where needed.

TxDot State Highway 21 (and 71) Improvements

The Highway 21/71 project is also a mill and overlay and runs from West of FM 20 to Childers Drive and is scheduled to take 54 days with a start date of July 10. This project is scheduled to be performed at night from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily.

Pavement Condition Index

Applied Pavement came out on May 18 and 19 and administered the City's Pavement Condition Index (PCI) to gather data on the conditions of all the City streets. They concluded their data collection on May 19 and are putting together a report of their findings. They are anticipating to have the report to the City by mid-July.

Exciting Library News!

Tuesday, May 31 is the start of the Summer Reading Program, Oceans of Possibilities. There will be activities each day, May 31 – June 4, to kick off the eight-week program.

Additionally, library patrons can now enjoy more items for a longer checkout period. Our item limit will increase from 15 items to 20 items per card and the loan period will go from a two-week loan period to a three-week period. These changes were initiated by the Library Advisory Board. Lastly, 10 new hotspots are now available for check out. These new devices double the library's hotspot total and will allow increased service to the community.

Citizen Comments from May 24 Council Meeting

Comments were made during the May 24 Council meeting about not being made aware of sign code requirements. During review of the First National Bank (712 Spring Street) Certificate of Appropriateness, Planning Director Jennifer Bills pointed out that the signage shown on the plan did not meet the code

(attached). Ultimately, the site development plan clearly stated that all signage was reviewed and approved on a separate sign permit.

Partnership with Bastrop State Park

The City's Recreation Manager would like to share that the Bastrop State Park pool is tentatively scheduled for opening on June 14. The recruitment of lifeguards has been a challenge and caused the delay. The State Park was able to hire a minimal number of staff to operate in a limited capacity. The pool will be open to the public on Friday and Saturday afternoons with City of Bastrop water programming scheduled during the week. The Recreation Program will offer water safety instructional programs and water aerobics classes weekday mornings, Tuesday through Friday. The pool will be closed Sunday and Mondays.

City Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 30. The 20th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony – "Remembering Those Who Served," Hosted by Bastrop High School NJROTC, VFW Posts 2527, 6115, and 12104, will take place at Fairview Cemetery at 10 AM. The ceremony is "rain or shine" and includes a flyover and Laying of the Wreath.

Future Agenda Items

June 14, 2022

- Public Hearing and action on amendments to water/wastewater impact fees
- Consider amendments to Council Focus Areas
- Consider creation of Community Support funding committee
- Receive presentation on current status of Convention Center hotel project

June 28, 2022

- Public Hearing and Action on Hunters Crossing PID service plan and assessment levy
- Consider amendments to Council Rules of Procedure

July 12, 2022

- Presentation from organizations applying for FY2023 Community Support funding

July 26, 2022

- Submittal of City Manager's proposed FY 2023 Budget
- Presentation on Solid Waste Contract

Attachments

- June 2022 Library Newsletter
- New Library Circulation Information
- Corrections List for 712 Spring Street
- TML Legislative Update



Library Currents

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BASTROP PUBLIC LIBRARY



IN THIS ISSUE

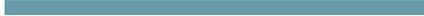
No 1-800 Phone Call Required



Book and Plant Sale a Success!



Meet Amie!



Take the Fun Home With You



Oceans of Possibilities



June StoryWalk®



We Suggest



Stay up-to-date with everything happening at the library by following us on Facebook and Instagram!

No 1-800 Phone Call Required

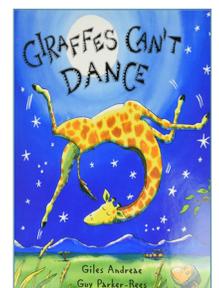
Do you remember those commercials from the 90's where the voiceover is telling you how great Big Top Cupcakes or Zoobooks or PillowPets or whatever they are selling is and as they're flashing the 1-800 phone number on the screen they say, "But we're not done yet!" and they talk about what you get in addition to the product when you place an order?

coughs and clears throat to find announcer voice When you get a library card at Bastrop Public Library, not ONLY do you have access to 38,764 books; 4,922 DVD's; 3,983 audiobooks and music CD's; 30,406 ebooks and audiobooks; 49 magazine publications; 65 cake pans; 34 literacy bags; 10 hotspots; and more, NOW you can check out 20 items per card AND have them for three weeks! No 1-800 phone call required! These changes will start Tuesday, May 31st to coincide with the beginning of Oceans of Possibilities, the 2022 Summer Reading Program.

adjusts volume back to inside voice since this is a library, afterall These changes were spearheaded by the Library Advisory Board and Library Director Bonnie Pierson; make sure to tell them thank you for more items and for longer checkout times the next time you see them!

June StoryWalk®

A new StoryWalk® will be available on the switchback behind the library down into Fisherman's Park in June! Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae will give readers young and old the opportunity to feel proud of their interests and talents. And reading this counts toward your 500-minutes summer reading goal, so make sure you log your minutes after visiting!



Book and Plant Sale a Success!

Thank you to the Friend of the Bastrop Public Library, Lost Pines Garden Club, and everyone who came to the Book and Plant Sale April 29th and 30th. The sale was a huge success, bringing in \$3,307 for the Friends and \$6,000 for the Garden Club. The funds raised at the sale come to the library to provide programs for the summer, and to purchase material for the collection.

The library staff is truly grateful to the Friends of the Library and the Lost Pines Garden Club for their support and continued commitment to making the library better for everyone.



Meet Amie!

Amie Cuvelier comes to us from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, where she did a variety of work. She is currently enrolled in Texas Woman's University online Master of Library science program. You'll see her at the Circulation and Information Desks, but she is also behind the scenes, working hard to keep the info about every book, audiobook, DVD, and every other item up to date in the catalog. Be sure to give her a big Bastrop welcome when you see her around the library!

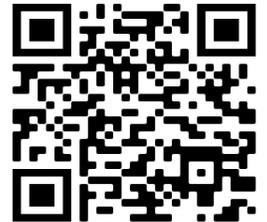


Oceans of Possibilities

Summer Reading 2022 is here! Every reader (no matter their age!) who logs 500 minutes will earn a free book and an entry in the grand prize basket drawing of their choice.

You can find out more about summer reading in last month's newsletter article and take a look at frequently asked questions on our website in the summer reading tab. The first day to register is Tuesday, May 31, and you can do so in-person in the Children's Area or online at bastroplibrary.org and click on the summer reading tab, or by scanning the QR code with the camera app on your smart device. There will be special activities each day during Opening Week to celebrate a summer full of fun possibilities and to receive entries into a special prize basket!

You can find all the programs happening this summer by looking at the calendar on the website. Make sure you log your minutes all summer long! Prize books will be available for pick-up June 14- August 13 in the Children's Area.



Take the Fun Home with You

No time to attend library programs? Don't worry! We've got activities for all ages this summer that you can take home or do in the library whenever you have the time!

For kids, Question of the Week is back! Kids can visit the Children's Area, find the answers to the challenging and not-so-challenging questions, earn some extra minutes for their reading logs, AND get an ocean-themed temporary tattoo. If the answer is correct, they'll get their name in a weekly drawing for an extra book from the prize books cart!

Kids can also pick up newly created Book and Craft take-home kits. These kits include one picture book and a small craft that pairs with the story. You keep your masterpieces and return the book when you're done! These will be available in the Children's Area all summer. New Puzzle Packs are available for adults this summer! There will be a new pack every other week beginning May 31st. These packets can be picked up on top of the New Adult Book shelf.

Keep your brain sharp with a sudoku, crossword, or word search. Coloring pages are also available at the bulletin board across from the restrooms.

For teens, a new opinion poll will be up every two weeks in the Teen Room. These polls are created by a teen volunteer, and it's always fun to see which wave the trends ride!



1100 CHURCH ST.
BASTROP, TX 78602



We Suggest!

Staff

Bonnie Pierson, Director

Amie Cuvelier, Librarian,
Technical Services & Circulation

Bethany Dietrich, Public Services
Librarian

Carmen Serna, Children's
Services Associate

Catherine Lombardo, Library
Associate, Circulation, &
Volunteer Services

Kat Durham, Library Associate,
Public Services

Ronnie Nunez, Executive
Administrative Assistant

Sheila Bowman, Administrative
Services

Ronni Nunez, Executive
Administrative Assistant

Hours

Mon. Wed. Fri.
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Tues. & Thurs.
1:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Sat.
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed Sunday

Contact Us

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1100 Church St.
Bastrop, TX 78602

bastroplibrary.org
info@bastroplibrary.org



A service of the
City of Bastrop

All of this month's suggestions come from summer reading 2021 reviews! You can write reviews in Beanstack, too, and be published in upcoming newsletters! Year-round, we also accept suggestions to Bastrop readers at info@bastroplibrary.org.

Santos R., 4.5 years old

***Noisy Night* by Mac Barnett**

Great book for beginner readers and those learning to talk! Together, we practiced making sounds and moving our lips and tongue. We learned new words and really took our time viewing the amazing illustrations, too.

Find it: E Bar

Lydia H., 8 years old

***Snow White Lucks Out* by Joan Holub**

My favorite part was when her Step-mom, the Evil Witch, gave her a new pair of sneakers because her laces broke and she fell back into a bush. It was silly.

Find it: JF Hol

Rebekah M., 12.5 years old

***The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan**

After reading the Percy Jackson series, I decided to give the Kane Chronicles a try. I absolutely loved this first one. It switches from the point of view of Carter and Sadie, which at times can be a bit tricky and confusing, but I still give it a 10/10.

Find it: JF Rio + Libby ebooks

Cheryl B., adult

***When the Stars Go Dark* by Paula McLain**

I never read crime dramas/mystery/thrillers. But this really kept my attention. Great writing!

Find it: MYS McL + CD Book F McL + Libby ebooks

Isabel F., adult

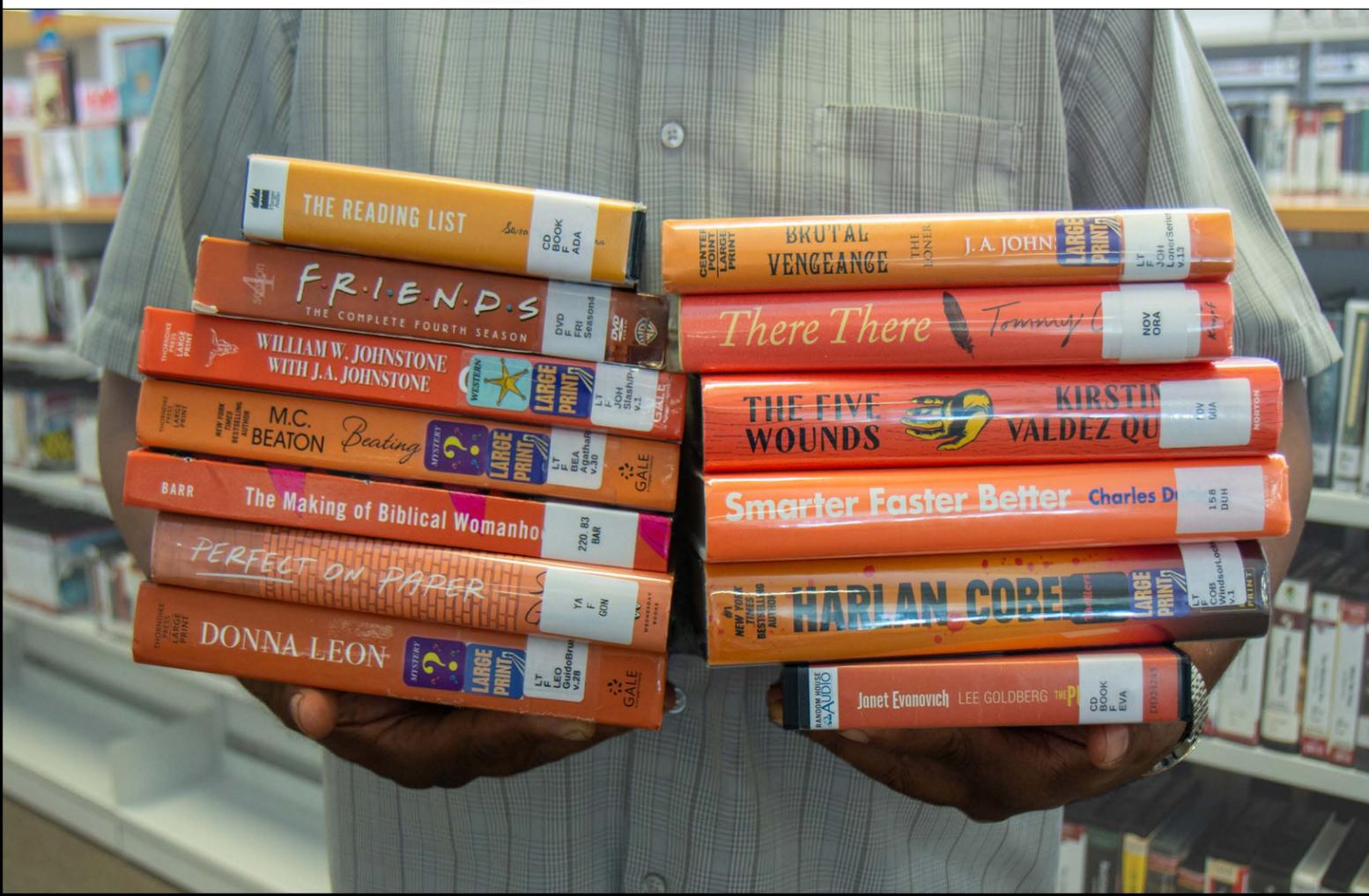
***Dark Horses* by Susan Mihalic**

Dark Horses was true to its name and it was indeed dark. The author did a great job researching horse competitions and the care of horses, and I loved the personalities of all the horses. The human characters on the other hand were troubling. Things are not what they seem, and, once you realize what lies beneath the happy exterior, that poison permeates into the rest of the interactions. What is read cannot be unread. The book contains disturbing material that may be triggering or difficult for some to read. However, it is a book that stays with you, and I couldn't put it down.

Find it: NOV Mih + Libby ebooks

** This is a physical copy of our electronic newsletter. If you'd like to receive the electronic version, please email us at infor@bastroplibrary.org.**

WOW!
MORE ITEMS!
MORE TIME!



Now check out **20** items per card
AND have them for **three** weeks!

Begins Tuesday, May 31st

These changes were spearheaded by the
Bastrop Library Advisory Board!



Signage Permit required [B³ Code Chapter 8

Article 8.3 c)]

By: Jennifer Bills

02/24/2021 at 7:29 PM

CORRECTED

As this is not in the Bastrop Commercial District, signage is not reviewed by HLC. For sign review, please submit a Band Permit application in MyGov.

Normal

Please review the attached sign regulations. A building with only a street-facing facade is only allowed one band sign on the front of the building.

Additionally, letter height on the band sign cannot exceed 18 inches and total sign height cannot exceed 3 feet.

Any variance from the sign code would require a variance approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

TML LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



May 27, 2022
Number 21

Texas Primary Runoff Election Results

This week, Texans finalized their party nominees who will face off in the November general election. The Republican primary runoff included three statewide elected offices: attorney general, land commissioner, and railroad commissioner. On the Democratic side, four statewide offices had a runoff: lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, and comptroller.

The full election results can be found [here](#).

TML Legislative Advocacy Toolkit

The League has prepared an [advocacy toolkit](#) to provide the resources, tools, and training to help city officials successfully advocate at the Capitol. The toolkit contains information on:

- The Texas legislative process;
- Tips for grassroots involvement;
- A guide to writing an effective advocacy letter or email;

- Tips for testifying at the Capitol; and
- Various legislative resources.

The League is nothing without the voices of city officials. The most effective legislative communication comes directly from mayors, councilmembers, and other city officials to their legislators. The toolkit will empower city officials whether they are a season-veteran, new to advocating, or new to city government.

The toolkit can be found [here](#).

TSLAC Amends Guidance and Best Practice for Inventorying and Scheduling Records

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) [is proposing](#) changes to its Bulletin C: Inventorying and Scheduling Records and is seeking feedback from local governments. Bulletin C contains helpful tips on how to conduct an inventory and how to appraise records. The proposed revisions include:

- adding templates to assist with inventorying
- updating legal citations
- removing the requirement for local governments to send records control schedules to TSLAC
- making Bulletin C the first bulletin that is for local governments *and* state agencies

The comment period closes on **July 1, 2022**. Written comments may be submitted to slrminfo@tsl.texas.gov. TSLAC requests that commenters [review the Bulletin C session from TSLAC's RMO meetings](#) or [review Bulletin C](#) on the TSLAC website before sending comments or suggestions.

Reminder: Stay Vigilant Against Cyber Threats

City officials should always remain on high alert against cyber threats. Many cyber criminals frequently pose as a manager or vendor and send a “phishing” email to local government employees. Common tactics include:

- Fraudulent vendor invoices;
- Sending urgent emails that appear to come from management or finance;
- Posing as an employee who requests human resources to redirect their paycheck to a new direct deposit account; and
- Sending fraudulent wire transfers instructions to a payer for an upcoming transaction.

Easy ways to spot fraudulent emails include:

- Bad grammar and misspellings;
- Unfamiliar greeting or salutation;
- Inconsistencies in email addresses, links, and domain names;
- Suspicious attachments;
- Requests for login credentials, payment information, or sensitive data;
- Unbelievable offers; and
- Anything that appears “off”

If you receive an email that includes any of the above or anything else that causes suspicion, do not click on links, supply any personal or work information, open attachments, send money, or reply to the email. Instead, follow the city’s cybersecurity plan, which would typically include contacting the sender directly to confirm legitimacy, reporting to IT, or deleting the email.

The Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TML IRP) provides [free state mandated cybersecurity training](#) for most local government employees.

Federal Infrastructure Bill Update

In November 2021, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law. The IIJA is altogether a \$1.2 trillion bill that will invest in the nation’s core infrastructure priorities including roads, bridges, rail, transit, airports, ports, energy transmission, water systems, and broadband.

The League will monitor state and federal agencies and work with the National League of Cities (NLC) to access the latest information relating to the IIJA. We will be providing periodic updates in the Legislative Update on resources for Texas cities on how to access IIJA funding for local infrastructure projects.

Department of Transportation (USDOT)

The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program was created by the IIJA and will provide up to \$6 billion in grants over the next five years supporting local programs to prevent roadway deaths and injuries. USDOT [recently announced](#) that the application period is now open for communities of all sizes to apply for \$1 billion in fiscal year 2022 funding. The SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found [here](#). Applications are due on or before September 15, 2022. More information on the SS4A program, including information on “How to Apply” webinars can be found [here](#). The National League of Cities has also made SS4A program information available on [its website](#).

National League of Cities (NLC)

NLC, in conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Results for America, has established the [Local Infrastructure Hub](#), which is described as “a national program to ensure that all cities and towns can access federal infrastructure funding to drive local recovery, improve communities,

and deliver results for residents.” The Hub will launch on July 1st. Interested city officials can visit the Hub using the link above and sign up for the mailing list in advance of the launch date.

NLC recently [published an article](#) on a key program funded under the IIJA, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. The EECBG program is designed to assist state and local governments with numerous types of eligible energy efficiency and conservation initiatives. Under the IIJA, the EECBG program will receive \$550 million in new funding to be split between state agencies and local governments, including 68% of funding for larger cities, 28% for state energy offices, and a competitive program. Funding and program guidance for the EECBG program is expected in fall 2022.

NLC has also [published an article](#) on the Carbon Reduction Program. On April 21, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released [implementation guidance](#) on the [Carbon Reduction Program](#) (CRP) funded by the IIJA, which funds eligible projects designed to reduce transportation emissions. The IIJA provides roughly \$1.3 billion in CRP funding nationwide in each of the next five years. 65 percent of a state’s CRP apportionment must be used in the following areas in proportion to their relative shares of the state’s population: (1) urbanized areas with a population greater than 200,000; (2) urbanized areas with a population of at least 50,000 but no more than 200,000; (3) urban areas with population between 5,000 and 49,999; and (4) areas with population of less than 5,000. Texas will receive over \$123 million in fiscal year 2022 in CRP funding. 2022 allocations to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in Texas over 200,000 can be found [here](#), and 2022 allocations to MPOs between 50,000 and 200,000 can be found [here](#).

House and Senate Committee Interim Hearings

The Texas House and Senate Committees are underway studying interim charges outlined by Speaker Phelan and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick.

Below is a full list of committee hearings set to hear certain city-related charges. All hearings will be held at the Texas Capitol unless otherwise indicated. If a committee has newly posted notice and was not included in last week’s edition of the *Legislative Update*, it is indicated as such.

House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures

The committee will meet on June 7 at 10:00 a.m. to hear invited testimony only over the following interim charge:

Explore opportunities to strengthen and enforce laws to reduce illegal gaming and the proliferation of unlawful game rooms. Identify how cash-paying game rooms utilizing machines commonly known as “8-liners” have been allowed to proliferate and how the comptroller or other state agencies can assist law enforcement with ongoing investigations.

Information on the hearing and how to submit electronic comments can be found [here](#).

***NEW* House Committee on State Affairs**

The committee will meet on June 23 at 10:00 a.m. to hear invited and public testimony to consider the following interim charges:

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- [Senate Bill 2](#), relating to the governance of the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Office of Public Utility Counsel, and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas
- Examine the efforts of power generation facilities to weatherize their facilities
- Review the status of projects intended to reduce transmission congestion within the electrical grid

Information on the hearing, including how to register and testify at the committee hearing, can be found [here](#).

***NEW* Senate Health and Human Services Committee**

The committee will meet on June 27 at 10:00 a.m. to hear invited and public testimony on the following interim charge:

Public Health Data: Review the processes for public health data collection and coordination by local and state entities as well as regional trauma centers. Identify any continuing barriers to the real-time dissemination of data concerning health care facility capacity – including data that can expedite timely care – and morbidity rates, as well as other information that can assist in public policy decisions.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and testify at the committee hearing, can be found [here](#).

Senate Finance Committee

The committee will meet on June 28 at 10:00 a.m. to hear invited and public testimony on the following charge:

Federal Funds: Report on the state use of federal COVID-19 relief funds provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, the American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Acts, and similar legislation. Examine local use of federal relief funding, including funding provided through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. Evaluate the overall fiscal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on state agencies, including costs incurred due to federal mandates. Identify barriers to the effective utilization of funds and make recommendations on the expenditure

of unappropriated funds. in addition, evaluate and report on the spending by state agencies that have been utilizing “one-time” federal funding (temporary enhancements, e.g. FMAP and ESSER) sources, where federal funding will likely be significantly reduced in future biennia.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and testify at the committee hearing, can be found [here](#).

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