# CY-FAIR EDITION



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 7 I MARCH 17-APRIL 20, 2020

ONLINE AT CI COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM

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# New Cy-Fair program to support region's cybersecurity workforce

BY ANNA LOTZ AND DANICA SMITHWICK

Four Lone Star College System campuses, including two in the Cy-Fair area, will begin offering four-year degree programs for the first time this fall following a nearly 15-year process to get state approval.

LSC-CyFair will offer a Bachelor of Applied Technology in cybersecurity out of its Westway Park Technology Center off Beltway 8, and LSC-University Park will offer a Bachelor of Applied Science in energy, manufacturing and trades management at its Hwy. 249 campus.

The new programs were made possible by the passing of Senate Bill 2118 through the Texas

Legislature in 2017. Designed to bolster workforce programs for in-demand skills, the bill authorized community colleges to offer up to three bachelor's degrees in applied science, applied technology and nursing with approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Valerie Jones, the associate vice chancellor of academic affairs for LSCS, said one requirement laid out in the bill was that tuition rates would align with standard community college rates.

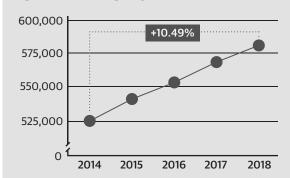
Students who have already earned an associate degree will be able to complete their bachelor's degree for less than \$10,000, according to Jones.

CONTINUED ON 30

# Officials study needs amid unincorporated population growth

Population growth has prompted Harris County officials to study growing needs in unincorporated parts of Harris County, including Cy-Fair.

# CY-FAIR GROWTH



# HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INITIATIVES



2019 staffing analysis recommends hiring 319 deputies over next three years



Needs to invest in criminal investigation, traffic enforcement

# HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES



Assessment ongoing on ways to improve health care access



2020 investments
 to boost
 chronic disease
 prevention,
 infectious
 diseases programs

SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

CONTINUED ON 38



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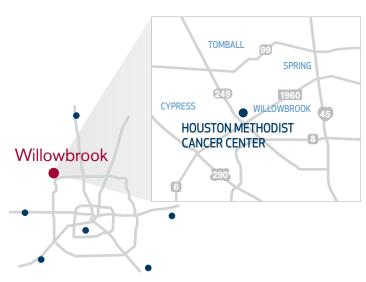
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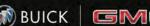
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# **Easter at TheMET**

Good Friday Friday, April 10th 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 12th 9:30 and 11:00 am







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John and Jennifer Garrett began Community Impact Newspaper in 2005 in Pflugerville, Texas. The company's mission is to build communities of informed citizens and thriving businesses through the collaboration of a passionate team.

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# THIS ISSUE

# **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS MONTH**



FROM KELLI: The March edition of Community Impact Newspaper includes our annual Higher Education Guide. Find out more about new programs and facilities coming to our area, including a new bachelor's degree at Lone Star College-CyFair, starting on Page 25.

Kelli Ray, **GENERAL MANAGER** 

**FROM SHAWN:** The population continues to grow in the Cy-Fair area, which added more than 55,000 people between 2014 and 2018. Read about how officials in Harris County's government are trying to cater to growth in unincorporated areas on Page 38.

Shawn Arraji, **EDITOR** 



# THIS ISSUE BY THE NUMBERS













Updates on local developments

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communityimpact.com/ newsletter



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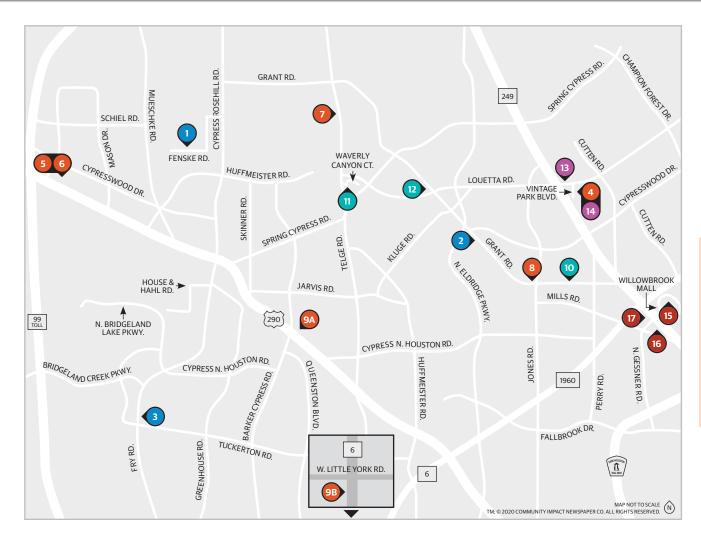


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# **NOW OPEN**

The Rustic House Boutique opened Feb. 1 at 18922 Fenske Road, Cypress. The business specializes in women's clothing while also offering some children's clothing and home decor items. The business is located on the same site as A Cut Above Landscaping & Irrigation. 832-725-5270. www.therustichouseboutique.com

2 Officials with Action Behavior Clinics opened a new Cypress location Feb. 17 at 12101 Grant Forest Drive, Cypress. The Austin-based clinic provides therapy services for children on the autism spectrum and has locations throughout the state. Therapy is focused on applied behavior

analysis, which is designed to improve skills in areas of development, communication, socialization and independent living. 281-223-5200. www.actionbehavior.com

3 Jersey Mike's Subs opened in early March at 9822 Fry Road, Ste. 160, Cypress. The East Coast-inspired sub shop offers freshly cut deli subs, beef and chicken cheesesteaks, wraps and salads. Owners Miguel Guerra and Scott Agan said they plan to partner with Cy-Fair ISD for the grand opening activities. 281-758-5711. www.jerseymikes.com

# **COMING SOON**

4 Center Court Pizza & Brew opened in early March in Vintage Park, 138 Vintage Park Blvd., Bldg. F, Ste. L, Houston. With seven Texas locations, the eatery's menu features hand-tossed pizzas, pizza rolls, calzones, flatbread pizzas, sliders, pasta, wings and salads. The pizzeria also features a covered patio and full bar with craft beer. www.ccpizzabrew.com

Officials with Houston Premium Outlets announced Feb. 20 that **Marc Jacobs** is slated to open this spring with a 2,152-square-foot shop at the center, 29300 Hempstead Road, Cypress. Marc Jacobs offers designer clothing and accessories including bags, wallets, shoes, watches, jewelry and sunglasses. The new space will be located near Armani, Michael Kors and Kate Spade New York within the mall. www.marcjacobs.com

**6 Bath & Body Works** will open this summer at the Houston Premium Outlets, 29300 Hempstead Road, Cypress. The new store will be located near Lululemon, Le Creuset and Banana Republic, according to outlet mall officials. The 3,792-square-foot space will offer personal care products including soaps, moisturizers, body fragrances, candles, air fresheners and gifts. www.bathandbodyworks.com

Cocal entrepreneur Jose Morillo has plans to open a new location of Camp Bow Wow, a business specializing in dog day care and boarding, in the second half of March at 16641 Telge Road, Cypress. The 8,700-square-foot facility was custom-built and will include large indoor and outdoor play areas for dogs that will be separated into weight levels. The facility will also include luxury suites, spacious cabins and a 24-hour monitoring system. All camp counselors on-site will be certified by Camp Bow Wow. 281-826-9981. www.campbowwow.com/cypress

8 Vital Clinic and Spa is slated to open April 1 at 11004 Grant Road, Cypress. Harman Buttar, one of the physicians on staff, said the low-cost clinic will offer a monthly membership model for patients without insurance to pay \$40 a month and \$30 a visit. Members also have access to discounted lab work done on-site and telemedicine options. The business also offers med spa services including laser hair removal, facials, noninvasive body contouring, Botox and fillers, Buttar said. 832-533-8404.

9 Imagine Early Education and Childcare is planning to open in late March at A 24130 Hwy. 290, Cypress, and at B 6025 Hwy. 6, Houston. Both facilities formerly housed Children's Learning Adventure, company which filed for bankruptcy and must surrender the premises by March 27. Officials with Lasco Development Corporation said the new operator will offer similar services, including child care from 6 weeks to

12 years of age. www.imaginechild.com

www.facebook.com/vitalclinicandspa





Jersey Wilke 3 Ju

DURTESY JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS

# **RELOCATIONS**

10 The Door Store relocated in March from 14919 Stuebner Airline Road, Houston, to 10706 Grant Road, Houston. Owned by Ron and Debra Hathaway, The Door Store first opened in April 2006 and offers a showroom with a variety of doors including exterior, mahogany, wrought iron, steel, fiberglass, patio, storm, French, interior and decorative glass. The Door Store offers free estimates within 20 miles of the store's location and can assist customers with door replacement, residential and commercial repairs, and weather stripping through Able Door Services. A grand opening is scheduled for March 28 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 281-444-4224. www.thedoorstore.info

11 Allie M. Portraits relocated within Cypress in January from its former location on Floret Estate Lane to its new location at 15119 Waverly Canyon Court. Allison Montgomery, the head photographer who runs the home-based business, specializes in newborn and maternity photography as well as headshots. Photographer services are available by appointment only. 832-643-6100. www.alliemportraits.com

12 Christian-based dance school Precious Dancers Academy relocated in the second week of March to 13215 Grant Road, Cypress. The school previously held classes in a joint space with New Vibe Dance Studio, and the relocation will provide the business with its own space and the ability to offer additional classes. The academy has been offering classes since 2005, specializing in ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater. Classes are available



for dancers from 18 months old through adults. 832-868-6014. www.preciousdancers.com

# **ANNIVERSARIES**

13 Stats Sports Bar and Grill, located at 10850 Louetta Road, Ste. 1700, Houston, celebrated its 10-year anniversary March 7. Owned by Tate Powers and Jessica and Michael Statlander, the bar and grill first opened March 16, 2010, and offers a variety of American fare ranging from Buffalo wings and burgers to crawfish and flatbreads. Stats also features a full bar with signature cocktails and beer on tap. In addition to hosting live music on the patio on Saturdays, the venue also boasts several televisions for sporting events, pool tables, digital dartboards and giant Jenga. Stats also regularly hosts events such as karaoke, bingo and trivia nights. 281-257-8287.

www.statssportsbarandgrill.com

14 Texadelphia, an Austin-based eatery that specializes in Philly cheesesteaks, celebrated one year at its Vintage Park location on March 5. Located at 126 Vintage Park Blvd., Ste. B, Houston, the eatery offers a variety of original Texas cheesesteaks, such as the Founder's Favorite, which is a beef cheesesteak served with grilled onions, mozzarella, mushrooms and jalapenos. Texadelphia also offers a selection of salads, burgers and sandwiches. 832-843-7048. www.texadelphia.com

# **CLOSINGS**

15 **Sears** is set to close an anchor store

location in April at the Willowbrook Mall, 7925 FM 1960 W., Houston, officials confirmed. The closure announcement came after Transformco, which owned the location, announced in a Nov. 7 news release that it intended to close 51 Sears stores and 45 Kmart across the nation by February. The November list did not include the stores at Willowbrook Mall. Transformco Public Relations Director

16 Babin's Seafood House closed its Willowbrook location in late February, according to an email sent out to Landry's Select members Feb. 24. Located at 17485 Hwy. 249, Houston, the Cajun

Larry Costello declined to comment on

or confirm the closures. 281-955-4700.

www.sears.com

restaurant owned by Landry's Inc. offered New Orleans staples, such as crawfish etouffee, red beans and rice, and Creole gumbo. The seafood house's two other locations in The Woodlands and Katy remain open. www.babinsseafood.com

17 Pier 1 Imports closed a Cy-Fair area location on Feb. 26 at 17725 Hwy. 249, Houston. The closures come amid a 450-store nationwide reduction for Pier 1, out of 942 total, the company announced in a third-quarter fiscal year 2020 business update Jan. 6. The business specializes in home furnishings and decorative items. Another Cy-Fair area location can be found in the Cypress Towne Center at Hwy. 290 and Spring Cypress Road. www.pier1.com



# **FEATURED IMPACT**

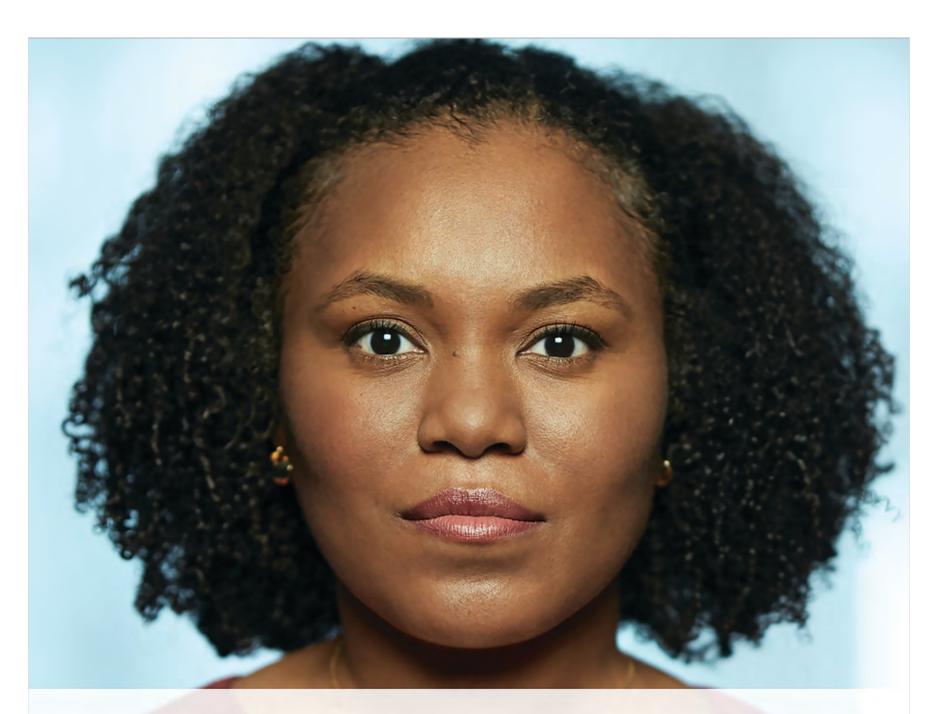
## **COMING SOON**

A new location of **Crust Pizza** will open in a 3,500-square-foot location in March at 11550 Louetta Road, Houston, near the Jones Road intersection. With a handful of locations in The Woodlands and Spring areas, the pizza chain serves Chicago-style thin crust pizzas that are made from scratch. Diners can order from a list of gourmet pizzas or design their own. The eatery also offers salads, pastas, subs and desserts such as gelato and cannolis. www.crustpizzaco.com

Crust Pizza will open in March on Louetta Road. (Courtesy Crust Pizza)







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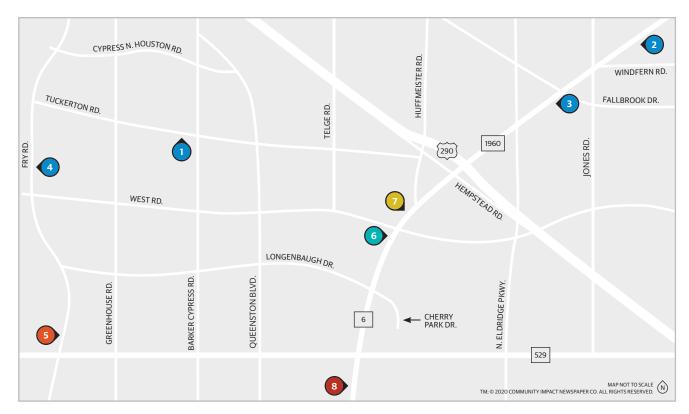


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# **NOW OPEN**

1) Sharkey's Cuts for Kids opened March 7 at 18121 Tuckerton Road, Cypress, near the Barker Cypress Road intersection. The children's haircut business features a game station and a "tween" lounge area designed with teenage girls in mind. Older children can play video games or watch sports or music videos while getting their hair cut. The business also offers adult haircuts, "glamour girl parties" and nail art services. 281-214-2044 www.sharkeyscutsforkids.com

2 Sixty Collision opened in January at 10511 FM 1960, Houston. The shop offers automotive body and collision repair, complete automotive restoration, diagnostic services and tuneups. 832-604-6226. www.sixtycollision.com

3 Meritan Health & Wellness opened Dec. 7 at 11811 FM 1960, Ste. 190, Houston. Owner Cearra Prejean, a nurse practitioner, offers hydration therapy,

hormone replacement therapy, anti-aging treatments and walk-in nonurgent primary care services, such as treatment for illness and injury, well women exams, physicals and immunizations. 832-478-9721.

www.meritanwellness.com

4 Southern Maid Donuts opened Feb. 6 at 9212 Fry Road, Cypress. The business offers fresh tacos, iced coffee drinks, croissant sandwiches, doughnuts and a variety of kolaches, including smoked brisket, Philly cheesesteak and boudin. 281-304-2226

# **COMING SOON**

5 As of press time March 10, owners with Vogue Bubble Tea & Coffee Bar said they were slated to open around mid-March or late March at 7025 Fry Road, Ste. 100, Cypress. The New York-themed coffee shop will specialize in specialty coffee, bubble tea protein shakes, preworkout shots and acai bowls. The venue will feature a drive-thru and will also serve CBD coffee with restrictions. For customers who dine in, the business will feature games for families and free Wi-Fi. www.facebook.com/voguecoffeebar

# **RELOCATIONS**

6 Dr. Timothy Brown and Dr. Anh Duong-Brown relocated their dental practice, Brown Dental PA, in December from the Hwy. 6 and West Little York intersection to 8475 Hwv. 6 N., Houston. Services include general dentistry for adults and children, emergency care, cosmetic dentistry, root canals, crowns, bridges and noninvasive gum treatment. 281-550-4444. www.drbrownsdental.com

# RENOVATIONS

7 Officials with A Beautiful Floor, also known as ABF Remodeling, are in the process of renovating and expanding

their space at 8719 Hwy. 6 N., Houston. Owner Mike Bakare said he wanted to make the space bigger and better for his customers, and work is scheduled to wrap up by the end of March. ABF Remodeling opened in 1999 and handles home improvement projects and additions, including kitchen and bathroom remodeling, flooring and painting. The business will remain open as the renovations take place, and Bakare said details are forthcoming on a grand re-opening promotion. 281-855-3400. www.abeautifulfloor.com

# **CLOSINGS**

8 Pier 1 Imports closed a Copperfield area location Feb. 26 at 6815 Hwy. 6 N., Houston. The closure comes amid a 450-store nationwide reduction for Pier 1, out of 942 total, the company announced in a third-quarter fiscal year 2020 business update Jan. 6. Another Cy-Fair location can be found in the Cypress Towne Center at Hwy. 290 and Spring Cypress Road. www.pier1.com



CY-FAIR EDITION • MARCH 2020 11



The annual Cy-Fair ISD event features children's activities, food trucks, a 5K run through Towne Lake and a 1-mile walk through Cy-Fair FCU Stadium. Proceeds support scholarships through the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation. 8-11 a.m. Free (festival admission), \$15-\$30 (on-site pricing for run/walk). 8877 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress. www.cfisd.net/funrun (Courtesy Cy-Fair ISD)



More than 200 exhibitors from paint color experts to landscapers display home products and services. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (Sat.), 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Sun.). \$10 (general admission), free (children 12 and younger). 8877 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress. 832-274-3944. www.cyfairhomeandgarden.com (Courtesy Cy-Fair Home and Outdoor Living Show)

# **SEE A LOCAL PLAY**

# **PLAYHOUSE 1960**

6814 Gant Road, Houston 281-587-8243 www.ph1960.com

"Sordid Lives"
Dates: April 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25
(8 p.m.); April 26 (3 p.m.)
Cost: \$18-\$21

# **STAGEWORKS THEATRE**

10760 Grant Road, Houston 281-587-6100 www.stageworkstx.org

"Monty Python's Spamalot"
Dates: April 17, 18, 24, 25 and May
1, 2, 8, 9 (7:30 p.m.); April 19, 26
and May 3, 10 (3 p.m.)
Cost: \$19-\$29.50

### **MARCH**

# THROUGH APRIL 12 CHECK OUT CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S NEW TAKE ON 'ALEGRIA'

The newest circus artistry presentation by Cirque du Soleil that began Feb. 20 continues through March and parts of April. The classic performance has been re-imagined as "Alegria: In a New Light" and features new characters, costumes and choreography. Times vary. Starting at \$79. Sam Houston Race Park, 7575 N. Sam Houston Parkway W., Houston. 281-807-8700.

www.cirquedusoleil.com/alegria

# THROUGH 21 CATCH SOME LIVE MUSIC IN JERSEY VILLAGE

The city hosts games, food trucks and live music in the park to celebrate the start of spring. The two bands performing on Friday night, Burn the Village and Sunday Traffic, features local high school talent.

Saturday's lineup features classic rock and country hits from John Armour & Ellen Olive and MechanixRocks. 6-9:30 p.m. Free (admission). Clark Henry Park, 7804 Equador St., Jersey Village. www.jerseyvillagetx.com

# 22 STOP BY A PRESENTATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church presents the 12th annual St. Joseph's Altar, a Sicilian tradition that involves a display of the holy trinity with St. Joseph as the head. Attendees can purchase Italian cookies, desserts and a spaghetti lunch. Admission is free, and all proceeds from food sold go to Cypress Assistance Ministries. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free (admission), \$4-\$8 (lunch). Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, 11507 Huffmeister Road, Houston. 281-469-5533. www.ctrcc.com

# 28 LEARN ABOUT NATURE AT LOCAL FESTIVAL

Jersey Village hosts the Spring Fling Nature Festival with celebration of nature. The event features a petting zoo, beekeeping education, tree planting demonstrations and other outdoor activities. The Daisy Dash 5K and children's 1-mile fun run is also on-site. 10 a.m. (run/walk), 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (nature festival). Free (festival admission), \$20-\$30 (run/walk). Clark Henry Park, 7804 Equador St., Jersey Village. www.jerseyvillagetx.com

# 28 THROUGH 29 STOP BY THE CY-FAIR HIGH SCHOOL SPRING CRAFT SHOW

The two-day event features food, entertainment and shopping with proceeds supporting the Cy-Fair High School band and color guard. A cakewalk, live bunny photos and face painting will also be available for attendees.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat.), 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sun.). Free (admission). Cy-Fair ISD Exhibit Center, 11206 Telge Road, Cypress. www.cyfairband.org

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1-mile family walk, games, T-shirts, food, prizes and more family-friendly activities. 7-11 a.m. \$25 (adults), \$10 (children 13 and younger). 10555 Spring Cypress Road, Houston. 281-894-7222. www.shieldbearer.org/5k (Courtesy Shield Bearer)

# **APRIL**

# **LEARN ABOUT ESTATE** PLANNING

The monthly meeting of the Cy-Fair Women's Club, which is open to the public, will feature an informational presentation by Elizabeth Hilbun of the Hilbun Law Firm on issues related to estate planning and wills. 6:30 p.m. Free. Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress. www.cyfairwomensclub.org

admission). 25282 Hwy. 290, Cypress. www.winecyfair.com

# **REGISTER TO VOTE IN LOCAL** ELECTIONS

April 2 is the last day for Texans to register to vote in May 2 local elections. Elections in the Cy-Fair area include three seats on the Jersey Village City Council and two open positions on the Harris County ESD No. 9 board of commissioners. Early voting begins April 20. Learn how to register to vote at www.sos.state.tx.us.

#### **THROUGH 08** GET READY FOR STAAR AND **END-OF-COURSE TESTS**

Tests include writing for fourth and seventh grades, math and reading for fifth and eighth grades, and English I and English II for high school students. www.cfisd.net

# **08** TAKE PART IN THE CY-HOPE CLAY SHOOT

Attendees at the annual clay shoot will receive 100 clays, ammunition and lunch. The event raises funds for local nonprofit Cy-Hope. 11:30 a.m. (lunch and checkin), 1 p.m. (tournament starts). \$800 (four-person team). Westside Sporting Grounds, 10120 Pattison Road, Katy. www.cy-hope.org

## **CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK** Messiah Lutheran Church hosts "Journey to the Cross," an interactive tour through the last week of Jesus' life. Other activities include olive smashing,

food tasting and storytelling. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free. Messiah Lutheran Church,

11522 Telge Road, Cypress. 281-890-3013. www.messiahlc.org

# SUPPORT THE CYPRESS WOODS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

The 14th annual event includes a golf scramble, putting contest, silent and live auctions, and dinner. 11:30 a.m. (registration), 1 p.m. (shotgun start). \$100 (Cy Woods student), \$125 (nonstudent), \$15 (dinner only). Cypress Lakes Golf Course, 18700 Cypresswood Drive, Cypress. 713-562-1469. www.cywoodsathletics.org

# **PLAY GOLF TO SUPPORT** REACH UNLIMITED

Proceeds from the annual golf tournament benefit clients of Reach Unlimited, a local nonprofit that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. \$300 (individual), \$1,200 (team of four). Houston National Golf Club, 16500 Houston National Blvd., Houston. 281-536-0009. www.reachunlimited.org

# VISIT A FARMERS **MARKET**

## **TOWNE LAKE**

9945 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress March 28, 2:30-5:30 p.m. www.boardwalktl.com

# **JERSEY VILLAGE**

16327 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village April 5, noon-3 p.m. www.jerseyvillagetx.com

## BRIDGELAND

10519 Fry Road, Cypress April 12, 12:30-3:30 p.m. www.facebook.com/ yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket

Find more or submit Cy-Fair events at communityimpact.com/event-calendar. Event organizers can submit local events online to be considered for the print edition. Submitting details for consideration does not guarantee publication.





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# **CREEKWOOD GRILL**

12710 Telge Road, Cypress 281-746-6352 www.creekwoodgrill.com

#### **MARCH**

- 20 Mark Childres, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Scott LeDoux, 7 p.m.
- 27 Danville Train, 6:30 p.m.

### **MO'S IRISH PUB**

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#### www.mosmismpab.com

- MARCH 17 Safety Patrol, 4 p.m.
- Sol Flair, 9 p.m. 19 AJ Santana, 8 p.m.
- **20** Park Avenue, 9 p.m.
- Thunderpants, 9 p.m.Channing Sal, 8 p.m.
- **27** Sick Duck, 9 p.m.
- 28 Texxas Heat, 9 p.m.

# **VINTAGE PARK**

110 Vintage Park Blvd., Houston 281-655-8000 www.vintageparkhouston.com

#### **MARCH**

- **19** Billy Pope, 6 p.m.
- **20** Roy Lee Band, 6 p.m.

- 21 Louis Lamb Band, 6 p.m.
- 26 Dan Golvach, 6 p.m.
- **27** Adrian Michael, 6 p.m.
- **28** Twin Connection, 6 p.m.

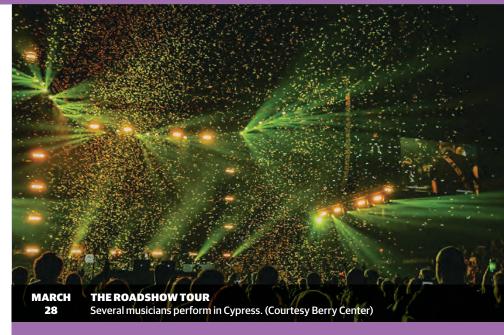
# **MAIN STREET CROSSING**

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#### MARCH

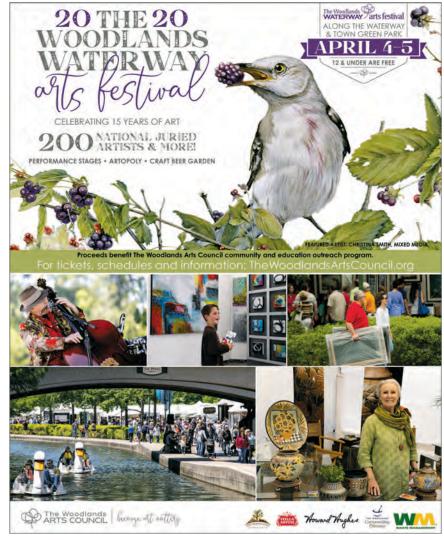
- **17** Texas Flood (Stevie Ray Vaughn tribute), 8 p.m.
- 18 Walkin' the Line (Johnny Cash tribute), 8 p.m.
- **19** Mandy Barnett (Patsy Cline tribute), 8 p.m.
- 20 Michael Grimm, 8 p.m.
- 21 Nightbird (Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac tribute), 8 p.m.
- 22 Charley Crockett, 8 p.m.
- **23** The Fred Eaglesmith show starring Tiff Ginn, 8 p.m.
- **24** Susan Gibson with Shelley King, 8 p.m.
- **25** The Heartachers (Tom Petty tribute), 8 p.m.
- 26 Karla Bonoff, 8 p.m.
- 27 Mary Gauthier with Jaimee Harris, 8 p.m.
- 28 Let it Rock (Bon Jovi tribute), 8 p.m.
- **30-31** Stoney Larue, 8 p.m.



# FEATURED EVENT: KSBJ AND COMPASSION LIVE PRESENT THE ROADSHOW 2020

The Roadshow Tour returns to the Berry Center, featuring Christian artists Bethel Music, Matt Maher, Martin Smith, Unspoken, Apollo LTD, Elle Limebear and Peabod. For an additional cost, the VIP experience includes a meet and greet with artists as well as an exclusive tour party and entrance. \$30.50-\$67.50. 6-9 p.m. Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress. 281-394-3900. www.berrycenter.net

Find more or submit Cy-Fair events at communityimpact.com/event-calendar. Event organizers can submit local events online to be considered for the print edition. Submitting details for consideration does not guarantee publication.







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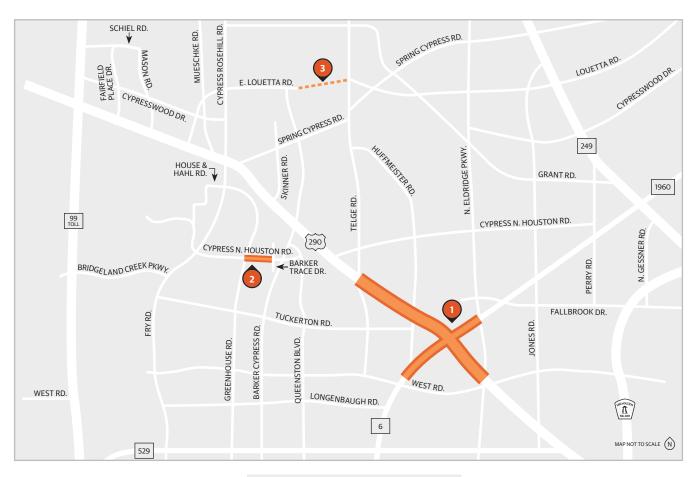
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## **RECENT PROJECTS**



# Hwy. 290 Project E and Hwy. 6 extension and bridge construction

Crews worked in February to apply Next Generation Concrete Surface to Hwy. 290 westbound main lanes between North Eldridge Parkway and Hwy. 6. A portion of the Hwy. 290 eastbound frontage road and U-turn lanes reopened March 1. Work is also ongoing on a project to connect Hwy. 6 to FM 1960 with a four-lane flyover bridge that is slated for completion by the end of 2020.

Timeline: August 2013-late 2020

Cost: \$135.4 million

**Funding source:** Texas Department of Transportation

## 2 Cypress North Houston Road widening

Harris County Precinct 3 is widening Cypress North Houston Road from two lanes to four lanes between Greenhouse Road and Barker Trace Drive. Precinct 3 finished a separate project to widen Cypress North Houston between Greenhouse Road and Cypress Bend Drive this fall. With the completion of the new widening project, Cypress North Houston will be a four-lane boulevard between Barker Cypress Road and Fry Road.

**Timeline:** October 2019-second quarter

Cost: estimated \$3.2 million

Funding source: Harris County Precinct 3

# 3 Louetta Road bridge

Harris County Precinct 4 is in the design phase on a twin bridge for Louetta Road over Little Cypress Creek in Cypress. The project is part of a broader joint project between Harris County precincts 3 and 4 to extend Louetta Road as a two-lane roadway from Telge Road to the Stablewood Farms subdivision.

**Timeline:** first quarter 2020-TBD

Cost: estimated \$7.1 million

Funding source: Harris County Precinct 4



# TEXAS CENTRAL GIVES FIRST GLIMPSE OF HIGH-SPEED TRAIN CAR INTERIOR

Texas Central officials announced interior plans Feb. 17 for the company's proposed high-speed train connecting Houston and Dallas, including complementary Wi-Fi, no middle seat and two classes of service.

Based on the Central Japan Railway's Tokaido Shinkansen high-speed rail, Texas Central's rail cars will be customized for Texas, officials said. Train cars will have two-by-two or two-by-one seat configurations and will feature high-speed Wi-Fi. Some of the eight train cars may also be "quiet cars" with different lighting and restrictions on cell phone usage.

Seating will also feature larger seats, wider aisles and more legroom than seating on a regional jet, according to Texas Central estimates.

Texas Central officials anticipate beginning construction on the high-speed rail later this year with the train being fully operational in 2026, spokesperson Caroline Jennings said in an email. The high-speed rail is anticipated to provide riders a 90-minute trip between Houston and Dallas with a stop in the Brazos Valley.

ALL INFORMATION ON THIS PAGE WAS UPDATED AS OF 3/1/20. NEWS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE OR OTHER LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS? EMAIL US AT CYFNEWS@COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM.







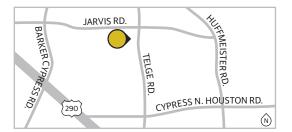
SHAWN ARRAJJ/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

### **TELGE CROSSING**

Construction is nearing completion on Telge Crossing, a mixed-use center being developed by i3 at Jarvis and Telge roads in Cypress. The first phase includes 15,000 square feet of retail space and 12,000 square feet of medical office space and will be finished this spring. The second phase includes a 303-unit apartment complex and will be finished this summer.

Space: 24 acres

Timeline: July 2019-summer 2020





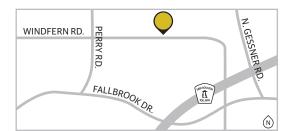
DANICA SMITHWICK/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPE

# WINDFERN NORTHWEST DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Ground broke in late 2019 on Windfern Northwest Distribution Center, an industrial project slated to wrap up around June, according to JLL and Phelan Development Co. Space is available to tenants starting from 50,000 square feet

**Space:** 179,200 square feet

Timeline: September 2019-June 2020





DANICA SMITHWICK/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

### **ENCLAVE BUSINESS PARK**

Work is underway at the Enclave Business Park on Grant Road in Cypress. The project offers 1,000-11,500 square feet of retail or office space for lease or for sale, according to Texas Commercial Real Estate Services. J.A. Green Construction Services is the contractor for this development, which sits on 2.59 acres.

Space: 2.59 acres

Timeline: 2019-summer 2020



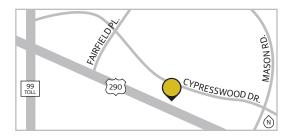




## FAIRFIELD TOWN CENTER

A new phase of development is ongoing at Fairfield Town Center, 28902 Hwy. 290, Cypress. An eight-screen, dine-in movie theater called Cut! by Cinemark is slated to open by the end of 2020, and retailers such as Burlington and Ross are also under construction at the site.

Space: 600,000 square feet Timeline: fall 2019-fall 2020



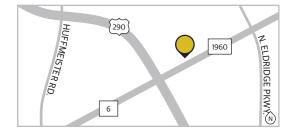


### **CYPRESS CROSSING**

Work continues at the Caldwell Cos. mixed-use project, Cypress Crossing, at Hwy. 290 and FM 1960. Construction is underway on a Staybridge Suites, which will be located behind several retail buildings already built at the site. A new four-story Kelsey-Seybold care center opened in November 2019 in a 72,000-square-foot building.

Space: 15.5 acres

Timeline: work ongoing through 2020

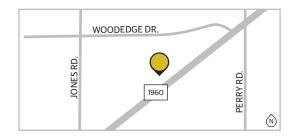




#### **NEXUS PARK NORTHWEST**

Officials with Jackson-Shaw announced in February plans to build a new industrial business park on 45 acres at FM 1960 and Bobcat Road. Nexus Park NorthWest will feature 476,640 square feet of industrial space spread out across four buildings that will be able to accommodate tenants from 15,000-200,000 square feet.

Space: 476,640 square feet Timeline: March-December





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# Water rates on the rise in Cy-Fair

BY DANICA SMITHWICK

Water bills across Cy-Fair have incrementally increased in recent years with some residents paying as much as 50%-100% more since 2015.

Rate increases can be tied to several projects underway within the boundaries of the North Harris County and West Harris County regional water authorities to decrease the region's groundwater usage through more surface water resources, according to Al Rendl, president of the North Harris County Regional Water Authority.

Rates at the NHCRWA will rise again, effective April 1, from \$3.85 to \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons of groundwater and from \$4.30 to \$4.70 per 1,000 gallons of surface water. At the WHCRWA, rates rose Jan. 1 from \$2.95 to \$3.20 per 1,000 gallons of groundwater and from \$3.35 to \$3.60 per 1,000 gallons of surface water.

"We have an additional \$1.69 billion of debt that we are taking on to convert 60% of all the water that's used in the North Harris County Regional Water Authority to surface water," Rendl said. "And in order to pay for that, we have to increase the fees, ... and we will probably go up in the range of 45-50 cents [per 1,000 gallons] for the next three or four years before it'll start to level off."

The water authorities teamed up with the North Fort Bend and Central regional water authorities and the city of Houston to build the \$385 million Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project, which will bring water through the Trinity River to Lake Houston down to the water purification site. This project is slated to wrap up by the end of 2020 or early 2021, Rendl said.

The current water purification site is able to produce up to 70 million gallons daily, but Rendl said a new \$1.78 billion plant is under construction with the capacity to treat 400 million gallons daily by the time it is completed in mid-2024.

"We're not going to be using all of that capacity to start with, but as we convert more and more [water] in the area, we'll be using more of that," he

Once the water meets standard, it will be transmitted 26 miles to the water storage and pump station at Beltway 8 and Hwy. 249. Shared with the city of Houston, this transmission line will cost around \$445 million. From there, Rendl said more lines would be built for an additional \$635 million for 50-60 utility districts in the area to receive surface water by 2025.

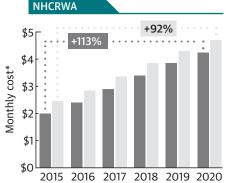
Starting in 2003, the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District mandated the NHCRWA and WHCRWA, among other entities, reach at least 30%, 60% and 80% surface water reliance in 2010, 2025 and 2035, respectively.

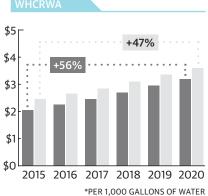
Rendl said as underground water sources known as aquifers begin to dry up, the ground's surface has gradually settled downward, a process known as subsidence. This led to the subsidence district's formation in 1975 and later the mandate that if not met by 2025, water authorities will pay a penalty of around \$9 per 1,000 gallons of additional groundwater used, he said.

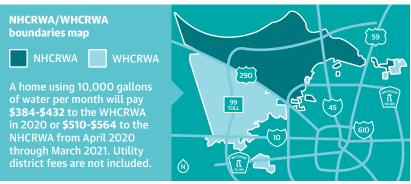
"We're doing it to meet the subsidence district mandates, but we're doing it also because if we do not do it, we will not have water in the future,"

To help fund long-term projects at the North Harris County and West Harris County regional water authorities, residents will see increased pumpage fees on their monthly bills.

Surface water Groundwater



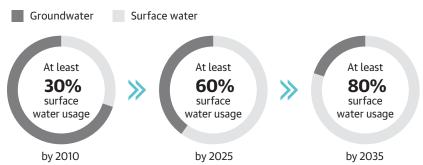




SOURCES: NORTH HARRIS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY, WEST HARRIS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

# REDUCING **GROUNDWATER**

The Harris-Galveston Subsidence District mandated that all water suppliers in the North and West Houston water authorities reduce groundwater pumping over time to decrease the rate of subsidence in the area.



SOURCE: HARRIS-GALVESTON SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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# After primaries, May and November elections take form in Cy-Fair-area races

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ AND DANICA SMITHWICK

The Cy-Fair area featured several close primary elections in March, including in races for Texas House seats, U.S. congressional seats and a Harris County commissioner seat that is up for grabs following the retirement of long-time Precinct 3 Commissioner Steve Radack.

In primary elections, Texas voters who register with either the Democratic or Republican party can choose which candidates they think should represent that party during the November general election. If no candidate in a race finishes with more than 50% of the vote, the top two candidates will compete in a runoff election May 26. Candidates who win their primaries will compete in the general election Nov. 3.

# **Harris County commissioner**

A total of six Democrats and three Republicans competed in primaries for the commissioner seat being vacated by Radack.

Unofficial results showed Diana Martinez Alexander and Michael Moore heading to a runoff election in the Democratic primary, while Tom Ramsey won the Republican primary outright.

"Yesterday it was very clear that, even though we didn't have the same financial resources as our opponents, we able to stand out because we were speaking to what's important to the community," Martinez Alexander said in a March 4 phone call.

In a previous interview with *Community Impact Newspaper*, Moore said his priorities included proactive flood prevention, reducing traffic, strengthening health care, and building better and safer communities. Martinez Alexander said his priorities include uplifting underserved neighborhoods and addressing flood control with a focus on climate change.

Ramsey said his priorities include keeping neighborhoods safe, improving and maintaining infrastructure, and keeping taxes affordable.

# **Texas House districts**

Justin Ray won the Republican primary race for Texas House District 135, according to unofficial results. Ray finished with 83.9% of the vote, defeating his primary opponent, Merrliee Beazley.

"I look forward to a spirited discussion on the opportunities and challenges facing northwest Harris County and the great state of Texas," Ray said in an election night phone call.

Ray said his priorities include improving funding for public schools, keeping taxes and regulations low, and supporting Texas values. With his victory, he will face Democratic incumbent Jon Rosenthal in the general election in November.

Mike Schofield was the winner of the Republican primary for District 132 state representative. He received 53% of votes, while his opponent, Angelica Garcia, earned 47%.

Schofield will face incumbent Gina Calanni, who ran unopposed in the Democratic primary. In a statement posted to Facebook, Schofield thanked voters.

"I personally knocked on over 4,000 doors, and many of you even invited me into your home[s]," he said. "I'll be knocking on your door again soon."

# THE ROAD TO NOVEMBER

Candidates in state, local and national races competed in Republican and Democratic primaries in March. Candidates who win their primaries will compete in the general election Nov. 3. A runoff election will take place May 26 for candidates who qualify. All results are unofficial until canvassed.



Republican

When no candidate receives more than **50%** of the vote, the top two candidates move on to a runoff election to see who will represent the party in November general elections.

# U.S. representative, District 2

Elisa Cardnell: 31%	RUNOFF
Sima Ladjevardian 47.6%	RUNOFF
Travis Olsen 21.4%	

# U.S. representative, District 7

Maria Espinoza: 5.9%	
Wesley Hunt: 61%	WINNER
Jim Noteware: 2.1%	
Kyle Preston: 3%	
Laique Rehman: 0.9%	
Cindy Siegel: 27.1%	

# U.S. representative, District 10

Pritesh Gandhi: 33%	RUNOFF
Shannon Hutcheson: 23%	
Mike Siegel: 44%	RUNOFF

# State representative, District 126

Natali Hurtado: 78.6%	WINNER
Undrai F. Fizer: 21.4%	
<u> </u>	

# State representative, District 132

Mike Schofield: 53%		WINNER
Angelica Garcia: 47%		
	_	

# State representative, District 135

Merillee Beazley: 16.1%	
Justin Ray: 83.9%	WINNER

# **Harris County Precinct 3 commissioner**

Tom Ramsey: 70.5%	WINNER
Susan Sample: 13.8%	
Brenda Stardig: 15.7%	

# **Harris County Precinct 3 commissioner**

Diana Martinez Alexander 27.1%	RUNOFF
Zaher Eisa: 4.4%	
Erik "Beto" Hassan: 9.9%	
Michael Moore: 26.4%	RUNOFF
Morris Overstreet: 9.6%	
Kristi Thibaut: 22.6%	

# **Harris County Precinct 4 constable**

Chris Bounds: 9.7%	
Mark Herman: 90.3%	WINNER

# **Harris County Precinct 5 constable**

Mark Alan Harrison: 34.3%	RUNOFF
Mark Miller: 22.3%	
Randy Newman: 43.4%	RUNOFF

# **Harris County attorney**

Christian De	shaun Mene	ee: 50.5%	WINNER
Ben Rose: 2	4.5%		
Vince Ryan:	25%		

# **Harris County district attorney**

Lori Deangelo: 14.9%	
Mary Huffman: 63.5%	WINNER
Lloyd Wayne Oliver: 21.6%	

# **Harris County district attorney**

		•
Carv	ana Cloud: 10%	
Audi	a Jones: 24.2%	
Kim	Ogg: 54.5%	WINNER
Todd	Overstreet: 11.3%	i

# **Harris County sheriff**

Joe Danna: 48.5%	RUNOFF
Paul Day: 29%	RUNOFF
Randy Rush: 22.5%	

#### **Harris County sheriff**

Ed Gonzalez: 72.1%	WINNER
Jerome Moore: 19%	
Harry Zamora: 8.9%	

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



# Management district to improve FM 1960 corridor gets closer to reality

BY ADRIANA REZAL AND HANNAH ZEDAKER

The Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce has taken the first step in a new effort to revitalize the FM 1960 corridor, which local property owners and officials said has become infamous for its decline in economic activity over the last few decades.

The chamber signed a contract in late January with Hawes Hill & Associates, an economic development firm, to assist in the creation and administration of a management district along FM 1960 between Hwy. 249 and I-45. Upon creation, the management district would serve as a funding mechanism to provide services such as nuisance abatement, landscaping and additional law enforcement.

"There's been a decline in the retail traffic ... [and] in the capital invested into a lot of the commercial properties [on FM 1960]," chamber President and CEO Bobby Lieb said. "We have abandoned strip centers that are sitting empty that are being vandalized. All of that is contributing to a decline in property values, and it's contributing to a decline in economic activity."

Under the \$60,000 contract, funded through Grow Northwest, the chamber's economic development fund, Hawes Hill & Associates will provide services to the chamber until the management district is approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality—a process that could take up to two years, Lieb said.

However, the management

district's creation is contingent upon the majority of affected property owners agreeing to contribute an additional annual cost, similar to a tax, to fund it.

Over the last 15 years, two legislative attempts to establish a management district along FM 1960 spanning from Hwy. 249 to I-45 were made, but failed due to a lack of support, Lieb said. By contrast, the latest revitalization effort is taking an administrative route, which Lieb said does not require legislative approval.

According to David Hawes, senior partner at Hawes Hill & Associates, management districts allow a board of directors to implement services in an area supplemental to those typically provided by a city or county. Depending on a community's unique circumstances and goals, a management district may use different mechanisms to fund such services.

Because FM 1960 is a commercial hub, similar to the Uptown Houston and Westchase districts, a management district would utilize services to drive economic growth, Hawes said.

"That could include additional safety and security initiatives, [such as] nuisance abatement on building violations ... [and] beautification, which includes landscaping, ... trash abatement, ... bandit sign removal [and] graffiti abatement," Lieb said.

Now that a contract has been signed, the firm will draft a service plan outlining what improvements need to be made and how much each would cost.



SOURCE: ESRI GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM COMPANY/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

To fund these services, the district would rely on a levied assessment on commercial properties within the district. Vacant and multifamily properties would also be subject to the assessment, while single-family residential properties would not.

Before submitting an application to the TCEQ, a chamber task force must collect petitions from the owners of at least \$1.1 billion worth of commercial properties within the district's boundaries agreeing to be assessed over 50% of the district's total \$2.2 billion commercial value.

Once the majority of commercial property value is collected through petitions and the district is approved, all commercial property owners within the boundaries would be charged an annual assessment rate, similar to a tax. According to Hawes, property owners in a management district are commonly charged 8-10 cents per \$100 of property value.

Lieb said the firm will be working with the chamber's task force to further discuss what services will be needed in the district. The chamber also plans to hold public outreach events to gain community feedback.

Many property and business owners voiced both support for and opposition against a management district. Bill Mehrens, who serves as the president of the Cypress Creek Parkway Business and Property Owners Association, said a management district would serve to provide funding for services in the area.

Vicky Rodgers, who owns D'Ann's Wig Salon near FM 1960 and Ella Boulevard, said she would need to see some good examples of places where management districts have been successful before jumping on the bandwagon.

"Show me a district where you guys have worked and show it to me before and after," she said.



# New Jersey Village police chief officially takes over

BY SHAWN ARRA II

**JERSEY VILLAGE** After a threemonth search process, the city of Jersey Village brought a new police chief on board March 1.

City officials announced at a Feb. 17 Jersey Village City Council meeting that interim police Chief Kirk Riggs had been offered the job. Riggs was appointed as interim chief in early November following the city's decision to cut ties with former police Chief Eric Foerster, who had served in the role since 2010.

The search process yielded 53 applicants, City Manager Austin Bleess said.

"We did a pretty competitive national search," he said.

Riggs formerly served as police chief in Rockwall, a city of roughly 44,000 east of Dallas. He joined the force as the assistant chief in 2006 before being promoted to chief in 2015, according to information from the Rockwall department. He previously served the Farmers Branch Police Department for 25 years.



Bleess said the city was looking for an effective communicator who demonstrated ethical integrity. Riggs also brings budgeting and staffing experience, he said.

"[We want] someone that can recognize the complexity of policing a place like Jersey Village—a small community surrounded by a large metro area," Bleess said.

In a phone interview, Riggs said he

was drawn to Jersey Village because of its supportive community and because of the work ethic of the other officers.

"I just really enjoy being able to work closely with people," he said. "I knew if I ever did take on another chief job, it would be a smaller agency where you can really have an impact on the men and women and be a leader."

# Commissioners vote to replace Bill Jackson as chief budget officer in Harris County

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

**HARRIS COUNTY** Harris County commissioners voted 3-2 at a Feb. 25 meeting to begin the process of replacing Bill Jackson as chief budget officer.

The motion was placed on the agenda by Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia and received votes of support from County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis. Hidalgo said she believes a change in leadership at the budget department is necessary to carry out a larger effort that involves making budgeting more transparent in terms of why each department receives the allocation it does.

The court will appoint a committee of five chiefs of staff—one representing each court member—to launch a national search process for a new budget director. Jackson indicated at the meeting he intends

to continue to serve as budget chief while the search is underway.

The two dissenting commissioners—Precinct 3's Steve Radack and Precinct 4's Jack Cagle—criticized the move for lacking transparency. Radack said Jackson helped the county earn its AAA bond rating.

Hidalgo said, regardless of who the new budget chief is, she is dedicated to maintaining the county's financial strength.

"I will of course not accept any replacement that doesn't maintain our bond rating and that doesn't maintain a strong fiscal position," she said.

Jackson has led the budget management department since 2011. The department is responsible for creating annual budgets for the county's general fund and the Harris County Flood Control District in addition to managing debt service for other county entities.

# New immigrant legal defense fund underway in Harris County

BY DANICA SMITHWICK

HARRIS COUNTY Harris County
Judge Lina Hidalgo proposed establishing an immigrant legal defense
fund for county residents at a Feb. 25
meeting. The Commissioners Court
pushed the resolution forth with
a 3-2 vote as Commissioners Steve
Radack and Jack Cagle opposed.

Hidalgo said this program would "inject a measure of fairness into our justice system" for individuals and families who do not have access to legal services.

# **Immigrants in Harris County**

Roughly **412,000** residents are living in the country illegally.

About **18,000** county immigrants do not have access to representation.

The new program could cost \$500,000 in its first year.

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

# **QUOTE OF NOTE**

"I'VE SEEN THE
IMPACT OF A FEDERAL
IMMIGRATION SYSTEM
THAT IS SO BROKEN AND
CONVOLUTED THAT
FOLKS ARE DESPERATE
JUST TO HAVE AN
ANSWER TO THEIR
CASE."

LINA HIDALGO, HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

JERSEY VILLAGE All three incumbents running for re-election on the Jersey Village City Council are slated to run unopposed this May. The incumbents include Drew Wasson, James Singleton and Gary Wubbenhorst, who filed for places 1, 4 and 5 on the council, respectively. Council members in Jersey Village serve two-year terms.

HARRIS COUNTY Harris County Commissioners Court unanimously appointed Peter Key as the interim executive director for the Harris County Toll Road Authority during its Feb. 11 meeting. Key, formerly HCTRA's chief financial officer, took over for Gary Trietsch effective Feb. 12. Trietsch, who announced his retirement in early January, had served as HCTRA's executive director since August 2014.

HARRIS COUNTY In response to a global coronavirus outbreak, Harris County launched a rumorcontrol website and increased Harris County Public Health's budget for fiscal year 2020-21 by an additional \$2.7 million in hopes of giving the agency greater capacity to deal with such diseases. The public health department was originally slated to see a bump of \$3 million for emergency response positions, but commissioners unanimously voted to increase that total to \$5.7 million at a Feb. 11 meeting.

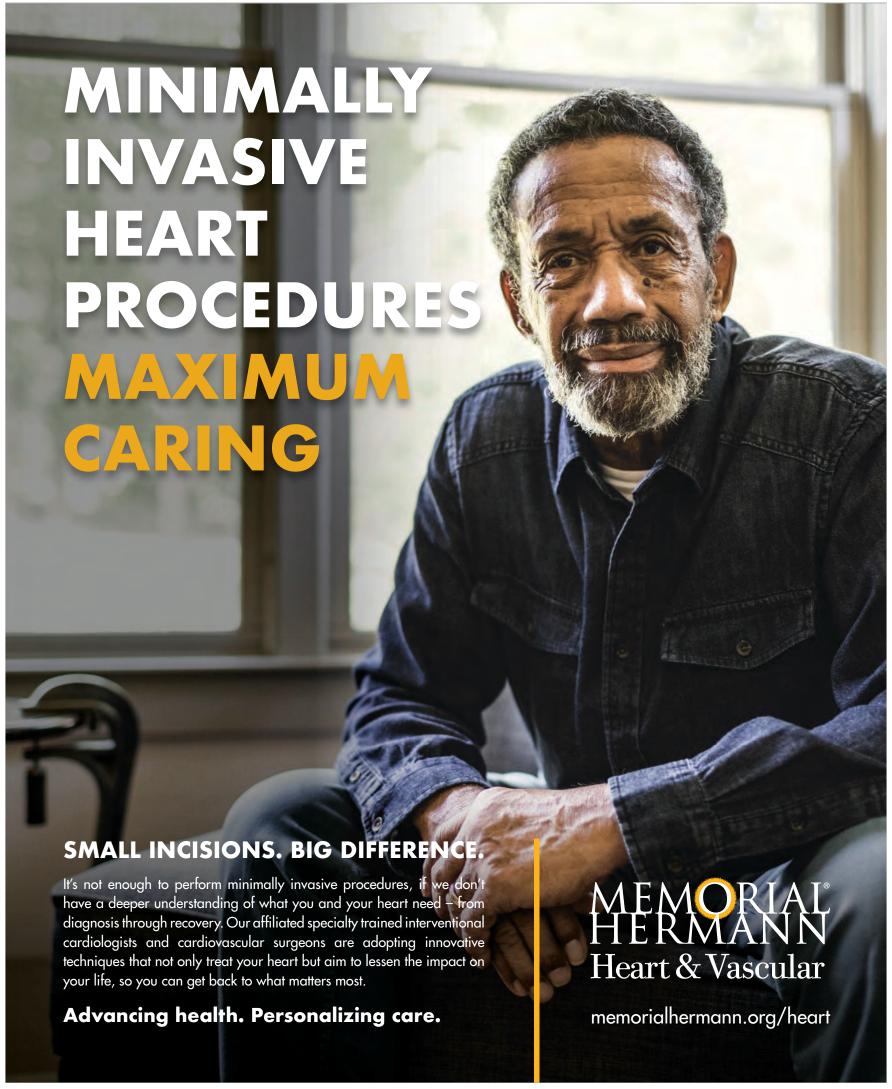
# **MEETINGS WE COVER**

The Jersey Village City Council meets every month at 7 p.m. on the third Monday. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 20 at Jersey Village City Hall, 16327 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village. 713-466-2100. www.jerseyvillagetx.com

The Harris County Commissioners
Court meets twice a month at 10 a.m.

Tuesday mornings. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. March 24 at 1001 Preston St., Ste. 934, Houston. 713-755-6444.

www.harriscountytx.gov



COMPILED BY ANDREW CHRISTMAN AND ANNA LOTZ

# Cypress legislator helps bring new associate degree to LSCS

"THIS GIVES THESE

**CHANCE TO FUNCTION** 

**ADULTS. AS WORKING** 

**YOUNG FOLKS A** 

**AS INDEPENDENT** 

**ADULTS, TO HAVE** 

**FAIRLY NORMAL** 

STATE REP. TOM OLIVERSON,

**ADULT LIVES."** 

House Bill 3165, approved by the Texas Legislature in June, allowed Lone Star College System to establish an occupational and life skills associate degree program.

State Rep. Tom Oliverson, R-Cypress, who co-authored the bill, said LSCS is one of two colleges nationwide to offer the program.

The associate degree program will be available to students enrolling this fall in LSCS' life-PATH program, which serves as a four-year program for students

with cognitive disabilities and is offered at the Tomball and Montgomery campuses, LSC-Tomball President Lee Ann Nutt said.

"Colleges have an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science,

Associate of Arts in teaching. ... This legislation created a brand new type of associate degree," Nutt said. "Nobody else in the state has it, and Lone Star [College] has it."

The lifePATH program launched in 2015 in Tomball and expanded to Montgomery in fall 2019, Nutt said.

According to LSCS, class sizes

are limited to 15, allowing for small student-to-teacher ratios.

"This gives these young folks a chance to function as independent adults, as working adults, to have fairly normal adult lives," Oliverson said.

Previously, lifePATH students completed certificates but did not earn a degree, Nutt said.

"Our new cohort that starts in the fall will be able to start on that path to get the associate degree," Nutt said. "We may be able to go back and do something to help the students that are in

the program now also get that degree, but I'm not sure how that's going to work yet."

The law only allows LSCS campuses to offer the new associate program, and the state Legislature would need to give its approval

for more community colleges to offer the program, Nutt said.

"We've taken that first big step; we've gotten approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board," she said. "Hopefully going forward, this is going to change the game for the entire state."

# Lone Star College System to expand safe zone program

Lone Star College System officials are pushing to make LGBTQ students feel welcome across campuses in 2020 following a Feb. 6 presentation to the board of trustees.

The college will expand its existing safe zone program—a training program for students, staff and administrators to support LGBTQ students.

David Gaer, LSC-University Park speech department chair, said the safe zone program was established in 2019 to help LGBTQ students feel

# **NUMBER TO KNOW**

**10%** of the LSCS student body identify as being part of the LGBTQ community.

encouraged.

He said around 10% of the LSCS student body identify as being part of the LGBTQ community.

"We're talking about at least 8,766 of our students who need our support to feel safe and comfortable on our campuses," he said.

Throughout 2019, Gaer said each campus had a certified trainer, and 91 staff members participated in training. He said he hopes to create an ally program and have 30-50 student advocates trained in 2020.

# Officials: Drilling Services Technology Center opening delayed to 2021 off Hwy. 249 in Tomball

The Lone Star College System's Drilling Services Technology Center is anticipated to open in January 2021, a delay from the previous September 2020 timeline, said Linda Head, the senior associate vice chancellor of external and employer relations.

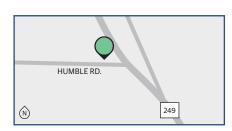
The \$12.6 million center was funded by a \$485 million bond referendum approved by voters in 2014 and will be located north of Cypress on Humble Road in Tomball, *Community Impact Newspaper* previously reported.

Plans for the center include a customized training rig, a modular training building and an equipment building, which will offer training in drilling, hydraulic manufacturing and other engineering technology, college

officials said

"It's not just for drillers; it's for maintenance technicians, rig electricians, engineers, petroleum engineers ... and for other people that might work in the industry just to see what a working rig looks like," Head said.

Head said students at all campuses in LSCS could use the space for training purposes, and she also foresees local school districts using the center.





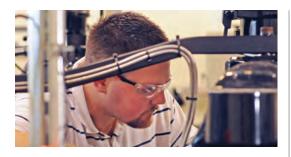


# Lone Star College to Offer Bachelor's Degrees Fall 2020 APPLY NOW! LoneStar.edu/Bachelors

There's great news for people looking to earn a bachelor's degree in Nursing, Cybersecurity, or Energy, Manufacturing and Trades Management – Lone Star College has received approval to begin offering these bachelor's degree programs starting fall 2020!

Students interested in earning one of these degrees can enroll at Lone Star College, study close to home and take advantage of paying the same tuition rates to earn a bachelor's degree as they would an associate degree, saving them thousands of dollars.

-Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor



The Bachelor of Applied Science in Energy, Manufacturing and Trades Management is designed for students who hold an A.A.S. degree and are seeking to further develop their professional qualifications and jumpstart their careers. Graduates will obtain advanced industry knowledge to apply to their expanding roles in their workplace.



The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is designed for licensed Registered Nurses seeking to advance their professional qualifications. Graduates of the program will be better prepared to assume leadership and management roles, as well as advanced practice skills.



The Bachelor of Applied Technology in **Cybersecurity** will prepare students for careers in the field of Information Technology, with coursework balanced between theoretical and technical competencies, with a concentration in cybersecurity. A technologic aptitude is a must for this growing field.





April 7 • 4-7 p.m. Register for summer and fall classes.

LoneStar.edu/OpenHouse

- · Get help with financial aid & FAFSA.
- Meet with advisors & professors.
- Get info on clubs & activities!

**Lone Star College** 

# **Board** of **Trustees**

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Alton Smith, Ed.D., Chair

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Myriam Saldívar, Vice Chair

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Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., Chancellor

# **Higher Education** Guide 2020

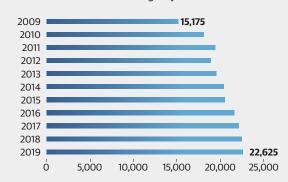
#### COMPILED BY DANICA SMITHWICK

In addition to offering bachelor's degrees for the first time starting this fall, Lone Star College-CyFair has continued to increase its student enrollment, number of college credentials awarded and dual-credit partnership with Cy-Fair ISD nearly every year.

SOURCES: LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM, CY-FAIR ISD, TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWS

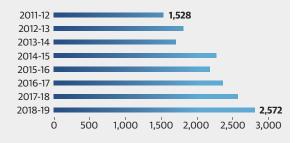
# STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Student enrollment has increased 49.09% from 2009-19 at Lone Star College-CyFair.



# CREDENTIALS AWARDED

LSC's CyFair campus awarded 68.32% more college certificates and degrees last year than in 2012.



# TOP TRANSFER INSTITUTIONS

Most Lone Star College-CyFair students intend to transfer to four-year institutions. The following fall 2019 data shows the number of transfers per school:

- **1,292 University of Houston:** 1,292
- Texas A&M University: 758
- 324 Sam Houston State University:
- 4 University of Houston Downtown: 311
- Texas State University: 231
- The University of Texas at Austin: 163
- Prairie View A&M University: 156
- 8 University of Houston Victoria: 143

- Stephen F. Austin State **University: 112**
- The University of Texas at San Antonio: 108

# 60X30TX HIGHER EDUCATION PLAN

LSC-CyFair officials said their efforts align with statewide goals the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board hopes to achieve by 2030:



All graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with

identified marketable skills.



Undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60% of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions.

# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:



A partnership between LSC-CyFair and Cy-Fair ISD, which kicked off in 2017 and continues to expand to additional campuses, lets eligible students earn an Associate of Science degree by the time they graduate high school. Fees are about \$73 per course, and priority is awarded to economically disadvantaged, highachieving and underserved students.



institution.

AMERICA'S ER + URGENT CARE Spring Cypress & Grant Rd. (f) (a) (G) (B)

win 4 season passes to



see www.AmericasER.com for entry details

EMERGENCY ROOM



**URGENT CARE** CENTER







# HISTORY



# **Lone Star College-CyFair**

Local campus continues legacy of preparing students for the future

BY DANICA SMITHWICK

housands of students have graduated from Lone Star College-CyFair since its inception, but 20 years ago the campus was just being explored as a possibility, according to Claire Gunnels, assistant library director for adult services.

"The support of the business community was a key factor in how this college came to be," Gunnels said. "Because of the rapid growth in the Cypress-Fairbanks area, the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, led by Darcy Mingoia [at the time], decided to explore the benefits of higher education to local residents."

Houston Community College and the North Harris Montgomery Community College District both presented their plans for a local campus to the chamber in March 2003, and officials ultimately decided the college district was a better option, Gunnels said. The plan included meeting local workforce needs, including emergency services, health care, technology and manufacturing jobs.

That August, local residents approved an initiative to join the college district, and Cy-Fair Collegewhich was renamed LSC-CyFair in 2008-opened on Barker Cypress Road.

Gunnels was a member of the founding faculty in 2003, joining the

team to help launch a library that would serve both the college and the public-a concept created by founding LSC-CyFair President Diane Troyer and Harris County Commissioner Steve Radack, she said.

"Not only are librarians faculty who teach students research

techniques, but also public librarians do storytimes for children, have craft programs for teens and do



fun, educational programming for adults," she said. "We teach computer skills and run a robust English as a Second Language program."

Kinesiology Department Chair Ronnie Nespeca said he worked at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene when he learned about the new college and was ultimately hired as a founding faculty member in 2003.

Some of his most memorable experiences were developing and coaching the men's soccer program

from 2004-16, leading the team to multiple championships, he said. Over time he has also seen the campus grow from about 7,000 students to more than 20,000 and from five to eight buildings along with two satellite centers.

"We have had to add new buildings, build more parking and of course add more employees," he

said. "We have had many challenges to overcome

# **NOTABLE EVENTS**

Over the last 20 years, Lone Star College-CyFair has made its mark on the community.

Residents vote to join the North Harris Montgomery Community College

Founding President Diane Troyer opens 2003 Cy-Fair College with nearly 7,000 students.

The NHMCCD becomes the Lone Star College System, and Cy-Fair College is renamed Lone Star College-CyFair.

Officials open the Center for Academic and Student Affairs as well as a new Health Science Center.

Officials open LSC-Cypress Center, a satellite campus with 15,000 square feet of workforce space.

Voters approve a \$485 million bond referendum, which includes funding for two new LSC-CyFair facilities.

Seelpa Keshvala is named LSC-CvFair's new president.

Officials open the Center for Academic and Student Engagement.

Officials open the Westway Park Technology Center, a satellite campus offering information technology and visual communications classes.

LSC-CyFair prepares to offer a Bachelor 2020 of Applied Technology in cybersecurity program in the fall.

SOURCE: LONE STAR COLLEGE-CYFAIR/

with our rapid growth rate, but one thing [that] has stayed consistent is our dedication to active, engaged learning and the success of our students."

English professor Laura Taggett, another one of the campus's first hires, said she moved from a small college in Iowa to join the faculty in 2003, excited to be part of opening a new college.

From hosting theater productions and events such as Cy-Fest to hosting evacuees during Hurricane Harvey and opening a food pantry, she said she believes the campus has been committed to serving the community from the start.

As the college grows over time, LSC-CyFair continues to provide services such as online education, dual-credit courses and workforce programs to meet the needs of local students, Taggett said.

"My hopes for LSC-CyFair is that our exciting, [innovative] faculty continue to create ways to meet our students where they are, with their ever-changing needs in a world that in ways is growing and shrinking at the same time," Taggett said.

STAYED CONSISTENT IS OUR DEDICATION TO ACTIVE. ENGAGED LEARNING AND THE SUCCESS OF

"ONE THING [THAT] HAS

RONNIE NESPECA, KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT CHAIR

**OUR STUDENTS.** "



# **BEGINNING BACHELOR'S DEGREES**

Lone Star College's first baccalaureate students will begin classes this fall after the Texas Legislature authorized community colleges across the state in 2017 to offer up to three bachelor's degrees.

# SELECT **DEGREES**

Community colleges can offer bachelor's degrees in applied science, applied technology and nursing. LSCS programs will be offered at four campuses.

#### At LSCS:

- Bachelor's degrees can be completed in two years after earning a related associate degree.
- Courses span eight weeks.
- Hybrid courses will accommodate working students.

# THE ADVENT OF BACHELOR'S DEGREES

# 2003

The state authorizes Brazosport, Midland and South Texas community colleges to offer up to five bachelor's degrees each.

#### 2005

After programs are approved and accredited, the three colleges begin enrolling.

#### 2013

The Texas Legislature approves a bill mandating a study on whether bachelor's programs should be expanded to all community colleges in Texas.

## 2017

Legislature approves Senate Bill 2118 authorizing up to three select bachelor's degrees at all community colleges.

# 2019

Lone Star College System receives regional accreditation to offer three bachelor's degrees.

# 2020

LSCS' three degrees rolling out in fall 2020 are part of 21 bachelor's degrees approved since the Legislature's decision in 2017.

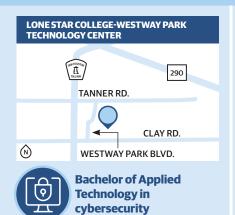
# 2022

LSCS submits a report on its bachelor's programs to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board every two years.

# 2030

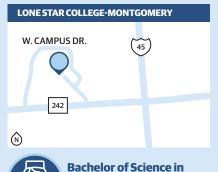
The state's 60x30TX plan, launched in 2015, aims for at least 60% of Texans ages 25-34 to have a certificate or degree to ensure a more educated population and workforce.

SOURCES: TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD, LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM, RAND CORP./
COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER





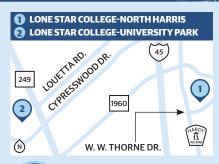
**Related associate degrees:** cybersecurity, related information technology fields



Inaugural class size: 30-35

nursing

**Related associate degrees:** must be a licensed registered nurse to apply





Bachelor of Applied Science in energy, manufacturing and trades management

**Inaugural class size:** 50 (in each cohort)

**Related associate degrees:** automotive technology, petroleum service technician, welding technology

#### **CONTINUED FROM 1**

Based on tuition rates at public universities that are popular for local students according to college system data, bachelor's degrees elsewhere could cost six times more than LSCS charges.

"Really at the heart of community colleges is that mission to serve the students that may otherwise struggle to have access to higher education, either for geographic reasons, for financial reasons [or] for scheduling reasons," she said.

Jones said while LSCS is not the first community college system in Texas to offer bachelor's degrees, it is the first to offer all three programs at once. Decisions regarding which programs would be offered were based on feedback from local employers and demand from students, she said.

While speaking with hiring managers in communities served by LSCS, Chancellor Stephen Head said he was repeatedly told about a shortage of skilled labor. Head said he believes offering these programs will help keep graduates local.

"When you get people trained at this level, it helps the economy because they make money; they buy houses and cars; they vote and all the reasons you want an educated public," he said. "So we think over the long term, it not only helps the college but it helps our local communities. For the most part, people want to stay at home and go to college or stay near their home."

# **Establishing new programs**

LSCS' three programs are among the 21 bachelor's degrees approved for community colleges since 2017, said Stacey Silverman, the assistant commissioner for academic quality and workforce for the THECB. Another nine degree programs were launched prior to 2017, she said.

In 2003, the state approved a pilot project in which the coordinating board tested the effectiveness of allowing community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees at Brazosport College, Midland College and South Texas College. After more than a decade of assessment, the Legislature extended the opportunity to all community colleges across the state, Silverman said.

"The universities had questions about whether or not community colleges should be offering four-year degrees, and our argument was these are workforce programs [and] four-year schools normally do not offer workforce programs," Head said.

Since 2017, LSCS has worked to receive regional accreditation from the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as well as approval from the THECB, Jones said. This included proving the college system had adequate resources to offer quality programs and notifying nearby institutions of their intent to offer a bachelor's program and resolve any concerns.

"That application requires not only that we provide information about the curriculum, but that we show the economic need in our area, that we show support from our other higher education partners in a 50-mile radius in our area that there is a demand that is not currently being met," she said.

Head said no new facilities were needed to offer the programs this fall, and the system has set aside money the last several years to accommodate them. About \$300 million of the system's \$485 million bond referendum voters approved in 2014 is going to workforce facilities such as the \$22 million, 133,000-square-foot Westway Park Technology Center located off Beltway 8 near Clay Road, he said.

Once the programs are up and running, LSCS officials said they will submit a report to the coordinating board every two years in addition to hosting occasional site visits and submitting more comprehensive reviews every 10 years. The board will monitor progress in student enrollment, finances and other factors.

# **Meeting workforce needs**

Kim Hubbard, dean of the Westway Park Technology Center, said about 50 students would take part in the Bachelor of Applied Technology in cybersecurity program this fall.

Since the facility opened in January 2019, Hubbard said overall enrollment has increased, but especially in the cybersecurity program, which enrolls more than 200 students.

"We can maintain all of our programs on the level of working in industry, [and] that simply means students have the opportunity to come in and experience an environment that

# COMPARING COSTS LSCS officials said students in com

LSCS officials said students in community college bachelor's degree programs will see cost savings compared with other four-year institutions. The tuition cost for 12 credit hours is shown below:

# 2019-20 SEMESTER TUITION COST FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

\*Half of annual tuition cost and fees



Lone Star College \$4,268

Sam Houston Stephen F.
State Austin State
University University

\$4,587

University

of Houston

\$5,570

University

of Texas

**\$5,511**Texas A&M

University

Houston Baptist University

\$16,725

Rice

\$24,556

Rice University\*

SOURCE: LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

mirrors exactly what they're going to be doing when they get a full-time job," she said.

Following completion of the Associate of Applied Science in cyber-security, graduates are qualified for entry-level positions.

With the Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in hand, graduates might obtain jobs as information technology specialists or cybersecurity consultants, Hubbard said.

According to the Texas Workforce Commission, such employees can earn more than \$100,000 a year in the state's Gulf Coast region.

Houston-based threat researcher Luke Leal works for Sucuri, a website security solutions company that provides incident response, monitoring and protection services to websites.

He attended LSC-Kingwood and the University of Houston but said he did not plan to pursue a career in cybersecurity. Rather, the opportunity came about when a previous employer needed to fill an open position.

Leal said the need for employees has outpaced the growth of a qualified workforce. However, programs educating individuals about the industry have also increased, he said.

"The increasing need comes from organizations continuing to see how costly an attack can be towards their overall operations and wanting to prevent or minimize the risk," Leal said. "The future of the industry looks very promising in terms of available jobs and demand for it, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts much higher than normal growth rates for cybersecurity positions. This growth will eventually slow, so now is a great time to get a foothold in the industry."

Meanwhile, at the LSC-University Park campus, President Shah Ardalan said it made sense to offer the bachelor's degree in energy, manufacturing and trades management because of the facilities that were already in place—including a \$1.2 million live manufacturing line and \$1.6 million oil and gas simulation facility at the Energy & Manufacturing Institute.

The degree opens new opportunities for graduates who want to pursue managerial positions as opposed to technical jobs. Positions may include working in oil and gas, construction, electrical technology or machining, he said.

"You name it—anything related to energy and manufacturing—if they had the job, now they can be very well positioned to become a manager," Ardalan said.

## **Increasing access**

Ardalan said bachelor's programs were designed for working professionals who already hold associate degrees and are looking to advance their careers. Eight-week classes with a combination of online and face-to-face instruction offered outside of traditional business hours accommodate such students, he said.

"Accessibility is one [advantage], but a big point is that it's going to be a seamless transition from the associate degree," he said. "Just two years going nights and weekends, and you don't lose any credit; you don't lose any money; you don't lose any time."

The applied science degree will also be offered at LSC-North Harris near FM 1960 and I-45, while licensed registered nurses looking to earn a Bachelor of Science in nursing can do so at LSC-Montgomery in The Woodlands.

The application process and entry criteria are also less strenuous than traditional four-year

universities—especially for students who earned their associate degree at LSCS, Hubbard said.

However, the program will be competitive. According to Jones, within about a week of the application process opening Feb. 3, bachelor's programs already had more applicants than seats available.

About 30 students will be accepted into the nursing degree program for the fall semester, and about 50 will be accepted into each cohort of the Bachelor of Applied Science programs.

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VALERIE JONES, ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM

Officials said expansion would come over time. Given the regional shortage of qualified nurses, officials said they are considering expanding the nursing program to the Cy-Fair and Tomball campuses, but no official plans have been made.

"We will seek to grow the program for all of our campus areas as quickly as we're able to do so," Jones said. "But the demand is there, and ... the

**LOCAL DEMAND** 

The Texas Workforce Commission projects continued demand for qualified employees in applied technology, applied science and nursing. The following projections are from 2016-26 in the state's Gulf Coast region:



(CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

2,454

1,303

projected new jobs average annual openings

**16.9%** growth

( REGISTERED NURSES

13,198

4,304

projected new jobs avera

average annual openings

**25.1%** growth

( INFORMATION SECURITY ANALYSTS

**358** 

139

projected new jobs

average annual openings

17.7% growth

SOURCE: TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

goal is to be able to allow universal access to community members at all of our service areas, regardless of campus location."

The push to bring more four-year programs to community colleges also aligns with the THECB's goals to increase the percentage of Texans between the ages of 24-35 who hold a certificate or degree to 60% and to lower undergraduate student loan debt to less than 60% of first-year wages by 2030.

Ardalan said he believes helping individuals become more financially stable will benefit the entire community.

"If they were making, let's say, \$38,000 per year with an associate's degree and now they're going to be making \$68,000 a year ... the more money individuals are making, the more we are serving the community," he said. "Most of our graduates stay within the area, which means that has a direct impact on taxes paid, money spent and houses bought."



For more information, visit **communityimpact.com**.

# **BUSINESS FEATURE**

# **Fun N Play Indoor Playground**

Cy-Fair venue seeks to balance fun and safety

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

or Wendy Lee, a co-owner at Fun N Play Indoor Playground in Cy-Fair, coming to work every day means coming to a place where children show up with smiles and leave with a sense of satisfaction that only a day of physical play can provide.

"It's a very happy environment," she said. "I just love coming in here."

The business was opened in December 2018 by Lee and her friend Momo Chen. According to Lee, the idea to open an indoor playground first came from Chen, a mother of two who struggled to find an indoor space that met the standards of safety and cleanliness she was looking for.

Chen would eventually find a winning playground concept on an overseas trip. After reaching out to the company that built that playground, she took some notes and came back to the U.S. with plans to start her own, Lee said.

Equipment includes a three-story slide, a water trampoline and a ball pit with a game that allows children to toss balls at a projector screen to hit targets. Aside from the projector, Lee said the duo deliberately chose not to feature any electronic equipment.

"We decided to go with a more manual route for what we put in here," she said. "It's safer-more toddler-friendly-and it allows the kids to be a little more physical and energetic while playing, instead of sitting in front of a screen."

The equipment was also chosen to cater to a younger age range, Lee said. Although all children are required to have parent supervision while playing at Fun N Indoor, the playground is designed to create an environment where parents of children as young as 2-3 can feel comfortable letting them play, she said.

The business offers a variety of snacks but does not have a kitchen on-site, Lee said. Because of this, she said children and parents are allowed free re-entry all day, a perk that allows them to go out for lunch and come back. Parents can also bring their own snacks, she said.

More than one year since opening, safety and cleanliness remain the two most important priorities for the two owners, who make sure all equipment is cleaned at the end of each day. Lee said she enjoys both meeting new parents and interacting with new children from one day to the next.

"Some customers who were pregnant when we first opened are now bringing their 1-year-olds in to play, and I love that I'm able to be a part of their lives as they grow," she said. "It's not the type of business that you get in for the money, but it's a business with a lot of heart."

32



on Grant Road in Cypress with her friend Momo Chen in 2018. (Photos by Shawn Arrajj/Community Impact Newspaper)

# **BRINGING THE PARTY**

Fun N Play Indoor Playground features a private party room that can be reserved for birthday or theme parties. Days when parties are booked are posted online, but the playground also remains open to other guests. Packages include:

#### **BASIC BIRTHDAY (\$350)**

- Table settings for up to 10 children, goodie bag for each child, gift for birthday child, choice of two to three colors for decoration
- Includes three hours of play and two hours of private party time

## **DELUXE BIRTHDAY (\$550)**

- Everything from basic package plus room for five additional children, juice and snacks and choice of theme decorations, such as mermaid, zoo or dinosaur
- Includes three hours of play and two hours of private







**GRANT RD** (N)

# **Fun N Play Indoor Playground**

11712 Grant Road, Cypress

832-534-1280

www.funnplayday.com

Hours: Mon.-Sun. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.



# **Kidtastic Park**

# Two families bring outdoors in for Cypress children

BY DANICA SMITHWICK

wo Cypress families whose needs were not being met by local entertainment options took it upon themselves to open a 6,000-square-foot indoor playground in February 2019.

Kidtastic Park was designed with both parents and children in mind, said Christina Nguyen, who co-owns the business with her husband, Ricky, and her friends Khoa and Jasmine Do.

"It started because we both have two kids ... and we could never quite find a clean, fun family type of place in Cypress," she said. "There are a lot of other places throughout Cypress and the Houston area, but there were none that were geared toward smaller children."

Designed for children up to age 12 with a special designated area for toddlers ages 0-3, Kidtastic Park features a zip line, merry-go-rounds, slides, obstacle courses and educational elements throughout.

Admission for a day of unlimited play starts at \$5.99 for babies younger than 1 and ranges from \$10.99-\$13.99 depending on the day and sibling discounts. Two adults are admitted free per child.

Parents can watch their children in the open-concept playground or via a big-screen livestream, but they are also welcome to join in on the fun, Christina said.

"We want parents to be able to go in and play with their kids and not just be a spectator," she said. The team at Kidtastic Park implemented several other safety features from the beginning. This includes a gate that locks upon entering or exiting the playground area and a wristband system that matches parents to their children.

Cleanliness is another focus for the business. Christina said everyone in the play structure is required to wear Kidtastic Park's signature sticky socks, which cost \$2.50 per child and are free for up to two accompanying adults. The facility is also cleaned throughout the day and closes once a month for deep cleaning, she said.

Two private rooms can be rented and decorated with the help of the host included in each party package. Other special events include Mommy and Me Mondays, Toddler Tuesdays, Sensory Friendly Days and holiday activities.

Christina said she and her partners enjoy giving back to the local community, and they launched a program last year called Kidtastic Park Cares in which they collect and donate supplies to area nonprofits. A local muralist was also hired to paint rainbows, butterflies, bumblebees and other "critters" throughout the park to bring outdoor elements inside, she said.

"Playing outside is a lot of fun; we play outside a lot, but it gets hot; it gets cold; it gets rainy," she said. "Our big thing was creating the park environment, [but] it's climate-controlled; it's safe; it's clean."



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- Adults: two admitted free per every paying child







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www.kidtasticpark.com

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CY-FAIR EDITION • MARCH 2020

# HOOSE I Convil Three Class of some

Meet Cammile Adams: business owner, Olympic swimmer and CFISD graduate. Cammile's parents chose Cypress-Fairbanks ISD to give their daughter every chance to dive in to exceptional academic programs and the swimming pool.

Today, Cammile has two Olympic appearances under her swim cap and owns her own swim school. Her success shows how the opportunities available to all students in CFISD can develop champions.



Learn how we cheer on all our students at CFISDspirit.com.



DINING FEATURE BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

# Manny's Greek Cafe

Local restaurateur builds customer base on 'old-school' fundamentals

anny Yiakras knows the correct way to pronounce "gyro," but he said he will not hold it against his customers if they get it wrong. The Greek native and Cy-Fair restaurateur said he combines a passion for food with a love of people when running Manny's Greek Cafe on Hwy. 6.

"I love people because that's my culture; it's all about hospitality," he said. "My plumber is my customer. My dentist next door is my customer. My chiropractor down the street is my customer. That's the old-school way."

Yiakras first opened Manny's in 2004. Over time, he said he has had to overcome multiple challenges to keep his restaurant open—including road construction and increasing costs—but has remained committed to using quality ingredients and following recipes passed down to him from his grandmother.

Yiakras said the quality of ingredients and attention to detail are two of the most crucial needs in his kitchen. Precision is required when preparing the tzatziki sauce—a process done by hand that involves dehydrating the cucumbers in a way that keeps them from being too watery while also preserving the flavor—as well as when grilling the pita bread to perfection and carving the gyro meat.

"A lot of people overcook the gyro, and it becomes too dry, and it starts to taste like jerky or bacon," he said. "The gyro has to have juice inside. It has to have a little tenderness."

Yiakras said he also strives for freshness, preparing new batches of ingredients throughout the day. When certain items are sold out, such as the spanakopita—a savory pie make with flaky phyllo dough, spinach and feta cheese—they are done for the day, although Yiakras said some customers are willing to wait up to 25 minutes for a new one to be made fresh.

"The reason I stay in business is because I micromanage everything," he said. "These are simple ingredients, but you have to do them right and put them all together in the right way."

Gyros are the top seller at Manny's, but the eatery also offers Greek burgers, pasta dishes and other Greek staples such as hummus, dolmades and spanakopita. While many items are prepared in traditional Greek style, others are made with a twist, Yiakras said, including the Italy-inspired pasta Alfredo and Manny's Fire Fries, which are served with a mix of hot sauce and tzatziki.

Yiakras, a natural extrovert, said many of his customers have opened up to him and come to him for advice in the past. For those he has helped, many often come back and end up helping him later on. He said he also likes to get involved with the broader Cy-Fair community, including donating food to local schools for various events.

"It's all a part of my philosophy," he said. "If all of us do something for the community, we're going to have a stronger community."



# **DISHES TO TRY**



# **GYRO COMBO (\$16.24)**

A traditional Greek gyro is served on warm pita bread filled with spiced, chopped lamb and beef; tzatziki sauce; onion; and tomato. Combos are also served with fries and a drink.



# **MANNY'S CLASSIC (\$10)**

Penne pasta is served with virgin olive oil and sauteed with kalamata olives, fresh garlic and diced tomatoes and topped with parmesan cheese.



# TONIA'S FAVORITE SALAD (\$4.27 SMALL, \$7.55 MEDIUM, \$13.20 LARGE)

Penne pasta, fresh spinach and kalamata olives are served with parmesan and a lemon olive oil dressing.



# **Manny's Greek Cafe**

8475 Hwy. 6 N., Ste. E, Houston 281-856-9075

www.facebook.com/mannvsgreekcafe

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., closed Sun.

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## **Dierker's Champs**

Astros legend leads nonprofit into its 10th season

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

ith baseball season around the corner, students across Cy-Fair ISD schools are getting ready to take the field. For more than 360 economically disadvantaged students, the season will kick off with a little help from a local nonprofit and a Houston Astros legend.

Dierker's Champs—a collaborative effort between the nonprofit Cy-Hope and former Astros pitcher, manager and broadcaster Larry Dierker-kicks off March 21 at Cy-Fair High School. The league caters to elementary and middle school students within CFISD who are considered economically disadvantaged, said Holly Calbat, director of finance and donor relations with Cy-Hope.

Dierker's Champs will field 25 teams in the 2020 season, up from 19 teams in 2019, Calbat said.

"We still weren't able to take in everyone who applied, which kind of gives you an idea of how many students are eager to join," she said.

Families are asked to contribute \$20 per player to Dierker's Champs, but that cost is on an "if you can" basis, Calbat said. Cy-Hope covers the costs to hire umpires, to use the fields, and for uniforms and equipment for all players. All coaches are volunteers, and many are CFISD teachers, she said.

Dierker began his partnership to help launch the Cy-Hope league in 2011. He said he is motivated by giving children a chance to take part in something they otherwise would not have been able to.

"When it comes to baseball you really have to start young because there are so many skills," Dierker said.

As Cy-Fair ISD embarks on plans to repurpose the sports fields at Cy-Fair High School, Dierker's Champs is poised to begin playing games on land adjacent to Campbell Middle School starting in 2022, Dierker said. He said he and Cy-Hope are looking into opportunities to raise money and potentially purchase the land instead of leasing it, which would help the nonprofit avoid the costs of leasing while also opening doors to lease the fields out when not in use.

Beyond the sport itself, Dierker said he loves to see families getting more involved with their children's lives.

"When we started out at our own field ... a lot of people would just drop their kids off and pick them up," he said. "Now, we get the bleachers full. All you have to do is walk out there for 15 minutes one Saturday and look around and walk back. You can feel it. It's a positive vibe."



#### **HOW TO HELP**

There are several ways local residents can lend a hand to Dierker's Champs. Interested volunteers are asked to contact Cy-Hope at 713-466-4673 or email cy-hope@cy-hope.org.



Serve as a volunteer coach or umpire



Help out at the on-site concession stand



Sponsor a field



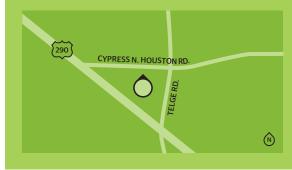
Make a financial contribution

#### **Dierker's Champs**

Cy-Fair High School

15415 Cypress North Houston Road, Cypress

www.cy-hope.org/dierkers-champs





## Sheriff's office deals with lack of new deputies

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

When Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez addressed county commissioners in January with his budget requests for the department for fiscal year 2020-21, population growth in unincorporated parts of the county—which the sheriff's office is tasked with patrolling—was on his mind.

At a Jan. 28 commissioners court meeting, Gonzalez asked for about \$19.9 million in additional funding, money that would primarily be used to fund 260 new deputy positions and 21 new investigators, among other needs.

"We have operational needs that need to be met with a growing county," he said at the Jan. 28 meeting. "Domestic violence reduction is a priority as are other proactive crime reduction services. We have to make sure our training [and] our personnel are keeping up."

However, the final budget approved by the court Feb. 11 included no funds for additional personnel, said Jason Spencer, director of public affairs for the sheriff's office. An increase of \$11.4 million for patrol and administration was enough to cover medical benefits and a 2% pay increase for all employees. The budget also included \$4.6 million in discretionary funds, which Spencer said is being used to fund an additional 1% raise for all sworn law enforcement personnel, bringing the total raise to 3%.

At the Jan. 28 meeting, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo suggested the sheriff hold off on hiring new deputies until after the completion of an ongoing study into the county's overall criminal justice system.

In the meantime, officials with the sheriff's office said they will continue to work with what they have, including collaborative efforts with local constable officers.

#### **Population boom**

The population in the Cy-Fair area has increased from roughly 510,000 to 580,000 between 2013 and 2018, according to five-year estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. As of 2019, the populations of the two sheriff districts that cover the broader northwest Harris County area—District 4, from Hwy. 249 to Hwy. 290, and District 5, from Hwy. 290 to I-10 West—were around 462,000 and

406,000, respectively.

From 2014-19, the total number of patrol deputies working in the sheriff's office dropped from 681 to 619, according to department data. When that figure is separated into district deputies, who serve the sheriff's office full time, and contract deputies, who serve specific communities on a contract fee basis, the drop-off becomes even steeper: The department gained 85 contract deputies between 2014 and 2019 while losing 142 district deputies over that time.

Contract deputies can spend between 70%-100% of their time within the areas they are contracted to patrol. Spencer said the recent shift toward contract deputies and away from district deputies is a reflection of an increase in the number of communities who have chosen to participate in that program over time. The office's request for 260 deputies was meant to increase patrols in noncontract areas, he said.

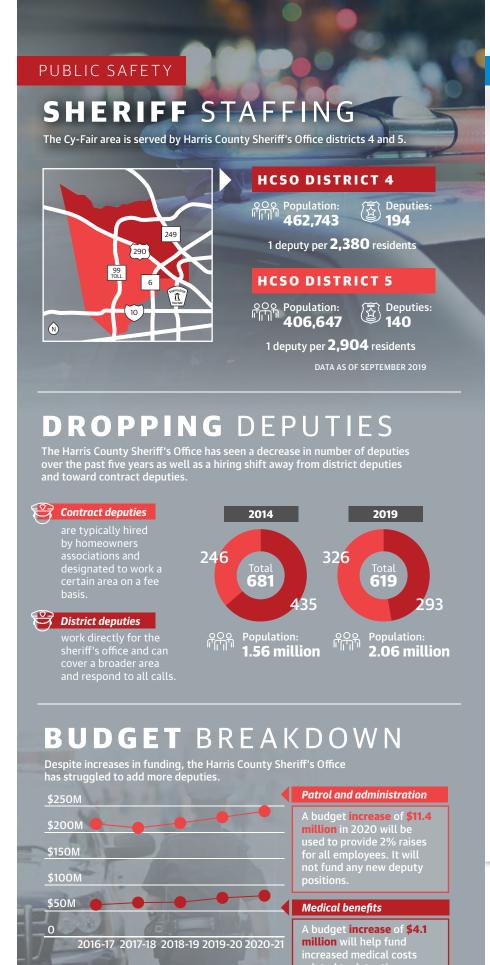
"The bottom line is our funding for patrol deputies has not kept pace with the significant population growth we've seen in unincorporated Harris County," he said.

#### **Analyzing patrol needs**

As of September 2019, District 4 had 65 district deputies and 108 contract deputies, while District 5 had 48 district deputies and 83 contract deputies, according to HCSO data.

The sheriff's office budget requests were based on a staffing analysis conducted between September 2018 and August 2019, researchers said. The analysis found that Harris County lags behind other law enforcement agencies in terms of law enforcement employees per 1,000 residents. With roughly 1.14 deputies per 1,000 residents, Harris County employed only about half the rate of the national average of 2.4 law enforcement employees per 1,000 residents and the state average of 2.2 deputies per 1,000 residents.

With the recent request for more deputies unfulfilled, collaboration with other law enforcement agencies will be increasingly important in places such as Cy-Fair, officials said. The Cy-Fair area is patrolled by the Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office east of Hwy. 290 and the Precinct 5 Constable's Office west of



Hwy. 290.

As of press time March 10, county commissioners were expected to discuss a study into the implementation of a combined dispatching system between constables and the sheriff's office at a March 10 meeting.

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY OFFICE OF BUDGET
MANAGEMENT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

However, Gonzalez said the more

the sheriff's office is able to function on its own, the better, especially when it comes to growing needs for traffic enforcement.

"We're working collaboratively with the constables and others, but we need to make sure we're growing on our own on that," he said.

#### HEALTH CARE

## CY-FAIR METRICS

The percentage of people who are uninsured in Cy-Fair area ranged from 11%-19% in 2017.



Offilisul eu III 2017	
12%	
11%	
14%	
19%	
16%	
Adults who delayed seeing a doctor in 2018	
a doctor in 2018	
a doctor in 2018  27%	
a doctor in 2018  27%  19%	

Uninsured in 2017

#### Public health locations

Cypress Health Center 12340 Jones Road, Ste. 100, Houston www.harrishealth.org 713-873-5240

2 Harris County Public Health Fallbrook Women, Infants and Children Center 14901 Hwy. 249, Ste. 107, Houston http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov 713-407-5800 3 Bear Creek Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic

19%

5870 Hwy 6 N., Houston www.harrishealth.org 713-873-6860

4 Danny Jackson Community Health Center

5503 N. Fry Road , Katy www.harrishealth.org 713-982-7071

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

### FUNDING PUBLIC HEALTH

After several years of annual budget increases of between \$1 million-\$2 million, Harris County has boosted funding more substantially for the public health department in each of the past two years.

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY OFFICE OF BUDGET MANAGEMENT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

_\$40M
\$30M
\$20M
\$10M
0 2014-15 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21

## Public health officials release 10-year plan

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

Just as the Harris County Sheriff's Office did, the Harris County Public Health Department also came to commissioners with a list of budget requests, with the understanding that many of them would not be funded. Of the \$26 million in new requests, the final public health budget ultimately included about \$9.2 million in additional funding.

That funding will be used in part in 2020 to bolster programs related to chronic disease prevention and infectious disease response, said Umair Shah, executive director of Harris County Public Health.

However, the public health department has longer-term goals that in part involve preparing for continued growth in unincorporated areas, Shah said. The department released a 10-year vision plan called Harris Cares last fall that Shah said serves as a roadmap for the future. Top recommendations include finding ways to improve access to health care in underserved areas where growth is creating greater needs.

Shah said methods could include a mix of brick-and-mortar infrastructure as well as new innovative solutions, such as mobile health, telehealth and smaller health care hubs.

"Brick-and-mortar infrastructure can be harder to adapt as demographics change," Shah said. "Mobile infrastructure allows for a lot more flexibility of care and of service delivery."

#### **Troubling data**

In addition to making recommendations for how to improve health care in Harris County, the Harris Cares plan also examined a variety of data points across the county.

Although the percentage of people who are uninsured is lower in Cy-Fair than in some other parts of Harris County, researchers said the overall uninsured rate in Harris County is still cause for concern. The Addicks/Bear Creek area had an uninsured rate of 19% in 2017, among the highest rates in the northwest area. Across the U.S., roughly 8.5% of citizens are uninsured.

Although the Cypress-Katy area is also among the parts of the county with the lowest uninsured rates, the number of adults who reported having delayed seeing a doctor for a medical concern was among the highest. Researchers said the underinsured rate—people with insurance who have trouble paying deductibles or copays—could be higher in that area.

Public health clinics can be found on Jones Road and Hwy. 6 in Cy-Fair. Part of the plan calls for investing in health care upstream in local communities to try to prevent people from getting sick or injured before they end up in the emergency room, Shah said.

Les Caves—executive director of Northwest Assistance Ministries, which provides assistance to low-income individuals, including pediatric health care services—said the nonprofit has seen health care needs grow among the people coming to them.

"What you see too often is that people will let their illnesses go, hoping they'll get better," Caves said. "There's not a lot of options for people who don't make much money to acquire health insurance or receive health care. Until we have a plan for those families, the numbers will be with us."







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#### **TALLOW WOOD, 77070**

Tallow Wood is a neighborhood of 961 single-family homes built in the early 1980s where home values range from \$95,000-\$153,000.



Median home value **\$118.069** 



Homes on the market\*



Homes under contract



Median annual property taxes \$3.312



Median price per square foot **\$100.11** 



\* AS OF 3/1/20

Average days on the market\*



Build-out year: 1982 Square footage: 843-2,279 Selling price: \$96,000-\$192,500 HOA dues (estimated): \$375 annually Schools: Cy-Fair ISD (Matzke Elementary

School, Bleyl Middle School, Cypress Creek

High School)

Property taxes (in dollars):

Total (per \$100 valuation)	2.81*
Mills Road MUD	0.61
Harris County ESD No. 13	0.1
Lone Star College System	0.1078
Harris County Dept. of Education	0.005
Harris Health System	0.16591
Port of Houston Authority	0.01074
Harris County Flood Control District	0.02792
Harris County	0.40713
Cy-Fair ISD	1.37

\*TAX RATE VARIES BASED ON HOME LOCATION.

NEIGHBORHOOD DATA PROVIDED BY DEBBIE MARSHALL ROSS & MARSHALL REAL ESTATE, 12623 JONES ROAD, HOUSTON TX 77070 281-469-7677 • YDEBBIE23@GMAIL.COM



#### Recently sold homes in Tallow Wood



9903 Jademont Lane

3-4 bed/2 bath 1,625 sq. ft. Sold for \$160,001-\$185,000 on Jan. 28, 2020



10319 Bushy Creek Drive

3 bed/2 bath 1,042 sq. ft. Sold for \$120,001-\$140,000 on Dec. 20, 2019



10511 Bushy Creek Drive

3 bed/2 bath 1,992 sq. ft Sold for \$160,001-\$185,000 on Jan. 10. 2020



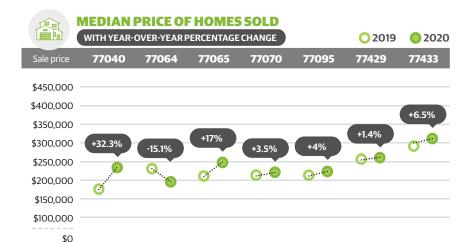
10338 Timberloch Drive

4 bed/2.5 bath 1,829 sq. ft. Sold for \$160,001-\$185,000 on Feb. 21, 2020

#### **MARKET DATA FOR FEBRUARY**



	77040	77064	77065	77070	77095	77429	77433
\$1 million +	-	-	-	-	-	3/138	-
\$800,000-\$999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$600,000-\$799,999	-	-	-	-	-	2/5	5/65
\$500,000-\$599,999	-	-	-	-	-	2/28	5/78
\$400,000-\$499,999	-	-	-	2/31	-	5/160	17/68
\$300,000-\$399,999	2/60	1/7	4/64	3/64	3/44	27/75	33/88
\$200,000-\$299,999	14/73	11/54	7/36	20/61	32/51	57/34	42/43
\$199,999 or less	3/65	13/34	2/3	10/25	14/47	14/27	12/23





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#### Julie Smith

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#### **Tyler Torres**

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#### CY-FAIR MARCH 2020 COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DATA

Rental rates for industrial space in Cy-Fair rose in the second month of 2020 to \$7.59 per square foot per year. In the months prior, industrial rental rates had been steadily increasing since early 2017, when they averaged around \$5.48 per square foot per year.

#### **TOTAL SQUARE FEET OF SPACE**

Q2 2019 As of 3/5/2020

#### **OFFICE**

10.15M 10.3M

#### **INDUSTRIAL**

34.64M 34.85M

#### **RETAIL**

17.94M 18.38M



MARKET DATA PROVIDED BY CALDWELL COMPANIES 7904 N. SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY, FOURTH FLOOR HOUSTON, TX 77064 COLLEGE STATION | HOUSTON | THE WOODLANDS

AS OF 3/5/20

Although every effort has been made to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of this real estate data, *Community Impact Newspaper* assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

## OFFICE

#### **OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY**



#### **RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT**



#### **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**





**2** 

## IND

#### **INDUSTRIAL**

#### **OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY**



#### RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



#### **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**





**20** buildings

#### RETAIL

#### **OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY**

Occupancy rate Vacancy rate

4.8% 7 95.2% 5.6% 7 94.4%

Q2
2019 As of 3/5/20

#### **RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT**



#### **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**



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**10** buildings

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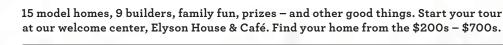
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## IMPACT

# DEALS



#### **DEALS THIS MONTH**

BEAUTY & FITNESS
Better Lives Training54
Hammer & Nails54
Tune Up The Manly Salon49
DINING
2920 Roadhouse
Backyard Grill51
Blue Water Seafood47
Connie's Frozen Custard49
Corky's Ribs and BBQ46
Creekwood Grill55
Cypress Trail Hideout47
For Heaven's Cake46
Freddy's Frozen Custard &
Steakburgers54
Frio Hill Country Grill52
Harris County Smokehouse55
Klaus Brewing Company53
LazerX51  Mia Bella Trattoria53
New York & Chicago Pizza Company 52
Pho Bo 2
PJ's Coffee of New Orleans53
Soto's Cantina50
The Rock Burger Truck53
The Station Seafood Co
Tito's Cantina47
YOKO Japanese Kitchen49
ENTERTAINMENT
ENTERTAINMENT Agrodrome Ice Skating Compley 46
Aerodrome Ice Skating Complex 46
Aerodrome Ice Skating Complex 46 AR Workshop51
Aerodrome Ice Skating Complex 46 AR Workshop51 Fred Astaire Dance Studios49
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Aerodrome Ice Skating Complex 46         AR Workshop 51         Fred Astaire Dance Studios 49         Jersey Meadow Golf Course 50         HOME & GARDEN         U.S. Floors & Remodeling 54         NON-PROFIT         Chrysalis Preschool 55         Cypress Assistance Ministries 55         PET HEALTH/SUPPLIES         Dogtopia 51         Rosehill Pet Resort 45         Tails of Texas Pet Resort 46         The Kennel Klub 52
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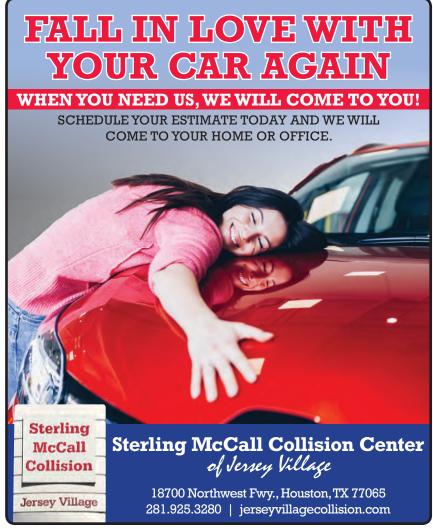


































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