

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION EDITION**

ONLINE AT CI COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1 | SEPT. 12-30, 2020

#### ON-CAMPUS CONFLICT

While Cy-Fair ISD has implemented new protocols to increase safety, many employees said they feel uncomfortable about the return to campuses.



"It's unfortunate that it appears the district has dug in so deeply on [prohibiting remote work], but some of our teachers may not come out of this well."

DONNA LORD. CY-FAIR TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

"The education of our students is the No. 1 goal we have, closely followed [by]—if not equal to—the safety of our students and ... staff."



MARK HENRY, CY-FAIR ISD SUPERINTENDENT

## Cy-Fair ISD teachers push for safe working environments in 2020-21

BY DANICA LLOYD

Protocols implemented in Cy-Fair ISD in 2020-21 to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus include daily self-screenings, one-way hallways, frequent sanitization of surfaces, face masks and desk shields.

Despite these preventive measures, teachers have continued to advocate for CFISD administration to prioritize their safety. Dozens of teachers with health

concerns have implored board members and administrators to allow them the option to work from home.

Others have asked officials to consider starting the school year with exclusively virtual instruction as neighboring districts such as Spring, Katy and Houston ISDs have done.

"The education of our students is the No. 1 goal we have, closely followed [by]-if not equal to-the safety

of our students and the safety of our staff," Superintendent Mark Henry said at an Aug. 6 meeting.

Harris County released its own school reopening plan, stating due to high levels of community spread of the coronavirus, schools should only deliver instruction virtually while the county's COVID-19 threat level system is at "severe." Once conditions **CONTINUED ON 32** 

## Tax rate talks force tough decisions

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

The coronavirus pandemic has rocked the Houston economy over the past six months, and city and county officials responsible for setting tax rates each year are now confronting a difficult decision: Do they raise tax rates to get ahead of future budget holes, or do they lower taxes to provide relief to homeowners amid the pandemic?

In Harris County, the debate is still underway, and the decision could mean the difference in millions of dollars. Jersey Village officials are waiting to learn how home values have changed since last year before setting a tax rate, but officials plan to keep homestead exemptions flat, citing the uncertainties of what the future may hold.

**CONTINUED ON 38** 

2020 budget

\$3.07B

2021 budget

\$3.27B

Tax rate cut could prompt

**O** \$10M\*

budget shortfall.

#### Officials with several taxing entities are poised to take a more conservative approach to budgeting this year.

\*BASED ON PRELIMINARY APPRAISED VALUES.

SOURCES: HARRIS COUNTY, HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

DISTRICT NO. 9, JERSEY VILLAGE/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

\$21.01M

2021 budget\*\*

\$16.92M

Proposed rate could net

**♦** \$204K\*

in additional property tax revenue. 2020 budget \$56.34M

2021 budget

\$56.89M Adopted tax

rate will raise **♀**\$1.5M\*

in additional revenue.





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EDITION 2020

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- Lone Star College
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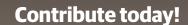
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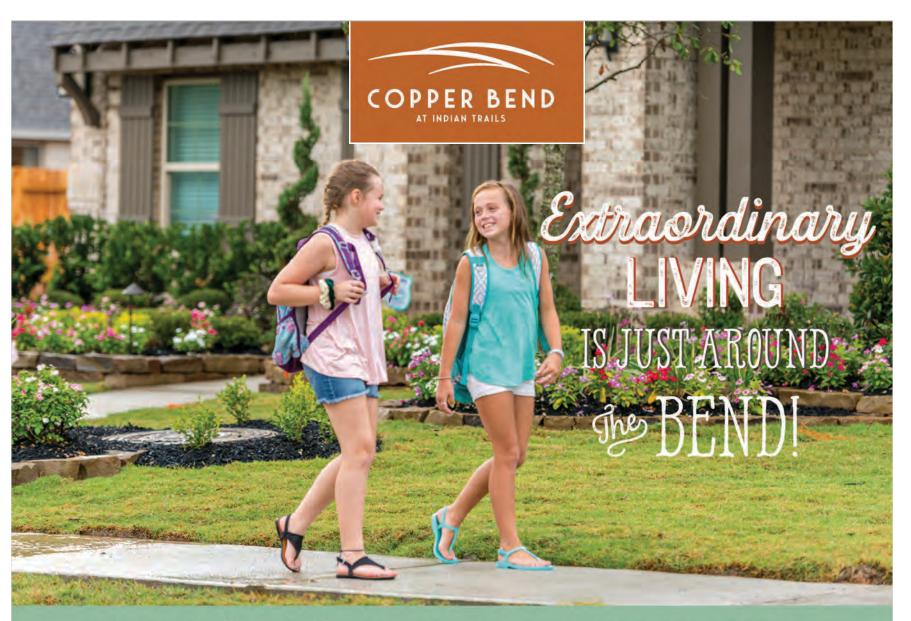
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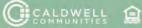


Sparkling 4-acre lake -> Arboretum-style park with large oak trees ->

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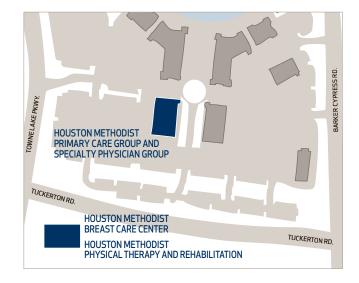


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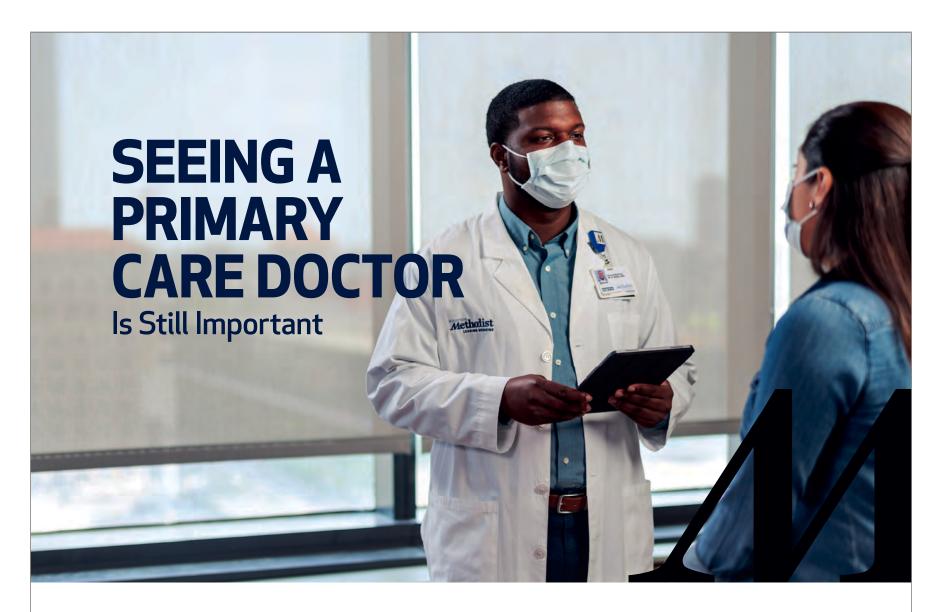












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WHO WE ARE

John and Jennifer Garrett began Community Impact Newspaper in 2005 in Pflugerville, TX. The company's mission is to build communities of informed citizens and thriving businesses through the collaboration of a passionate team. Today we operate across five metropolitan areas, providing hyperlocal, nonpartisan news produced by our full-time journalists in each community we serve.

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#### **THIS ISSUE**

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS MONTH



FROM EMILY: I am excited to introduce myself as the general manager of our Cy-Fair edition. While I am new to the role here in Cy-Fair, I have been with Community Impact Newspaper for four years, most recently serving as general manager of our Lake Houston-Humble-Kingwood edition. I have lived in Cy-Fair for 24 years, both of my kids graduated from Cy-Fair High School, and I am thrilled with the opportunity to be back "home" with Community Impact Newspaper, Cy-Fair!

We hope you and your families continue to stay safe and healthy during the coronavirus pandemic. Our local businesses have pivoted the ways they serve their customers, and whether you chose to shop socially distanced or enjoy curbside pickups, we encourage you to support our advertisers and help our local businesses thrive. We welcome your story ideas and feedback, and we'd love to hear from you.

Emily Heineman, GENERAL MANAGER

FROM SHAWN: As the new school year starts, our September edition focuses on Cy-Fair ISD's plan to return to school in a year that has been unlike any other. The district's plan has generated some pushback, including a lawsuit from the local teacher's union. Read more about that in our frontpage story, and be sure to check out the rest of our Public Education Edition, including a guide to local tutoring centers.

Shawn Arrajj, **SENIOR EDITOR** 



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All content in this print publication, both editorial and advertisements, was up to date as of the press deadline. Due to the fast-changing nature of this event, editorial and advertising information may have changed. Please visit communityimpact.com and advertiser websites for more information.



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#### **NOW OPEN**

1 A new location of the Katy-based Indian restaurant Kurry Walah open in early September at 12714 Grant Road, Cypress. Owner Deepak Nagpal, who has been running the Katy location since June 2018, said he has been wanting to open a restaurant in Cypress for over a year and had been looking for the right location. The restaurant specializes in authentic, northern Indian-style food and offers dine-in, takeout and delivery through most major services. 832-698-4966. www.kurrywalah.com

2 Cy-Fair High School alum Shivam Bhakta opened a new location of IDEA Lab Kids in early July at 11808 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress. The facility offers after-school programs, summer camps and birthday parties. This fall, the business is launching Idea Lab Plus, a learning pod program designed to help families with remote learning support and enrichment classes in science, technology, engineering, art and math. Through this program, working parents can drop off their children to learn in groups of six to eight students. Programming is geared toward students

3 A new location of Shipley Do-Nuts opened Aug. 14 at 12827 Telge Road, Cypress, in the Telge Crossing development at Jarvis Road. Originally founded in Houston, the chain offers more than 60 doughnut varieties as well as kolaches, freshly brewed coffee and other breakfast items such as cinnamon rolls and apple fritters. The new shop is open daily from 5 a.m.-8 p.m. and also features a drive-thru. www.shipleydonuts.com

4 Officials with Cy-Fair Federal Credit **Union** confirmed its newest branch opened for appointments beginning Aug. 10 at the Boardwalk at Towne Lake,



9915 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. 160, Cypress. The new location offers comprehensive financial services including personal checking and savings accounts, business accounts, loans, online banking, credit cards and more. The Boardwalk location features drive-thru lanes and a walk-up ATM. 281-571-5000. www.cyfairfcu.org

5 Classes are now underway at the Cypress location of **Aristoi Classical** Academy. The first day of school at the new location kicked off Aug. 17 at Crossover Bible Fellowship, 12332 Perry Road, Houston. The tuition-free public charter school offers both virtual and in-person classes for grades K-4 and has plans to ultimately grow to be a comprehensive K-12 school. Officials said class sizes will be limited to 22 students, and students from Cy-Fair, Klein, Tomball and Houston ISDs will be eligible to attend. Enrollment is still open as of press time. 281-391-5003. www.aristoiclassical.org

6 A new location of **Pearle Vision** opened Aug. 19 in the Cypress Springs Plaza at 7710 Fry Road, Cypress, near the Longenbaugh Road intersection. The 2,800-square-foot store offers eye exams, eye care tips, contact lenses and a variety of frames and lenses for eyeglasses and sunglasses. The new location also stocks designer brands such as designer brands such as Ray-Ban, Vogue, and Coach. 832-974-2021. www.pearlevision.com

7 The first location of Mint Express Car Wash opened in early September at 8640 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress, across from the Berry Center. In addition to offering unlimited monthly car wash plans, the business also features a self-serve pet wash. www.mintexpresscarwash.com





8 Supreme Detail and Coating opened Aug. 1 at 17107 South Drive, Unit 3, Cypress. The business offers interior and exterior detailing as well as window tinting, ceramic coating, vinyl wraps and other cleaning and maintenance services. Owner David Galicia said his business services a variety of vehicles, including boats and recreational vehicles. 346-412-5156. www.supremedetailandcoatings.com

9 A new location of **Hippo Burgers** opened this summer at 8110 N. Sam Houston Parkway W., Houston, near the Gessner Road intersection. The restaurant offers a variety of burger and chicken sandwich options, as well as chili cheese dogs, nachos, Mexican hot dogs, chicken wings and shakes. 832-478-5176. www.hippoburgers.com

10 1101 Southern Kitchen hosted a soft opening Sept. 7 at 12020 FM 1960, Ste. 100, Houston. Fried green tomatoes, shrimp and grits, chicken and dumpling pot pie, gumbo, stewed oxtails, fried chicken and meatloaf cupcakes are a few items planned for the menu. Weekend brunch will feature Cajun eggs Benedict, chicken and waffles, biscuits and gravy, and cinnamon rolls. Online ordering and catering services are also available. 832-604-7238. www.1101southernkitchen.com

#### **COMING SOON**

11 Cypress Health & Wellness Campus is planned on a 30-acre property in the Fairfield area off Hwy. 290 near the Grand Parkway. Officials with NexCore Group said the campus is expected to open by June 2022. Backed by physician investors from the North Cypress Medical Center, the 60,000-square-foot office building will

feature preventive and women's health care services. Preleasing is now underway. 832-637-3773. www.nexcoregroup.com

12 Officials announced via Facebook on Aug. 12 that a new location of **First Watch** would open in late November at the new building which also houses Houston Methodist offices, at 9915 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress. The cafe offers classic breakfast items, such as omelets and pancakes, in addition to avocado toast, wraps, breakfast tacos, salads, sandwiches and fresh juices. www.firstwatch.com

13 Ground will break in September on Bishop Square Business Park, a 4-acre park which will feature 48,600-square feet of space across 10 condominiumstyle buildings at 14914 Mueschke Road, Cypress. The development will offer offices of varying sizes, which buyers will be able to customize. Each condo unit will include a designated reception area, a kitchen, a restroom and private offices. The project is slated to be completed sometime in 2021. www.gambitconstruction.com

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Owners of **Seasons Harvest Cafe** will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the restaurant Sept. 19 at 17303 Shaw Road, Cypress, with a community celebration. The farm-fresh cafe offers a menu that changes monthly with dishes made entirely with locally sourced organic ingredients. Officials opened a general store at the site of the restaurant in March that offers organic meats, homemade breads, fresh juices, eggs, bone broth and salsa, among other items. 832-534-8686. www.seasonsharvest.farm

#### **IN THE NEWS**

Living and Memory Care said a previously identified COVID-19 case in their facility was determined to be a false positive. The case, which was recorded in July, was followed by five consecutive negative results, including on the day after the positive result came in, Apex Oaks Administrator Kristin Kim said. Apex Oaks, located at 13702 Wimbeldon Oaks Drive, Houston, has no cases of COVID-19, Kim said. 281-469-8800. www.apexoaks.com



#### **FEATURED IMPACT**

#### **NOW OPEN**

After building chicken coops in their backyard and bagging chicken feed in their garage since 2012, owners of **The Garden Hen** opened their first storefront Aug. 1 at 10142 Jones Road, Unit 5B, Houston.

Customers at The Garden Hen can purchase chicken coops, chicken swings, strollers and a variety of water and food items. Run by the husband-and-wife duo of Nicole and Michael "Chicken Mike" Graham, the business also offers educational classes on how to raise chickens at www.faceschool.org.

The business also chicken feed, and Mike said he plans to introduce a new line of feed called Sweet Lucy in the coming weeks.

The 2,000-square-foot warehouse space also serves as a chicken-themed art exhibit called The Nest Gallery, which can be followed on Twitter @thenestgalleryhtx. The gallery features the artwork on local artists and students, and pieces are also for sale.

On top of that, the owners of the shop also working on their own TV show, City Chickens, which can be viewed online at www.citychickenstv.com

832-683-5135. www.the-garden-hen.com

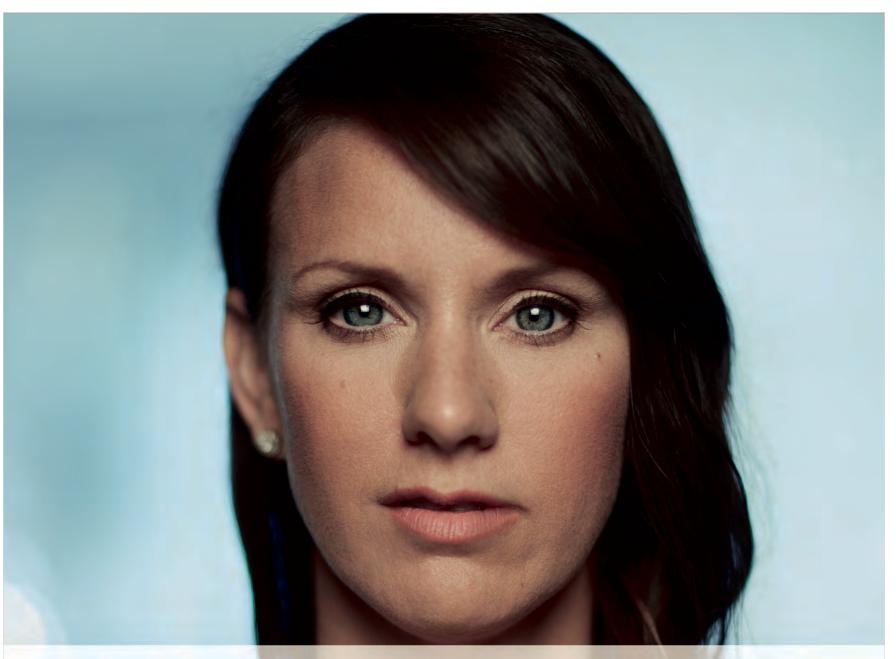






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## Tow and Go program expands to unincorporated Harris County

A program providing free towing services on camera-operated freeways expanded in early August to cover freeways in unincorporated Harris County. The Tow and Go program, which was launched in 2018 by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, previously only covered freeways inside the city of Houston.

Drivers stranded because of a mechanical failure can call 713-881-3333 to request the service or use a phone app. The freeways covered by Tow and Go include portions of I-45, Hwy. 59, Hwy. 290, I-10, Hwy. 288, Loop 610 and pieces of Hwy. 249 in Northwest Harris County, Hwy. 246 in La Porte and Beltway 8 in the Spring area. The service is limited to parts of the freeway that can be monitored by cameras.

A tow truck tows each vehicle to a safe location within 1 mile of the nearest exit.



HAWN ARRAJJ/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Vehicles involved in an accident or other law enforcement incident, vehicles that flooded and vehicles that were abandoned are not eligible for the service. Motorcycles are eligible, and trailers can be towed when possible. H-GAC officials said the program will eventually be expanded to freeways in neighboring counties.



#### **ONGOING PROJECTS**



#### **Schiel Road widening**

Two projects are in the design phase to widen Schiel Road from two to four lanes with raised medians in Cypress. The first project runs from the Grand Parkway to Fairfield Place Drive, and the second project will continue from Fairfield Place to Mason Road. Officials are working with the Texas Department of Transportation to create an interchange that allows Schiel to connect to Grand Parkway frontage roads.

Timeline: TBD

Cost: \$8 million (both projects)

Funding source: Harris County Precinct 3



#### Hwy. 6 bridge construction

The Texas Department of Transportation is building a four-lane flyover bridge that will connect Hwy. 6 and FM 1960 over Hwy. 290 from North Eldridge Parkway to Copper Grove Boulevard. The project is on track to be done by late 2020 with most related lane closures running through November, according to TxDOT. As of August, crews were raising steel beams along FM 1960 to support the bridge, an effort which features closures of Wortham Boulevard at the FM 1960 interchange.

Timeline: September 2019-late 2020

**Cost:** \$41.4 million **Funding source:** TxDOT



#### Louetta Road extension and bridge

Harris County Precinct 4 is looking to connect Louetta Road from Telge Road to Stablewood Farms Drive as a four-lane concrete pavement section, a project which also includes twin bridges over Little Cypress Creek. A construction bid of \$8.8 million was awarded to Angel Brothers Enterprises on July 14, and construction started Sept. 14. The project, which is a joint effort between Harris County precincts 3 and 4, is set to run through March 2022.

Timeline: Sept. 14-March 2022

Cost: \$8.8 million

Funding sources: Harris County precincts 3 and 4

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# Flood control officials roll out new project strategy for Cypress Creek

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

A historically passive approach to flood mitigation along Cypress Creek could be changing as officials with the Harris County Flood Control District look to adopt a new way of planning and executing projects.

In the past, efforts in Cypress Creek were mostly focused on acquiring land to prevent development, said Jonathan St. Romain, a project manager with the district. In a flood control bond referendum passed in 2018 in response to Hurricane Harvey, a little under \$300 million in local money was dedicated to projects in the Cypress Creek watershed. The biggest portion—\$100 million—was dedicated to land acquisition.

St. Romain said the new approach involves using that land for additional flood control measures—including detention basins and channel improvements—that

could provide regional benefits on a shorter timeline.

A watershed study updated in February found flooding along Cypress Creek tributaries was predominately caused by stormwater backing up from the creek. This, St. Romain said, indicates stormwater detention basins on the creek could be a viable way to reduce that flooding.

"The watershed master plan update is sort of the starting point for this implementation plan," he said. "The implementation plan transitions us from this more passive approach of flood plain preservation to a more aggressive approach to actually try to reduce the severity of flooding."

A 171.5-acre basin is planned for T.C. Jester Boulevard and Cypress Creek, and another potential basin is being investigated east of the Hardy Toll Road. The watershed study also

DELIVERING After several years of acquiring land along Cypress Creek, officials with the Harris County Flood Control said they are DETENTION now looking into where detention basins could be built to provide additional flood-control benefits. KEY 1 Mound Creek 4 Pillot Gully 7 Seals Gully **★** Planned detention basin 2 Dry Creek 5 Dry Gully 8 Lemm Gully Proposed 3 Faulkey Gully 6 Spring Gully detention basin structures other basin sites are other basin sites are removed from being investigated being investigated flood plain between Hwy. 249 downstream of I-45. and I-45. over 15 years

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

recommended expanding an existing basin near North Eldridge Parkway.

"We look at all of the potential properties up along Cypress Creek and essentially develop or build this road map for what we can do in the watershed over the next five, 10, 15 years," St. Romain said.

The T.C. Jester basin and future basins will be funded through a mix of flood control district dollars and federal grants, St. Romain said.





## Pandemic takes toll on Cy-Fair's music scene

BY DANICA LLOYD

Weekend gigs have been hard to come by for musicians based in the Cy-Fair area since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mark Childres regularly played at local businesses, including Creekwood Grill, Murdoch's Backyard Pub, Brew:30 Taphouse and Twisted Acre Brewery, before state and local officials began placing restrictions on businesses due to the spread of the coronavirus in March.

Only one of these four businesses continued to consistently host live musicians on the weekends this summer, so Childres said the number of events he has been able to book is down about 75% compared to prepandemic conditions.

"It's down considerably," he said. "Some musicians are scaling back due to their own safety, and some are just playing outside now instead of inside."

Cy-Fair-area music venues are primarily at local breweries and restaurants with bars, including Mo's Irish Pub, Hidden Cellar Wine Bar, Rosehill Beer Garden and Texas Tavern.

As of press time, the Texas Department of State Health Services has mandated restaurants cannot exceed 50% capacity. Additionally, bars and establishments that receive more than 51% of revenue from alcoholic beverage sales are only authorized to offer delivery and takeout services.

#### **Venues face challenges**

Murdoch's Backyard Pub, located on Mueschke Road in Cypress, used to host live music three times every week. Tonya Frye, who coordinates marketing and events, said these events, among others, are on hold for now.

"There was no one to play to at first, and now business is low," she said in a phone interview Aug. 19. "If we don't have many people there, then we can't have music. And we still have the social distancing—music and social distancing usually don't go hand in hand, unfortunately."

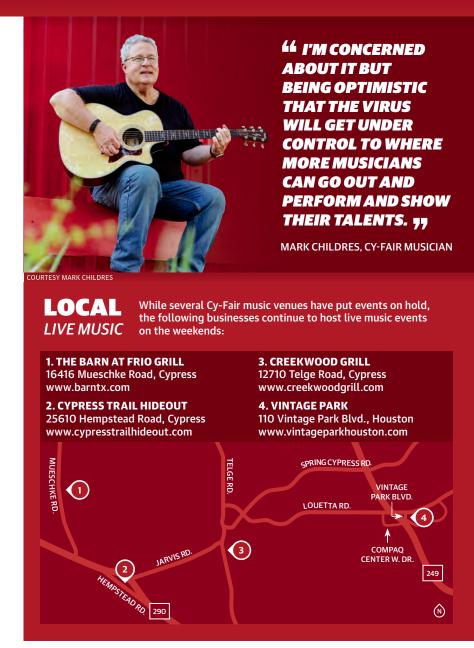
Frye said she is used to overseeing a range of events in the property's 3-acre backyard, but even a graduation party of 40 people this summer took over the entire space, so hosting events of any kind has become a challenge due to social distancing policies.

Murdoch's continues to be open for outdoor dining and takeout, but Frye said she is hopeful about bringing some events back this fall.

The pandemic has resulted in added expenses, including personal protective equipment and the hiring of additional workers to sanitize surfaces, Frye said. Locally owned businesses such as Murdoch's are struggling to stay afloat just like musicians are, she said.

Childres said he is grateful he still has the ability and opportunity to perform during the pandemic. He recalled a friend who had to cancel a show after a band member was exposed to COVID-19.

"Since I'm a little bit older, we're trying to play it safe because you never know," Childres said. "You try to do the best you can do, but it doesn't guarantee that you won't



end up getting sick."

The staff at Creekwood Grill, where Childres continues to perform, has implemented safety measures, and musicians are not in close contact with others during performances because the stage is elevated.

Although he cannot predict how

long the pandemic will last, Childres said he is hopeful about the future of Cy-Fair's music industry.

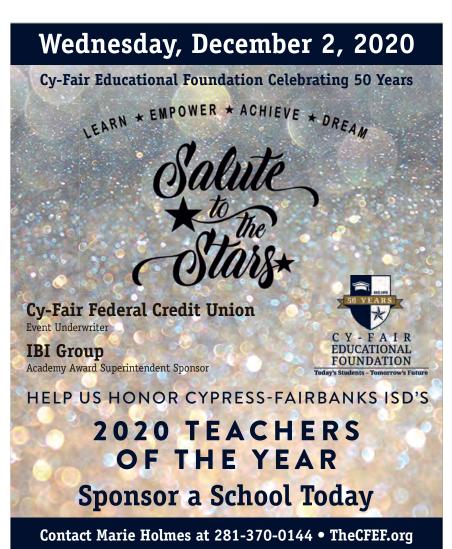
"I'm concerned about it but being optimistic that the virus will get under control to where more musicians can go out and perform and show their talents," he said.



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Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is a nonprofit community blood center that provides voluntarily donated blood and blood components to more than 170 hospitals and health care facilities in the 26-county Texas Court Coast







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## **November election plan** takes form in Harris County

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

**HARRIS COUNTY** Commissioners in Harris County committed \$17 million Aug. 25 to a broader effort to prepare for the November presidential election, which officials said could feature record-breaking turnout in the middle of a pandemic.

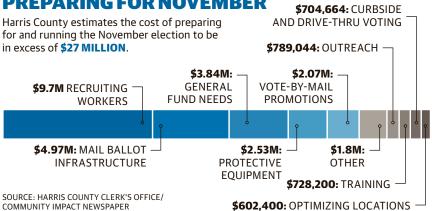
The \$27 million plan includes hiring 12,000 election workers, establishing drive-thru voting opportunities at 10 polling places and expanding the ability to process mail ballots.

"We started from what we expect turnout to be, and we operated from there to understand what we need to do to accommodate those voters in a way that would ... allow voters to cast ballots in timely fashion and in a safe fashion," interim County Clerk Christopher Hollins said at an Aug. 25 Commissioners Court meeting.

The clerk's office is also dramatically expanding the number of early voting polling locations, Hollins said. The county staffed 46 early voting locations in November 2016, and Hollins said he plans to increase that number to 120, which he said will help deal with the expected large turnout while still allowing in-person voters to space out. The county also plans to operate a record 808 voting locations on Election Day in November, Hollins said.

Hollins said he is expecting as many as 1.7 million voters to participate in the November election, as many as 1.5 million of whom could vote in person. Such a turnout would surpass turnout in the November 2016 election by more than 350,000 votes, according election archives.

#### PREPARING FOR NOVEMBER



#### **NUMBER TO KNOW**

The projected voter turnout in Harris County for the November presidential election.

#### **CITY HIGHLIGHTS**

JERSEY VILLAGE In an effort to raise awareness about city code, the Jersey Village Police Department embarked on an initiative in August involving placing courtesy reminders on vehicles parked across sidewalks, reminding owners not to park vehicles on the sidewalk. The initiative was spurred by multiple complaints about blocked sidewalks sent to city staff from residents, which led to discussion at a July 20 Jersey Village City Council meeting. The initiative will run through Nov. 1.

**HARRIS COUNTY** Officials with the Harris County Clerk's Office reopened 11 county annex buildings Aug. 10, and services such as marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, and Doing Business As filings are now offered by appointment at those locations. The buildings were shut down in March following the issuance of a "Stay Home-Work Safe" order in the county. The reopening allows the county to increase the appointments per day from 14 to 30 at the downtown office while also allowing 14 appointments per day at each of the 10 other annex buildings.

#### **MEETINGS WE COVER**

Livestreams can be accessed via wehsites

Jersey Village City Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Sept. 21. 713-466-2100 www.jerseyvillagetx.com

**Harris County Commissioners Court** will meet at 10 a.m. on Sept. 15. 713-698-1102 www.harriscountytx.gov

## Harris County joins census count legal battles

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

#### **HARRIS COUNTY**

Officials with the Harris County Attorney's Office announced Aug. 18 the county joined a legal battle challenging the administration of President Donald Trump in its efforts to prevent immigrants living in the country illegally from counting toward how congressional districts are drawn.

In an Aug. 18 press release, County Attorney Vince Ryan said not counting these immigrants would violate the U.S. Constitution, including Article 1, the due process clause in the Fifth Amendment, and the 10th and 14th amendments.

Taken every 10 years, the census count serves a variety of purposes, including determining the amount of funding an area gets from

various programs and how congressional district lines are drawn. Harris County is projected to gain three seats in Congress when lines are drawn due to population growth, Ryan said. If these immigrants are not counted, the county could end up losing one seat instead, he said.

Ryan's office joined several cities and activist groups in a separate lawsuit for the census count. The deadline was cut short by one month in early August, a move critics said could lead to undercounts that would be especially harmful to vulnerable communities. The lawsuit, which was filed in August in California, seeks to set the census deadline back to the end of October instead of the end of September.

to extend the deadline



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#### **2020 PUBLIC EDUCATION EDITION**

\*Estimated

## **DISTRICT DATA**

COMPILED BY DANICA LLOYD

#### CY-FAIR ISD SNAPSHOT

With 87 elementary, middle and high school campuses, Cy-Fair ISD's enrollment has steadily grown over the last several years. More than 15,000 individuals are employed by the district, including nearly 7,400 classroom teachers.

SOURCES: CY-FAIR ISD, TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

FROM 2016-17 **+3.16%** 

2018-19 2019-20 2020-21\*

#### 2019-20 TEACHER STATS

7,375 \$55,500 \$61,723

TOTAL NUMBER STARTING AVERAGE OF TEACHERS TEACHER SALARY TEACHER SALARY

## 2019-20 SUPERINTENDENT ANNUAL SALARY

\$431.524

**NEIGHBORING DISTRICT COMPARISON** 

\$299,999 \$330,000

\$253,575

KATY ISD KLEIN ISD TOMBALL ISD

## 2019-20 ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

54.18%

60.24%

STATE AVERAGE

## 2019-20 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

13.88%

20.26%

STATE AVERAGE

#### **SCHOOL DISTRICT STATS**

**15.088** TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

**\$8,240** FUNDING PER STUDENT

2017-18

2016-17

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# Trustees plan to address student race disparities in Cy-Fair ISD

BY DANICA LLOYD

National protests called for the examination of practices within police departments to identify signs of racial inequality across the United States following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25.

This movement had local officials, including the Cy-Fair ISD board of trustees, asking similar questions. In June, trustees John Ogletree, Julie Hinaman and Gilbert Sarabia were tasked with writing a resolution condemning racism, which is expected to be signed when all trustees reconvene at the Sept. 14 meeting.

"Recent events in our country have brought to the forefront the disturbing issues of racism, systemic racism, discrimination, injustice and inequality," Ogletree read from the resolution Aug. 10. "These issues go against the motto of our district: opportunity for all."

Chief of Employee and Student Services Deborah Stewart oversees a committee launched over the summer designed to evaluate the equity of academic opportunity, representation in hiring and student discipline measures in CFISD. Per this resolution, the board plans to consult with an outside group to conduct an equity audit and ultimately help develop a plan to address issues of equity in these areas districtwide.

The establishment of a districtwide equity policy is one of the recommendations from the Citywide Implicit Bias Project—a Houston-based initiative designed to address the

overrepresentation of students of color in school disciplinary systems.

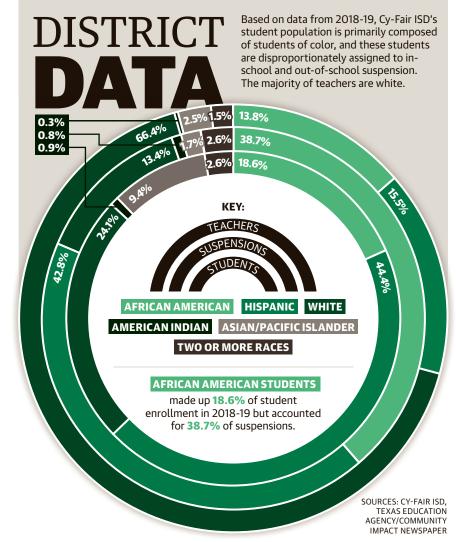
Marcus Ceniceros, one of the leaders of the project, said this is an issue in most Texas school districts due to individual biases and certain public policies in place that might disproportionately affect students from a particular location, racial identity or income level.

"Black students are disproportionately affected by all school discipline—that includes in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, referrals to alternative education programs and then also to the criminal justice system," he said. "What we wanted to be able to do is start asking why that's happening in a local context. The reason that it might be happening in Cy-Fair ISD might actually be different than why it's happening in [Houston] ISD or in Klein or in Spring Branch."

According to state data, students of color in CFISD are disproportionately disciplined. African American students made up 18.5% of enrollment in 2018-19 but accounted for 38.7% of suspensions that year.

The Citywide Implicit Bias Project also recommends mandatory implicit bias training for educators. In CFISD, 66.4% of teachers were white in 2018-19, while the student population was 24.2% white.

When it comes to academics, nearly 96% of white students graduated from CFISD in 2018, while less than 90% of Black students graduated, according to district data.



"It is really important that a population of any identity isn't being left behind in particular in academics," Ceniceros said.

Other action steps laid out in the board's resolution include requiring the study and celebration of the history of different races, genders and other groups as well as having all schools in the district deemed "No Place for Hate" schools.

No Place for Hate is a program from the Anti-Defamation League designed to create and maintain

school environments where all students can thrive through anti-bias and bullying-prevention activities.

Trustee Tom Jackson brought forth a unanimously supported amendment Aug. 10 to mandate board members participate in continuing education on the topics of racism, discrimination and injustice.

"We have an obligation to help shape the lives of our students toward a better America, free of racism and systemic oppression," the resolution reads.







#### **CAMPUS DEEP DIVE**

#### AN INSIDE LOOK AT CY-FAIR ISD DATA AND DEMOGRAPHICS BY CAMPUS

COMPILED BY DANICA LLOYD

Cy-Fair ISD is an increasingly diverse school district with more than 100 languages and dialects spoken by students. The district has 56 elementary schools, 19 middle schools and 12 high schools. Special program facilities are not included in these charts.

SOURCES: CY-FAIR ISD. TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

#### ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND

All Texas school districts and campuses will receive a Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster label for their 2020 accountability ratings, according to the Texas **Education Agency. Texas students take the State** of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness each year to measure standards in reading, writing, math, science and social studies and are traditionally given letter grades ranging from A-F based on performance.

Although the coronavirus pandemic is ongoing, the state has said all students will be required to take the STAAR exam in 2021, as of press time.

The ratings are based on several categories, including **Student Achievement, School Progress and Closing** the Gaps, all of which compare student performance.

#### **2019 RATING**

**CY-FAIR ISD** OVERALL RATING

**Exemplary** performance

Recognized performance

Acceptable performance

In need of improvement

**Unacceptable** performance

COMPARING

**NEIGHBORING SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019 OVERALL RATINGS** 

**ISD SCORES** 

**KATY ISD** A KLEIN ISD

B TOMBALL ISD A

#### 2018-19 STUDENT/TEACHER **DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN**

DISTRICTWIDE STATE AVERAGE

STUDENTS			TEAC	TEACHERS			
18.6%	12.6%	AFRICAN AMERICAN	13.8%	10.6%			
0.9%	0.36%	AMERICAN INDIAN	0.3%	0.3%			
9.4%	4.2%	ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	2.5%	1.9%			
44.4%	52%	HISPANIC	15.5%	27.7%			
2.6%	2.52%	MULTIPLE RACES	1.5%	1.1%			
24.1%	27%	WHITE	66.4%	58.4%			

Bane 94% 23 <10 109 690 0 <20 <30 63,83 5 Bang 952 69% 11 60 243 454 0 23 161 61, 62, 83, 86 6 **Birkes** 53 338 37% <10 155 192 374 <10 58 68 72 79 82 87 1.122 Black 1,142 37% 18 51 111 398 0 39 525 64, 65, 77, 85 <10 103 201 353 <10 30 298 58, 67, 84, 87 Copeland 989 42% Danish 950 75% <20 61 312 393 <10 27 140 59, 60, 77, 78 10 Durvea 82% <10 23 207 530 0 <30 68 66.84 11 57 370 545 0 <30 94 69, 73, 80, 81 Emerv 1.096 76% <10 12 <10 150 61,83 **Emmott** 809 81% 28 64 242 296 <30 13 Farney 1.000 37% <10 109 122 334 <10 37 395 64.85 14 0 63% <10 339 241 Fiest 1.004 118 258 <40 68.79 15 84% 333 51 Francone 916 <10 <30 467 0 31 61, 78, 83 16 Frazier 83% <20 57 56 454 <10 48 62,86 17 169 91 28 Gleason 972 58% <20 483 <10 180 62.86 18 Hairgrove 740 83% <10 <20 69 580 0 16 58 68, 74, 79, 83 19 Hamilton 1.005 16% <10 139 60 172 0 <40 593 65, 77, 78 20 0 30 139 Hancock 912 73% 19 64 350 310 60,78 21 Hemmenway 1,093 78% <10 43 305 636 <10 23 77 69.81 22 Holbrook 89% <20 14 279 600 <10 12 61 63, 83, 86 23 <30 50 98 n 101 58, 67, 87 Holmslev 843 71% <10 662 24 31 197 527 0 22 54 Hoove 80% 11 66, 67, 69, 81, 84, 87 25 Horne 965 80% <30 70 161 582 <10 22 109 74, 79 26 430 <10 54 Jowell 674 81% <10 24 140 17 66, 67, 69, 81, 84, 87 27 <10 113 119 252 Keith 1,030 23% <10 50 492 64, 70, 76, 85 28 Kirk 75% 27 80 110 559 <10 <10 116 74.83 899 29 171 Lamkin 853 58% 13 81 318 0 33 237 59.72.77.82 30 123 <10 88 Lee 74% <20 136 532 22 74, 79, 83 31 84% 17 54 54 667 <10 <20 57 75.80 Lieder 866 32 Lowery 903 48% <10 45 142 362 0 <40 316 58, 67, 87 33 Matzke 1,057 70% <10 79 230 511 0 <60 176 60.78 34 McFee <10 27 72 67, 73, 80, 84 1.097 85% <10 55 337 595 35 Metcalf **756** 83% <20 52 154 472 0 <10 57 67,87 36 Millsap 872 58% <20 32 104 379 0 <10 339 59, 65, 77, 78 37 219 <50 323 42% <10 137 188 0 65.78 Moore 909 38 72% 61 199 0 20 120 Owens 68,79 39 Pope 1.026 7% <10 153 72 196 0 <40 562 71, 76, 82 40 65% 211 160 **Post** 11 54 444 0 29 61, 62, 63, 83, 86 41 38% <10 189 270 336 0 <50 203 57, 58, 82, 84, 87 Postma 1,042 42 Reed 936 76% <10 121 64 679 0 <10 59 63.86 43 <40 379 Rennell 1.118 18% <10 276 143 278 0 57.82 44 M. Robinson 1.209 79% <30 71 268 736 <10 25 86 73, 81 45 A. Robison 1.008 35% <10 75 135 288 <10 34 468 64, 72, 85 46 8% <10 147 <40 <160 <10 42 591 72,85 978 47 Sheridan 1.204 75% <20 64 373 617 <10 23 110 73.75.80 48 <10 95 <0 <20 644 Swenke 1.118 9% 78 24 70.76 49 **Tipps** 984 85% 45 58 204 596 <10 <20 70 67, 74, 75, 79, 80, 87 50 93 Walker 919 81% <10 36 226 535 0 <30 66, 69, 81, 84 51 Warner 14% <10 345 134 189 <10 39 390 71.82 1.103 52 Wells 8% <10 93 204 <10 57 447 71, 76 ,005 201 53 Willbern 897 70% <10 143 477 0 <30 85 61, 62, 78, 83, 86 162 54 Wilson 412 <10 20 195 911 60% <20 120 149 75,80 <10 209 372 0 <50 311 Woodard 1.104 45% 165 58.72.82 56 <10 40 200 480 <10 27 158 Yeager 910 70% 60.78

**DEMOGRAPHICS** 

Hispanic/Latino

273

0

0

<10

<30 258

<30 143

35

496

59,77

57, 66, 84

70.76

**Black or African** 

148

<10 104 102 380

<10 90 253 410

<10

81

**ELEMENTARY** 

878 62%

1.024

54%

35%

**SCHOOLS** 2019-20 DATA

1 Adam

Ault

2 André

SOURCE: TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

			DEMOGRAPHICS							
MIDDLE SCHOOLS 2019-20 DATA	Enrollment	<b>Economically</b> disadvantaged	American Indian or Alaska native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific islander	Two+races	White	Feeder schools
57 Anthony	1,728	47%	<10	217	456	666	<10	62	315	82, 84
58 Aragon	1,555	43%	<10	149	247	625	<10	53	463	82,87
59 Arnold	1,532	60%	<20	111	298	645	<10	40	427	77
60 Bleyl	1,623	66%	17	134	475	688	0	51	258	78
61 Campbell	1,296	76%	<30	100	404	612	<10	33	125	78, 83
<b>62</b> Cook	1,569	62%	<30	161	213	866	<10	42	262	86
<b>63</b> Dean	1,381	85%	<20	83	203	982	<10	12	87	83,86
<b>64</b> Goodson	1,449	31%	<10	142	208	447	<10	32	610	85
65 Hamilton	1,512	27%	<10	145	172	414	0	<60	717	77,78
66 Hopper	1,331	79%	<10	33	406	771	0	<30	94	84
<b>67</b> Kahla	1,344	76%	19	71	325	812	<10	<20	103	84,87
68 Labay	1,328	69%	19	96	277	690	0	31	215	79
<b>69</b> Rowe*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81
<b>70</b> Salyards	1,598	18%	<20	98	161	350	<10	65	909	76
71 Smith	1,639	11%	<10	298	215	338	<10	77	701	76, 82
<b>72</b> Spillane	1,593	22%	<10	203	214	375	<10	51	745	82,85
<b>73</b> Thornton	1,930	77%	<30	74	604	1,077	<10	23	130	80, 81
74 Truitt	1,489	76%	22	133	254	921	0	33	126	79, 83
<b>75</b> Watkins	1,439	74%	<20	99	283	846	<10	36	158	80

			DEMOGRAPHICS							
HIGH SCHOOLS 2019-20 DATA	Enrollment	<b>Economically</b> disadvantaged	American Indian or Alaska native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian/ other Pacific islander	Two+races	White	2018-19 graduation rates
76 Bridgeland	2,978	14%	<10	259	323	642	<10	98	1,639	-
77 Cy-Fair	3,310	36%	<20	314	423	1,196	<10	90	1,267	93.4%
78 Cypress Creek	3,136	54%	<20	332	826	1,132	<10	98	729	93.4%
79 Cypress Falls	2,975	57%	<50	276	605	1,501	<10	54	495	91.9%
80 Cypress Lakes	3,110	67%	<30	207	789	1,757	<10	59	267	91.7%
81 Cypress Park	2,712	69%	<20	112	776	1,545	<10	49	209	-
82 Cypress Ranch	3,054	24%	<20	502	537	810	<10	92	1,095	97.8%
83 Cypress Ridge	3,111	69%	<40	302	598	1,855	<10	52	268	94.6%
84 Cypress Springs	2,443	66%	<20	159	725	1,274	<10	51	216	88.2%
85 Cypress Woods	3,320	22%	<20	361	351	863	<10	88	1,640	98.2%
86 Jersey Village	3,372	56%	<20	414	364	2,049	<10	63	463	92.3%
87 Langham Creek	2,960	50%	<20	249	495	1,446	<10	67	687	94.7%

\*DATA IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR ROWE MIDDLE SCHOOL, WHICH OPENED FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR.

#### **SCHOOL STATS**

OF CAMPUSES HAVE A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS THAN THE STATE AVERAGE OF **60.24%**.

**Cy-Fair High School** IS THE OLDEST HIGH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT. IT FIRST OPENED IN **1942**.

Hispanic and Latino STUDENTS MAKE UP AT LEAST 44% OF STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

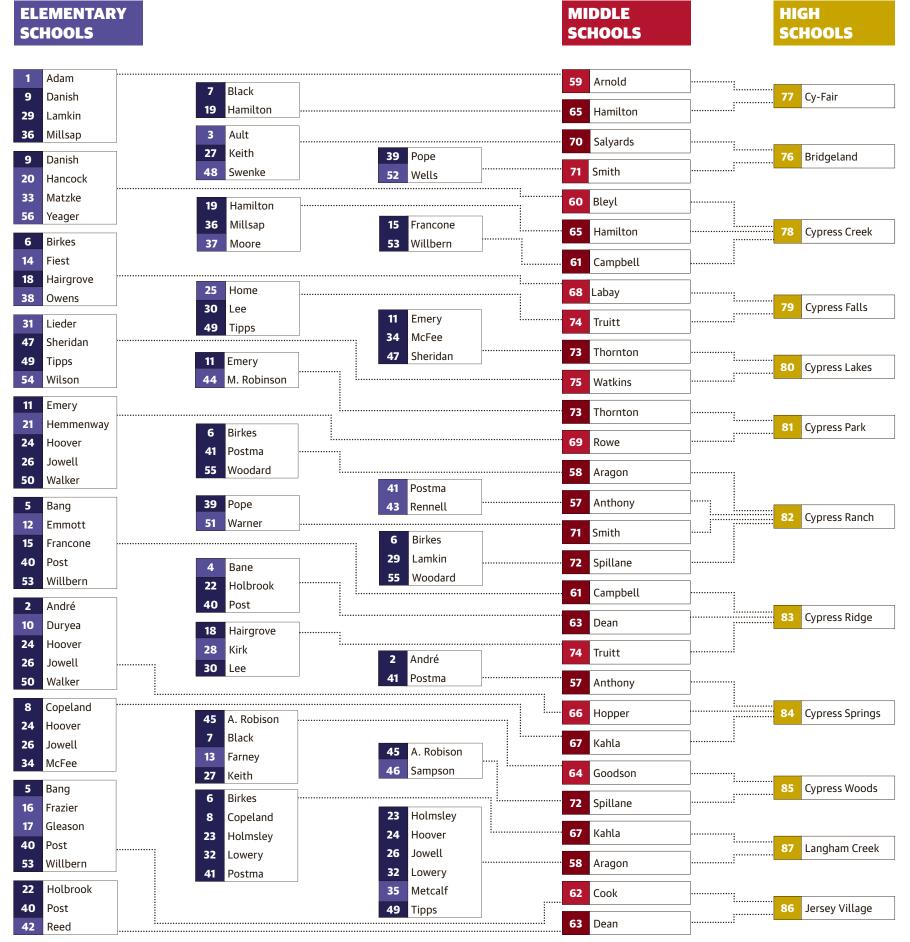




## **CY-FAIR ISD**

#### FEEDER PATTERN

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FEEDS INTO ONE MIDDLE SCHOOL
- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FEEDS MULTIPLE MIDDLE SCHOOLS
- MIDDLE SCHOOL FEEDS INTO ONE HIGH SCHOOL
- MIDDLE SCHOOL FEEDS INTO MULTIPLE HIGH SCHOOLS
- HIGH SCHOOL



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## **Dr. Molly Lopez**

#### Director, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health

As schools across the state navigate reopening for the 2020-21 academic year amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, students, parents and teachers are having to readjust to a new learning environment whether in person or online.

Dr. Molly Lopez, the director of the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, said school administrators may have to take on new approaches to mental health in the upcoming year.

#### WHAT WILL STUDENTS BE the support systems that they may **DEALING WITH AS THEY RETURN THIS SCHOOL YEAR?** We can surmise that students have

had a variety of different experiences over the past number of months. Families have been impacted in different ways by the pandemic and the social distancing and the school closures. We can expect that some families have been struggling with changes, such as loss of job or loss of income and even things like food insecurity. We can also suspect that many families have also been struggling with illnesses and even deaths in their families. Students and families have probably been struggling with the consequences of social isolation, not having some of

normally have available to them available during this time. They will be bringing all of those stressors back to school in whatever version that their campus may be coming back.

#### **HOW COULD REMOTE LEARN-ING AFFECT MENTAL HEALTH?**

Different students are going to have different experiences with remote learning. For some, they may find it even more engaging than in person. Other students are going to find it more challenging. They may feel less able to pay attention, less able to engage and less able to structure their learning on their own.

That all plays a big role in mental



health and our understanding of our ability to manage school. Offering opportunities for students to be successful and to engage in ways that are going to build their self-esteem as students and their self-esteem as active learners is going to be an important way for teachers to think about remote and hybrid learning.

#### **HOW SHOULD SCHOOLS APPROACH MENTAL HEALTH?**

Supporting teachers and their well-being, supporting those activities and programs that support mental health promotion, finding creative ways to reach out and support those students who may be falling through the cracks. One of the other things that

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The following resources can be found online at www.mhttcnetwork.org:

- Back to School after COVID-19: Supporting Student and Staff Mental Health Toolkit
- National Center for School Mental Health COVID-19
- Fostering Resilience in Families during Uncertain Times

Additional resources can be found on the Texas Education Agency website at www.tea.texas.aov/texasschools/health-safety-discipline.

districts need to be thinking about is the protocols and processes they have in place to address crises. We need to be really looking at them and seeing what may need to change when our school systems are looking different. How are we identifying those kids who may be having a mental health crisis? What are our plans for how we're going to support them and make sure they're safe and getting access to services in the COVID-19 world?

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.



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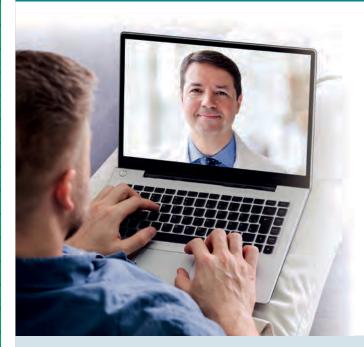
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- **2.** Create a PowerSchool Enrollment account, login and complete the online registration forms for the current school year.

#### **REGISTRATION CHECK LIST**

- Certified copy of the child's birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics.
- Current immunization record.
- Government-issued, photo ID for the child's parent or legal guardian.
- Proof of residency
- Social security card for each child, if available.
- Report card or transcript from the child's last school, if students are registering for the sixth or ninth grade.

VISIT www.cfisd.net/CFISDregister to register your child now

Online Registration

Tomball ISD: purchasing 4,379

Chromebooks and 4,378 hot spots

totaling approximately \$1 million

Houston ISD: planned to

distribute over 99,000 devices

start of school in September

and over 25,000 hot spots by the

**Clear Creek ISD:** 

spent \$5 million

purchasing new

laptops to complete

its 1-1 device program

45

#### **GETTING CONNECTED**

Virtual learning in Cy-Fair ISD

Cy-Fair ISD launched several new remote learning initiatives this school year, including the virtual learning platform called CFISD Connect and Learning Together Everywhere 1:1, which will provide a Chromebook device for every student in the district.

SOURCE: CY-FAIR ISD/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

#### Schoology

CFISD is using a learning management system called Schoology for virtual students in 2020-21. The system offers daily two-way live teaching. Students can engage in lessons, demonstrations, small-group instruction, independent work and tutoring.



The virtual learning platform holds students to the same attendance, grading and testing standards as in-person students, and the day-to-day schedule looks similar as well.

8-8:30 a.m.

Closing the Gap live instruction

8:30-11 a.m.

English, language arts and social studies

Lunch

● 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Math

● 12:45-2 p.m.

Science

2-2:50 p.m.

Large-group activity

2:50-3 p.m.

Office hours/tutoring

#### Breaking down participation

Most students in Cy-Fair ISD are planning to engage in virtual learning during the first grading period of 2020-21.

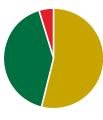
249

290

59

District overall numbers

- **ONLINE** 54%
- IN PERSON 41.5%
- **UNKNOWN** 4.5%



Campuses with the highest percentage of...

#### **VIRTUAL STUDENTS**

**Thornton Middle School:** 68.7%

**Reed Elementary School:** 66.4%

**Jowell Elementary School:** 66%

McFee Elementary School: 65.7%

Cypress Springs High School: 65.5%

#### **IN-PERSON STUDENTS**

Swenke Elementary School: 72%

**Bridgeland High School:** 65.6%

Salyards Middle School: 65%

Sampson Elementary School: 63.1%

**Hamilton Elementary School:** 62.2%

#### Closing the digital divide

Experts said one of the most important factors for online learning to be successful is for every child to have access to technology and internet.

**Cy-Fair ISD:** spent \$44 million on 80,000 Chromebooks and 20,000 mobile hot spots for the fall semester, in addition to about 40,000 Chromebooks the district already owned

#### Katy ISD:

distributed more than 12,000 devices when campuses closed in March due to the coronavirus and received requests for more than 25,000 devices from families as of Aug. 17

Fort Bend ISD: distributed 20,629 laptops, 4,938 iPads, and 3,870 hot spots

10

99 TOLL

90

**Pearland ISD:** spending an estimated \$3.13 million this year on devices



"Nowadays internet is as important as electricity, so you need to make sure everyone has internet so they can actually benefit from distance education."

Bulent Dogan, a University of Houston clinical assistant professor in the Curriculum and Instruction department

SOURCES: VARIOUS SCHOOL DISTRICTS/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

27

#### Sample activities

#### READING

- live interactive read aloud
- live reading lesson
- independent reading, teacher works in small groups
- live share time

#### WRITING

- live writing lesson
- independent writing, teacher works in small groups
- live share time
- live word study lesson
- independent practice, teacher works in small groups
- handwriting lesson (pre-recorded video)
- grammar lesson (pre-recorded video)

#### MATH

- live content conversation
- live math lesson

• independent practice, teacher works in small groups

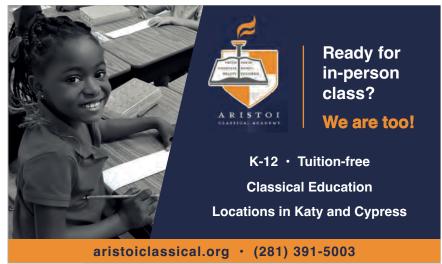
#### SCIENCE

- live science lesson or lab
- independent practice, teacher works in small groups

#### LARGE-GROUP ACTIVITY

 daily rotation of physical education, art and music activities







As parents navigate the start of the school year and the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, tutoring centers in the Cy-Fair area are offering a mixture of inperson and online instruction.

**COMPILED BY SHAWN ARRAJJ** 

In-person and onlineIn-person only

Aspire Advancement Center

9740 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. 115, Cypress 713-494-3971

www.asnire-now.com

Subjects: math (grades 1-12), reading and writing (grades 1-8), test prep

Best Brains Math and English **Learning & Tutoring Center of Cypress** 

10519 Fry Road, Ste. C5-300, Cypress 832-821-0000

www.bestbrainscypress.com

Subjects: math, English, abacus, general

knowledge, Baby Genius, speech league, creative writing, homework help, test prep

Best in Class Education Center of Cypress-Copperfield

7955 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress 832-409-1031

www.bestinclasseducation.com

Subjects: math, English, writing, reading, test prep, college prep

Best in Class Education Center of Cypress-Lakewood

12706 Grant Road, Cypress 346-704-0547

www.bestinclasseducation.com

Subjects: math, English, writing, reading, test prep, college prep

#### 5 Huntington Learning Center of Cypress

9955 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. 200, Cypress 832-756-8989

www.huntingtonhelps.com

Subjects: reading, math, study skills, writing, phonics, vocabulary, algebra, calculus, geometry, trigonometry, science, biology, chemistry, physics, test prep

#### 6 IDEA Lab Kids

11806 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. C, Cypress 832-297-2100

www.idealabkids.com

Subjects: science, entrepreneurship, engineering, coding, visual and digital arts, culinary arts, robotics, 3D printing and design, movie production, mental math

#### Kumon Math and Reading Center of Cypress—Coles Crossing

12312 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. 1800, Cypress 281-746-3003

www.kumon.com

Subjects: reading, math, pencil skills

#### 8 Kumon Math and Reading Center of Cypress—Fairfield

15202 Mason Road, Cypress 281-304-6284 www.kumon.com

Subjects: reading, math

9 Kumon Math and Reading Center of Cypress Creek-Lakewood Forest 13360 Jones Road, Houston

281-807-9080 www.kumon.com

Subjects: reading, math

#### 10 Kumon Math and Reading Center of Houston-Lone Star

8190 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. 1300, Cypress 281-849-1260

www.kumon.com

Subjects: reading, math, online classes for existing enrollment

Note: virtual classes not offered to new enrollees

#### 11 Kumon Math and Reading Center of Cypress-Longwood

13215 Grant Road, Ste. 900, Cypress 281-746-3700 www.kumon.com

Subjects: reading, math

#### 12 Kumon Math and Reading Center of Houston-North Copperfield

8520 Hwv. 6 N., Houston 281-885-8849 www.kumon.com

Subjects: reading, math

13 Mathnasium Copperfield

17310 FM 529, Ste. 102, Houston 832-427-5299 www.mathnasium.com

Subjects: math grades 2-5; grades 6 through pre-algebra; algebra through



## **Special Offers:**

2% Z-Checking<sup>1</sup> for first 12 months

(limited to first 100 applicants)

Auto Loans<sup>2</sup> for first 12 months

Hurry, offer ends soon!

Visit: cyfairfcu.org/boardwalk

(1)The special APY (Annual Percentage Yield) presented is applied for the first 100 applicants bringing new money from another financial institution. Special APY lasts for 12 months on balance amounts ranging from a minimum of \$0.01 up to a maximum of \$25,000 when the specific requirements are met each month. Balances exceeding \$25,000 will earn a rate of .30%. The following monthly criteria are all required to earn a higher dividend rate and ATM fee refunds up to \$15/month: Logging into online or mobile banking at least one time each month, making 12 signature-based transactions with your debit card accumulating to \$100 or more each month, setting up direct deposit or an ACH totaling \$100 or more each month, and enrollment in e-statements. For months when criteria is not met, 0.01% will be applied. Following the first 12 months; the normal Z-Checking terms and rates at that time will apply. If requirements of e-Statements and direct deposit / ACH are not met within 3 months of opening, the account will be converted to an Advantage Plus checking account and assessed with a \$7/month service fee until resolved. Fees may reduce earnings. \$25 minimum balance required to open account. Date of promotion begins on 8/17/20 thru 9/30/20. Federally Insured by the NCUA.

(2)Annual Percentage Rate. Loans subject to credit approval. Rates are determined by an evaluation of applicant credit and may vary. Auto loan rates as low as 0.0% for the first 12 months for well qualified borrowers with a credit score above 660, After 12 months the rate will return to the normal rate qualified for at time of loan origination for the remainder of the loan's term. Others with credit score lower than 659 will receive .25% discount off their qualified rate for the life of the loan. Offer available on new or used vehicles with a minimum loan amount of \$15,000. Offer only available for those who apply via the virtual grand opening webpage, starting 8/17/20 thru 9/30/20.

#### 14 Mathnasium Cy-Fair

12344 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. 150, Cypress 281-256-9932

www.mathnasium.com

**Subjects:** math grades 2-5; grades 6 through pre-algebra; algebra through calculus

#### 15 Mathnasium Jersey Village

9439 Jones Road, Houston 281-205-0212

www.mathnasium.com

**Subjects:** math grades 2-5; grades 6 through pre-algebra; algebra through calculus

#### 16 Mathnasium Lakewood

13050 Louetta Road, Ste. 204, Cypress 281-655-0330

www.mathnasium.com

**Subjects:** math grades 2-5; grades 6 through pre-algebra; algebra through

#### 17 SpiderSmart Learning Cypress Center

13611 Skinner Road, Ste. 165, Cypress 281-758-4345

www.spidersmart.com

**Subjects:** reading, writing, math, current events, creative writing, study pods

#### 18 Sylvan Learning Center of Cypress and Houston

12250 Queenston Blvd., Ste. D, Houston 832-497-5192

www.locations.sylvanlearning.com

**Subjects:** math, reading, writing, math, study skills, test prep, robotics, coding, engineering

#### 19 The Tutoring Center, Cypress Creek Plaza

9814 Fry Road, Ste. 160, Cypress 832-257-8997

www.cypresscreekplaza.tutoringcenter.com

**Subjects**: algebra, geometry, precalculus, reading, writing, kindergarten prep, study skills, pre-SAT program

#### The Tutoring Center, Cypress

18060 FM 529, Cypress 832-703-6514

www.cypress.tutoringcenter.com

**Subjects:** math, honors math, AP math, reading, writing, kindergarten prep, study skills, pre-SAT program

#### In-home/online tutoring

#### **Above Grade Level North West Houston**

Offered throughout northwest Houston 281-402-6066

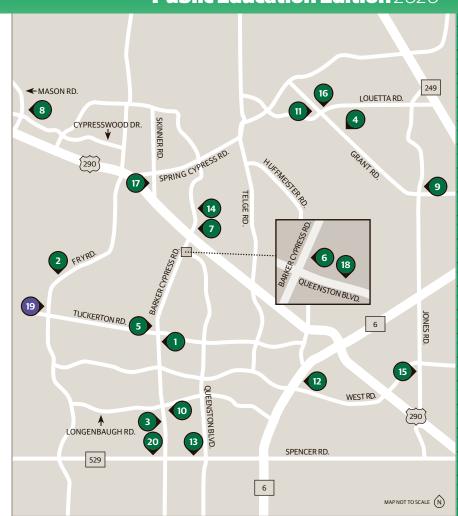
www.abovegradelevelhouston.com

**Subjects:** math, science, reading/language, homework help, test prep, one-on-one and small groups

#### **Club Z Tutoring**

Offered throughout Houston area 800-434-2582 www.clubztutoring.com

**Subjects:** study skills, pre-K, college, writing, reading, math, foreign languages, music lessons. science







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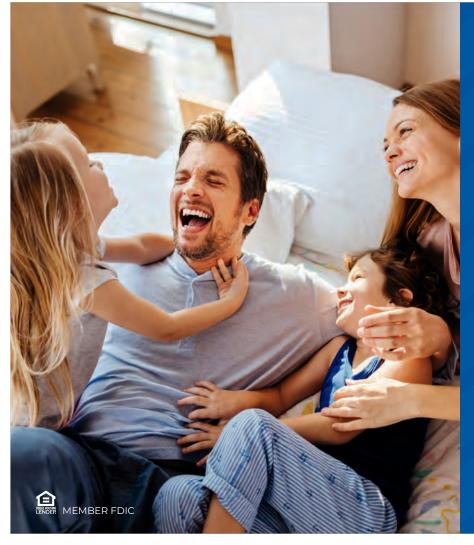
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## IMPLEMENTING NEW PROTOCOLS

District officials have put new health and safety protocols in place this year for students and staff on campuses.







BACK TO SCHOOL More than half of all Cy-Fair ISD students are expected to participate in virtual learning at least through the first grading period.

UNKNOWN: **4.5% 5,063** 

REMOTE: **54% 61,429** 

IN-PERSON: 41.5%

#### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

AVERAGE ENROLLMENT 883

#### 

of 56 campuses will have 500+ in-person students.

(Ault, Black, Hamilton, Keith, Pope, Rennell, Sampson, Swenke and Wells)

UNKNOWN: 4.4% ¬

REMOTE: **54.7**%

IN-PERSON: 41%

#### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

AVERAGE ENROLLMENT **1,465** 

#### 

of 19 campuses will have 750+ in-person students. (Hamilton, Salyards, Smith and Spillane)

<u>UNKNOWN:</u> **5.1%** —

REMOTE: 55.7%

IN-PERSON: **39.2%** 

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

AVERAGE ENROLLMENT **3,072** 

#### 00000000000

of 12 campuses will have 1,500+ in-person students.

(Bridgeland, Cy-Fair, Cypress Ranch and Cypress Woods)

<u>UNKNOWN:</u> **4.1%** —

REMOTE: 51.9%

IN-PERSON: 44%

#### SOURCE: CY-FAIR ISD/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

#### CONTINUED FROM 1

improve, campuses should gradually phase in face-to-face learning as it is safe to do so, according to the report.

Henry and nine other area superintendents signed an Aug. 17 letter to Harris County Public Health officials, expressing their disagreement with these guidelines.

"As educational leaders ... we cannot support your recommendation that would essentially require indefinite closure of schools to in-person instruction." the letter reads.

#### **Teachers take action**

Ahead of the start of classes Sept. 8, local teachers union Cy-Fair American Federation of Teachers sued the district for violating local health orders and putting teachers at an unnecessary risk of being infected with the coronavirus by mandating three weeks of in-person professional development, according to litigation filed Aug. 14.

"Quite frankly, it was unprecedented for our leadership to even entertain the thought of doing any type of litigation ... but we really felt like we had hit a wall," said Nikki Cowart, a CFISD graduate, district parent and the president of Cy-Fair AFT, which represents 2,000 members. "We were able to speak to teachers that were terrified to go back for PD. A lot of colleagues, though, just wanted the choice."

Harris County District Court granted the union a temporary restraining order, which the district quickly appealed and was later lifted by the Texas Supreme Court with support from Attorney General Ken Paxton.

But many teachers said they looked forward to being back in the classroom for the first time in nearly six months. Following Cy-Fair AFT's lawsuit, district employees took to social media, and the official CFISD Twitter account retweeted at least 30 tweets including the hashtag #aftdoesntspeakforme.

"It's time for the silent majority to speak out and stand up," Fiest Elementary School teacher Sara Price tweeted Aug. 15. "I am ready to be back on campus and prepare for my students, whether they will be CFISD Connect or on-campus."

According to district officials, accommodations for immunocompromised employees may include the provision of face shields and air purifiers, stricter enforcement of face masks and a reduced number of face-to-face students. One accommodation that will not be offered barring

a government mandate to close campuses is the option to work remotely, said Chairita Franklin, assistant superintendent for human resources.

While telework may be feasible on a short-term basis and neighboring districts such as Humble ISD are offering their teachers this option, Franklin said having all 7,000-plus teachers work from campuses ensures internet connectivity and a consistent experience for students across all platforms.

"Supervisions and observation by supervisors as well as access to teaching materials such as books, instructional technology, laboratory materials, career and technical education resources, for example, make teaching from the building an essential aspect of the job assignment," she said.

#### **Working on campuses**

Franklin said social distancing with face-to-face students can create an obstacle when making accommodations. But with at least 54% of district students expected to participate in CFISD Connect during the first grading period, the online learning platform featuring live instruction from teachers, many have said allowing medically vulnerable teachers to work remotely would be feasible.

Depending on students' learning platform choices, some teachers will be teaching exclusively virtually or in person, while others will be juggling both simultaneously.

"This is a campus-based decision that takes into account a number of factors, including the number of students who choose on-campus instruction or CFISD Connect, curriculum needs and individual staffing considerations at each particular campus," said Leslie Francis, the assistant superintendent for communication and community relations.

Regardless, teachers will all be required to deliver instruction from campuses. Only 19 of the district's 87 campuses anticipate more than 50% of enrollment being on campus, according to district data.

Just days before students were set to return to campuses, some teachers were still concerned certain safety precautions would not be ready in time, including protective equipment for classrooms and isolation areas.

"Even at our campus, we still haven't received our plexiglass [shields], and that was a promise that the district made to parents," CFISD teacher Mariah Najmuddin said during a Sept. 3 virtual town hall co-hosted by Cy-Fair AFT. "And I already know that they're on back order for a lot of schools or we're going to get a set amount but that might not be enough for every child."

Cook Middle School teacher Donna Lord, president of the Cy-Fair Texas State Teachers Association, said allowing high-risk teachers to work remotely would lower their risk of contracting COVID-19 and allow those teachers to give students learning virtually their undivided attention.

"There's a way that this can be done, and it's unfortunate that it appears the district has dug in so deeply on this, but some of our teachers may not come out of this well," she said.

Cowart said many union members had positive feedback about campuses implementing social distancing and the use of face masks upon teachers' return in mid-August, but others reported inconsistent practices.

Cowart and Lord both said they hope administrators consistently enforce these measures by the time students return. In an internal survey, 43% of Cy-Fair TSTA members said they did not feel safe at work during professional development.

"Without those safety protocols in place during these professional development weeks, we fear that they'll be even more lax once the students come into the building," Lord said.

#### **Employee options**

Being in the middle of a high-risk pregnancy, CFISD teacher Mackenna Coffey said at an Aug. 6 board meeting that she did not feel safe returning to campus. She asked the board and administration to consider allowing staff the option to work remotely.

"I've called HR and provided letters from my doctors asking for accommodations," she said. "I've been told that I can take leave or resign. Both options leave our schools looking for someone else to fill in."

CFISD General Counsel Marney Sims said the district has always had a process in place through which employees can ask for reasonable accommodations if they have medical conditions that put them at risk on the job. Officials advised those with concerns to contact their principals.

"Any employee who, you might have a condition that in a typical situation—maybe during flu season—you're a little more vulnerable, or you may need to ask for an accommodation of maybe not doing hall duty or something like that," Sims said.

CFISD employees who contract COVID-19 or are advised to quarantine may apply for up to 10 days of paid leave through the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which is in effect until Dec. 31. Those who are caring for a dependent affected by COVID-19 also might have access to a portion of paid leave.

Board President Bob Covey said the board is looking out for the safety of all employees and students, but other industries are also dealing with workplace changes due to the pandemic.

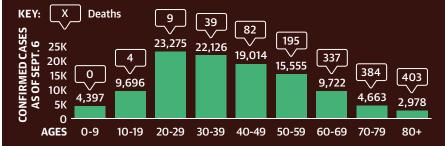
"I look at people who are having to work in grocery stores, hardware stores, hospitals, restaurants. ... They are working in similar conditions of being around many, many people who may or may not be practicing social distancing," he said.



## CASES

By the start of school Sept. 8, Harris County Public Health reported more than 110,000 COVID-19 cases since early March.

SOURCES: HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



#### STATEWIDE TEACHER AGE DISTRIBUTION



#### SICK LEAVE SCENARIOS

The Families First Coronavirus
Response Act requires some
employers, such as Cy-Fair ISD, to offer
paid sick leave in certain scenarios.

CFISD employees may apply for paid sick leave for the following reasons but are not guaranteed approval:

- 1 An employee is subject to a federal, state or local COVID-19 quarantine order.
- 2 A health care provider advises the employee to quarantine due to COVID-19.
- 3 An employee is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis.
- 4 An employee is caring for a dependent who is quarantining due to COVID-19.
- 5 An employee's child's school or child care provider is closed due to COVID-19.

#### ! OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

If CFISD requires an employee without symptoms to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure...

they must be at home available to work to receive their regular compensation.

#### **REASONS 1-3**

Full-time employees are eligible for up to 80 hours of leave paid at their regular rate, and part-time employees can receive the average of their weekly pay.

#### **REASONS 4-5**

Employees will be paid two-thirds of their regular pay for up to 80 hours, but they may use one-third of their local, state or vacation leave days to make up 100% of their pay.

If an employee uses all of their FFCRA leave and is forced to quarantine....

they will have to use their regular personal or vacations days to continue receiving pay during that time.

SOURCES: CY-FAIR ISD, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER





TexasBayCU.org

713-852-6700

# TOO SOON TO STOP

## TOGETHER, WE CAN STOP THE SPREAD.

When COVID-19 first hit our city, Houstonians rallied together to stop its spread. But the job's not done yet. It's simply too soon to stop practicing the behaviors we know help protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities.

- Wear your mask
- Wash your hands
- Keep 6 feet apart
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care

memorialhermann.org/coronavirus



#CountingOnHou



Quarantine fatigue has taken its toll. We've watched everything on Netflix, planted our gardens and reorganized every drawer and cupboard in the house. We're more than ready to spend quality time—in person—with family and friends. As stay-at-home restrictions begin to relax, how can we get the human contact we crave, while still protecting ourselves and others? What will the 'new normal' look like for family get-togethers and backyard barbecues?

Memorial Hermann Medical Group Cypress primary care physician Lillian Howard, MD, offers tips for easing into a safe fall.

#### Keep it small.

Dr. Howard says people will likely prefer to stick to small gatherings, many choosing to cook and entertain at home rather than going out, given that it could potentially take "a year or more" until there's a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus.

#### Limit unnecessary outings.

We've grown accustomed to the convenience of having a grocery store nearby, affording us the opportunity to shop frequently. "But while we're still under the threat of COVID infection, and as flu season approaches, we don't need to go to the store every day. Plan ahead to minimize outings—and exposure," she says.

#### Mix it up.

Dr. Howard thinks people will continue to employ some of the creative social distancing techniques they adopted while under stay-at-home orders, such as video conferencing, drive-by visits and even car circles, a practice among teens who park in circles and visit from their cars.

#### Keep it clean.

Our health and daily habits have never seemed so crucial to survival. "The new habits that have been formed during the pandemic, including frequent and thorough hand washing, sanitizing surfaces and not touching surfaces unnecessarily, will stick around, even after the immediate threat is over, especially among kids," she says.

#### Protect our most vulnerable.

Dr. Howard, whose subspecialty is geriatrics, says that her older patients seem to be adjusting well, many staying in touch with family via phone and video calls. But as restrictions are lifted, it's important to continue to take extra precautions to protect older family members, especially if they have underlying illnesses, such as diabetes, cancer or high blood pressure, as they are at greater risk of developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness. "It's about keeping them safe," she says, "and for our younger

generation, it's also about showing their elders respect."

## Focus on what's important.

"If there are a few lessons this experience has taught us, it's that there are everyday things on which we may not have focused due to our busy schedules that we are now



**Dr. Lillian Howard MD** *Family Medicine Doctor* 

thoroughly enjoying—spending quality time with our families and enjoying simple activities with loved ones without spending money on lavish vacations, expensive dinners and gifts. It's understanding our reliance on connection, in reaching out to friends and keeping close those who are in need or alone. It's knowing that time is a gift that we should spend in the best way possible," she says.

Dr. Howard says it's also important to remain hopeful. "Even though our new normal might differ from our pre-COVID normal, we have to remember that we will get through this. If you're feeling anxious, depressed or isolated, reach out to someone—a friend, a family member or your family doctor," she says.

For more tips on keeping your family healthy and safe, visit the Memorial Hermann Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource Center at memorialhermann.org/coronavirus

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit mhmg.memorialhermann.org or call 832.658.MHMG (6464).

Advancing health. Personalizing care.



## Shaka Power Yoga

Cypress studio gets creative during COVID-19 quarantine

uring a year when many are more stressed and uncertain than ever, practicing yoga can help people find balance, clarity and well-being, according to Jenny Normand, who owns Shaka Power Yoga in Cypress.

"You can eat well; you can work out as much as you want. But if you're not bringing the mind into the work, if you're not working on the breath and the mindfulness aspect of it, you're really not going to lose weight ... or have clarity in your being," she said.

After working for more than a decade in retail management, longtime yogi Normand quit her job in January 2018, held pop-up yoga events throughout the community and opened her studio in Bridgeland by December.

She said as someone who worked most weekends and was constantly on the go in her previous job, yoga was always where she found solace.

"For me, yoga has been my sanctuary," Normand said. "My mat was my place where I was able to really rest my mind."

Shaka Power Yoga offers classes for all experience levels, from gentle to more athletic classes. Normand said she expects to see her business continue to grow as it produces more certified yoga teachers



through 200-hour training classes in affiliation with Yoga Alliance.

Normand earned her certification to teach yoga while living in Hawaii, and upon moving to the Houston area in 2016, she got certified to teach stand-up paddleboard yoga.

The business began hosting SUP classes in May 2019, and Normand said more regular classes have taken place in Humble and Texas City since COVID-19 hit this spring.

Shaka Power Yoga also began offering virtual classes in mid-March which have since reached international yogis, added outdoor classes and launched an on-demand library of yoga content for members to stay active during quarantine. This innovation has not only helped keep the doors open, but Normand said the business has actually grown in 2020 despite the pandemic.

The studio reopened for in-person classes in May, and Normand said children's classes will return once a vaccine for COVID-19 is released.

"We can coexist with this [virus] if we do it safely and cleanly," she said. "Life does not need to stop."





#### THE MEANING OF SHAKA

Shaka Power Yoga owner Jenny Normand said the name of her business is inspired by her time living in Hawaii. The word "shaka" can have several meanings, including:

- "Hello
- "I love you"
- "Family"
- "Community"
- "Gratitude"

#### Shaka Power Yoga

10611 Fry Road, Ste. 250, Cypress 832-413-3194

www.shakapoweryoga.com

Hours: Mon., Wed. 5:30-10:30 a.m., 5-8 p.m.; Tue., Thu. 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 5-8 p.m.; Fri. 5:30-10:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30-11:30 a.m., Sun. 8:30-<u>10:30 a.m.</u>





DINING FEATURE

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ



# **Tex Mex Grill & Bar**

# Love for Houston, Mexico inspires menu at Cy-Fair eatery

orge Rodriguez started his career in restaurants at the age of 16 working as a dishwasher. Since then, he said his journey has taken him from line cook to sous chef to executive chef to director of operations in charge of thousands of employees.

Today, Rodriguez owns and runs Tex Mex Grill & Bar on FM 529 in Cy-Fair, fulfilling his dream of owning a restaurant.

"If you don't work on your dreams, somebody will hire you to work on theirs," he said.

Rodriguez opened a bar in the same space in 2019 but said he decided to open as Tex Mex Grill & Bar in January so he could make better use of his cooking skills.

"I don't make the beer. I don't

www.wyndhamhotels.com

make the alcohol. I don't make the liquor," he said. "I make every morsel. Everything you eat here is made here."

Born in Mexico, Rodriguez said he wanted his restaurant to reflect his love of both Houston and his home country. He describes the style as "Mexican standards with an American twist."

The menu includes enchiladas and fajita plates, Mexican burgers and street tacos. A full bar includes a variety of margaritas that Rodriguez said remind him and his Mexican patrons of home. He said it was also important to feature vegan and gluten-free items, including vegan options for nachos and enchiladas.

The restaurant is open for dining in and also offers curbside pickup

and delivery. Rodriguez, who said he works about 14 hours per day, said the coronavirus pandemic has posed challenges.

He credits his staff for being able to keep his doors open. After paying his staff out of his own pocket at the start of the pandemic, he said his employees sat him down and offered to continue working for no pay for two weeks.

"I find people that don't work for money," he said. "They work for purpose, and they believe in me."

Despite the challenges, Rodriquez said word of mouth continues to bring in new customers.

"If you can be here and experience when a new customer goes, 'Wow, this is good,' you know we're going to be just fine," he said.

# **THREE DISHES TO TRY**

gallo, sour cream and jalapenos.



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# **HARRIS COUNTY**

# Some call for tax cuts as discussions play out

As tax rate conversations continue in Harris County, officials are considering calls to provide taxpayer relief amid the coronavirus pandemic alongside efforts to follow through on policy goals in 2021 and the potential costs of continuing to support residents in need.

County leaders have called for increased investments over the last two years in areas such as early education and criminal justice reform. Following the spate of protest marches in June, commissioners set a number of criminal justice studies in motion that could turn into budget items next year, including the potential development of teams that would provide alternative responses to certain criminal justice calls.

Although the tax rate conversation was still underway in Harris County as of press time, commissioners have effectively ruled out the voter-approval rate, or the highest possible rate that can be set before a jurisdiction is required to get approval from voters through an election.

Instead, commissioners were considering a tax rate that would raise 3.5% in additional revenue, a rate that would keep the property tax burden on residents the same as last year, or somewhere in between. Keeping the tax burden the same, also known as the "no new revenue" tax rate, could result in a \$10 million budget shortfall for the county, officials said, but would likely not require staff cuts or endanger pensions.

The criminal justice studies kicked off in June with a push from Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis, who said he wanted his fellow commissioners to remain open to funding the priority. Ellis expressed his personal willingness to commit at least \$25 million to developing alternatives to criminal justice responses related to homelessness, poverty and substance abuse.

Jennifer Bourgeois, a professor with the Lone Star College-CyFair Criminal Justice Department and a fellow in the Houston-based Center for Justice Research at Texas Southern University, said the effort could go far in addressing the flaws in the existing system.

"Often times what we see is a lot of pomp but no action," she said. "[Providing funding] would actually build trust in the community."

At an Aug. 6 meeting, Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle said he believes the court should keep homeowners in mind who may be suffering economically as a result of the pandemic. He said he plans to support the "no new revenue" tax rate.

"This is not the time to be increasing taxes on our constituents," he said.

# LOFTY **GOALS**

As Harris County officials debate the 2020 tax rate, a number of initiatives have recently passed or are being considered that could require financial commitments.

### **(EY**

- In consideration
- Passed
- S Cost

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

# **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

- 1 Developing alternative responses to poverty, homelessness, mental health, substance use and violence prevention
- \$ TBD, potentially \$25 million
- 2 Creation of new emergency responder program to take over 911 calls related to mental health, substance use
- **S** TBD
- 3 Creation of county-level agency to administer violence interruption
- S TBE

# **IMMIGRANT DEFENSE**

- 4 Program to provide legal defense to immigrants who do not have access to them
- \$500,000 in first year

# **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

- **5** Early efforts were underway at the start of 2020 to gather community input on how the county could increase access to early childhood education.
- **5** TBD

# **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS**

- 6 29 new pollution control positions created in 2019, including emergency response, chemists and field investigators
- \$5.9 million in 2019
- 7 Staffing and geographic coverage, equipment for the fire marshal's office
- \$4.6 million in 2019
- 8 New public positions, including physicians, a chemical response planner and a public health hygienist
- \$1.1 million in 2019

# **JERSEY VILLAGE** Officials keep homestead exemptions flat

# CAPTIAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Jersey Village officials are moving forward with some city projects while pressing pause on others.



# MOVING FORWARD

**Village Center:** Plans for the 43-acre, mixed-use center are expected to move forward in fiscal year 2020-21, including a City Hall project at the site.

Cost: \$8 million budgeted for new City Hall

"EVERYTHING STILL IS
MOVING FORWARD [AT
VILLAGE CENTER], A LITTLE
SLOW BECAUSE OF COVID[-19]
OBVIOUSLY. WE'RE HOPING
FOR A GROUNDBREAKING
LATER THIS YEAR."

AUSTIN BLEESS, JERSEY VILLAGE CITY MANAGER



# **DELAYED**

**Golf course convention center:** City officials said work on a new convention center at the Jersey Meadow Golf Course will be temporarily halted as the city evaluates cost-cutting measures.

Cost: Estimated \$3 million-\$5 million

**Swimming pool office remodel:** The project was delayed by one year because of COVID-19.

Cost: \$35,000

SOURCE: CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

In Jersey Village, officials are waiting to propose a tax rate until they receive information from the Harris County Appraisal District on how home values have changed from last year. However, in July budget talks, city council members indicated they would not increase homestead exemptions, citing uncertainties posed by the pandemic.

Jersey Village has historically kept its tax rate flat, but City Council members approved a homestead exemption increase in 2019 from 8% to 14%. The bump meant the owner of a \$200,000 home paid about \$89 less in property taxes last year.

When the exemption was raised in 2019, several council members and Mayor Andrew Mitcham said they would consider raising it again in 2020. However, with the coronavirus pandemic and economic fallout still playing out in Houston, council members agreed it would be better to hold off this year.

"I think the more responsible course is to regroup next May and see where we stand," Council Member Bobby Warren said.

The pandemic also prompted officials to reassess plans for capital improvement projects. In a preliminary budget, about \$8 million was earmarked for capital improvement projects, some of which were carried over from the previous fiscal year.

A potentially \$5 million project to build a new convention center at the Jersey Meadow Golf Course has been paused, and Mitcham said the city is not likely to take any action on the item this year. However, he said the city remains committed to the project.

"It's proven that if we invest in the golf course ... that benefits citizens as a whole," Mitcham said at the July meeting.

The city still intends to move forward with a project to construct a new City Hall, City Manager Austin Bleess said. The building will be built south of Hwy. 290 within the Village Center, a future mixeduse development.

# HARRIS COUNTY ESD NO. 9 Plans move forward for expansion of Cy-Fair Fire Department

The coronavirus pandemic hit Harris County Emergency Services District No. 9 and the Cy-Fair Fire Department just as the two entities were embarking on a new chapter in their existence—one that involved making significant financial commitments to hiring more paid staff, building new stations and increasing the number of engines.

Commissioners voted to lower the tax rate in August, but the district is expected to raise about \$1.5 million more in revenue than last year due to increases in home values, meeting the 3.5% limit allowed under a new state law passed in 2019. Annual taxes paid by the average homeowner will increase from \$109.81 to \$114.33.

Tommy Balez, the president of the board of commissioners, said the increase in revenue will help fund land purchases, station construction and hiring efforts.

"At some point we plan to hopefully reach a spot where we're not building so much, but we're years away from that," he said.

In plans presented in July 2019, district officials said they were seeking to increase the number of paid staff on call at any given time from five to 17 by 2023. Over that same time, plans called for increasing the number of stations from 13 to 15 and the number of available fire engines at any given time

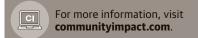
from six to 15, one for each station.

Cy-Fair fire Chief Amy Ramon said the department hired its first round of 14 full-time firefighters in November and planned to do another round of hiring this summer, but that second round of hiring has since be delayed.

"We'll start that process toward end of the year with the first quarter of next year in mind, which is when our new Station 5 opens up," Ramon said, referring to a new station slated to open on French Road in Houston. "Our trucks are still fully staffed. We're not having problems filling any shifts at all."

Balez said the district should be able stick to its 2023 goals due to stronger-than-expected sales tax revenue and having a reserve fund in excess of \$63 million. The district has plans for the upcoming fiscal year to start construction on a new Station 1 on Fairbanks North Houston Road and a new Station 6 off West Little York Road. Officials also hope to purchase land for a Station 10 rebuild, Balez said.

"If any curveballs were to come, we might delay some [capital] projects, but we're still plowing ahead," Balez said.



# WHO'S ON CALL?

The pandemic hit the Cy-Fair Fire Department at the onset of an expansion in staff, engines and stations. Officials delayed some hiring plans by several months, but targets for 2024 remain unchanged.





Available engines

# **AUGUST 2020**

5 volunteers 4 paid





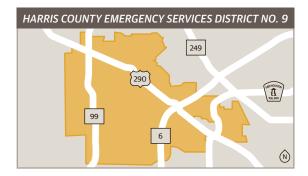
# **PROJECTED 2024**







SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY ESD NO. 9/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER







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# **WORTHAM GROVE. 77065**

Wortham Grove is a community of 311 single-family homes located at Hwy. 290 and Hwy. 6 in Cy-Fair. Several dining, shopping and hotel options are located near the neighborhood.



Median home value



Homes on the market\*



Homes under contract



Median annual property taxes



Median price per square foot



\*AS OF SEPT. 1

Average days on the market\*

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





Build-out year: 1998

**Square footage:** 2,004-3,536 Home values: \$179,000-\$259,000 HOA dues (estimated): \$560 annually Schools: Cy-Fair ISD (Adam Elementary School, Arnold Middle School, Cy-Fair High School)

porty tayos (in dollars).

Property taxes (in dollars):	
Lone Star College System	0.11
Harris County Dept. of Education	0.01
Harris County	0.41
Harris County ESD No. 9	0.06
Harris County Flood Control District	0.03
Harris County Hospital District	0.17
Cy-Fair ISD	1.37
Harris County MUD No. 22	0.32
Port of Houston Authority	0.01
Total (per \$100 valuation)	2.49

Recently sold homes in Wortham Grove



10706 Wolsley Court

5 bedroom/3.5 bath 3,536 sq. ft. Sold for \$250,001-\$285,000 on July 15



13122 Durbridge Trail Drive

3 bedroom/2 bath 2,295 sq. ft. Sold for \$250,001-\$285,000 on Aug. 28



13110 Brayton Court

4 bedroom/3.5 bath 3,054 sq. ft. Sold for \$250,001-\$285,000 on June 1



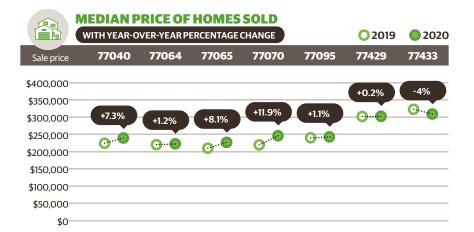
10410 Thornhurn Court

3 bedroom/2 bath 2,004 sq. ft. Sold for \$215,001-\$250,000 on July 24

# **MARKET DATA FOR AUGUST**

# **HOMES SOLD/AVERAGE DAYS** ON THE MARKET

	77040	77064	77065	77070	77095	77429	77433
\$149,999 or under	3/93	4/8	-	2/75	2/11	-	-
\$150,000-\$199,999	9/38	6/49	5/11	8/38	16/14	11/58	21/28
\$200,000-\$299,999	11/27	26/9	20/58	28/41	72/24	67/30	78/45
\$300,000-\$399,999	2/25	3/12	3/29	3/11	17/51	47/41	68/57
\$400,000-\$499,999	-	-	2/18	4/42	2/44	21/43	15/87
\$500,000-\$599,999	-	-	-	-	-	7/171	22/88
\$600,000-\$799,999	-	-	-	-	-	7/59	12/100
\$800,000-\$999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/249
\$1 million+	-	-	-	1/177	-	-	





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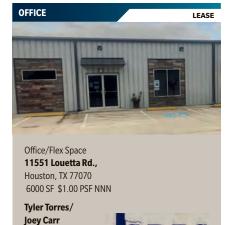
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# Alex Wisnoski/

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# **SEPTEMBER 2020**

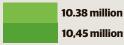
# **COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DATA**

While Cy-Fair's office rental rates have dipped slightly in recent months, industrial rates are holding steady with more space under construction and just over 85% occupancy.

# **TOTAL SQUARE FEET OF SPACE**



# **OFFICE**



# **INDUSTRIAL**

**34.89 million** 38.65 million

# RETAIL





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

\*AS OF SEPT. 4

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**

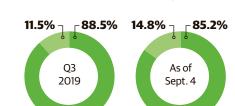




Occupancy rate

# **INDUSTRIAL**

# **OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY**



Vacancy rate

Vacancy rate

# **RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT**



# **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**





# RETAIL

# **OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY**

Occupancy rate



# **RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT**



# **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**







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