CY-FAIR EDITION



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2020 VOLUNTEER GUIDE

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HOUSTON CY-FAIR LIONS CLUB

23



Hwy. 6 bridge on track for December completion

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

A project to build a new fourlane flyover bridge connecting FM 1960 to Hwy. 6 over Hwy. 290 is nearing completion in Cy-Fair, and transportation experts and developers all have high hopes for what it could mean for mobility.

The two roads being connected by the new bridge were both named in the list of the 100 most congested roadways in Texas in 2019, according to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, with the section of Hwy. 6 between Hwy. 290 and I-10 ranking No. 99 and the section of FM 1960 between

Hwy. 290 and Hwy. 249 ranking No. 39.

By alleviating a bottleneck of traffic, the bridge will have benefits to both of those roadways, as well as to the Hwy. 290 frontage road, TTI Research Fellow Tim Lomax said.

Department of Transportation

CONTINUED ON 26



4,500 animals annually.

Development displaces Cy-Fair's native wildlife

The Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition takes in

BY DANICA LLOYD

Residential, commercial and transportation development is necessary to accommodate Cy-Fair's growing population, but these projects can disturb native wildlife habitats as land is cleared for new construction.

The Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition takes in about 4,500 animals annually from high-growth areas of the Greater Houston area, including Cy-Fair, Katy and Memorial. Executive Director Mary Warwick said many of these rescues are due to people

CONTINUED ON 28











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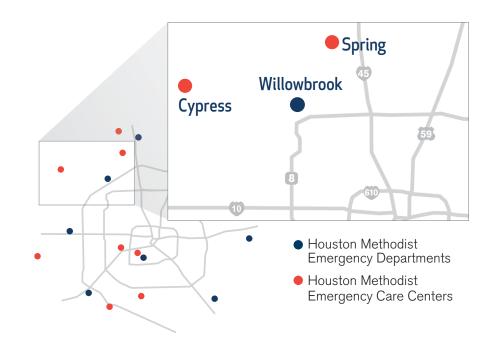


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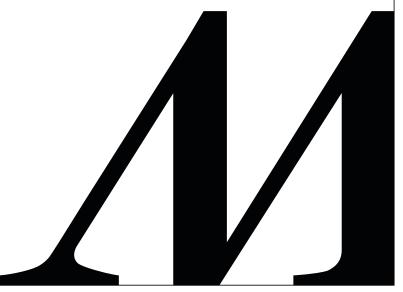
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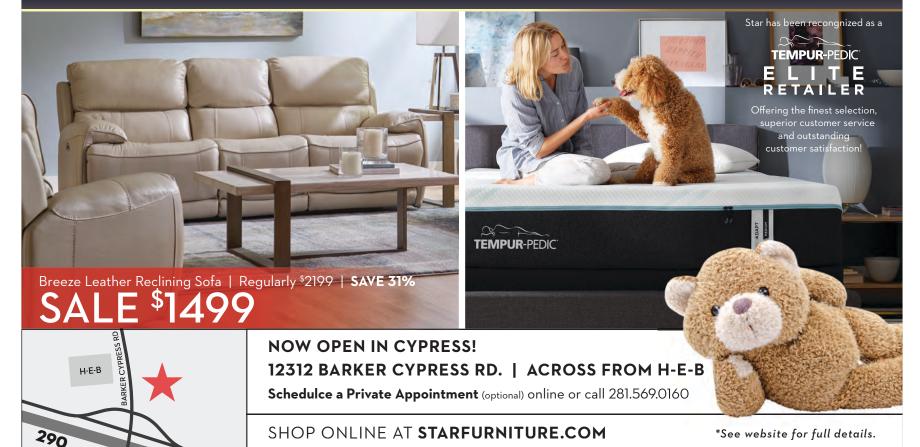
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WHO WE ARE

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: November is a time to reflect on the year and be thankful for everything we have been blessed with. Although 2020 has been a challenging year, there is still much to be grateful for. Our community is thriving, and there are many ways you can give back to those in need. Take a look at our Volunteer Guide (see Pages 20-21) to find opportunities to get out and support our local nonprofits. All of us at Community Impact Newspaper wish you a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

Emily Heineman, **GENERAL MANAGER**

FROM SHAWN: The coronavirus pandemic has affected the Cy-Fair community at every level, but construction and development have largely continued to move forward. Our frontpage story this month takes a look at a major transportation project at Hwy. 6 and Hwy. 290 intended to alleviate congestion as the population in Cy-Fair continues to grow. In our second front-page story, Senior Reporter Danica Lloyd examines the effects ongoing development has had on wildlife in Cypress.



Shawn Arrajj, **SENIOR EDITOR**

THIS ISSUE BY THE NUMBERS

Local sources

New businesses

Community events

Volunteer opportunities

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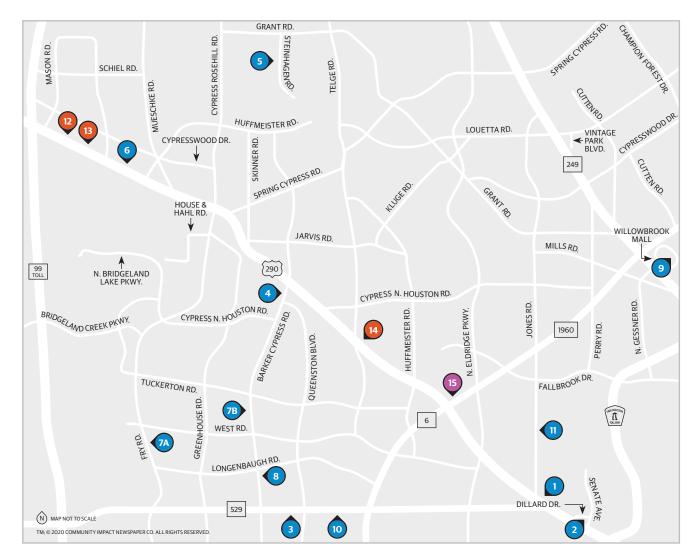






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NOW OPEN

1 Crafty Crab opened Sept. 28 at 17460 Hwy. 290, Houston, near the Jones Road intersection. The eatery specializes in Cajun-style broiled seafood, including crab legs, lobster tail, shrimp, crawfish, clams and mussels. Fried seafood is also available, along with oysters, scallops and gumbo. 832-856-5656. www.craftycrabrestaurant.com

2 Little Kitchen HTX opened their brick-and-mortar restaurant Sept. 1 at 16000 Dillard Drive, Ste. A, Jersey Village. The eatery offers breakfast, lunch,

dinner, weekend brunch, a full coffee bar and cocktails. Menu items include locally-sourced dishes, burgers, tacos, soups. salads and specialty entree items such as chicken fried steak, Parmesan chicken and grilled salmon. The owners also opened the Tiny Ballroom next door, which can host events for up to 40 quests. Catering services, family meals and grab-and-go options are also available. 832-295-3020. www.littlekitchenhtx.com

3 A new 11,000-square-foot bingo hall, Bingo Mojo, opened Sept. 23 at 17249 FM 529, Houston. The facility is currently offering day bingo each week is played on electronic bingo computers, and both smoking and nonsmoking rooms are available. All proceeds from bingo games go directly to charity, including Veterans of Foreign Wars 9187, VFW 5619 and City Wide Club of Clubs Christian Mission Auxiliary, officials said. 281-855-9612. www.bingomojotx.com

4 Beauty Barber opened in August at 11901 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. 4, Cypress. Services span across a wide variety of barber or beauty services, including haircuts, fades, shaving and coloring. 832-830-5751. www.facebook.com/beautybarbercypress



5 A new wedding and event venue, A Thousand Oaks Events & Retreats, held a grand opening Oct. 22 at 17011 Steinhagen Road, Cypress. The family-owned property highlights the outdoors with gardens, private orchards, large oak trees and a waterfall view. The outdoor portion of the venue accommodates 400 guests, and a ballroom has the capacity for 250. 346-313-2234. www.thousandoakscypress.com

6 Officials with Millennium **Physicians** announced the opening of a new office offering medical oncology and hematology, rheumatology and infusion services. The new location opened Oct. 5 at 27700 Hwy. 290, Ste. 580, Cypress. Providers at this site include Drs. David B. Hodges, Urmeel Patel, Charles L. Yen and Mohammad Ursani. 832-791-5530 (medical oncology and hematology appointments), 346-345-2100 (rheumatology appointments). www.millenniumphysicians.com

7 Two new locations of Caliber Auto Care opened in the Cypress area Oct. 12, company officials announced. The business, formerly known as Service First Automotive, offers a wide variety of repair services as well as maintenance, oil changes and state inspections. Along with the name change, the company also introduced tire sales as a new service. The two new locations can be found at A 8700 Fry Road, Cypress, near the West Road intersection, and B 9425 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress. 832-334-5980 (Fry Road location), 346-332-0388 (Barker Cypress Road location). www.caliberautocare.com





8 RockBox Fitness opened a new Cypress location in late September at 8196 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. 300, Cypress. The boxing studio specializes in one-hour, full-body workouts incorporating boxing and kickboxing techniques as well as functional training. The Charlotte, North Carolina-based chain announced plans to expand into Houston earlier this year, and the Cypress location is the first in the Greater Houston area. www.rockboxfitness.com/cypress

9 The Lego Store celebrated its grand opening Oct. 9 inside Willowbrook Mall, located at 1568 Willowbrook Mall, Houston. In celebration of the grand opening, the new store is offering a free reusable Lego bag with every purchase of \$35 or more and a free Lego store set with every purchase of \$125 or more until Oct. 31 while supplies last. 281-970-6609. www.lego.com

10 A grand opening took place for a new 45,000-square-foot **Dick's Sporting Goods** location Oct. 23 in the Copperfield Marketplace at 16343 FM 529, Houston, near Sommerall Drive. The chain sporting goods store offers athletic and outdoor apparel; footwear; gear for sports including football, baseball and golf; and fitness equipment. 281-656-4028. www.dickssportinggoods.com

11 A new location of **Crab Heads Cajun Boil** opened Oct. 1 at 9630 Jones
Road, Houston. The eatery specializes
in seafood, including both boiled and
fried entrees. Menu items include boiled
gulf shrimp, Alaskan snow crab, catfish,
oysters and lobster tail. The original



location of the restaurant opened in Missouri City in January. 832-912-4953. www.crabheadscajunboil.com

Kellie Tolarski opened Cypress Mobile Massage in September after a 20-year career in accounting. The mobile business serves the Cy-Fair, Katy and Spring areas with deep tissue, sports and relaxation massages in clients' own homes. Tolarski said she also offers cupping, blading and hot stone therapies free of charge based on client needs. 571-201-5137. www.cypressmobilemassage.com

COMING SOON

12 Construction is underway on a new location of Cinnaholic, a bakery specializing in gourmet cinnamon rolls, at Fairfield Town Center, 28920 Hwy. 290, Ste. H11, Cypress. Signature cinnamon roll flavors include caramel apple pie and campfire s'mores, but customers can also choose their own frosting flavors and toppings with options ranging from bananas and blueberries to cookie dough, pie crumble and sprinkles. The sweets shop also serves edible cookie dough, brownies, cookies and coffee. All products are vegan and cholesterol free. Catering services will also be available. www.cinnaholic.com

13 Airi Ramen is slated to open Dec. 14 at 28404 Hwy. 290, Ste. G19, Cypress, in the Fairfield Town Center. The eatery will specialize in authentic Japanese ramen while also offering Asian-inspired items such as buns and



FEATURED IMPACT

NOW OPEN

Houston Premium Outlets welcomed Versace to its shopping center in late October across from Burberry and next to DKNY at Ste. 943. The store offers designer fashion for men and women, including accessories and shoes. www.versace.com

UGG opened its newest location at Houston Premium Outlets on Oct. 9. Located in Ste. 216 between Old Navy and Journeys, this is the retailer's first Texas outlet. Products are made with high-quality leathers, suedes and sheepskin, according to officials. www.ugg.com

Officials announced the opening of limited pop-up shop Lucchesse in early October next to Kate Spade New York and across from the Armani Outlet in Ste. 955. Customers can find western boots at the 3,019-square-foot store. www.lucchese.com

29300 Hempstead Road, Cypress. 281-304-5820.

www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/houston

dumplings. The venue will also feature a full bar. The original location of the restaurant opened in New Caney in 2018. www.facebook.com/airipokeramen

Triple Crown Bingo is opening a daytime bingo hall at 21902 Hwy. 290, Cypress, where VFW Post 8905 is located. The venue is slated to open Nov. 2, and Triple Crown Bingo at 10535 Jones Road, Ste. 200, Houston, will continue operating during the evenings, officials said. 281-257-2769. www.triplecrownbingo.com

ton. Owner Sarah Aguilar said staff can treat sleep and headache disorders including snoring, sleep apnea, insomnia, narcolepsy, migraines and tension headaches, among other conditions. 832-688-8886. www.sleepandheadache.com

SCHOOL NOTES

The **U.S. Department of Agriculture** will allow free meals to be available to all children through the remainder of the 2020-21 school year, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced Oct. 9. The USDA had previously extended child nutrition waivers through December, but the new flexibility will allow school districts to continue providing free meals to all children through June 30, 2021.

ANNIVERSARIES

(B) Sleep and Headache Solutions of Houston will celebrate one year in business with an open house from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Nov. 13 at 13114 FM 1960, Ste. 105B, Hous-









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We are so thankful for our hard-working firefighters, medics, and support personnel who help keep the Cy-Fair community safe everyday.















Special Children with Horses for Evaluation, Education, Rehabilitation and Socialization will host its Stand By Me Fundraiser featuring live music, food and drink tents, a silent auction and a chance to pet horses. Funds raised will go toward scholarships as well as feeding and caring for horses. 5-8 p.m. \$125. 12570 Clay Road, Houston. 713-858-2243. www.specialcheers.com (Courtesy Special CHEERS)

NOVEMBER

14 THROUGH DEC. 20 SEE A STAGEWORKS THEATRE HOLIDAY SHOW

After having to cut its 2019-20 season short because of the coronavirus, Stageworks Theatre is preparing to host two holiday shows: "Greetings!" from Nov. 20-Dec. 20 and "Twas the Night Before Christmas" from Nov. 14-Dec. 20. The shows are being arranged with safety precautions in mind, including limiting the number of people in the audience and face mask requirements. Times vary. \$15-\$35. Stageworks Theatre, 10760 Grant Road, Houston. 281-587-6100. www.stageworkshouston.com

DECEMBER

O2 CELEBRATE EDUCATORS AT THE SALUTE TO THE STARS GALA

Cy-Fair Educational Foundation recognizes

NOV.
08 & UNPLUGGED ADVENTURE
VIRTUAL EVENT

The Katy Prairie Conservancy will host two online events designed to educate viewers on plants which can be foraged in the wild for medicinal or edible purposes. The event is hosted by Dr. John "Merriwether" Vorderbruggen, a forager, author, chemist and botanist. 4-5 p.m. (Nov. 8), noon-1 p.m. (Nov. 18). Free. Online event. 713-523-6135. www.katyprairie.org (Shawn Arrajj/Community Impact Newspaper)

the Cy-Fair ISD Teacher of the Year among other honorees at the annual event, which raises funds for staff development programs and student scholarships. The event includes teacher drawings on display, a guest speaker, dinner, entertainment, a raffle and a live auction. 7:30 p.m. Call for prices. Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Road. 281-370-0144. www.thecfef.org

O2 GOLF TO SUPPORT A LOCAL NONPROFIT

The annual tournament raises funds for the Kailee Mills Foundation, which hosts events and presentations on seat belt awareness in addition to providing scholarships, financial assistance and counseling to families affected by seat belt-related crashes. Registration includes breakfast, lunch, a swag bag and one hour of an open bar after the tournament. 8 a.m. (registration), 9:30 a.m. (shotgun start). \$150. Blackhorse Golf Club, 12205 Fry Road, Cypress. 512-970-6731. www.birdease.com/kaileemillsfoundation

VIRTUAL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

People across the U.S. will walk
1.2 miles in their own neighborhoods to
demonstrate giving cancer "the boot."
The fundraising event, typically hosted
at the University of Texas MD Anderson
Cancer Center in Houston, will be online
this year. Proceeds provide support for
MD Anderson patient programs, research,
prevention and education efforts.
9 a.m.-noon. Free (participants
encouraged to fundraise on their own).
Virtual event. 844-363-2262.
www.mdanderson.org/bootwalk

TAKE PART IN A TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

Harris County Precinct 4 will host a virtual Tribute to Veterans in honor of Veterans Day. Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle will lead the event, which will feature a presentation of flags from the Atascocita High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The event also will include special guest speakers and a patriotic concert from the Texas A&M University Singing Cadets. The event will be broadcast online at www.facebook.com/hcprecinct4. 6-8 p.m. Free. 713-274-4050

14 LEARN ABOUT WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

The Houston chapter of the Society of Women Engineers will host a virtual event designed to introduce girls ages 10-14 to different sectors of engineering through interactive workshops.

Participants will learn about electrical, civil and biomedical engineering. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free. www.houstonswe.org

23 SUPPORT RELAY FOR LIFE CY-FAIR'S ONLINE AUCTION

A virtual online auction raises funds for the American Cancer Society to assist cancer patients through Dec. 7. Auction items include electronic equipment; jewelry; and tickets to event venues, including local golf courses, the Aerodrome Ice Skating Complex and a private tasting for 20 people at Bernhardt Winery. All-day event. Free (admission). http://relayforlifeofcyfair.ggo.bid



FEATURED EVENT

HIT THE GREENS AT THE B.F. ADAM GOLF CLASSIC

NOV. 16

After being postponed from its original date in May, the tournament is back on to raise funds for the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation. The tournament includes lunch, dinner, an awards ceremony and a raffle. A putting content takes place before the tournament, which is a four-person scramble. 10 a.m. (registration), 11:30 a.m. (shotgun start). Call for prices.

Blackhorse Golf Club, 12205 Fry Road, Cypress 281-370-0144. www.thecfef.org



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

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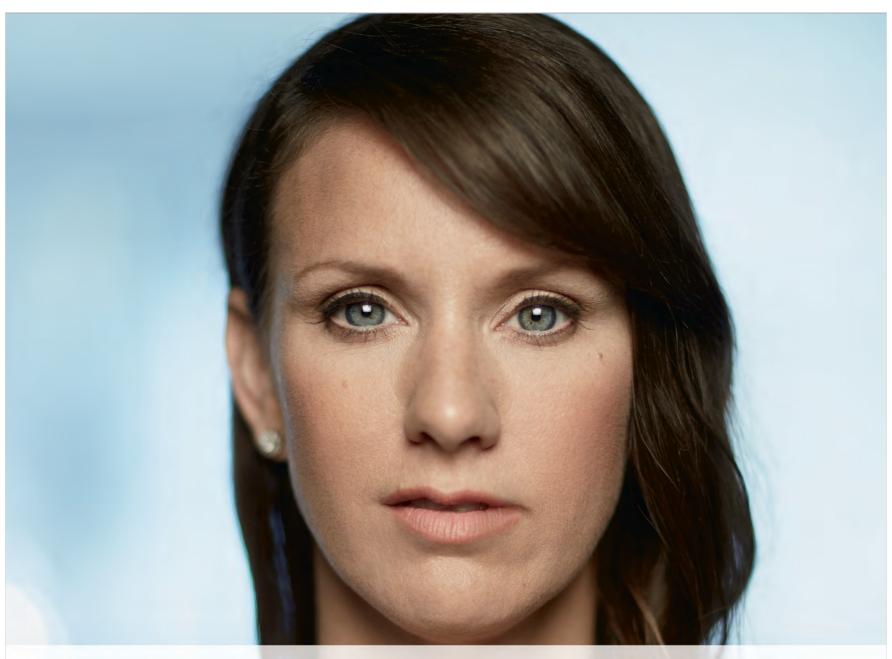
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Texas Central bullet train project receives rulings on safety framework, selected alignment

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ & ADRIANA REZAL

The Federal Railroad Administration released prepublication versions in September of its final rulings on safety guidelines and the preferred alignment of Texas Central's high-speed bullet train connecting Houston to Dallas.

The two rulings, known as the Rule of Particular Applicability and Record of Decision, are the latest milestones for the ongoing project, according to Texas Central CEO Carlos Aguilar.

"The release ... represents years of work by countless individuals, affirming a very thorough and careful federal regulatory process that will make the Texas Central Railroad the first high-speed rail system to be implemented in the United States," Aguilar said.

The RPA ruling establishes safety guidelines for the system, while the ROD establishes the project's preferred alignment from Houston to Dallas.

Those in opposition to the train system, such as ReRoute the Route, argue there are many steps left until the project can be built. Taylor Ward, a spokesperson for ReRoute the Route, said he expected property rights issues to be a focus of the 2021 Legislative Session.

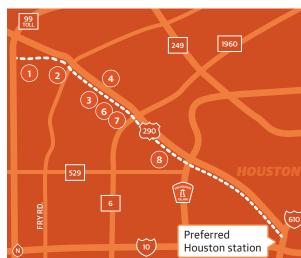
ON THE RAILS

Texas Central's proposed high-speed rail route runs directly through Cy-Fair, including through the White Oak Falls neighborhood and the future site of the Dunham Pointe master-planned community. The train's preferred route was established by the Federal Railroad Administration in a prepublication of its final ruling released in September.

-- Proposed route

Nearby development

- 1 Dunham Pointe neighborhood
- 2 Camden Cypress Creek Apartments
- 3 Stone Gate neighborhood
- 4 Cy-Fair High School
- 6 White Oak Falls neighborhood
- 7 Cypress Falls High School
- 8 Village Center



SOURCE: TEXAS CENTRAL/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

"This action by the FRA was simply another step in the bureaucratic process that does not move the project one step closer to breaking ground," Ward said.

The alignment has the train crossing through the Cy-Fair area, including through the White Oak Falls subdivision and the site of the future Dunham Pointe

master-planned community. Archie Dunham, the developer behind the community, declined comment on the rail's alignment.

Construction for the high-speed train system is slated to begin in the first half of 2021 and be completed in 2027. Texas Central officials claim hard costs for the project will amount to \$20 billion.

PROJECT UPDATE



Construction begins on West Road widening

Construction began in September on a project to widen West Road in Harris County Precinct 3 between Woodson Terrace Lane and Greenhouse Road from two lanes to four lanes. A \$1.4 million contract was awarded to Unitas Construction in August. The project also includes median and left turn lanes at major intersections.

Timeline: September-TBD

Cost: \$1.4 million

Funding source: Harris County Precinct 3

IN THE NEWS



Southwest Airlines sets sights on George Bush Intercontinental Airport

Beginning next year, Southwest Airlines will be soaring into its second Houston-area airport: George Bush Intercontinental Airport. According to an Oct. 12 announcement from the Dallas-based airline, Southwest Airlines is expanding its services in the Houston and Chicago regions next year. The airline will begin servicing IAH, which is located near Humble, in the first half of 2021, according to the release. However, specific details—such as terminal location, schedules and routes—are not yet available.

ALL INFORMATION ON THIS PAGE WAS UPDATED AS OF OCT. 13. NEWS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE OR OTHER LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS? EMAIL US AT CYFNEWS@COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM.

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Road work begins at future site of Dunham Pointe master-planned community

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

Work has begun on a mobility project in Cypress to extend Mason Road south of Hwy. 290 into the future site of the Dunham Pointe master-planned community.

Archie Dunham, the developer behind the community, said he hopes to have contracts with several homebuilders signed by the end of the year and is aiming to have a groundbreaking event at the site some time in the first quarter of 2021.

"We're just going full speed ahead," Dunham said. "I'm really pleased at how it's going, especially with the interest we've had."

The Mason crossing has been considered a key milestone in bringing the community to fruition, Dunham said. The yearslong process of getting to this point has involved working closely with Harris County, the Texas Department of Transportation and Union Pacific Corp., which owns a set of railroad tracks at the Hwy. 290 intersection that

Mason will also cross over at grade. Following the construction of the Mason crossing, a similar crossing will be cut for Mueschke Road, Dunham said.

Dunham said the interest in the community from builders has been strong, including commercial builders interested in the 2-mile stretch within the community along the south side of Hwy. 290. He said the community will feature thousands of homes at build-out across a wide range of lot sizes, though he declined to provide additional details until after the homebuilder contracts are finalized. The community will cover roughly 1,300 acres in total.

"We've had unbelievable interest from numerous builders," Dunham said. "We've had a lot of interest, even from builders we've never talked to before."

Amenities at the community will include a large clubhouse that will be surrounded by a lake, Dunham



said. Water features will play prominently in the community layout, including walking trails and nature trails along a Cypress Creek, which runs through the southern portion

of the land tract.

The community will also feature a future multischool site for Cy-Fair ISD on 145 acres that will include a stadium and transportation facility.



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Experts advise planning for winter flu season during COVID-19

BY BEN THOMPSON

Health officials are preparing for a seasonal wave of influenza they said could compound public health and health care system capacity concerns this year.

Dr. Jennifer Shuford, infectious disease medical officer for the Texas Department of State Health Services, said that while flu season typically peaks between December and March, the timing and severity of the flu's spread every year is uncertain.

"Getting the flu shot is the single most important thing that a person can do to prevent themselves from getting the flu or from severe flu and its complications," she said.

Shuford said that while DSHS

works every year to share messaging about flu preparedness and prevention, efforts to inform Texans about flu shots and recommended precautions have ramped up ahead of this fall. And

IS THE SINGLE MOST
IMPORTANT THING THAT
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PREVENT THEMSELVES
FROM GETTING THE FLU
OR FROM SEVERE FLU AND
ITS COMPLICATIONS."

"GETTING THE FLU SHOT

DR. JENNIFER SHUFORD, INFECTIOUS DISEASE MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

in addition to communications from the state organization, she also said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is providing flu vaccines for residents of all ages this year in addition to the department's ongoing Texas Vaccines for Children Program. Shuford said the state department will monitor Texas hospital capacity over the coming months. She said while COVID-19 hospitalizations throughout Texas decreased in September, increases during the fall and winter may again lead to capacity issues throughout the state.

"We don't feel like we're out of the woods," Shuford said. "We feel like our health care system is safe at this moment in time, but that any addition of flu in our communities or even COVID-19 in our communities could start to impact and stress our healthcare system."

In Harris County, general hospital bed usage has remained below the county's operational capacity of

> 14,869 beds and surge capacity of 17,847 since late September—at or below 7,841 beds, according to data from the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council.

According to Dr. Anne Barnes, Harris Health System Executive Vice President and Chief Medical

Officer, the ability of local hospitals to handle patients with other conditions amid the coronavirus pandemic will depend on how county residents adhere to guidelines on mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

"We believe that both flu and

COVID-19 AND THE FLU

While caused by separate viruses, the flu and COVID-19 can both cause serious disease or death, and they share some symptoms.

SHARED SYMPTOMS













Fever

Muscle aches Cou and pains

throat

Runny Headache

Shortness of breath

COVID-19 ONLY

Symptoms typically appear five days after infection, although symptoms may appear two to 14 days after infection.



FLU ONLY

Symptoms typically appear one to four days after infection.



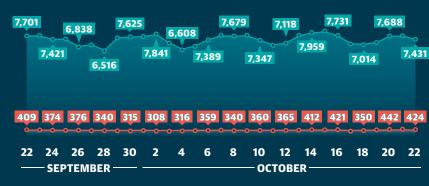
SOURCES: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

HOSPITAL CAPACITY

Hospital bed use in Harris County remains in the 7,000 range as of late October.

CAPACITY: 14,869

General beds in use
 General beds in use for COVID-19 patients

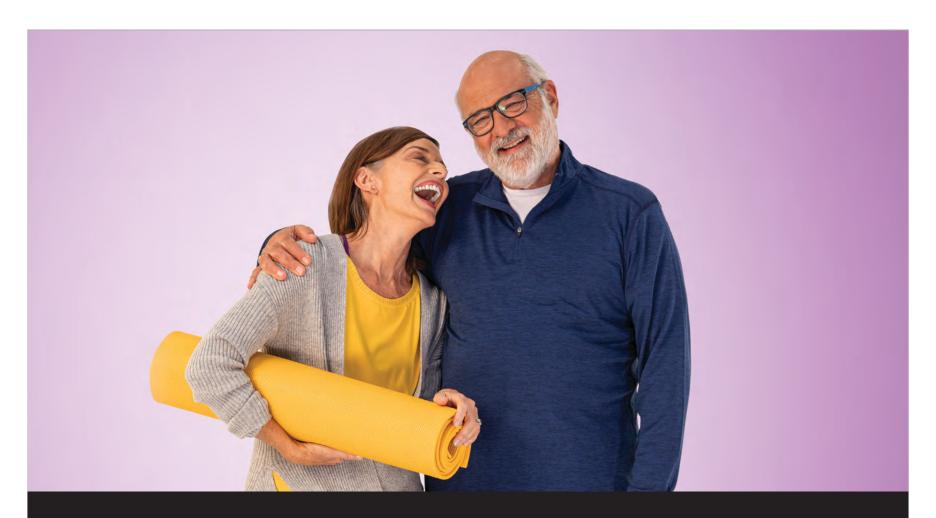


SOURCE: SOUTHEAST TEXAS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

COVID-19 infections will be present in the late fall and early winter," Barnes said in an email. "If Houstonians wear their masks, physically distance, wash their hands, and get a flu shot, we would anticipate a manageable rate of infection and a modest rate of illness requiring hospitalization. If community members don't maintain vigilance, we are at risk for surge level hospital demands for both COVID-19 and flu."

Adriana Rezal contributed to this report.





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RESTORING THE RESERVOIRS

The Army Corps of Engineers released an interim report Oct. 5 on how to address flooding around the Addicks and Barker reservoirs and along Buffalo Bayou. No concepts have been officially recommended as studies continue, but several concepts emerged as early options.

SOURCE: ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

CYPRESS CREEK **RESERVOIR AND DAM**



COST: \$2.1 billion-\$2.9 billion ANNUAL DAMAGE PREVENTED: \$37 million

- located upstream of the Addicks Reservoir
- capacity of roughly 190,000 acre-feet of water

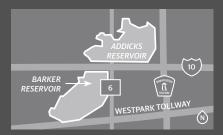
BUFFALO BAYOU **IMPROVEMENTS**



COST: \$946 million-\$1.2 billion ANNUAL DAMAGE PREVENTED: \$56 million

- deepening and widening
- 22 miles from Hwy. 6 to **Studemont Street**

PROPERTY **ACQUISITION**



COST: \$6.8 billion-\$13 billion ANNUAL DAMAGE PREVENTED: more analysis needed

- 9,700-11,700 properties in **Barker Reservoir**
- 5,000-13,100 properties in Addicks Reservoir

SCREENED CONCEPTS

Several other concepts were screened out in the study but still remain as options pending public comments.

- underground tunnel
- · excavation of reservoirs
- diverting water from the Buffalo Bayou to the Brays Bayou and/or Brazos River

"THE REPORT DESCRIBES **EVALUATIONS TO DATE;** IT DOES NOT ... MAKE ANY **RECOMMENDATIONS OR DECISIONS."**

COL. TIMOTHY VAIL, COMMANDER OF ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS **GALVESTON DISTRICT**

Cypress Creek reservoir among viable options for flood mitigation in Addicks watershed

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

The plan for addressing flooding surrounding the Addicks and Barker reservoirs in Houston took a step forward Oct. 5, and early evaluations have officials looking toward a potential reservoir in the lower Cypress Creek watershed.

The interim report, released by the Army Corps of Engineers, is part of a larger, ongoing study into the feasibility of different flood control projects in the area. Col. Timothy Vail, the commander of the Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, said the report does not make any official recommendations.

"This interim step is intended to gather public feedback before a draft environmental impact statement is

released," Vail said.

The study was launched in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, which produced record levels of water in the two reservoirs in 2017. Of the eight concepts explored in the report-referred to as "alternatives"three were dropped during initial evaluations while four others remain in focus. However, the ideas that were dropped are still on the table pending public feedback.

The reservoir concept would have a capacity of roughly 190,000 acre-feet of water and would be located on the Harris-Waller county line, west of John Paul's Landing in an area known

"While it is not anticipated that

completely lost, it is very likely that they would have lower habitat quality than under the existing condition or no action alternative," according to the report.

Aside from the reservoir, other top alternatives include the potential acquisition of between 14,700-24,100 properties upstream and downstream of the Addicks and Barker reservoirs totaling between \$6.8 billion-\$13 billion.

In an email statement, Army Corps officials declined to comment on the likelihood of moving in that direction.

"The real estate alternative ... uniquely addresses upstream properties closest to the reservoirs; however, commenting specifically on the acquisition alternative would be speculative at this point since no decisions have been made regarding the alternatives included in the [report]," said Lynda Yezzi-Valentine, the chief of public affairs for the Army Corps Galveston District, in the email.

The report, which also seeks to address flooding on Buffalo Bayou, also evaluated a concept that involves 22 miles of channel improvementsmainly deepening and wideningalong Buffalo Bayou starting from Hwy. 6 to Studemont Street.

The public comment period is slated to end Nov. 2. Army Corps officials said they estimate issuing a draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement for public review and comment in early 2021.

15

as the Katy Prairie. the [Katy Prairie] habitats would be



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DIV-20-065_10.26.20

Cy-Fair ISD enrollment down, expenses up in 2020-21

BY DANICA LLOYD

In a school year likely to be remembered for increased health and safety measures on campuses, Cy-Fair ISD officials said about 2,575 fewer students were enrolled at the start of school than expected.

"Districts across the state are anywhere from 2%-7% below what their estimates were for students this year," Superintendent Mark Henry said at an Oct. 8 meeting. "The biggest part of that for Cy-Fair ISD—and it's reflected across the state—is your pre-K and [kindergarten]."

Districts across the state offering in-person instruction are guaranteed to receive their anticipated funding through the first half of the 2020-21 school year regardless of changes in student enrollment or attendance rates due to COVID-19, according to the Texas Education Agency.

Officials announced Oct. 1 a six-week extension to the minimum funding guarantee established due to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure flexibility and financial security for school districts, according to a press release. Remote instruction will also be fully funded for those who wish to learn from home as previously announced by TEA officials.

"Given the uncertain nature of this public health crisis, we are giving as much support and flexibility as possible to school districts to ensure that we are balancing the need for student learning with our desire to help all our state's students, teachers, staff, and families remain healthy and safe," Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in a statement.

Statewide, school districts have generally seen a slight decline in enrollment in 2020-21 due to the pandemic, and officials said the extension allows time for enrollment to become more stable. Districts taking advantage of this extension must identify and locate students who are not currently participating in either in-person or virtual instruction.

Funding adjustments for the second semester will be based on data gathered through January.

Officials with the Association of Texas Professional Educators said they were grateful for the extension in guaranteed funding from the TEA but do not believe funding should necessarily be tied to being open for in-person learning because different regions of the state have been affected by COVID-19 at different rates.

"It's obvious that all educators have a desire to get back into the class-rooms and resume normal instruction as soon as health and safety permit," ATPE Senior Lobbyist Monty Exter said in an Oct. 1 statement. "But that's contingent on a number of factors unique to each region. Pressure of any sort from TEA and the state is not necessary or helpful and serves only to potentially heighten the risk to local populations."

Budget modifications

CFISD Chief Financial Officer Karen Smith said the district saved money while campuses were closed in the spring on costs such as transportation, utilities and substitute teachers. However, additional expenses incurred included the printing and delivery of instructional packets, personal protective equipment and instructional software for remote learning.

Since the spring semester, the district has incurred about \$57.1 million in unexpected expenses ranging from technology purchases and social distancing measures such as plexiglass desk shields to overtime pay for hourly employees and increased substitute costs.

Additionally, Smith said revenue is down from previous projections in areas such as athletic game ticket sales, food services, facility rentals and community programs, totaling \$7.8 million in lost revenue.

Some federal assistance may be available to CFISD this year, but Smith said she does not believe it will be enough to completely make up for the shortfall. The board of trustees previously approved a \$1.04 billion budget for the year in June—including \$10 million for COVID-19 expenditures—but this budget already included a \$39.8 million deficit.

Henry called the updated TEA provision "a huge help" and said he was optimistic about the district's financial state despite the unusual expenses this year.

"My message to the [district leadership team] was whatever it takes this year to get through this year, that's just what it costs," he said.



District officials said pre-K-12 enrollment is down from last year's total count of 117,446 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT



2019-20 2020-21 Q1 2020-21 Q2

ON-CAMPUS, ONLINE LEARNING BREAKDOWN*

FIRST QUARTER

ON CAMPUS: **47,234**

ONLINE: **61.429**

UNKNOWN:5.036

SECOND QUARTER

ON CAMPUS: **69,018**

ONLINE: **44.715**

UNKNOWN:346

*DATA INCLUDES ENROLLMENT AT ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES. STUDENTS IN THE "UNKNOWN" CATEGORY DID NOT RESPOND TO DISTRICT ENROLLMENT QUESTIONNAIRES.



The pandemic has brought on several unexpected costs and drops in revenue.

Technology	\$46.7M
Personal protective equipment	\$477,000
Social distancing and protective measures	\$5.1M
Sanitation	\$1.5M
Overtime and supplemental pay	\$2.4M
Substitutes and COVID-19 leave	\$652,000
COVID-19 online dashboard	\$222,000

TOTAL ADDITIONAL EXPENSES \$57.1M

SOURCE: CY-FAIR ISD/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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17

Harris County keeps bars closed after Abbott drops statewide ban

BY ADRIANA REZAL

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott dropped a statewide order forcing bars to stay closed Oct. 14, but Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said she plans to keep bars closed within the county for now.

Abbott's order, announced at an Oct. 7 press conference, gave leaders in certain counties discretion on to what extent bars could reopen.

"The data guiding county decision-making tells us we are doing much better than we were a few months ago, but we are still at the highest level: red," Hidalgo said in a statement. "Indoor, maskless gatherings should not be taking place right now, and this applies to bars, as well."

Bars are allowed to operate at 50% capacity under Abbott's new order. Facial coverings must be worn by bar employees and bar patrons when



As of Oct. 26, Harris County remained at its **highest threat level**, which County Judge Lina Hidalgo said means bars will remain closed. Under the top threat level, residents should:

- minimize contacts with others
- avoid leaving home except for essential needs
- practice social distancing and frequent hand-washing
- wear face coverings in public places

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained or when seated to eat or drink. Outdoor bars will not be subject to an occupancy limit.

Hidalgo said the county is monitoring key metrics, and bars would be allowed to reopen when the county hits certain targets.



Medical center streamlines COVID-19 data

BY HUNTER MARROW

The Texas Medical Center updated its daily COVID-19 dashboard in October with more streamlined information designed to clarify trends and present a clear picture to the public as to the state of the coronavirus pandemic in the Greater Houston area.

The medical center has been collecting data since early April on metrics such as the reproduction rate, testing trends and the number of overall cases.

The update seeks to remedy the unwieldy size of some of the aggregated data, where daily case counts have grown difficult to read because of over four months of data crammed onto a single slide, said Isaac Middleton, the TMC's chief operating officer.

Instead, new daily cases will be color-coded by month with a zoom-in window on the daily counts for the last 30 days. A similar format will be used on testing metrics.

The data dashboard update was capped off by cautionary statements from TMC leadership, who advised though case numbers are flat, the medical center is in a "rough steady state."

"Let's not give up on the things that got us to where we are today," said Dr. Mark Boom, the president and CEO of Houston Methodist. "We have to be vigilant."



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Harris County set to adopt tax rates

BY HANNAH ZEDAKER

HARRIS COUNTY As of press time, Harris County commissioners were slated to adopt a property tax rate Oct. 27 that will lower the overall property tax burden in the county while providing more money specifically for flood control projects.

Commissioners unanimously agreed at a Sept. 29 meeting to propose an overall Harris County tax rate of \$0.5992 per \$100 valuation for fiscal year 2020-21, a decrease from the rate of \$0.6117 per \$100 of valuation in FY 2019-20. The tax rate for the Harris County Flood Control District was set to increase from \$0.02792 per \$100 valuation in FY 2019-20 to \$0.03142 for FY 2020-21.

Harris County Budget Director Dave Berry said the tax rate increase for the HCFCD is necessary to avoid an \$18.6 million funding cut.

Because the tax rates for Harris County did not exceed the no-new-revenue rates, the rates will not need to be included in a public

TRACKING TAXES

Proposed tax rates in Harris County were slated to be adopted Oct. 27.

HARRIS COUNTY GENERAL FUND

\$0.39116



down from \$0.40713 in 2019

HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

\$0.03142



\$0.02792 in 2019

up from

\$0.16671



up from \$0.16591 in 2019

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

\$0.00991



down from \$0.01074 in 2019

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

hearing prior to the court's vote. The tax rates for the HCFCD and the Harris Health System were discussed in an Oct. 20 public hearing.

Under the new tax rates, a home with a taxable value of \$180,000 would see an overall tax bill decrease of \$22.

City considers using tax zone as flooding tool

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

JERSEY VILLAGE The city of Jersey Village is looking into creating a new tax increment reinvestment zone within the city, which officials said could help flood mitigation efforts move forward.

The discussion took place at a Sept. 21 virtual meeting of Jersey Village City Council.

The potential TIRZ would help the city with "teardown-rebuild" efforts, a type of flood mitigation that involves tearing down homes and building homes in their place which are better suited to withstanding flooding. Early

discussions for the TIRZ involved roughly 32 homes on Jersey Drive.

City Manager Austin Bleess said there is currently not a strong financial incentive for builders to tear down and rebuild the Jersev Drive properties. With a TIRZ in place, the city would be able to purchase and raze the homes and would have flexibility on offering incentives or discounts to builders to build new structures.

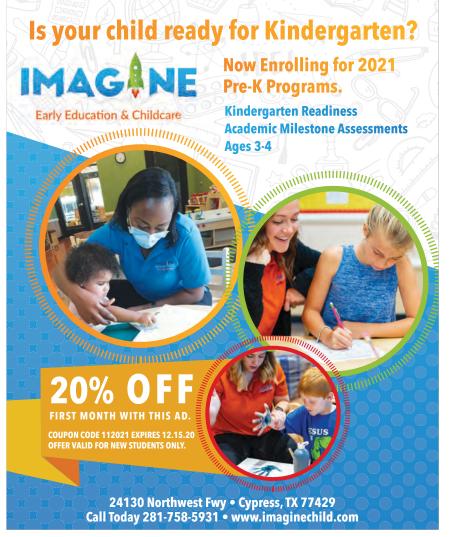
Following the discussion, council members took no action. Details on the TIRZ still need to be hashed out, and council directed city staff to look into setting up a town hall.

MEETINGS WE COVER

Jersey Village City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Nov. 16. 713-466-2100 www.jerseyvillagetx.com

Harris County Commissioners Court will meet at 10 a.m. Nov. 10. 713-698-1102 www.harriscountytx.gov

Livestreams can be accessed via websites.





VOLUNTEER GUIDE 2020

WAYS TO GIVE BACK

Volunteer opportunities in the Cy-Fair area

Help out the Cy-Fair community in a number of ways throughout the year by volunteering with local nonprofit groups. Volunteer opportunities included in this guide range from helping children to helping families in crisis. This list is noncomprehensive.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Application

Background check

COMPILED BY SHAWN ARRAJJ & DANICA LLOYD

EMPOWER CHILDREN

1 BOYS AND GIRLS COUNTRY

With a licensed residential home, the nonprofit aims to break the cycle of poverty for children by providing a secure, stable, Christian home environment with an emphasis on education, building healthy relationships, and setting goals for the future.

Sample activities: Remote volunteer activities include tutoring and teaching different skills. Donation drives for food, hygiene products and school supplies are also needed. Donations can be dropped off on campus or purchased through the Amazon wishlist at www.bit.ly/wishlistbgc.

18806 Roberts Road, Hockley 281-351-4976 www.boysandgirlscountry.org



2 CY-FAIR ISD

The school district's Volunteers in Public Schools program typically has opportunities for community members to mentor students in addition to serving at community events. While these programs are limited this school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said campus volunteer liaisons can provide information about off-campus opportunities.

10300 Jones Road, Houston 281-894-3950 www.cfisd.net/volunteer

CY-FAIR SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The association hosts baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, soccer, lacrosse, volleyball and wrestling events for youth athletes Orientation Under age 18 allowed

Sample activities: coaching (background check required), sport committees, leadership positions

22515 Schiel Road, Cypress 281-256-3400 www.cy-fairsports.org

age 18 and younger in Cy-Fair.

(all three required for coaching)

4 CY-HOPE

The nonprofit serves local children in need by providing food over weekends, homework help, mentors, counseling, recreation, education, music and sports initiatives.

Sample activities: assisting with activities at the after-school Hope Centers, bagging food and/or delivering food to schools, supporting Dierker's Champs Baseball League as a coach or umpire, working a weekly shift at the Hope Chest Resale Market, working with students as a mentor, serving at special events, serving on a maintenance team

12715 Telge Road, Cypress 713-466-4673 www.cy-hope.org

- (if directly working with students)
- (depending on the program)



Two YMCAs serve the Cy-Fair community through programs and social services designed to help individuals and families.

Sample activities: coaching youth sports teams, assisting with adaptive programs for youth with developmental and physical challenges, serving at community events, fundraising, mentoring youth, serving on the board of advisers

D. Bradlev McWilliams YMCA 19915 Hwy. 249, Houston



www.ymcahouston.org/locations/ d-bradley-mcwilliams-ymca-cypress-creek

Langham Creek Family YMCA 16725 Longenbaugh Drive, Houston 281-859-6143 www.ymcahouston.org/langham-creek



CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

6 BAYOU LAND CONSERVANCY

The organization preserves land along streams for flood control, clean water and wildlife.

Sample activities: projects including tree planting, cleanups, youth education and trail building

10330 Lake Road, Ste. J, Houston 281-576-1634 www.bayoulandconservancy.org



HELP THE COMMUNITY

7 CY-FAIR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Individuals can contact pio@cyfairfd.org or stop by one of the department's 13 stations to learn more about volunteer opportunities. Before volunteers can submit an application, they must attend three station meetings to learn about responsibilities and expectations. Qualified individuals who are willing to commit to the six-



month training academy will be provided with firefighting gear and certifications at no cost.

Sample activities: firefighting, firefighting training, emergency medical responder

10710 Telge Road, Houston www.cyfairvfd.org



8 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY **NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY**

The global nonprofit housing organization operates on faith-based principles and is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes.

Sample activities: administrative duties, newhome construction, disaster recovery repairs, providing lunch at construction site, volunteer at the ReStore, children's and youth programs

13350 Jones Road, Houston 281-477-0460 www.habitatnwhc.org

HELP THOSE IN CRISIS

O CY-FAIR HELPING HANDS

Run entirely by volunteers, this nonprofit serves the homeless in addition to hungry individuals and families.

Sample activities: working in the day center, assisting with meals, delivering compassion bags of food to those living on the streets, serving one day a week at the drive-thru

JOIN US





food distribution, working in the food pantry, picking up donations from community grocery stores, assisting in registering clients by translating in Spanish and Vietnamese

7520 Cherry Park Drive, Ste. B, Houston 281-858-1222

www.cyfairhelpinghands.org



10 CYPRESS ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES

The organization is dedicated to assisting individuals and families in financial crisis.

Sample activities: helping in the food pantry, assistance office, resale shop, donation center and community outreach programs; serving as a food pickup driver, job counselor, or GED or English as a second language instructor

11202 Huffmeister Road, Houston 281-955-7684

www.cypressassistance.org



11 SHIELD BEARER

The nonprofit offers professional counseling for individuals, couples, families and children as well as prevention services through parenting workshops, school services and faith-based programs.

Sample activities: helping transfer donation

items and supplies between offices; coordinating events and help in the offices with mail-outs, data entry and data organization, among other tasks

12340 Jones Road, Ste. 290, Houston 281-894-7222

www.shieldbearer.org



HELP THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

12 REACH UNLIMITED

The nonprofit provides support services for people with learning or developmental disabilities.

Sample activities: assisting in classrooms at the Learning Activity Center; providing or sponsoring a craft or activity session; assisting or sponsoring special events; clerical duties; volunteering in the gift shop; adopting a group home by sponsoring monthly game night, picnic, movie night or pizza night for the residents of one of 23 groups homes

11832 Mueller Cemetery Road, Cypress 281-213-8323

www.reachunlimited.org





A survey administered by United Ways of Texas and OneStar Foundation to all Texas nonprofits in late March through May received 457 responses noting the effects of COVID-19 on nonprofit organizations across the state.

SOURCE: "THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TEXAS NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS" AUGUST 2020 BY UNITED WAYS OF TEXA AND ONESTAR FOUNDATION/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

40%

of respondents reported experiencing increased or sustained staff and volunteer absences this spring.

of respondents reported experiencing or anticipating increased demand for services/support.

82%

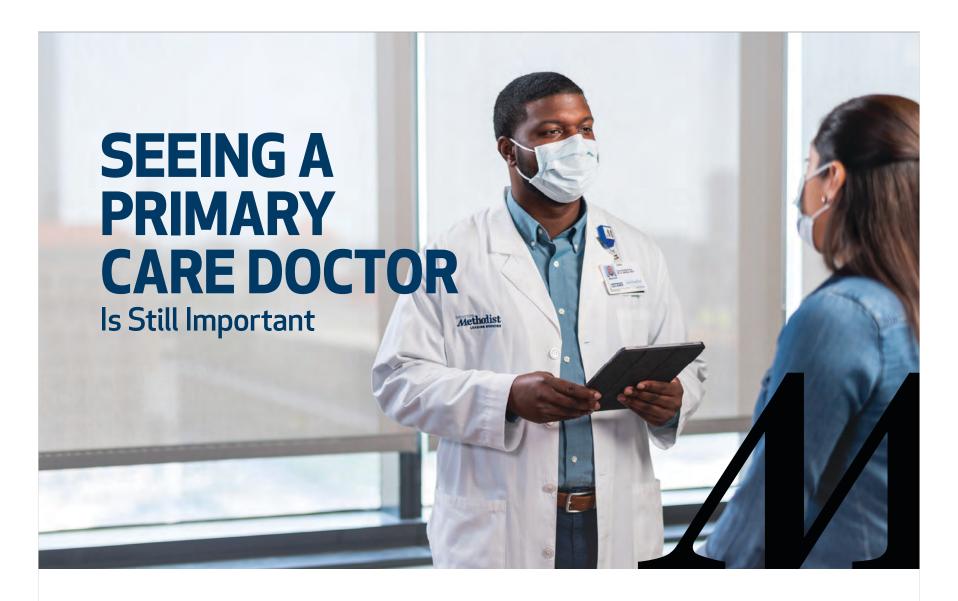
of respondents reported experiencing or anticipating reduced revenue due to cancellation of programs or events.

72%

of respondents reported having six months or less of cash reserves available.

of respondents estimated with no significant additional investment they would be operational for six months or less.





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And, you can be confident that we are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe during your visit, including:



Screening all patients, and seeing COVID-19 patients virtually only — allowing us to treat everyone safely



Ensuring social distancing in waiting rooms



Wearing masks while providing care



Offering video visits with your doctor



Enhanced cleaning of equipment and surfaces



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Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club

Organization dedicated to serving community

ecca Franco's connection to the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club began about 15 years ago when her son volunteered to raise money for a Boy Scouts trip. Today she serves as the president of the organization and continues to partner with local youth programs in community service.

The local Lions Club chapter launched in 1957 as the first in northwest Harris County. Franco said the chapter has considered Cy-Fair ISD's boundaries its geographic service area ever since.

Franco said several members of the local branch have gone on to hold top leadership positions in Lions Club International, which has more than 48,000 clubs worldwide. Improving the lives of the visually impaired and preventing avoidable blindness are two of the major causes Lions Club International supports.

The Cy-Fair chapter works with optometrists and collects hundreds of pairs of eyeglasses every month to help individuals who cannot afford them in addition to providing vision screenings for local preschoolers every year.

"The schools do the school-age kids, but the preschoolers fall through the cracks," she said. "We go into day cares, health fairs, farmers markets, and we screen children. If they do need further eye care, we give them that information."

Other initiatives include sending physically handicapped children to summer camp, donating 500 meals for children quarterly, distributing 3,000 bags of school supplies to students and partnering with Wreaths Across America.

Most of the funding for these projects comes from concessions sold at baseball games at Cy-Fair Lions Park, but due to COVID-19, Franco said that income has decreased significantly this year.

"We had no spring season and a very limited summer season. We're just getting started again, so all of these great works that we want to do—we're going to be hard pressed," she said.

Franco said the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club is always looking to add members, and the \$35 joining fee has been waived through Dec. 31. The organization meets every second and fourth Tuesday.







The Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club gives back to their community. Projects include:

3,000

students in 2020-21 received school supplies

10.813

children received vision screenings in five years

2,000

meals are donated to local children annually

25

trips to Texas Lions Camp are funded for children each year

Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club

9600 W. Little York Road, Houston 281-685-6322

www.houstoncy-fairlions.org









Cakes N' Mor

Local bakery features custom-made desserts

BY DANICA LLOYD

fter working as a manicurist for 25 years, Tammy Truong pursued a lifelong dream and opened her own bakery in 2016. She said she is able to combine two of her passions—baking and Vietnamese cuisine—at Cakes N' Mor.

"There were many times my mother struggled to make ends meet or put food on the table for me and my seven siblings," she said of her time growing up in Vietnam. "We made the most with the food that was available to us, but I savored every chance I got to enjoy the street food from Vietnam."

The shop offers custom cakes, cupcakes, cake balls, pastries, cookies, Vietnamese sandwiches and Vietnamese-inspired coffees and teas.

Many of the recipes have been passed down throughout Truong's

family, and the menu also features her children's favorite treats: Napoleons and butter almond cookies.

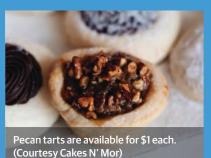
"I would not be able to achieve anything without the help of my family," she said. "They help me with everything I need at the shop and are always big supporters of my dreams."

Cakes N' Mor's location brings in students from Cypress Creek High School and families from surrounding neighborhoods, and Truong said interacting with customers is her favorite part of the job. The staff can customize nearly anything on the menu to the customer's liking for the best experience possible, she said.

"We are just a small business doing what we love, and if we could bring just a little bit of joy to one person with something as small as a cupcake, it would all be worth it to me," Truong said.











Cakes N' Mor

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Thai Curry

Husband and wife persist through pandemic with community support

"WE'VE GOTTEN A

LOT OF SUPPORT

FROM THE LOCAL

AREA. DURING THIS

[PANDEMIC]. THEY

COME OUT AND SAY.

US.' THEY MAKE US

FEEL LIKE FAMILY."

BOUN CHOKBENGBOUN,

THAI CURRY OWNER

'DON'T CLOSE ON

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

oun Chokbengboun was working in the oil and gas industry in Houston in 2019 when he decided he wanted a change in his life, one that involved spending more time with his wife, Nitaya Dethlusay.

Chokbengboun said he decided to quit his job in April of last year to join his wife working full-time at her restaurant,

Thai Curry, on **Barker Cypress** Road in Cypress.

"It's the best choice ever," he said. "We do everything as a family, and we can be together more. It's like a tag team."

Dethlusay has been running the kitchen at Thai Curry since its

opening in June 2018, cooking the food fresh as it is ordered. Chokbengboun said he does more of the front-facing work, interacting with customers and making them feel at home.

"We talk to them," he said. "We listen to their issues. We treat them like family."

The recipes are all from within the family, originally developed in at the first location of Thai Curry in Arkansas, which is run by family.

Popular dishes include pad Thai, a homemade family recipe for pho, and Thai curry, the dish after which the eatery gets its name.

Everything made at the restaurant is fresh, Chokbengboun said. He said he and his wife do their own grocery shopping for all the ingredients that go into their food.

The COVID-19 pandemic has dropped the eatery's lunchtime

> crowd, which was formerly composed largely of office workers in the surrounding area. However, Chokbengboun said he is starting to see crowds picking back up again and is optimistic about the future. He said he hopes to open a second location

within 15 miles or so of the Cypress location once the pandemic is over.

The owners, who live a mile from the restaurant and have children who go to school at Cy-Fair ISD, said they are grateful for the support they have gotten from the community.

"We've gotten a lot of support from the local area," Chokbengboun said. "During this [pandemic], they come out and say, 'Don't close on us.' They make us feel like family."







Thai Curry

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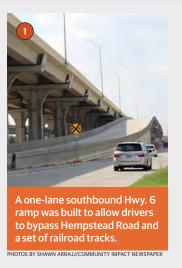
Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily



















slated to open in Decemb will connect Hwy. 6 to FM 1960 over Hwy. 290.

Construction crews performed final work on support beams on the FM 1960 side of the bridge in October.

North Eldridge Parkway.

CONTINUED FROM 1

"If you eliminate that bottleneck, you may see a little more congestion across the whole corridor, but the trip through that area will be much smoother, much less frustrating, and the rest of the roads will be able to handle the volume they were designed for," Lomax said.

As the \$41.4 million project nears completion, developers and business owners are eagerly anticipating what they think will be a resurgence in the number of people who frequent businesses in the area.

"Activity is already picking back up," said Mary Caldwell, senior vice president of the Caldwell Companies

Leasing Team, which is leasing the commercial development Cypress Crossing. "People aren't going to avoid that intersection like they have in the past."

Project update

Bridge work reached a point late this summer during which construction vehicles were able to drive on the bridge itself, and workers could be seen from below by drivers passing through the intersection on frontage roads.

As of late October, the remaining work largely consisted of paving the approaches on both ends, putting up the signage, painting new stripes and finishing the concrete-raised center

median that will go along the length of the bridge, said Deidrea George, a public information officer with the Texas Department of Transportation, which is leading the project.

The coronavirus pandemic did not have any effects on the construction timeline, George said. During the construction period, which started in fall 2019, a segment of northbound Hwy. 6 has been completely shut down, forcing drivers to follow a detour to get to FM 1960 that involves taking the Hwy. 290 frontage road to North Eldridge Parkway and making a U-turn.

"Our latest estimate puts the completion of the bridge and open[ing] to traffic [in] December 2020," George

said. "We will continue to have daily and nightly lane closures and a few total closures."

In addition to the four-lane bridge, the project also includes new Hwy. 6 frontage roads and a new one-lane southbound bridge allowing drivers who exit Hwy. 290 to Hwy. 6 to bypass Hempstead Road and a set of Union Pacific Corp. railroad tracks.

A direct connector going from northbound Hwy. 6 to eastbound Hwy. 290 also opened this spring ahead of major lane closures.

Expecting traffic relief

Traffic counts at the intersection steadily increased between 2015 and 2017, according to TxDOT data,

DEALING

Based on data from 2018, drivers at the Hwy. 290 and Hwy. 6 intersection faced thousands of hours of delays, with delays peaking during afternoon rush hour.

SOURCE: TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

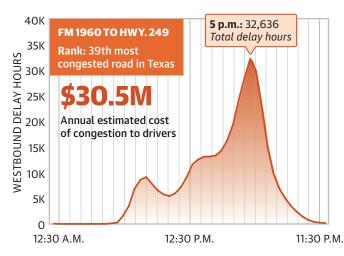
rising from about 53,000 to 59,000 cars per day on FM 1960 and from about 47,000 to 51,000 cars per day on Hwv. 6.

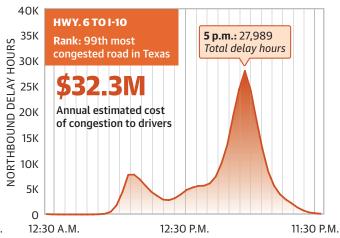
By 2019, traffic counts hit 53,000 cars per day on Hwy. 6 but dropped to 57,000 cars per day on FM 1960, which Lomax said could likely be attributed to people avoiding the intersection.

Both roadways see major delays on a daily basis, especially for traffic heading in the direction of Hwy. 290 between 3-6 p.m., according to TTI data. For drivers headed northbound on Hwy. 6, delay hours rise from roughly 5,000 at noon to more than 27,000 at 5 p.m.

"Typically, what happens is you sit for a long time to get through the interchange, and then, downstream of there, conditions weren't so bad," Lomax said.

Part of the study also involves calculating the cost of congestion, which Lomax said is a measure of the value of the extra travel time along with the effects that stop-and-go traffic has on engine efficiency. The annual cost of congestion on the Hwy. 6 road segment was estimated at \$32.3 million in 2019, and the cost on the FM 1960 segment was estimated at \$30.5 million.





The cost does not include vehicle maintenance caused by poor pavement conditions or the cost of congestion to businesses relying on smooth travel, Lomax said.

There are additional projects in the area officials said could have benefits on overall congestion as well. A \$15 million Harris County

"YOU CAN MAKE ALL

COMPARED TO ONCE

MARY CALDWELL, SENIOR VICE

PRESIDENT, CALDWELL COMPANIES

project involves adding left and right turn lanes on FM 1960 at North Eldridge Parkway. That project is set to be completed in 2023.

Even with the completion these major project, Jeff Collins, co-chair of the

Transportation Advocacy Group in Houston, said it will be crucial to ensure transportation remains a priority moving forward.

"We definitely have to keep transportation funding in the forefront," he said. "You have to keep up with development. The state of Texas still has a lot of people moving here, so we will have a lot of need for transportation and road improvements to get people to and from work."

No development slowdown

Lomax warned some congestion will remain in the area due to broader development and population growth, which has not shown any signs of slowing down.

Several developments are either underway or have recently been completed at the site of the new bridge.

North-

logistics

Huffmeister Plaza

EastGroup Properties completed work on the \$5.7 THE RENDERINGS IN THE million **WORLD OF THE BRIDGE.** west Crossing, a **BUT THAT'S NOTHING** 278,000-squarefoot project on Hwy. **PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY** 6, in September. **SEE IT AND DRIVE ON IT."** Transwestern will finish work on

> December, which will bring 142,000 square feet of office space to the nearby Huffmeister Road.

in

EastGroup Vice President Kevin Sager, who oversees Houston operations, said the Hwy. 6 mobility improvements benefit projects like the new EastGroup industrial space.

"Prospects are very excited by the project's high-end aesthetic look, high visibility on Hwy. 6 and excellent access via Hwy. 290," he said.

Caldwell said she has high hopes for Cypress Crossing, the commercial real estate project underway at the intersection. Her team is working with an Asian restaurant and a breakfast and brunch concept, she said. A hotel will also open soon at the site, and the recently signed Tiff's Treats will open by the end of the year, she

The completion of the bridge is expected to be a boon, Caldwell said.

"You can make all the renderings in the world of the bridge, but that's nothing compared to once people can actually see it and drive on it," she said.

For local business owner Aileen Garcia, who said she lives in Copperfield and works for a Farmers Insurance location near the Willowbrook area, the construction has been unavoidable. She said she looks forward to a time when her commute is less of a headache.

"I've had to make detours a lot to try to avoid the intersection," she said. "Once my bridge is completed, my commute to and from the office will definitely be shorter."



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Development ACCELERATES

Harris County's population has increased by nearly 2 million residents and 645,000 new housing units since 1990. Most of Cy-Fair's growth has taken place in master-planned communities east of the Grand Parkway.

87% of Cy-Fair is built out as of January 2020, up from 83% in 2014.

of Cy-Fair consists of parks, preserves, lakes and undevelopable floodway.

SOURCES: POPULATION AND SURVEY ANALYSTS, TEXAS A&M NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



CONTINUED FROM 1

invading animals' territories—from birds who have their nests destroyed when trees are trimmed to baby opossums whose mothers are hit by vehicles, she said.

"Every year we get an increase [in animal rescues]," she said. "As the suburbs continue to grow, we're using up more and more of their habitat, and so they don't have anywhere to go."

Fewer than 25 square miles of the Cy-Fair region are left undeveloped, and more than 37,500 new housing units are planned for the area from 2020-29, according to demographers at Population and Survey Analysts.

This includes nearly 18,500 single-family homes and 17,200 multifamily units mostly located within master-planned communities south of Hwy. 290 and east of the Grand Parkway, including Bridgeland, Dunham Pointe, Canyon Lakes West, Towne Lake and a future development owned by Landmark Industries.

Developers in these communities

have incorporated natural elements residents and animals alike can enjoy. Heath Melton, the executive vice president for master-planned community residential development at the Howard Hughes Corp., said hiking and biking trails, parks and open space are among the top amenities homebuyers are seeking in Bridgeland.

"The dedication of open space ... is not a requirement. That's something we elect to do so we can make sure that we provide areas where we're either restoring nature or attracting nature and also giving our residents a place to really engage with nature as well as [for recreation]," Melton said.

State of local wildlife

Diana Foss, a Houston-based urban wildlife biologist with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, assists city and county agencies, developers and private landowners seeking to enhance their properties for wildlife.

Leading up to the construction of a major new project, a developer clears off the property to plot out where homes and other infrastructure might be placed on a clean slate. Foss said animals such as frogs, turtles and lizards might not survive this clearing of land, and animals that do make it out are tasked with finding a new home.

"The problem comes when they get to that new habitat because, most likely, there's already animals using that spot, so there's some competition going on. It's survival of the fittest," she said. "When they're in their original habitat, they're there for a reason—because they have plenty of food, water, shelter and space."

Harris County has grown by nearly 2 million residents and 645,000 housing units since 1990, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Much of this growth has taken place in the northwest area, including Cy-Fair.

As new infrastructure is established in these growing areas, Warwick said native plants are critical for a healthy animal population. Squirrels and birds find secure homes in mature trees, and smaller creatures in the food chain have access to pollen from

native plants, she said.

Harris County lost about 27% of its cropland, timber and grazing space from 1997-2017, according to a report from the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute. But during the same time frame, the county saw an increase in space reserved for wildlife management.

Several programs highlight nature locally while incorporating multiple uses, including the Cypress Creek Greenway Project, which was designed to preserve existing natural habitats, provide opportunities for recreation and reduce flooding along the creek.

"If you look at your property and you block off those areas and say, 'We're not going to bulldoze that; we're going to protect that and use that as part of a green space for the neighborhood,' ... everybody's going to be happy," Foss said.

Developing responsibly

Foss said it is best to identify potential ways to develop around the existing habitats before clearing the space.

If there is a pond on the property, for example, wildlife will benefit from maintaining a water source, and future residents of the neighborhood can access the pond for fishing.

Bridgeland has about 4,000 homes with another 3,669 housing units planned through 2029, according to PASA. Melton said 28% of the community's 11,400 acres are dedicated to parks, lake trails and green space.

One example of responsibly developing with the natural environment in mind is turning required detention areas into amenity lakes residents can use for kayaking, canoeing and observing native wildlife, Melton said.

Additionally, Bridgeland developers have restored the former deforested farmland to the prairie-like environment it once was by bringing in native plants and reforesting to create additional habitats for squirrels, raccoons, deer and migratory birds such as pelicans.

"It was a very manicured landscaping 13 years ago when the community started, and we've transitioned to a much looser native landscaping," Melton said. "We have areas that [are] all native plant materials and grasses that we let grow."

When it comes to major transportation projects, officials with the Texas Department of Transportation said they take several environmental factors into account. Preemptive studies for the Hwy. 290 project included vulnerable species and wetlands in the pathway, said Deidrea George, a public information officer with TxDOT's Houston District.

George said TxDOT works with the TPWD to develop best management practices during and after the construction process. For instance, the clearing of vegetation might be put on hold during nesting season, or officials will survey the area to ensure no active bird nests are disrupted.

"Where possible, the roadway is designed to avoid these resources," she said. "Where impacts are unavoidable, the department works to minimize and/or mitigate the impacts."

Discovering nature's benefits

While living among nature is a necessity for animals, it is also a priority for many people, Foss said, and home values are typically higher in neighborhoods located near natural parks and open spaces.

"People need green space, too. We need to look out on something pleasing," she said. "It's beneficial to our health in many ways-it lowers our blood pressure and our stress hormones ... when you look at something green, something natural."

According to data from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 41% of Americans spent a total of \$157 billion on hunting, fishing and wildlife watching in

Some Cy-Fair residents, including Frankie Schwarzburg, make the most of animal visits by creating an educational opportunity for their children.

"We didn't know anything about [opossums] at first," Schwarzburg said. "My daughter has fell in love with them. She has learned how their hands work, how they use their tail."

Animals can thrive better in their natural environment than in the care of humans, Warwick said, and residents should consider the benefits wildlife can bring-such as opossums getting rid of ticks.

"Don't invite nature in, and don't feed them unnatural food in your yard. But also don't kill them, and don't get rid of them," she said. "They're there for a reason; they're there for a benefit for everybody."





SOURCE: TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

DEPARTMENT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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habitats and helping reduce

several parks are located along

the community about wildlife

preservation.

TEXAS PARKS &

the importance of wildlife

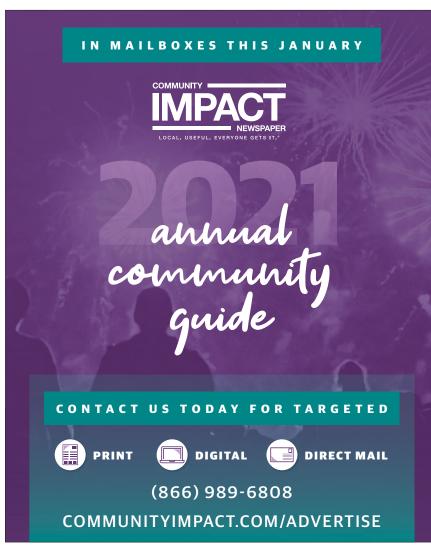
The team brings interactive curriculum to local elementary schools, allowing children to experience and learn more about the nature around them.

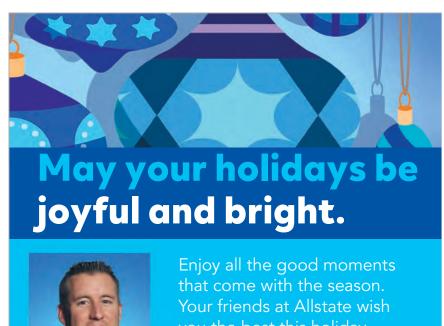
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Featured neighborhood

HIDDEN CREEK, 77433

Hidden Creek is a neighborhood of 796 single-family homes within the Bridgeland master-planned community. Located south of Hwy. 290 and east of the Grand Parkway, the neighborhood is zoned to Cy-Fair ISD. Thirty homes have sold in the last 12 months.



Median home value



Homes on the market*



Homes under contract



Median annual property taxes \$14.613



Median price per square foot \$130.99



Average days on the market*

*AS OF OCT. 1
**AVERAGE OF THE
LOCAL DISTRICTS

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

Total (per \$100 valuation)



3.62

770429 77070 77064 77064 77095 77040

Build-out year: 2016

Square footage: 1,891-5,268 **Home values:** \$289,800-\$800,000 **HOA dues (estimated):** \$1,250 annually

Schools: Cy-Fair ISD (Wells Elementary School, Smith Middle School, Bridgeland

High School)

 \bigcirc

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
Port of Houston Authority	0.01
Municipal utility district**	0.97
Water control and	
improvement district**	0.48





16702 Aston Main Drive, Cypress

5 bed/4 bath 4,271 sq. ft. Sold for \$627,001-\$717,000 on Aug. 10



18903 Garwood Drive, Cypress

5 bed/4.5 bath 4,244 sq. ft. Sold for \$552,001-\$627,000 on Aug. 24



19007 Tumlinson Drive, Cypress4 bed/4.5 bath 4,382 sq. ft.
Sold for \$482,001-\$552,000 on Sept. 11



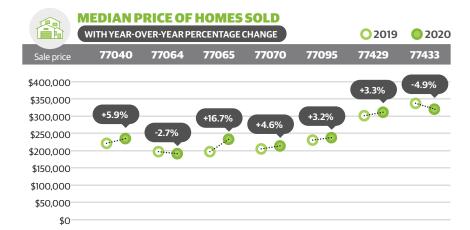
16807 Highland Country Drive,

4 bed/3.5 bath 2,671 sq. ft Sold for \$325,001-\$370,000 on July 17

MARKET DATA FOR SEPTEMBER

HOMES SOLD/AVERAGE DAYS ON THE MARKET

	77040	77064	77065	77070	77095	77429	77433
\$149,999 or under	4/80	5/8	-	1/138	1/2	-	-
\$150,000-\$199,999	8/42	6/49	5/11	9/34	15/15	9/66	18/26
\$200,000-\$299,999	11/27	25/9	20/5	25/43	68/25	65/27	73/45
\$300,000-\$399,999	5/36	2/16	3/129	3/11	18/57	45/44	68/53
\$400,000-\$499,999	2/16	-	2/8	4/4	2/43	19/25	14/69
\$500,000-\$599,999	2/14	-	-	-	-	7/171	20/97
\$600,000-\$799,999	-	-	-	-	-	5/62	11/102
\$800,000-\$999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/367
\$1 million+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-





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OCTOBER 2020

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DATA

Vacancy rates in the Cy-Fair area in both the office and industrial sectors continued to rise in October. Three new office buildings are under construction in Cy-Fair, but construction has been completed on all active industrial projects.

TOTAL SQUARE FEET OF SPACE

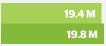




INDUSTRIAL



RETAIL





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

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OFFICE

OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY



RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



UNDER CONSTRUCTION





buildings

INDUSTRIAL

OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY



RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



UNDER CONSTRUCTION





0 buildings



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OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY



RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



UNDER CONSTRUCTION





buildings



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PLAYING TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

(TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY)
EARLY BIRDS 6:30 PM | 1ST SESSION 7:00 PM | 2ND SESSION 8:30 PM

(SUNDAY)

EARLY BIRDS 5:30 PM | 1ST SESSION 6:00 PM | 2ND SESSION 7:30 PM

10535 JONES ROAD #200 | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77065

DAYTIME BINGO

\$5 OFF

PURCHASE OF ELECTRONIC BINGO MACHINE!

(Not Valid with any other offer. Limit one coupon per day, per guest. Coupon valid at 21902 Northwest Freeway ONLY. Expires 11/30/2020)

EVENING BINGO

\$5 OFF

PURCHASE OF ELECTRONIC BINGO MACHINE!

(Not Valid with any other offer. Limit one coupon per day, per guest. Coupon valid at 10535 Jones Road ONLY. Expires 11/30/2020)













- No app or log in required
- Regional savings
- Restaurants, home & garden, retail and more!



FIND DEALS IN A SNAP!

Open the camera on any smart device, point to the QR code and CI Deals will open.























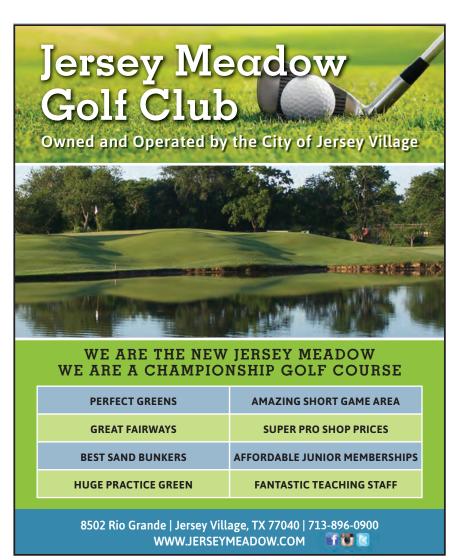




















PICK UP YOUR HOLIDAY MEAL

ATTHE BACKYARD GRILL November 23rd - 25th Order by November 20th

TURKEYS ARE BACK!!

(AS WELL AS ALL THE FIXINGS)

VISIT OUR TURKEY STORE AT

THEBACKYARDGRILL.COM/HOLIDAYS CHECK OUT OUR NEW FAMILY MEALS

AND DON'T FORGET THE PIE!

HOLIDAY CATERING FOR YOUR OFFICE

The Backyard Grill can handle all of your holiday catering needs from drop off to full service. www.BackyardCaters.com/Order

thebackyardgrill.com

9453 Jones Road, Houston, 77065 281.897.9200

























Enjoy a Delicious Thanksgiving Meal Without the Cooking!



THANKSGIVING MEAL PACKAGE

- 20-22 lb turkey
- Sautéed green beans
- **Mashed sweet potatoes**
- **Cornbread stuffing**
- **Cranberry sauce**
- Dozen fresh-baked rolls

SERVES 11-14; PICK-UP ONLY; NO SUBSTITUTIONS

Pick-up at

Order a fresh-baked

pie or

dessert



24110 Northwest Freeway, Suite 500 Cypress, Texas (832) 653-6853







www.conniesfrozencustard.com



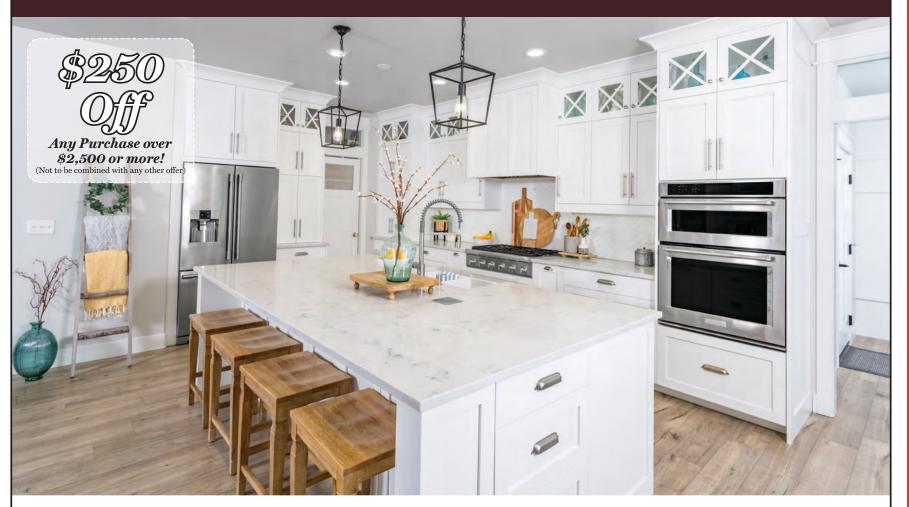
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Wood Look Tile 6x24*\$399* INSTALLED

Waterproof Luxury Vinyl Starting at

Carpet

Quartz Countertop INSTALLED

Granite **Countertops** INSTALLED

HAND Scraped Wood

Financing available 0% up to 36 months

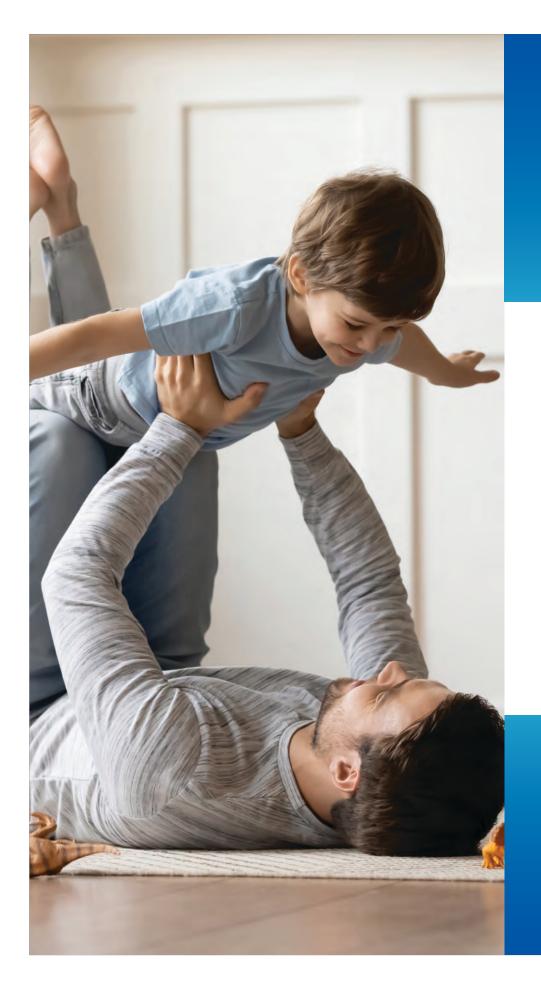


www.usfloorsandremodeling.net

Mon-Fri. 10am-7pm | Sat 10am-5pm. Open Sunday by appointment only.



¶ yelp\$



PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY

IS WORTH A SHOT

Schedule your flu shot at BSLMG.org/FluSeason.



With no-wait appointments and locations across Greater Houston, it's easy to protect friends and family this flu season. Keep those you love safe by booking an appointment with your doctor at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Group today.



Baylor St. Luke's Medical Group Primary Care

