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Congestion eases on Cy-Fair roads

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In pursuit of equity

A study in Harris County released in October shows a disparity in how the county selects firms to contract with on its projects.

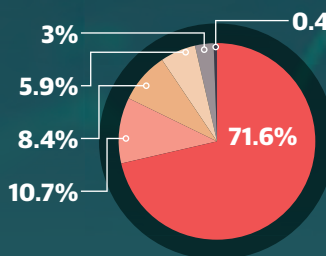
Non-minority or non-women business enterprises* Hispanic-owned Black-owned White women-owned Asian-owned Native American-owned

*INCLUDES PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANIES, EMPLOYEE-OWNED COMPANIES

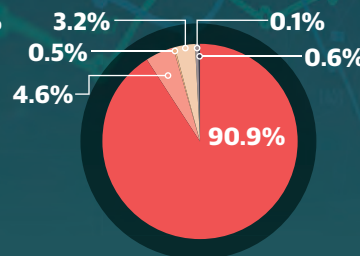
Between fiscal year 2015-16 and first quarter 2019, Harris County approved:

- ▶ 478 prime contracts worth \$980.2 million
- ▶ 1,433 subcontracts worth \$280.5 million

Weighted availability for county contracts

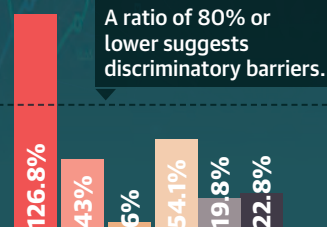


Ownership of the companies to receive county contracts (by dollar)



Disparity ratio

The utilization of minority- and women-owned business enterprises divided by availability



A ratio of 80% or lower suggests discriminatory barriers.

SOURCES: HARRIS COUNTY, COLLETTE HOLT & ASSOCIATES/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

New effort to track economic equity in Harris County

BY SHAWN ARRARIJ

A new department in Harris County set to launch in March will seek to bring a sense of equity to economic opportunity across the county. The initiative comes after county officials have previously made equity a major

focus of several other spending conversations, including mobility, flood control and public health.

The Department of Equity and Economic Opportunity is the culmination of two years of research, community input and stakeholder meetings, said

Sasha Legette, a member of the Harris County Precinct 1 policy team that played an instrumental role in getting the project off the ground.

In the long term, officials said they hope to develop policies and programs

CONTINUED ON 30



WE'RE NOT GOING TO REBOUND LIKE WE HAVE IN THE PAST.

PATRICK JANKOWSKI, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH FOR THE GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP



GENERALLY SPEAKING IN THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY, BEING ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH MORE WITH LESS HAS BEEN THE MANTRA.

DAVID BAT, PRESIDENT OF KIMBERLITE INTERNATIONAL OILFIELD RESEARCH

Houston's energy industry on slow road to recovery

BY DANICA LLOYD

Houston's oil and gas industry saw a perfect storm for yet another downturn in 2020 between weakened demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an international oil price war. Experts said while other industries are headed toward economic recovery, the energy industry will likely lag behind.

West Texas Intermediate crude oil dropped from an average of about \$60 per barrel in January 2020 to less than \$20 per barrel in April, and by the start of 2021,

CONTINUED ON 32



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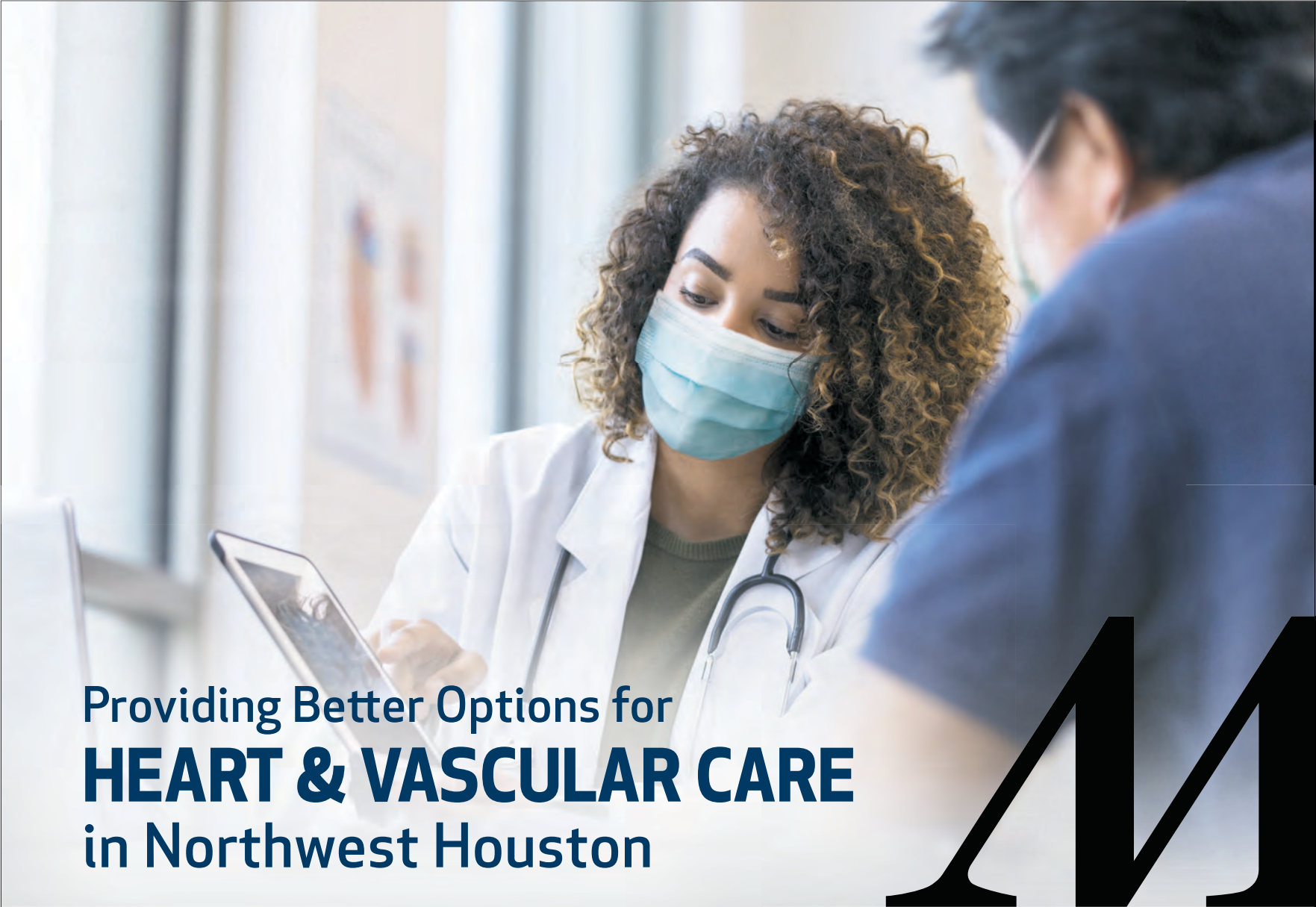
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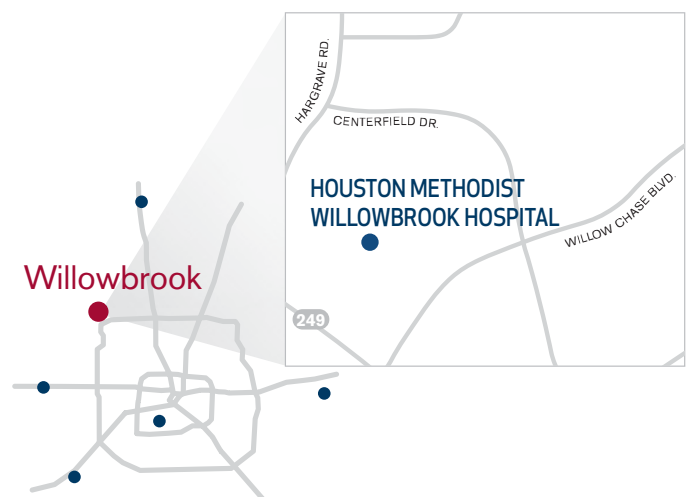
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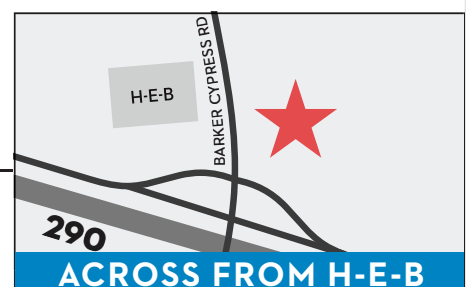
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Owners John and Jennifer Garrett launched the first edition of *Community Impact Newspaper* in 2005 with three full-time employees covering Round Rock and Pflugerville, Texas. We have expanded our operations to include hundreds of employees, our own printing operation and over 30 hyperlocal editions across three states. Our circulation is over 2 million residential mailboxes, and it grows each month with new residents and developments.

Community Impact Newspaper teams include general managers, editors, reporters, graphic designers, sales account executives and sales support, all immersed and invested in the communities they serve.

Our **mission** is to build communities of informed citizens and thriving businesses through the collaboration of a passionate team.

Our **core values** are Faith, Passion, Quality, Innovation and Integrity.

Our **purpose** is to be a light for our readers, customers, partners and each other.

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Local business development news that affects you



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Regular updates on area projects to keep you in the know



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We are at every city council meeting to keep you informed

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THIS ISSUE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS MONTH



FROM EMILY: As the 87th Texas legislative session convenes in Austin, our local representatives have authored several bills. On Page 19, you will find bill descriptions as well as information on redistricting after the 2020 census. In this issue we also designed a fun, noncomprehensive guide to food trucks in our community (see Page 21).

Emily Heineman, **GENERAL MANAGER**

FROM SHAWN: It has been nearly one year since the first case of COVID-19 was detected in the Greater Houston area. With 2020 in the rearview mirror, our front-page stories focus on the future of the oil and gas industry in Cy-Fair and on Harris County efforts to prioritize equity, a conversation officials said took on new weight in light of the pandemic.

Shawn Arraji, **SENIOR EDITOR**



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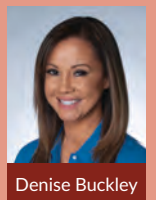
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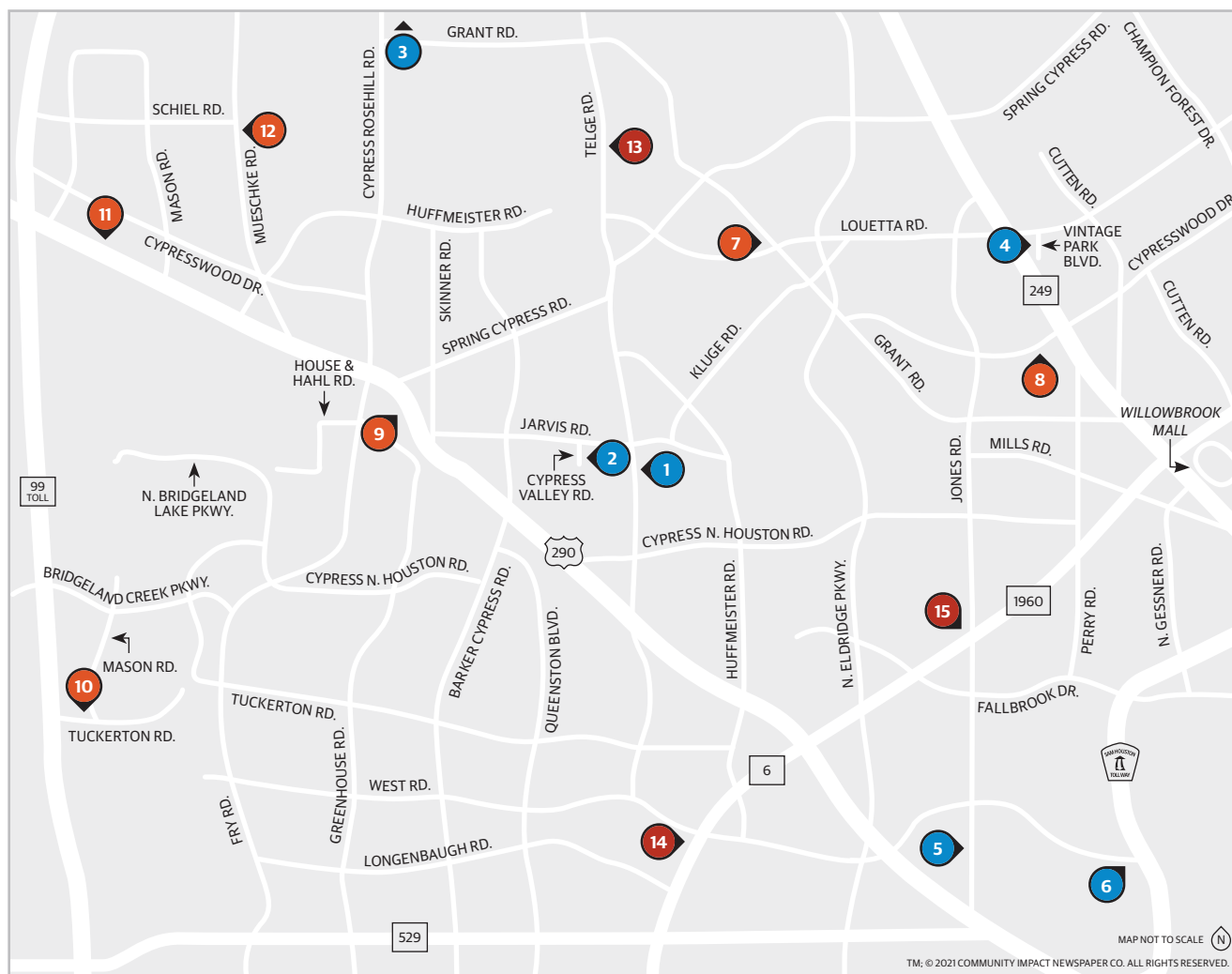
Denise Buckley

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NOW OPEN

1 Officials with **Krab Kingz** confirmed the new storefront entered a soft opening phase Jan. 14 at 12640 Telge Road, Ste. D, Cypress. The business previously operated from a food truck on the same site while the restaurant was under construction. Krab Kingz serves crab leg clusters, shrimp, sausage, boiled eggs, sweet corn and potatoes. 832-797-0530. www.facebook.com/krabkingzcypress

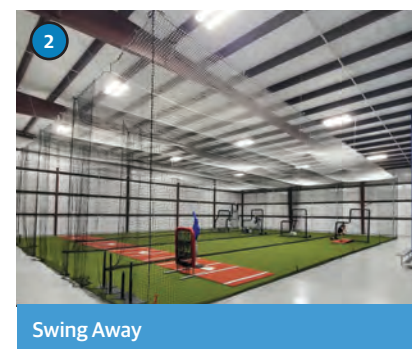
2 **Swing Away**, a new batting cage business, opened Dec. 12 at 12730 Cypress Valley Road, Cypress. Clients can book

half-hour and full-hour sessions in different types of cages, including coach pitch, baseball machine and softball machine. 713-360-6315. www.swingawaytx.com

3 With more than 24 years of experience as an electrician, Armando Rivera started his own business after his former employer laid off staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Arc Electric + Lighting** opened an office Jan. 1 at 18512 Cypress Rosehill Road, Cypress. The family's business started out of their garage in May, offering electrical and lighting services in residential and commercial settings. Services include lighting

consultations, house wiring, electrical upgrades, energy-efficiency projects, dimming, appliance hookups, inspections, troubleshooting and repair, among other projects. 281-909-4299. www.arcelectricandlighting.com

4 Lance and Tessa Elrod opened **Next Step Financial Transitions LLC** in January with appointments available upon request at 118 Vintage Park Blvd., Ste. W712, Houston. The husband and wife are both certified financial planners and offer personalized financial advice and investment management services. With more than 20 years of combined experience, the Elrods specialize in helping families



Swing Away

COURTESY SWING AWAY

and individuals navigate life transitions such as starting a family, buying a first home and career changes. The business offers fee-only services with no account minimums. 832-856-2825. www.nsfinancialtransitions.com

5 **Shirts23**, a wholesale blank and custom T-shirt shop, opened a storefront Jan. 25 at 8805 Jones Road, Ste. A105, Jersey Village. The shop will offer blank shirts from Gildan, Bellas + Canvas and Tultex, among other brands. Co-owner Twyla Harris said shirts will be offered below standard retail pricing, and the business can also create made-to-order apparel for everyday wear. 832-402-2394. www.shirts23.com

6 **Hungry Howie's Pizza** opened Jan. 27 at The pizza chain is known for its eight flavored crust options, including butter, asiago cheese, ranch, Cajun and garlic herb, among others. Calzone-style subs, bread sticks, salads, wings and desserts are also on the menu. The Michigan-based franchise has more than 550 locations across 20 states, including several in the Greater Houston area. 346-355-0707. www.hungryhowies.com

COMING SOON

7 **Stone Cold Meats**, a family-owned butcher shop based in League City, is bringing a new location to 13215 Grant Road, Cypress. Its owners said they are hoping to open the business in March. Founded by Ami and Sean Stone, the original shop is located on Main Street in League City. Products at Stone Cold Meats include several varieties of beef, pork and chicken. 281-456-3200. www.stonecoldmeats.com

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Stone Cold Meats

COURTESY STONE COLD MEATS



Karma Kolache

COURTESY KARMA KOLACHE

8 The fifth location of gourmet kolache and doughnut shop **Karma Kolache** is slated to open in February at 10211 Cypresswood Drive, Ste. 100, Houston, the former location of Pin's Donuts. Kolache flavors range from cheeseburger and smoked brisket to boudin and pepperoni pizza. Cinnamon rolls, apple fritters, cake doughnuts and breakfast sandwiches are also on the menu. Karma Kolache has four other shops across Cy-Fair, Spring and Katy. www.karmatastesgood.com

9 **King Nails Cypress** has slated a grand opening for Feb. 7 at 25905 Hwy. 290, Ste. G, Cypress. The salon offers more than 2,000 nail color options, with services ranging from shellac manicures to charcoal detox pedicures and organic coconut milk pedicures. Waxing, facials and eyelash services are also available. 281-746-2052. www.kingnailscypress.com

10 A location of the child care education provider **The Goddard School** will open in the Bridgeland master-planned community around mid-2021, according to a Dec. 22 announcement from The Howard Hughes Corporation. The 10,800-square-foot center will be located at 21722 Tuckerton Road, Cypress, near the Mason Road intersection. The center will cater to children ages 6 weeks through 6 years old with a play-based program intended to prepare children for social and academic success. The upcoming school will be owned by Sarah Prause, who also runs The Goddard School on Cypress North Houston Road. www.goddardschool.com

11 **Spavia** is slated to open this summer at Fairfield Town Center, 29040 Hwy.

290, Ste. A11, Cypress. The business will offer massages, facials and other treatments for men and women. www.spaviadayspa.com

12 Cookie delivery service **Half Baked** will open Feb. 5 at 16326 Mueschke Road, Ste. E10, Cypress. The menu includes a wide variety of cookies, including sugar cookies, chocolate chip and options for customization. Catering services are also available. 346-332-2227. www.halfbakedgoodness.com

IN THE NEWS

The acquisition of **Shipley Do-Nuts** by an affiliate of the private investment firm Peak Rock Capital was completed Jan. 6. Shipley Do-Nuts was established in 1936 by Lawrence Shipley Sr. and has since grown its presence with scores of franchise locations across nine states. The Shipley family continued managing the business until this year, when company President Lawrence Shipley III retired. Shipley's serves dozens of varieties of its signature doughnuts and kolaches in addition to beverages such as coffee and juice. The company is headquartered at 5200 N. Main St., Houston, and has more than 300 locations. 713-869-4636. www.shipleydonuts.com

Officials with **Arts & Crepes** closed a storefront at 24224 Hwy. 290, Cypress, and began operating as a fully mobile business Jan. 11. The truck covers Cypress, Katy, The Woodlands, Sugar Land and Houston. The bistro features terrace seating and serves sweet and savory crepes, cheese boards and baguette sandwiches. 281-861-4615. www.artsandcrepes.com



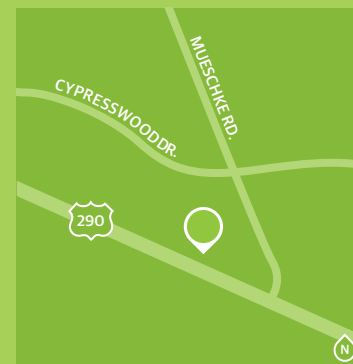
Rio Lindo Mexican Grill opened in early 2021 off Hwy. 290.

COURTESY RIO LINDO MEXICAN GRILL

FEATURED IMPACT

NAME CHANGE

Officials with **The Original New York & Chicago Pizza Co.** announced Jan. 2 a new venture at 27200 Hwy. 290, Ste. 160, Cypress. **Rio Lindo Mexican Grill** is now open, serving fajitas, tacos, enchiladas, burritos, nachos and other Tex-Mex dishes. While officials said this rebranding would better serve the Cypress area, the restaurant's New York- and Chicago-style pizzas remain on the menu. 832-220-6662. www.riolindogrill.com



CLOSINGS

13 Melinda Mayes, owner of **The Rock Burger Truck** and previous owner of Rockwell Grill in Cypress, has announced plans to close the food truck at 15914 Telge Road, Cypress, on Feb. 28. The decision comes after an investor reached out to allow for the opportunity to open a brick-and-mortar restaurant in Springdale, Washington, she said. The food truck launched in late 2018 and operated on the same property as Brew:30 Taphouse. Mayes said she and her business partner, Tiffany Richie, have appreciated the community's support over the years and are planning to hold a farewell event March 27. www.facebook.com/therockburgertruck

14 **Manny's Greek Cafe**, located at 8475 Hwy. 6 N., Ste. E, Houston, closed for business Dec. 31. Owner Manny

Yiakras opened the restaurant in 2004 with his grandmother's recipes. The menu included a variety of options prepared in the traditional Greek style, including Greek burgers, pasta, hummus, dolmades, spanakopita and gyros. Other items were made with a twist, including pasta Alfredo and Manny's Fire Fries. 281-856-9075. www.facebook.com/mannysgreekcafe

15 A **Taco Cabana** location at 11006 FM 1960, Houston, closed in January, according to a sign posted to the front of the eatery. Located near the Jones Road intersection in Cy-Fair, the fast-food chain restaurant offered a variety of Mexican food, including tacos, fajitas, quesadillas and breakfast items. Nearby locations of Taco Cabana can be found at 21121 Hwy. 249, Houston, and 8930 W. Sam Houston Parkway N., Houston. www.tacocabana.com

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FEB. 06 **CY-FAIR ISD'S FFA LIVESTOCK AUCTION**
CFISD EXHIBIT CENTER

The 27th annual CFISD Livestock Show & Sale will feature a freezer sale and live auction. The event will also be livestreamed online. 10 a.m. (freezer sale), 11 a.m. (buyers luncheon), 1 p.m. (live auction), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (silent auction). Free (admission). 11206 Telge Road, Cypress. www.tinyurl.com/2021cfsdlsasale (Courtesy Cy-Fair ISD)



FEB. 20 **CHILI COOK-OFF**
KLAUS BREWING CO.

Klaus Brewing Company hosts its third annual chili cook-off event, featuring live music, a food truck and \$5 tasting cups. Ten teams compete in the event. Noon-7 p.m. Free (admission). Klaus Brewing Co., 10142 Jones Road, Houston. 346-284-1473. www.facebook.com/klausbrewing (Courtesy Klaus Brewing Co.)



Residents can shop for fresh produce at local farmers markets. (Courtesy Your Neighborhood Farmers Market)

FEBRUARY

07 STOP BY A QUINCEANERA EXPO

Traders Village hosts a Quinceanera Expo for those planning celebrations, featuring event vendors such as reception halls, photographers, dress retailers and caterers. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free (admission), \$5 (parking). Traders Village, 7979 N. Eldridge Parkway, Houston. 281-890-5500. www.tradersvillage.com

09 THROUGH MAY 4 TAKE AN ENGLISH CLASS

Houston Northwest Church hosts a free, weekly class teaching English as a second language for adults of all proficiency levels every Tuesday through May 4. Child care is available upon request. 6-8 p.m. Free. Houston Northwest Church, 19911 Hwy. 249, Houston. 281-469-3389. www.hnw.org/missions

10 AND 24 DONATE BLOOD OR GET TESTED FOR COVID-19 ANTIBODIES

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center hosts mobile blood drives featuring COVID-19 antibody testing at the Berry Center. 9 a.m.-1:15 p.m. (Feb. 10), 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m. (Feb. 24). Free. Cypress Room at the

Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress. 281-467-2882. www.commitforlife.org

11 PLAY BINGO AT BREW:30

Great Heights Brewery hosts a free Bingo game. Food from The Rock Burger Truck and craft beer will be available for purchase. 6:30 p.m. Free. Brew:30, 15914 Telge Road, Cypress. 281-516-9315. www.brew30taphouse.com

17 TAKE A FREE CPR AND FIRST AID CLASS

America's ER Medical Centers hosts a free CPR and first aid certification class, featuring virtual instruction and an in-person skills assessment. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (virtual class), 2-5 p.m. (skills assessment window). Free. America's ER, 13902 Spring Cypress Road, Cypress. 281-503-8160. www.americaser.com/locations/cypress

18 TUNE IN TO A VIRTUAL GARDENING LECTURE

The Harris County-based horticulture program under the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension hosts an online lecture on spring vegetable gardening as part of the biweekly Home Grown Lecture Series. 10 a.m. Free (registration required). www.homegrown2021Q1.eventbrite.com

18 TASTE TEQUILA AT GALIANA'S

Galiana's Tex-Mex & Agave Bar hosts a tequila tasting event featuring five different varieties included. Appetizers will be served throughout the event. RSVP is required as space is limited. 6:30 p.m. \$65 per person. Galiana's Tex-Mex & Agave Bar, 24110 Hwy. 290, Ste. 500, Cypress. 832-653-6853. www.galianastextmex.com

25 GOLF TO SUPPORT CY-HOPE

Local nonprofit Cy-Hope hosts the annual Larry Dierker Winter Golf Classic with a goal of raising \$25,450 to support the organization's work. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$200 (individual), \$750 (foursome), \$25 (spouse dinner ticket). Cypress Lakes Golf Club, 18700 Cypresswood Drive, Cypress. 713-466-4673. www.cy-hope.org

26 THROUGH 27, MARCH 5-6, 12-14 SEE A PLAY LOCALLY

The community theater presents a production of "Arsenic and Old Lace." The theater will maintain 50% capacity, and attendees are required to wear masks and follow safety protocols. All performances are at 8 p.m. except the 3 p.m. showing March 14. \$18-\$21. Playhouse 1960, 6814 Gant Road, Houston. 281-587-8243. www.ph1960.com

FEATURED EVENT

Local farmers markets

Vendors at local farmers markets offer fresh produce and meats, baked goods, handcrafted items and a range of specialty goods such as jams and jellies, gourmet popcorn, roasted nuts, local win, dog treats and skin care products.

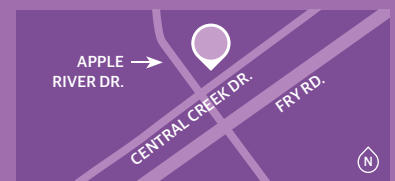
Jersey Village Farmers Market

Feb. 7, 21 from noon-3 p.m.
16327 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village



Bridgeland Farmers Market

Feb. 14, 28 from 12:30-3:30 p.m.
10519 Fry Road, Cypress



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.

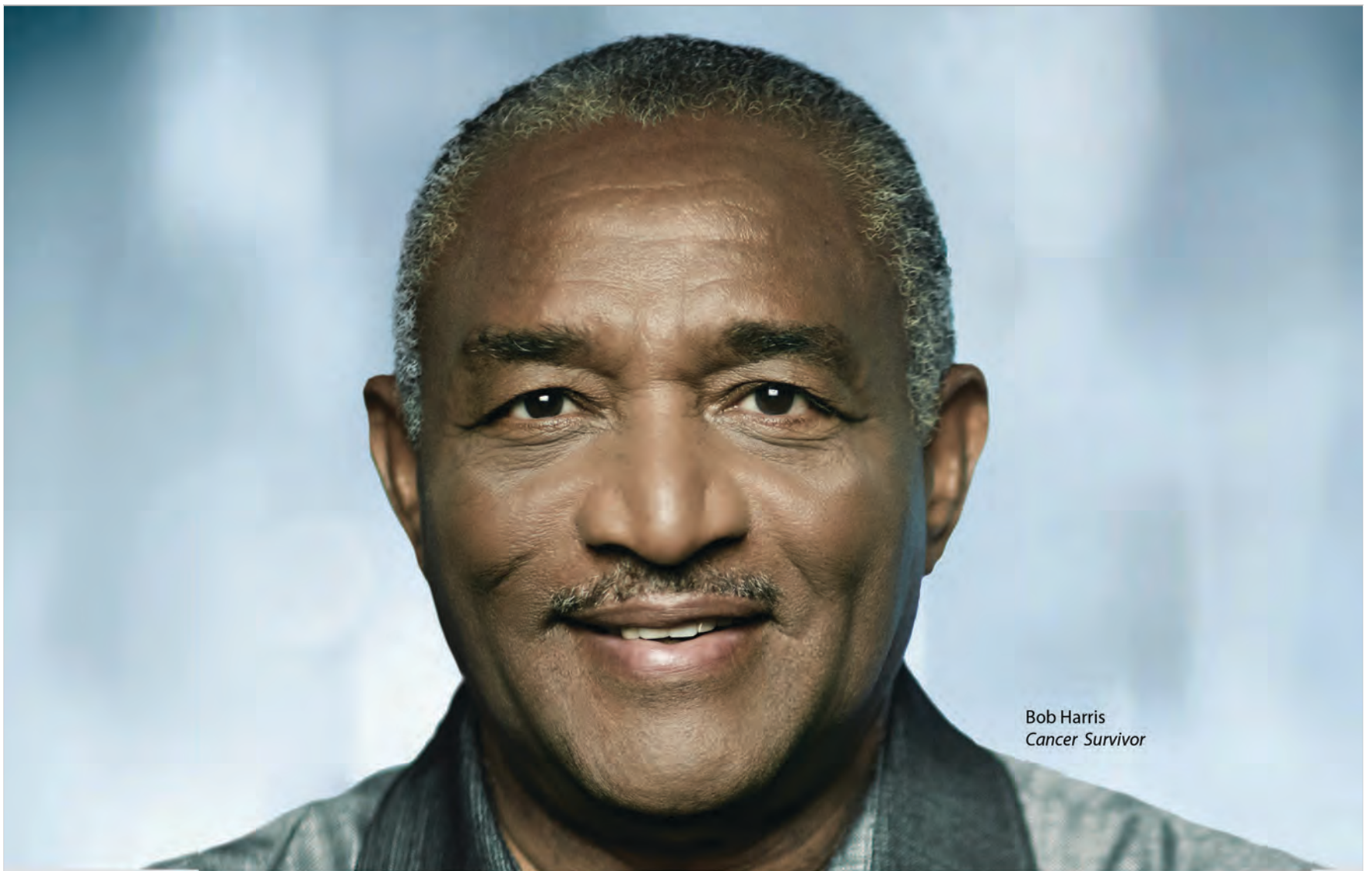


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Congestion conditions continue to improve on Cy-Fair-area roads

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

Congestion decreased on several Cy-Fair roads between 2018 and 2019, which led to drops in hours of delay and the estimated cost of congestion on those roads, according to data released in December by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

The TTI released the data as a part of its annual ranking of the most congested roadways statewide. Because the data only covers 2019, it does not reflect any drops in congestion caused by the coronavirus pandemic, TTI Senior Research Engineer Tim Lomax said.

Two segments of road in the Cy-Fair area that made the top 50 based on 2018 data—Hwy. 290 between Hwy. 6 and Beltway 8, and FM 1960 between Hwy. 290 and Hwy. 249—both fell outside of the top 50 under the 2019 data, and the stretch of Hwy. 290 fell outside of the top 100 entirely.

The FM 1960 segment fell from No. 38 on the list in last year’s report to No. 54 on the list this year, making it the most congested road in the Cy-Fair area. The Hwy. 290 segment saw a steep drop from No. 33 last year to No. 137 this year.

The report includes a “cost of congestion” for each road, which Lomax said looks at the loss of productivity as drivers wait in traffic as well as fuel wasted due to stop-and-go conditions.

The estimated cost of congestion on Hwy. 290 between Hwy. 6 and Beltway 8 was estimated around

\$12.5 million in this year’s report, down from \$31.5 million in the report from last year.

Congestion also dropped on other major roads across the Cy-Fair area, including FM 529 from Hwy. 6 to Hwy. 290, and Hwy. 6 from south of Hwy. 290 to I-10.

A few Cy-Fair roads rose in the rankings. FM 529 from Hwy. 6 west to Stockdick School Road increased from No. 186 to No. 159. However, the cost of congestion on that road actually fell over that time.

The most congested road in the Houston area, according to the report, is the segment of Loop 610 between I-10 West and the Southwest Freeway. The road, which occupied the No. 1 spot on the list last year, was beaten by I-35 in Austin, which claimed the top spot this year.

Based on preliminary data from 2020, Lomax said there has been a noted change in traffic patterns, including more muted morning rush hour peaks.

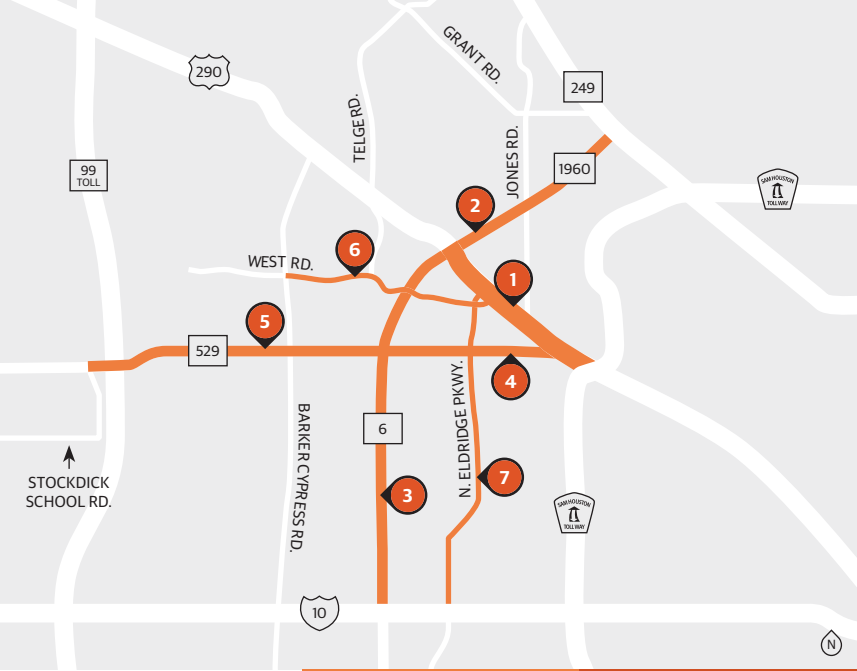
“Even in the afternoons, we’re not seeing the same types of congestion,” he said. “It may be changing work habits with people going into the office fewer days a week, fewer hours in the day, working slightly different hours.”

However, Lomax said it was too early to tell as to what extent those adaptations will remain after the pandemic subsides.

“I tend to think we’re going to go back to something closer to the old normal,” he said.

IMPROVING CONDITIONS

Road congestion levels dropped between 2018 and 2019 on most Cy-Fair-area roads, according to data from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.



		2018		2019	
	Roadway	Rank	Congestion cost	Rank	Congestion cost
1	Hwy. 290 from Hwy. 6 to Beltway 8	33	\$31.5M	⬆️ 137	\$12.5M
2	FM 1960 from Hwy. 290 to Hwy. 249	39	\$30.5M	⬆️ 54	\$25.4M
3	Hwy. 6 from Hwy. 290 to I-10	99	\$32.3M	⬆️ 132	\$26.2M
4	FM 529 from Hwy. 6 to Hwy. 290	157	\$12.1M	⬆️ 168	\$11M
5	FM 529 from Stockdick School Road to Hwy. 6	186	\$17.2M	⬇️ 159	\$16.6M
6	West Road from Barker Cypress Road to Hwy. 290	382	\$8.4M	⬆️ 456	\$7.3M
7	North Eldridge Parkway from Hwy. 290 to I-10	393	\$13M	⬆️ 477	\$11.1M

SOURCE: TEXAS A&M TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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Group releases draft on Cypress Creek water quality improvement

BY SHAWN ARRAJ

A new watershed protection plan in the works for Cypress Creek seeks to address the biggest causes of pollution in the creek, including pet waste and failing sewer facilities.

A draft of the plan was released in January by the Cypress Creek Watershed Partnership, a group launched in 2019 by the Houston-Galveston Area Council and a group of local volunteers, including residents, members of local government and conservation experts, among others.

The plan's scope involves 530 miles of waterways in the Cypress Creek system that drain into more than 319 square miles of land in Harris and Waller counties. Improving the water quality would have benefits for the environment, recreational opportunities and the local economy, said Justin Bower, a senior planner with the H-GAC.

"The reason we are doing a project like this is because we are reasonably sure it can have an impact," Bower said. "The waterway is not so far gone where it would just be window dressing."

The group met in June to discuss water quality problems, including animal waste and sewer systems.

The draft plan builds on those findings by listing the top challenges and tying them directly to solutions.

Water quality is measured by TCEQ based on what the waterway is used for—such as recreation, aquatic life or drinking water. Issues identified by the state in Cypress Creek include "elevated levels of fecal indicator bacteria and a variety of concerns related to potential indicators or precursors of low dissolved oxygen," according to the report. Elevated fecal matter—as measured by *E. coli* levels—can be a danger to human

CLEANING UP THE CREEK

A draft report on how to improve water quality in Cypress Creek zeroes in on pet waste and conservation.

TOP CAUSES

On-site sewer facilities

Failing facilities can result in human waste entering the creek.

Pet waste

Waste, primarily from dogs, washes into the creek during rainstorms in dense areas.

Loss of natural areas

Natural elements can serve as barriers and block pollutants from entering the creek.

TOP SOLUTIONS

- Converting failing facilities to sanitary sewer systems
- Improving data to find priority areas
- Fixing failing facilities

- Installing new pet waste stations
- Adding dog parks in public areas
- Increasing enforcement of pet waste ordinances

- Promoting use of riparian buffers in flood control projects
- Promoting individual and group conservation efforts

SOURCE: CYPRESS CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

health, while the dissolved oxygen can be harmful to aquatic life and recreational fisheries.

Solutions cover a wide range of action, including addressing failing sewage facilities, working with the Harris County Flood Control District

and targeting pet waste.

Partnership officials said they are aiming to get the plan approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before the end of this year. Once approved, the plan will be in effect for a 15-year period.



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New fund sets out to help Cy-Fair firefighters, department members

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

The Cy-Fair Fire and Rescue Fund launched in January with the goal of providing financial assistance to members of the Cy-Fair Fire Department—from help with emergency medical costs to scholarships through the Cy-Fair Education Foundation.

The fund, the brainchild of members of the department's board of directors, is open to all members, including ambulance providers, office workers and firefighters who are paid, part time or volunteers, board Director Terry Wheeler said.

"What we really want to do is kind of fill in the holes where there [are] needs that sometimes come up with these folks that just can't be met by an employer effectively," Wheeler said. "We want to be able to come in and do some work that needs to be done for these heroic people."

For Robert Carvell and Glenn

Gates, two board members and volunteers with the Cy-Fair Department since the 1970s, the new fund is way to reward firefighters for the sacrifices they make every day. For some, those sacrifices go back decades, Carvell said.

"For those who served in the '70s and '80s, you made every [call]," he said. "You could not just go out and go camping with your kids because you would worry. You would not be able to enjoy yourself."

The new fund will raise money largely through fundraisers and donations, Gates said, and will not be funded by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 9. While the ESD pays for gear and equipment, the fund will help costs the ESD would not cover, including emergency medical costs or specialty training.

The fund was kicked off with a



Members of the Cy-Fair Fire Department respond to an accident on Brittmore Road in Cy-Fair on Jan. 8. (Courtesy Capt. Daniel Arizpe/Cy-Fair Fire Department)

\$1,000 annual scholarship awarded through the Cy-Fair Education Foundation, Gates said. The endowment is available to department members or a benefactor, including children and grandchildren of members.

Moving forward, Gates said board members will take applications in considering what causes to fund. A website is slated to launch in February that will provide more information on how people can donate.

When Gates first started volunteering in 1974, he said the department sustained itself on fundraisers and

money volunteers took from their own pockets.

Since that time, officials have formed ESD No. 9, which raises tax money for the department. In 2019, the department began the process of shifting from a primarily volunteer force to a primarily paid force.

Over the years, Gates said volunteers have always been driven by one main motivation: a devotion to keeping their community safe.

"Anything to better the community with fire and ambulance service has been our goal," he said.

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Cy-Fair ISD board approves 2021-22 instructional calendar

BY DANICA LLOYD

Cy-Fair ISD's board of trustees unanimously approved an instructional calendar for the 2021-22 school year that, for the most part, mirrors calendars from previous years.

Students and staff will have a week off for Thanksgiving and two weeks off for the winter holiday break. Spring break is slated for the third week of March.

The first day of school is slated for Aug. 23, and the school year is set to end May 26, 2022. This adds up to 76,950 minutes of instruction for students—three days more than state law mandates.

According to the state, teachers are required to work 187 days, and students must have a minimum of 75,600 minutes of instruction throughout the academic year. Additionally, school cannot start before the fourth Monday in August.

The board approved plans as they were proposed by the district's calendar committee, which is made up of district parents, administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals and community partners, at a Jan. 14 meeting.

Chief Academic Officer Linda Macias said CFISD's calendar committee considered factors including the state's testing schedule, neighboring districts' calendars and the fact that teachers may need additional planning time next year due to the learning gaps brought on during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Remote learning days were added to the calendar to address this need in 2020-21, but Macias said this option will not be available in 2021-22. However, five teacher work days are built into the calendar, giving teachers additional opportunities to plan while students can



SAVE THE DATES

Cy-Fair ISD's 2021-22 instructional calendar was approved in January.

2021

Aug. 9-20	Professional development
Aug. 23	First day of school
Sept. 6	Student/staff holiday
Sept. 24	Teacher work day/ student holiday
Oct. 22	Teacher work day/ student holiday
Nov. 1-2	Professional development
Nov. 22-26	Student/staff holiday
Dec. 20-31	Student/staff holiday

2022

Jan. 3	Professional development
Jan. 14	Teacher work day/ student holiday
Jan. 17	Student/staff holiday
Feb. 11	Teacher work day/ student holiday
Feb. 14	Professional development/ inclement weather day
March 14-18	Student/staff holiday
April 15	Student/staff holiday
April 18	Teacher work day/ student holiday
May 26	Last day of school
May 27	Professional development/ inclement weather day

SOURCE: CY-FAIR ISD/COMMUNITY
IMPACT NEWSPAPER

take advantage of a holiday. These days may also be used as additional inclement weather days as needed.

"Although remote learning days are not an option, I do strongly believe that our teachers need some

additional time for planning and preparation," Macias said. "This next year, and probably the next year, are going to be some of the most difficult years in the classroom for our teachers."

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COVID-19 vaccine waitlist opens to public

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

A waitlist for the COVID-19 vaccine opened to all Harris County residents Jan. 26, but officials said only those eligible to be vaccinated under state guidelines will be selected for appointments for now.

People in Phase 1A of the state's distribution plan, which includes health care workers and nursing home residents, will be prioritized over people in Phase 1B, which includes everyone over age 65 and people over age 16 with certain medical conditions, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said. Older people will also be prioritized over younger people, she said. Beyond that, people will be selected randomly, as opposed to on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Getting a COVID-19 vaccine shouldn't be like the 'Hunger Games,'" Hidalgo said. "It shouldn't be about who can hit refresh on a browser the fastest."

Residents who are not eligible for a vaccine today can still register for the waitlist. When the state expands eligibility to other segments of the population—a move that is not expected for another several months—the county will open up its own appointments to those groups

as well, Hidalgo said.

As of late January, the county has administered 28,938 vaccines and is receiving about 9,000 new vaccines each week from the state, Hidalgo said. About 258,581 vaccine doses have been administered overall in Harris County, while 571,325 doses have been allocated, according to state data. However, data on doses administered is likely two to three weeks behind, county officials said.

As of Jan. 28, 146,026 people signed up for the waitlist, Hidalgo said.

After being placed on the waitlist, residents will receive an email or phone confirmation. Once selected for an appointment, they will receive an identification code and will be asked to select a date and time to be vaccinated within the next 48 hours. The county is also working on a texting system, Hidalgo said.

HOW TO SIGN UP

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UTMB researchers find Pfizer vaccine effective against new COVID-19 strain in Harris County

BY COLLEEN FERGUSON

A team of researchers from Pfizer and The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston announced Jan. 7 it found Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is not compromised by the coronavirus mutation seen in strains originating from the United Kingdom.

Harris County Public Health identified a resident who tested positive for the new COVID-19 variant in January, the first case of the new strain to be confirmed in the state.

While the vaccine was determined to still be effective against this particular variant, Xuping Xie, an assistant professor at UTMB, added that more studies are necessary.

The study involved using a panel of clinical trial serum specimens to

test if the mutation affects the vaccine-induced antibody activity against the virus.

Researchers should use the mutant viruses to investigate the effects of mutations on viral transmission and disease development, said Scott Weaver, the director of the UTMB Institute for Human Infections and Immunity.

"Using COVID-19 animal models, we should quickly test if the newly emerged strains are indeed more transmissible, as indicated by epidemiological results," he said in a press release. "If this is the case, we should be able to identify which specific [mutation or mutations are responsible] for the enhanced transmission and its mechanism."



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Jersey Village approves development plan allowing 7-Eleven at FM 529 and Jones Road

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

JERSEY VILLAGE The city Council unanimously approved a development agreement at a Jan. 18 meeting that will pave the way for a 7-Eleven convenience store with a restaurant element on four acres at the northeast corner of FM 529 and Jones Road.

The developer, Sezka Limited Partnership, approached the city about the land being voluntarily annexed, which would allow the city to provide water and sewer connections. Following the annexation, the city would also earn property and sales tax revenue from the development, which City Manager Austin Bleess described as a “win-win” at a Jan. 18 meeting.

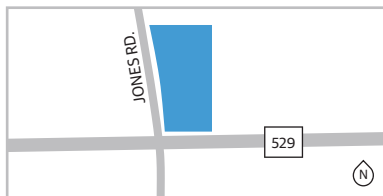
The property will be developed in accordance with city ordinances that lay out signage requirements and dictate what building materials can be used, Bleess said. The property will be zoned in a way

that aligns with the future Village Center development, including enhanced landscaping at the western and northern property boundaries, he said.

“Since this will be at the corner of the entrance to the Village Center, staff feels strongly we need to make sure that the corridor matches as best as possible with the requirements listed in District D,” Bleess said, referring to the zoning district for the Village Center.

Mayor Andrew Mitcham said the agreement will allow the city to extend the Village Center aesthetic down to FM 529.

“I think that’s going to be a big plus for us,” he said.



City releases draft budget for proposed fire control, EMS fund ahead of May ballot item

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

JERSEY VILLAGE City officials in Jersey Village have released a draft budget and two-year plan for a proposed fire and emergency medical services district that is expected to go out for voter approval in the city’s May 1 election.

Currently, money pulled into the city of Jersey Village through its 2% local sales tax is split into three pots: Half of it goes to the general fund, one quarter goes to a crime control and prevention district, and one quarter goes to a property tax relief fund. If approved by voters, the portion going to property tax relief would be redirected to the fire fund.

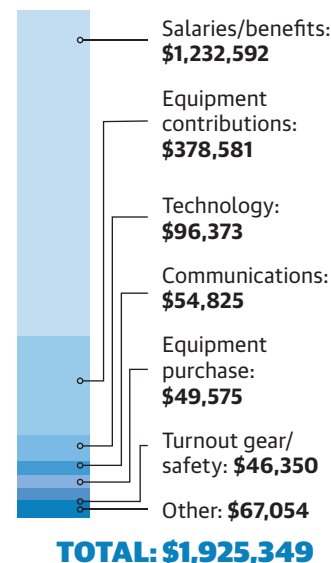
In 2019, the amount of sales tax revenue that went to the property tax reduction fund was about \$1.9 million, a figure that informed the spending plan for the proposed fire district.

A virtual public hearing to gather feedback on the draft budget will take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 8.

PROPOSED BUDGET

(fiscal year 2021-22)

A draft budget for a proposed fire district shows how roughly \$1.9 million would be spent.



SOURCE: CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE/
COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



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With open beds dwindling, officials look for ways to reduce Harris County jail population

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

HARRIS COUNTY At a series of January emergency court hearing, U.S. District Judge Lee Rosenthal called on Harris County officials to try to reduce the inmate population at the county jail through moves centered on bail reduction hearings; the effort could also include pretrial release for some nonviolent cases and the temporary release of inmates with holds, including out-of-county holds and immigration holds.

Initial efforts focused on 1,151 inmates being held on bonds of \$10,000 or less, who were the primary targets for bail reduction.

Rosenthal said she does not want to “convert pretrial detention into a death sentence.”

If all parties were to agree on a reduced bail amount for a case, the bail reduction request would be submitted to the district court, where a judge would still be able to deny

the reduction. If the district attorney were to not agree to a reduction in bail, lawyers can request a hearing. As of late January, the sheriff’s office and district attorney’s office agreed on 60 inmates for release.

An executive order signed by Gov. Greg Abbott in March limits the release of inmates during the pandemic by barring inmates accused or previously convicted of violent crimes from being released without bail. However, the order does not block the release of inmates on reduced bail.

The inmate population at the jail surpassed 9,000 around mid-January and available beds fell below 70, said Maj. Patrick Dougherty, a certified jail manager with the sheriff’s office who spoke at the Jan. 15 hearing. By late January, the inmate population fell slightly to around 8,800, but officials said overcrowding remained a concern. A follow-up hearing is scheduled for Feb. 5.

JAIL SNAPSHOT

Officials with the Harris County Sheriff’s Office are concerned that overcrowding in the jail will exacerbate the spread of COVID-19.

As of Jan. 14:

9,087 inmates in jail	87% of inmates are awaiting trial	6 deaths caused by COVID-19
------------------------------------	---	---

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

1,151 inmates

- Have no holds and bonds of \$10,000 or less
- Could see bonds reduced

364 inmates

- In jail pretrial for nonviolent offenses
- Could be released on personal recognizance bonds

420 inmates

- Should be in treatment centers but are being held in jail because centers were closed by pandemic
- Could be released until centers reopen

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY/
COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

QUOTE OF NOTE

“NOBODY WANTS TO TURN THE JAIL INTO A KILLING FIELD.”

U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE LEE ROSENTHAL

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

HARRIS COUNTY The office of Harris County Precinct 4 Constable Mark Herman’s has released a C4 Now custom mobile application, Precinct 4 announced in a Jan. 11 email, to inform residents of real-time crime and traffic hazards. The app is designed to inform residents of accidents, road conditions, public safety threats and crime in accordance with Herman’s commitment to transparency, safety and security, the release stated. The app can be downloaded from the Apple or Google Play store for free.

JERSEY VILLAGE The city of Jersey Village opened the candidate filings for three positions on Jersey Village City Council for the city’s May 1 elections, including the mayoral seat and Places 2 and 3. Both the current Mayor Andrew Mitcham and current Place 2 Council Member Greg Holden will not run for re-election due to term limits. Jersey Village City Council members can serve no more than three consecutive two-year terms without compensation. The deadline to file for a place on the ballot is Feb. 12. Council Places 1, 4 and 5 will be up for election in 2022.

MEETINGS WE COVER

Jersey Village City Council
Meets at 7 p.m. Feb. 15
713-466-2100
www.jerseyvillagetx.com

Harris County Commissioners Court
Meets at 10 a.m. Feb. 9
713-698-1102
www.harriscountytexas.gov

Harris County ESD No. 11 hires medical director

BY ANDY LI

HARRIS COUNTY Harris County Emergency Services District No. 11 hired Dr. Casey Patrick on Dec. 30 to serve as its first medical director. Patrick formerly served as the assistant medical director for the Montgomery County Hospital District and has been in the medical field for about 20 years.

“His incredible depth of clinical knowledge, passion for data and patient outcomes, combined with his

affable demeanor, makes Dr. Patrick the ideal Medical Director for the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 11 EMS system,” Executive Director Doug Hooten said in a Jan. 6 press release.

During a special meeting Jan. 7 of the district’s board of commissioners, officials also formally announced the address for the district’s future administrative offices. The offices will be located at 18334 Stuebner Airline Road, Spring.



Dr. Casey Patrick has been hired as Harris County Emergency Services District No. 11’s first medical director. (Courtesy Harris County Emergency Services District No. 11)

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Legislators representing Cy-Fair residents have authored several bills to be considered in the 87th Texas Legislature.

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 126—SAM HARLESS (R)



House Bill 759 would amend the Texas Education Code to require threat-assessment teams in public schools to begin their assessments within 10 days of a student posing a serious risk of violence to themselves or others and complete assessments within 30 days. The bill would also create a database of student threat assessments conducted for students who pose a serious risk of violence.

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 130—TOM OLIVERSON (R)



House Bill 515 would require health insurance providers to reimburse physicians and mental health professionals for telemedicine visits at least as much as they would for in-person visits.

House Bill 780 would establish a bone marrow donor recruitment program to educate Texans about the need for donors and the procedures involved with donating bone marrow or other sources of blood stem cells.

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 132—MIKE SCHOFIELD (R)



Schofield has not filed bills as of press time but said at a recent Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce meeting his top priorities for the session include economic recovery, flood control and following through on the public education promises laid out in House Bill 3 from the 86th Legislature.

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 135—JON ROSENTHAL (D)



House Bill 342 would require facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice be maintained between 65-85 degrees Fahrenheit.

House Bill 799 would make carrying a firearm while intoxicated a Class C misdemeanor.

House Bill 698 would prohibit employment discrimination based on reproductive decisions, including one's marital status during a pregnancy and the use of contraception.

TEXAS SENATE DISTRICT 7—PAUL BETTENCOURT (R)



Senate Bill 208 would prohibit officers and employees of the state or of political subdivisions of the state from distributing official application forms for early voting ballots.

Senate Bill 215 would create the office of inspector general at the Texas Education Agency. The commissioner of education would appoint a director of the office who would be responsible for the investigation, prevention and detection of wrongdoing, fraud, waste and abuse in the administration of public education.

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING?

After every decennial census, states and local jurisdictions go through a process known as redistricting: redrawing the boundaries for representation. Redistricting is triggered by the 2020 U.S. census, which is to be reported to states by April 1, said Jeff Archer, executive director of the Texas Legislative Council—a nonpartisan agency lending support to the Legislature—so that legislators can vote to approve new maps for Texas House and Senate districts by the end of the legislative session.

With a possible delay in census reporting due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Archer said redistricting could be pushed to the Legislative Redistricting Board if the Legislature were to receive census results during the regular session but fail to approve redistricting maps by session's end; or into a special-called legislative session if the Legislature were to not receive the results before May 31.

Redistricting also applies to local governments, including county commissioner precincts, which may be reconfigured to even out populations in growing areas.

REDISTRICTING TIMELINE

The Legislative Redistricting Board last convened in 2001 but may have to do so again during the 87th Legislature.

2021

Jan. 12:

87th Legislature convenes

March 12:

Bill filing deadline

April 1:

Census data reporting deadline

May 31:

87th Legislature adjourns

May 31-Aug. 29

Legislative Redistricting Board convenes if the House and Senate have received census data yet not approved redistricting plans; the board must convene within 90 days and complete work within 60 days

Dec. 13:

Filing deadline for primary elections

2022

March 1:

First elections under new districts

SOURCE: TEXAS COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE/
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2021 CY-FAIR Food Truck GUIDE

Cy-Fair residents can find tacos, barbecue, desserts and more at local food trucks in the area. This is a noncomprehensive list of stationary and mobile food trucks.

COMPILED BY DANICA LLOYD

Stationary trucks

1 Brooks' Place

On the menu: brisket, sausage, ribs, pulled pork
18020 FM 529, Cypress
832-893-1682
www.brooksplacebbq.com
Hours: Tue.-Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Sun.-Mon.

2 Brown Bag BBQ Co.

On the menu: barbecue plates, ribs, sandwiches, smoke boudin, baked beans, potato salad
12200 Jones Road, Houston
832-253-4706
www.brownbagbbqco.com
Hours: Thu., Sat. 1-7 p.m.

3 Cajun Cookers on the Geaux

On the menu: fried catfish and shrimp, po'boys, boudin quesadillas
17943 Grant Road, Cypress
346-812-0022
www.facebook.com/cajun-cookers-on-the-geaux-583650822306767
Hours: Tue. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat.-Sun. Noon-4 p.m., closed Mon., Thu.

4 Hwy. 6 Tacos

On the menu: tacos, charro beans, quesadillas
9030 Hwy. 6 N., Houston

www.facebook.com/authenticmexicantacoplac
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 5:30 p.m.-12:45 a.m., Fri.-Sat. 5:30 p.m.-2:45 a.m.

5 Lonestar BBQ

On the menu: brisket, pulled pork, smoked ribs, sausage, barbecue sandwiches, nachos
14307 Telge Road, Cypress
281-896-0616
www.lonestarbbq.org
Hours: Sat. 11 a.m.-sell out, closed Sun.-Fri. Catering options are available throughout the week.

6 NKY Don Pollo El Rey

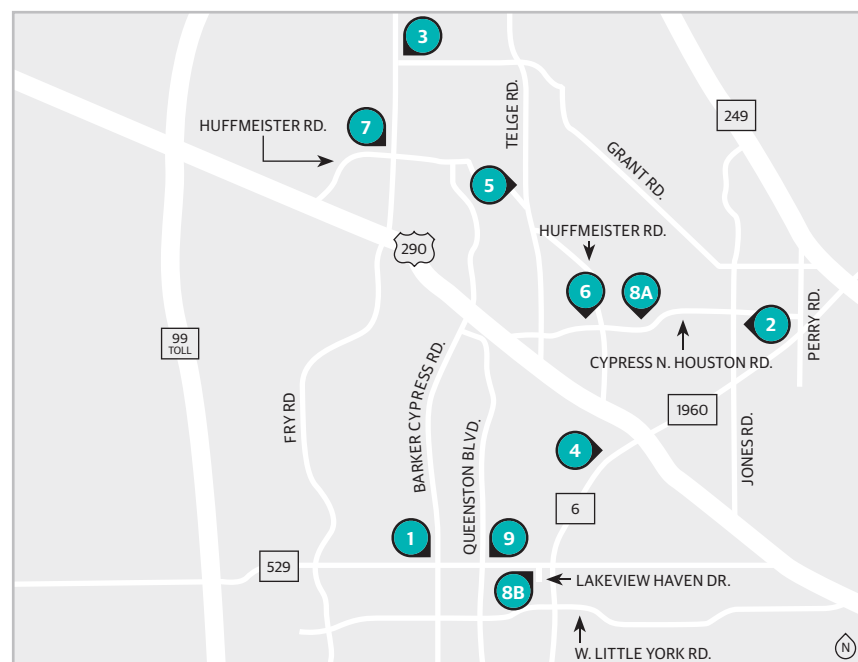
On the menu: tacos, burritos, quesadillas, tortas, gorditas
13925 Cypress North Houston Road, Cypress
832-902-0662
www.facebook.com/nkydonpolloelrey
Hours: 6 p.m.-1:30 a.m. daily

7 The Taco King

On the menu: tacos, quesadillas
18002 Huffmeister Road, Cypress
Hours: Tue.-Thu. 6-11 p.m., Fri. 5-11:30 p.m., Sat. 5:30-11:30 p.m., Sun. 6-11 p.m., closed Mon.

8 Tacos Diana

On the menu: tacos, burritos, tortas, tostadas, quesadillas, churros
A 12938 Cypress North Houston Road, Cypress



B 6925 Lakeview Haven Drive, Houston
832-870-8471

www.facebook.com/tacosdianaenhouston
Hours: 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m. daily

9 Taqueria los de Jalisco

On the menu: tacos, burritos, gorditas, quesadillas, tortas
17140 FM 529, Houston
936-340-7789
www.facebook.com/taqueriajosdejaisco
Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

Mobile trucks

Arts & Crepes

On the menu: sweet and savory crepes, baguette sandwiches, cheese boards
346-377-4925
www.facebook.com/artsandcrepes

Iced Cupcakery

On the menu: cupcakes
985-855-5959
www.facebook.com/icedcupcakery01

Skye Cafe

On the menu: sliders, wraps, sandwiches, soups, salads, comfort foods
832-674-6363
www.facebook.com/skyecafe



Tacos Diana

COURTESY TACOS DIANA



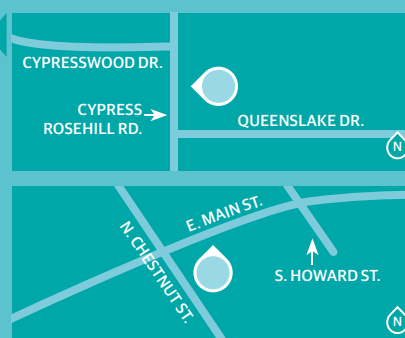
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Food truck parks

Food Network personality Eddie Jackson opened **Rosehill Beer Garden** in Cypress in early 2018 with a diverse lineup of food trucks, an extensive craft beer selection and a family-friendly environment.

14540 Cypress Rosehill Road, Cypress
281-213-4347
www.rosehillbeer.com
Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thu., 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat.



Find several food trucks in one place at these local food truck parks.

403 Eats in Tomball hosts several food trucks throughout the week and hosts events such as karaoke, bingo and live music. Indoor and outdoor seating are available, and leashed dogs are welcome.

403 E. Main St., Tomball
281-330-4538
www.403eats.com
Hours: Mon., Wed.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; closed Tue.



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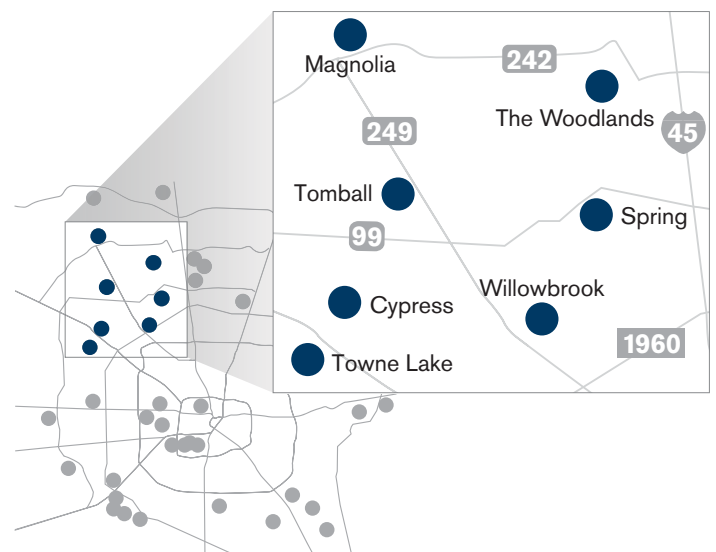
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Universal Propane Grill & Light

Outdoor kitchens created at 30-year-old business

Bob Fulton said the range of products available have increased along with competition from newer brands, retailers and websites since he opened Universal Propane Grill & Light nearly three decades ago on FM 1960 in 1991.

“We’ve had to change our focus more to the better-quality products due to some manufacturers just not being what they used to be and some manufacturers just disappearing,” he said. “I’ve been doing this for 30 years, so I’m very careful about what I bring in quality-wise.”

Trends have changed over time as well, and Fulton said today his business specializes in offering and installing outdoor kitchen equipment such as grills, refrigerators, side burners, doors, drawers and sinks. Additionally, the business refills propane tanks, installs gas logs in fireplaces and sells barbecue wood and grilling accessories.

Most people are investing thousands of dollars when building an outdoor kitchen, and Fulton said his top priority is offering excellent products that are priced well. Customers do not necessarily have to purchase the most expensive option to get great quality, he said.

“I see problems all the time where people have bought a product that may not be made the best, and they spent all the money building the kitchen,” he said. “But the grill fails and they can’t find the parts for it

because the company’s gone.”

Fulton said he has been pleasantly surprised to have an onslaught of business as people look to update their homes amid the pandemic. But there have been some product shortages because of the unprecedented nationwide demand.

“We were, like everybody else, not sure what would happen, and we closed for a while to protect our employees and ourselves,” Fulton said. “When we reopened, I thought [business] would be very slow. But there has been a boom with people doing home improvements, fixing their houses or moving.”

Fulton said most clients are from the Northwest Houston area, but he does business as far as Galveston, Beaumont and College Station.

Some products are available for shipping, but Fulton recommends customers visit his showroom to see merchandise in person. With nearly three decades of experience in the industry, he said he enjoys talking through options with customers and giving them advice about best practices when working with contractors building outdoor kitchens.

“I’m not a hardcore salesperson, but I am aggressive at informing a consumer what to look for,” he said. “It’s very important to understand what you’re buying, so I take the time to explain why I like the product, what differentiates it, why it’s better [than] the competition.”



Bob Fulton opened Universal Propane Grill & Light in 1991, offering grills and other outdoor kitchen accessories. (Danica Lloyd/Community Impact Newspaper)

CUSTOM KITCHENS

Universal Propane Grill & Light offers a range of outdoor kitchen products.



Grill head

A natural gas or propane grill head is often the focal point of outdoor kitchens, Fulton said.

Door and drawers

In addition to cooking equipment, storage options and other accessories can be added to the outdoor kitchen space.



Refrigerator

Those who want the option to keep beverages or food products cold can add on a refrigerator, ice chest or kegerator.



Side burner

Adding a side burner allows for more cooking options in addition to the grill.

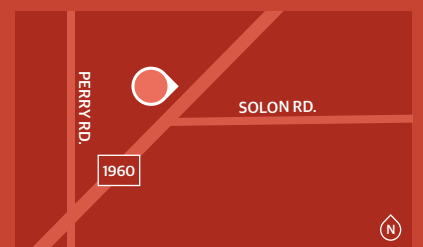
Universal Propane Grill & Light

9106 FM 1960 W., Houston

281-894-8878

www.universalpropanegrill.com

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Sun.



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KEEPING YOUR HEART HEALTHY AFTER 50



Cardiovascular disease and heart conditions can emerge at any age. Yet, as we get older, the risk of needing medical care to diagnose, treat or manage heart disease or a heart-related illness increases. Biyebelemo Ekpete, DO, a cardiologist with Memorial Hermann Medical Group Cypress Multi-Specialty, in this interview, discusses why people, age 50 or older, should consider seeking the regular care of a cardiologist to ensure optimal cardiovascular health for years to come.

Q: What is your No.1 piece of health advice for people 50 years old and older?

Dr. Ekpete: I recommend that people 50 and older have a thorough preventive care evaluation by their primary care physician or a general cardiologist that includes taking a health history and performing a physical examination. This evaluation will help determine what cardiovascular risk factors or underlying conditions may already be present that increase a person's likelihood of developing heart disease or a heart condition. I discuss with my patients their personal and family health history and lifestyle factors that could signal or create future cardiovascular risks. I look for a genetic predisposition to heart disease, as evidenced by a family member who had premature heart disease. I also look for high blood pressure, high cholesterol, overweight, smoking or diabetes. If these risk factors are present, I talk to my patients about controlling these risk factors through lifestyle changes.

Q: Why should individuals see a cardiologist regularly when they reach 50?

Dr. Ekpete: In many individuals, disease processes usually start to show up as they age. We begin to see high blood pressure, high cholesterol, high blood sugar and coronary artery disease around the age of 50, even if these conditions weren't present before. Younger patients may experience benign palpitations, or irregular heartbeats, but after age 50, these may turn into malignant heart rhythms that signal serious arrhythmias that need managing. It's important to develop a relationship with a cardiologist at this time so we know when a patient's cardiovascular health changes. We can help manage their risk factors, act upon new conditions that arise and minimize repeat testing or medical management that has proven ineffective for these patients in the past.

Q: What symptoms or changes in a patient's health may signal heart disease or a heart problem?

Dr. Ekpete: Symptoms we look for include chest discomfort or pain and shortness of breath, with or without exertion; heart palpitations or the sensation of the heart racing or skipping a beat; dizziness or feeling lightheaded; unexpected weight gain or swelling of the extremities, especially the legs and feet. These symptoms can occur with many different conditions. That's why it's important to have an idea of the patient's history to know whether these symptoms may be related to something else or whether further evaluation or treatment is needed.

Q: How can people over 50 improve their heart health?

Dr. Ekpete: I recommend staying active by engaging in 150 minutes of moderately intense aerobic exercise each week. This is the type of exercise that increases your heart rate and breathing. It also helps manage stress, which can contribute to chronic inflammation that negatively impacts the heart muscle and arteries that carry blood throughout the body. I also advise my patients to maintain their body mass index, or BMI, between 18 and 25 percent, as being overweight is a major risk factor in the development of heart and vascular disease. And I recommend quitting smoking and eating a nutritious diet, rich in fruits, vegetables and complex carbohydrates.

Q: What concerns you as a cardiologist about COVID-19?

Dr. Ekpete: We're seeing evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can also affect the heart muscle itself. Reports from the medical community indicate that some patients who contract COVID-19 end up with symptoms of heart failure, where the heart cannot effectively pump blood, causing shortness of breath, fluid retention and arrhythmias. The virus can also affect the lining that surrounds the heart, leading to chest pain or discomfort. We also have seen that the systemic response of the body to the virus can lead to the formation of blood clots, which can cause heart attacks and strokes as they cut off the blood and oxygen supply to

the heart and brain. These conditions can occur in previously healthy individuals or in those with underlying conditions and can be deadly.

Q: How has the pandemic indirectly affected heart health?

Dr. Ekpete: When the pandemic first hit, people were reluctant to seek care from a doctor if they were experiencing unusual symptoms. This trend accounted for an increase in deaths at home from heart attacks and strokes. The pandemic also prevented the proper management of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart failure. People were fearful of going to the doctor, and we lost ground managing these conditions with proper monitoring and medication adjustments. We're thankfully seeing these trends slowly improve, and in some cases, go the other way, as people are more in tune with everyday aches and pains and seeking care more often. We're also seeing the effects of inactivity during the months of lockdown with weight gain and uncontrolled stress.

Q: What's your advice for people over 50 who are concerned about COVID-19?

Dr. Ekpete: I recommend adhering to the guidelines set out by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and public health officials. Wear a mask or face covering, practice social distancing, avoid crowds and isolate at home with minor symptoms of any illness. I'd add, though, that it's important to seek medical attention if you experience worsening symptoms or have any signs of a serious condition, such as a heart attack or stroke. Hospitals have taken precautions to protect patients from exposure to COVID-19. Seeking medical attention for life-threatening conditions and for managing chronic diseases could save your life.



Biyebelemo Ekpete, DO
Cardiologist

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A dumpling bar at Duck N Bao allows customers to see their soup dumplings being made as they order them. (Photos by Shawn Arrajj/Community Impact Newspaper)

"SINCE WE ARE MAKING IT FRESH ANYWAY, WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT IN FRONT OF YOU."

DUCK N BAO CO-OWNER DARREN REN

Duck N Bao

Sichuan native brings hometown authenticity to Cypress restaurant

Customers who go to Duck N Bao for a bite to eat likely have some idea of what they are getting into: The restaurant's two most popular items are in its name.

However, the Spring Cypress Road eatery's co-owners, Darren Ren and Leo Xia, said they are trying to take their offerings beyond what many Americans expect from a Chinese restaurant by focusing on original flavors and authentic preparation.

Peking duck, the restaurant's main staple, can take up to 36 hours to prepare, Ren said. The soup dumplings are made very delicately, he said, and they cannot be pre-made and frozen because it affects

both the flavor and the texture.

"We put in the effort, and its giving us great results," Ren said. "The only way to serve customers is to not cut any corners."

Xia was born in the Sichuan province of China, and he said cooking styles from his hometown heavily influence the menu. Workers at the restaurant follow three principal guidelines: food that is handmade, served fresh and authentic to how it is made in Sichuan, he said.

"We try to bring original Chinese food, not American-style Chinese food," Xia said.

The restaurant offers a full bar as well as a dumpling bar where customers can watch the dumplings they order be made by chefs in front

of them.

"Since we are making it fresh anyway, we thought we might as well make it in front of you," Ren said.

The Cypress location, which opened in December 2019, is weathering the pandemic, and owners said they are looking to open another location in the Memorial area this spring.

Although Ren said the pandemic has been tough, especially since the restaurant was only three months old when it was forced to shut down, the Cypress community has been supportive.

"Cypress has welcomed us with open arms," he said. "Most customers are returning customers, so we must be doing something right."

DISHES TO TRY



Grilled pork ribs and shrimp (\$18.95): Bone-in pork ribs served with jumbo shrimp, mixed vegetables and rice cakes in a house sauce.



Pork soup dumplings (\$8.95): Six seasoned pork and hot soup steamed dumplings.



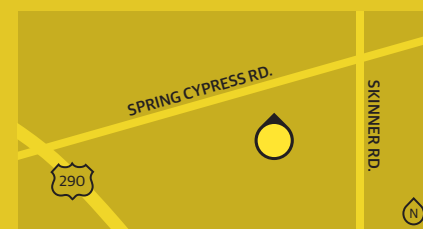
Peking Duck (\$25.95-\$45.95): Duck prepared for 36 hours, served with pancake wrap, onion and cucumber.

Duck N Bao

17333 Spring Cypress Road, Ste. H, Cypress
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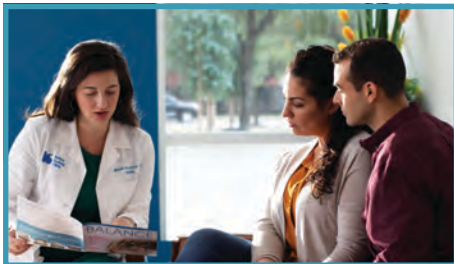
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Tom Ramsey

Harris County Precinct 3 commissioner

Newly elected Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey is aware he is joining the Harris County Commissioners Court during a time of great challenges. In a Jan. 19 interview with *Community Impact Newspaper*, Ramsey said he is prepared to take those challenges on. His first few weeks on the court involved a series of budget hearings for each of the county's departments before the fiscal year 2021-22 budget is adopted in March. Ramsey discussed those conversations, the big topics he expects to be a part of in 2021 and his plans for running the precinct for residents from Cy-Fair to Katy to Bellaire and beyond. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.

AFTER THE ELECTION, WHAT DID YOU DO TO PREPARE FOR YOUR UPCOMING TERM?

I've been preparing for that for 45 years. I've actually functioned as an engineer that has worked for more than 20 counties and 50 cities in Texas. Much of what I've done related to roads, engineering and design work and consulting with those public entities I think has well prepared me for what lies ahead. I, pretty much immediately after the election, assumed a role in Precinct 3 working with Commissioner [Steve] Radack. That gave us a couple of months to effectively transition on some near-term issues. I also was able to attend some training with the Texas Association of Counties. We've got some pretty big issues in Harris County, and I wanted to be as prepared as I could be.

AS THE COURT GETS CLOSER TO ADOPTING THE 2021-22 BUDGET IN MARCH, WHAT ARE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES?

I was encouraged by what seemed like a consistent theme within the Commissioners Court that we really have to watch our budgets this year. This isn't the year to start significantly increasing. As we went through each one of the budget hearings, we communicated that as a group. There were many asks. I think we are vetting those now. What I've learned through the years is, whether good times or bad times, you've got to maintain your infrastructure. Once you get out of the cycle you've got trouble, and you'll never catch up. I'm looking very closely and being sure we maintain those investments, whether it's park-related, flood

control or road-related.

The other thing is safe neighborhoods. As mayor of Spring Valley [Village] we were able to achieve and still are considered the safest neighborhood in Harris County. I want Precinct 3 to be the safest precinct in Harris County. That's not just talk; you have to invest in that. We're going to be looking at ways that we can partner with folks. I'll be meeting with the leaders, whether city of Houston leaders or within our own county. There are all the other municipalities within Precinct 3—West University, Bellaire, the villages, Katy—that have extraordinarily good police folks.

HOW WILL YOU RUN THE OFFICE DIFFERENTLY THAN FORMER COMMISSIONER STEVE RADACK, AND HOW WILL YOU CONTINUE WHAT HE STARTED?

We're going to build on his legacy. When he started there were six parks in Precinct 3. Today there are 63. That's just amazing that over three decades you were able to, by tenfold, increase the number of parks. Precinct 3 has a 10-year pavement management plan. We're in year five. In another five years, our roads in Precinct 3 in the unincorporated area on a road log are going to be up to par.

What I will put a lot of priority on is communication. I've been around the precinct, and they want to hear from us. I heard it in the campaign. I've brought somebody on board to deal with our community involvement. We have 451 square miles [and] 1.3 million folks that live in Precinct 3. We have to be really good in terms of how we'll be communicating with them.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIG CONVERSATIONS YOU EXPECT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT TO TAKE ON IN 2021 THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO?

We're going to do some different things in terms of how we can get more involved in our neighborhoods and bring the crime rate down. There are some things the county is doing we need to stop doing. There are some things the county can begin to start doing. Any family in Precinct 3 should feel safe at home, and right now families in Precinct 3 in some neighborhoods don't feel safe, and that's not right.

I'm looking forward to some big conversations with the [Army] Corps of Engineers. I talked to one of the colonels last week, and I let him know my expectations. You can go up on Greenhouse Road at Mayde Creek north of I-10. If you look upstream, the county maintains it [and] it looks great. You look downstream and it looks horrible and needs to be maintained. The Corps has agreed to getting that cleaned up. That impacts 1,203 people, so it's a big deal.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO STAY ON TOP OF GROWTH IN PRECINCT 3?

Part of it is our 10-year plan. I don't know of hardly anybody that has that kind of a plan where they will actually give you a date when all of our roads are going to be up to standard. The other thing I hear far too often is that the master-planned communities are a problem. Those are some of the greatest resources we have in Harris County. What they are required to do in order to build their communities is



RAMSEY'S RESUME

CIVIL ENGINEERING

- 42-year career completing projects in 50 cities and 20 counties
- Projects included the Hardy Toll Road, a Harris County Drainage Plan update and Precinct 3 road improvements

MAYOR OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE

- Named Elected Official of the Year in 2017 by the University of Houston's Master of Public Administration program
- Oversaw city's ascent to being named the safest city in Harris County according to FBI statistics



GET IN TOUCH

Commissioner Tom Ramsey
1001 Preston St., Houston. 713-755-6306

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16635 Clay Road, Houston
281-463-6300. www.pct3.com

Parks department
16215 Clay Road, Ste. 214, Houston
281-531-1592. www.pct3.com

extraordinary, and they do it. They go typically above and beyond. I would call that incredibly great for our growth and our future if we keep doing those sorts of things that allow for quality development that don't have negative impacts.

I'm a jobs guy. We've got just in flood control, nearly \$5 billion in construction projects. For every billion in construction, that's 21,700 jobs. So if we ... urgently approach getting those construction projects underway, we're going to get people to work. We're going to have a jobs fair before May. We're going to connect the people that need to work with the jobs.

WHAT ARE THE TOP GOALS YOU ARE HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH IN PRECINCT 3 BEFORE 2024?

It's family quality of life. I'm going to say that over and over. We decided our priorities, but what we do affects families, and—whether it's safe neighborhoods, whether it's a reasonable expectation that you can drive down your road and not hit 10 potholes, whether it's a reasonable expectation to not be flooded every few months—we can do all of those better.

Businesses need help. They've been put upon I think, whether it's taxes or shutdowns or other things. The government is really the facilitator to get things done. The [government] can either be the regulator and slow everything down, or we can be the facilitator. We're going to be the facilitator.

Economic health means physical health

Social vulnerability

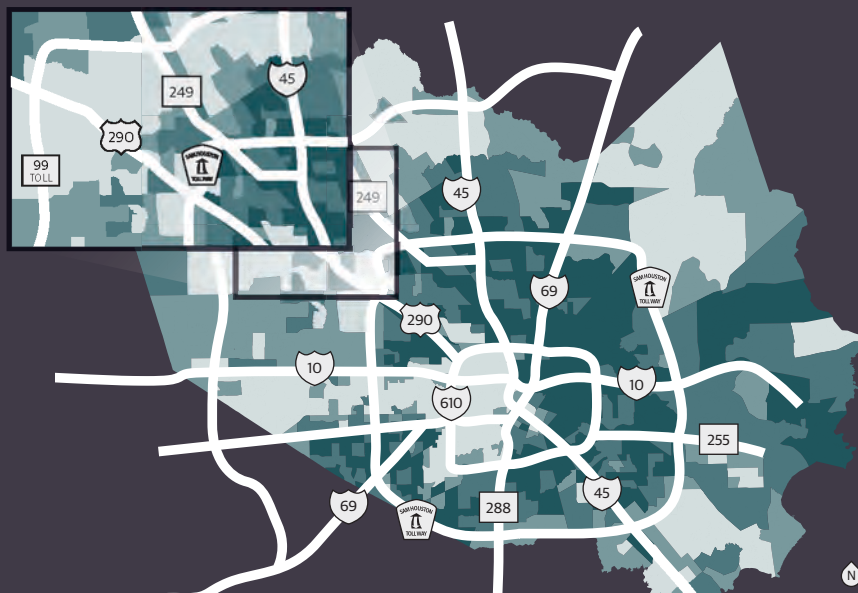
Rated based on various factors, including poverty, lack of access to transportation and crowded housing

Least vulnerable

Most vulnerable

0-0.25 0.25-0.5 0.5-0.75 0.75-0.99

CY-FAIR AREA



Officials involved in the launch of the Harris County Department of Equity and Economic Opportunity said an unhealthy economy can lead to a decline in physical health within a community.

SOURCE: HARRIS CARES 2020/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Average life expectancy

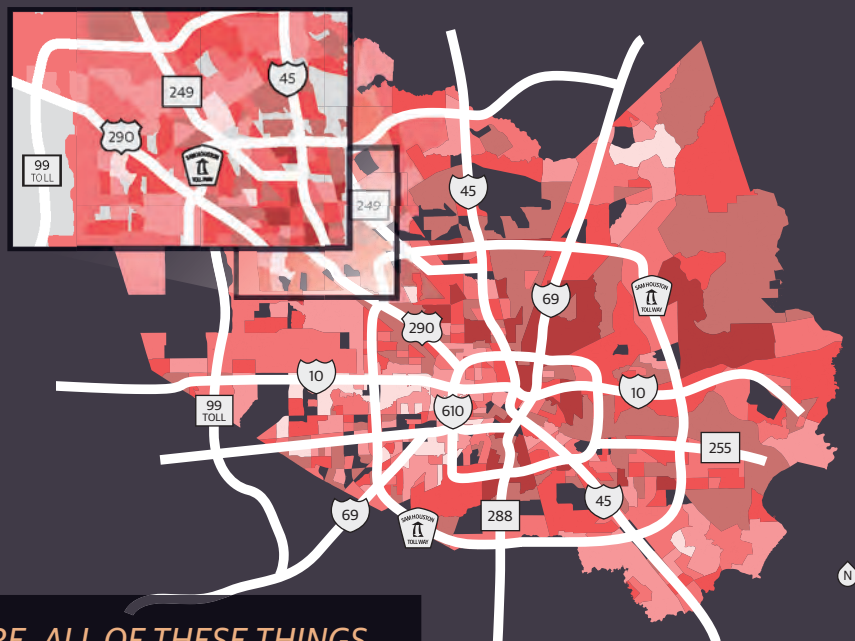
The average year at which people are expected to live within each U.S. Census Bureau tract in Harris County

Least healthy

Most healthy

0-73 73-76 76-78.2 78.2-80.3 80.3-83.1 83.1-89.1

CY-FAIR AREA



"BETTER JOBS HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE. ALL OF THESE THINGS THEN ALIGN AND POINT TOWARDS IMPROVED HEALTH AND LIFE EXPECTANCY."

HEIDI MCPHERSON, SENIOR COMMUNITY HEALTH DIRECTOR, AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION IN HOUSTON

CONTINUED FROM 1

that help business owners, individual workers and job seekers, officials said. In its first year, the focus will fall on the county's own contracting process.

"Sometimes it feels the county is more passive than proactive," Legette said. "We're hoping to see a more proactive engagement and innovative policies and programs to address economic disparities and cure historic disinvestment."

Two additional studies are also underway this year—one in transportation and one in public health—that are meant to further guide how equity can be incorporated into those areas. The public health study will ultimately yield a strategic plan for the county for how it can better bring health care to underserved communities.

The transportation study, slated to be released this summer, is meant to ensure communities are not overlooked for mobility investments. Tom Ramsey, who took over as Precinct 3 commissioner in January after being elected in November, said the county can do better than it has in the past.

"Why should the roads in one area be a lot worse than the roads in other areas?" he said. "Here's the answer: It's a choice. Somebody made the choice that the streets in one neighborhood are worse than the streets in another, and we can do better than that."

Entrenched discrimination

In 2018, the Harris County Commissioners Court approved a study into disparities in the way the county selects firms to contract with on projects. Conducted by the consulting firm Colette Holt & Associates, the study showed the county could be functioning as a passive participant in marketplace discrimination.

The study examined 478 contracts worth about \$1.26 billion, including 1,433 subcontracts worth about \$280.49 million approved by the county between the 2015-16 fiscal year and the first quarter of 2019. Although roughly 71.6% of business enterprises in the market for county contracts are "non-M/WBEs"—a term that refers to any business that is not owned by a minority or woman—about 90.9% of the county's contracting dollars went

to those firms.

Only 9.1% of county dollars went to minority and women businesses enterprises, including only 0.5% to Black-owned businesses, the study found. The county's dealings with non-M/WBEs yielded a disparity ratio—which measures the use of businesses divided by their availability—of 32%, according to the study. Any ratio below 80% can be evidence of discrimination, lead researcher Colette Holt said.

"A very lower ratio suggests entrenched discriminatory barriers," Holt said in an October presentation. "Thirty-two percent is very, very low."

One of the stakeholders to offer input during the planning process was the Texas Gulf Coast AFLCIO.

Linda Morales, an organizing coordinator with the group, said she was excited to see equity placed at the center of economic development for labor, which she said would ideally connect vulnerable groups to jobs that offer livable wages and growth opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic made the disparities within the county even more acute, she said.

"With COVID, communities of color have been hit hard," she said. "We want to make sure these communities are prospects for upward mobility, for some good jobs and jobs that might have training programs."

An estimated 84 disadvantaged business enterprises, 172 minority business enterprises and 94 women business enterprises are in operation across the seven ZIP codes that make up the Cy-Fair area: 77040, 77064, 77065, 77070, 77095, 77429 and 77433.

The data, which comes from a directory maintained by the city of Houston, includes firms that could stand to benefit from the new county initiative, including construction, engineering and consulting.

The woman-owned traffic and transportation engineering firm Stevens Technical is among them. Headquartered on FM 529, it was founded in 2010 by Roma and Charles Stevens.

Charles, who serves as principal and CEO, said the firm has met with Ramsey, who encouraged them to have all their paperwork in order.

"I think it will be a positive for my engineering firm," he said. "We're excited about it."

Stevens Technical has worked with Harris County on contracts in the past,

and also has prime contracts with the Texas Department of Transportation, Charles said. With the new program in place, he said his firm will get more of a chance to show its expertise. He said he expects talent to prevail in the county's decision-making process.

"They want to work with people who know what they're doing," he said.

Years in the making

The Harris County Commissioners Court first ordered the new department to be created in January 2019. The office will be headed by Pamela Chan, who was appointed in November.

From that time on, officials hosted meetings with community members and studied similar departments in other cities, Legette said.

In its first year, department leaders said they expect to focus on relationship development with communities, local businesses and M/W/DBEs. In the longer term, work could expand to include bringing more economic opportunity to individual workers, entrepreneurs and job seekers in underserved areas.

"In a county as big as Harris, things vary from region to region and from precinct to precinct," Legette said. "The priorities and the needs are probably going to look a little different."

Morales said it will be crucial for the new office to set clear goals and be transparent with the public in how well it meets those goals.

"You have to have the proof in the pudding," she said. "So many things have been done in the past that sounded pretty, but there was no result. We want to see results with this."

Economic health, physical health

Efforts to improve economic opportunity in disadvantaged communities can have direct effects on physical health as well, said Heidi McPherson,

the senior community health director with the American Heart Association in Houston.

The AHA branch worked closely with the Precinct 1 office in setting the groundwork for the launch of the new department. Any work that involves raising incomes and promoting career development is aligned with the AHA mission of ending chronic disease, she said.

"We know that if you can develop the capacity to be productive, people will have better jobs," she said. "Better jobs have better access to health care. All of these things then align and point towards improved health and life expectancy."

McPherson, who also co-leads the Greater Houston Coalition on the Social Determinants of Health, said she expects to see the conversation on equity in health care become even more of a focus in 2021, with more than 120 organizations working toward systemic solutions.

"We're doing that by addressing the social drivers of health outcomes," she said. "When you break that down, that's things like nutritional security, housing security. At the root of those is income and poverty."

Life expectancy rates across Harris County vary widely, with more socially vulnerable areas in east Houston in the 65-69 range and wealthier areas such as River Oaks in the 80-90 range, according to a 2020 study released by the Harris County Public Health Department.

The disparities exist in Cy-Fair as well but are less pronounced. The outer ranges of Cy-Fair, where social vulnerability is lower, have a life expectancy range between 80-84, while the areas around FM 1960 and Willowbrook range from 70-79.

Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, the CEO of the Harris Health System, said an update on that report will be provided to

Setting the goals

Officials with the Department of Equity and Economic Opportunity laid out a timeline at a January budget hearing, though some plans may be adjusted.

Year 1 (2021) budget request: \$3.8 million

YEAR 1
YEAR 2
YEAR 3

Inclusive contracts

Begin outreach and relationship development with M/W/DBEs

Inclusive business

Hire director, begin outreach to other small businesses

Inclusive business

Hire economic development manager

Inclusive workforce

Outreach to workers, job seekers

Inclusive business

Outreach to tourism and real estate, entrepreneurs, startups and financial services industries

Equity partnerships

Community engagement to spread awareness of opportunities

Equity impact

Work on policies to further economic opportunity, develop success metrics, future planning

Equity partnerships

Hire community engagement coordinators, online media team

Inclusive workforce

Development of employee workforce, gig and independent workforce, and job seeker programs

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Harris County commissioners in March. The county is looking into how to expand services in high-need areas, he said.

"The emphasis is really going to be on taking the care to the community," he said. "Part of that is looking at our community clinic infrastructure. Are we in the right places? Are there opportunities in some of the geographies where we should be but currently are not?"

Part of the challenge is that each community has different needs, McPherson said. A community's needs can range from the need for healthy food to access to purified drinking water in schools to access to hike and bike trails.

"The need is great, [but] the

Across seven ZIP codes that make up the Cy-Fair area, there are:

84
disadvantaged business enterprises

172
minority business enterprises

94
women business enterprises

SOURCE: CITY OF HOUSTON OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

opportunity is great," she said. "It feels like collectively across the Greater Houston area, we really do have the opportunity to lead the nation."



For more information, visit communityimpact.com.

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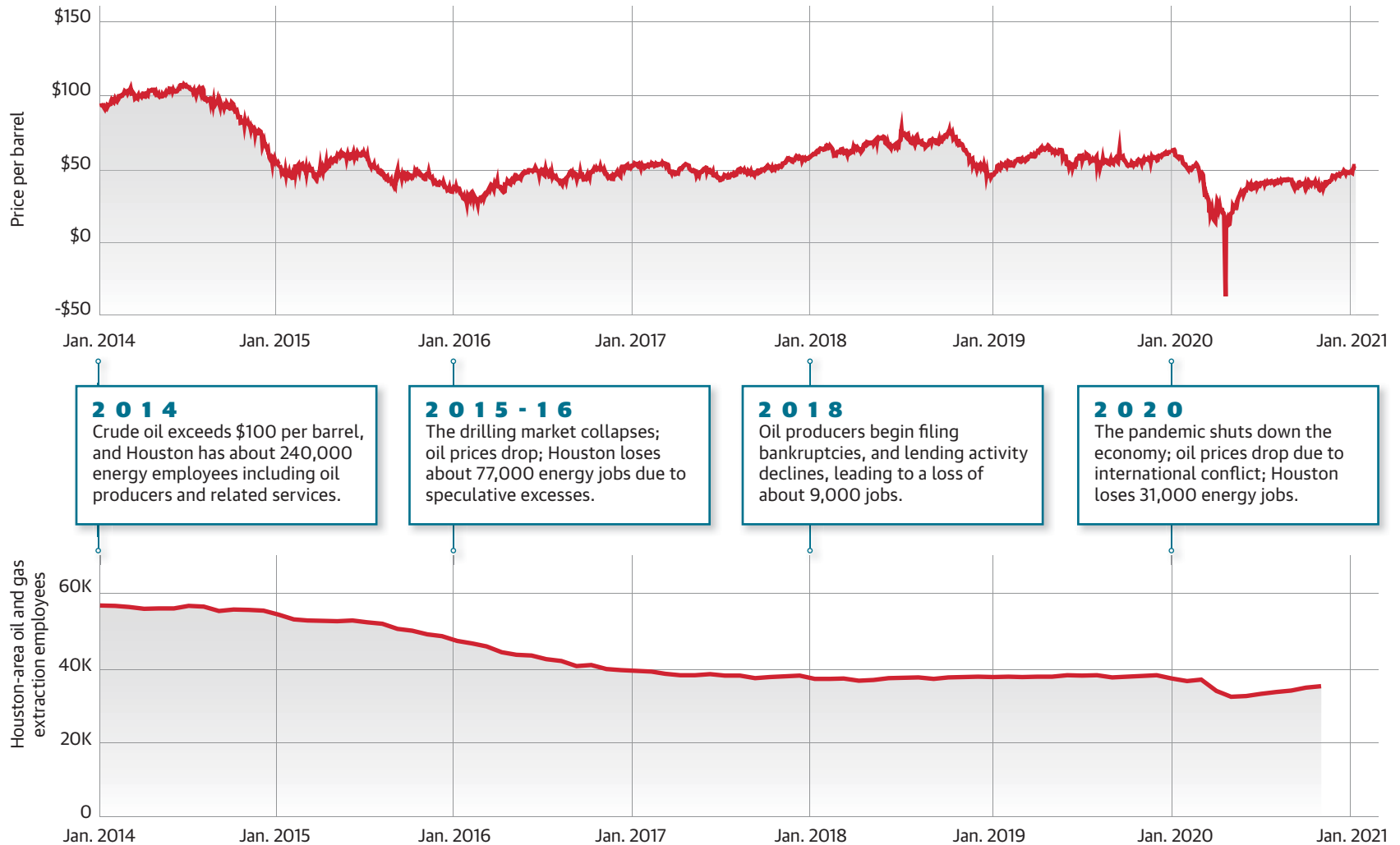
A volatile market

Houston economy expert Bill Gilmer explained several fluctuations in the region's oil and gas industry since its most recent peak in 2014.

SOURCES: BILL GILMER, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON'S BAUER INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL FORECASTING, U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS, U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

CRUDE OIL SALES

OIL & GAS EMPLOYMENT



CONTINUED FROM 1

prices had not yet reached pre-pandemic levels, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Houston is down 31,000 energy jobs since the second quarter of 2019, said Bill Gilmer, the director of the University of Houston's Bauer Institute for Regional Forecasting.

"We're going to see the economy begin to recover and things begin to go back to some semblance of normality," Gilmer said. "But the oil piece of this continues on for a while because it's tied to the global economy."

While the industry has been hit hard in the last year, Gilmer said it has been "six years of bad news" when it comes to the volatility of the upstream oil sector.

Advances in technology during that time have led to more efficient ways to extract, sell and store oil, said Dustin Bell, the head of mineral acquisitions and business development at an energy investment company that launched in Cypress last February called Allegiance Oil & Gas.

Local energy professionals expressed concerns about potential government regulations holding the industry back or forcing change too quickly as President Joe Biden's administration sets sights on cleaner-energy initiatives.

"I think it's always smart for us to prepare for ... more restrictions in drilling and more laws coming down that could make it a little tougher," Bell said.

Industry snapshot

Around the same time demand for oil began to drop when the pandemic hit Houston, Saudi Arabia initiated an oil price war with Russia after Russian officials refused to reduce oil production to maintain reasonable prices. Oil hit a historic low of -\$37.63 per barrel April 20, according to the Nasdaq stock exchange—a result of the expiration of oil futures contracts, *Community Impact Newspaper* reported.

"Sure, the pandemic had a lot of negative effects to [the industry], but not as much as Russia and Saudi Arabia playing with oil prices. That's what

really messed with the market," Bell said. "I think the goal is to get comfortable with the cyclical side of the market ... and that's just kind of a roller-coaster ride."

Gilmer said the industry peaked in 2014 with about 240,000 Houstonians employed in energy—including oil producers, oil field services, machinery and fabricated metals sectors—about the same size of Houston's energy workforce in the early 1980s.

But this was "a bubble just waiting to burst," and over the course of 2015-16, the region lost about 77,000 energy jobs, he said. He said this helped right-size the industry, with about 50,000 of those jobs never being recovered.

Until around 2018, Gilmer said oil and gas executives had a growth stock mentality, meaning they would invest money from stock sales back into the company with no intention of offering dividends. Now, the industry is seen more as a value stock—a slow-growing company that must offer significant dividends to attract investors.

State Rep. Mike Schofield, R-Katy, whose district starts just west of the

Energy Corridor in Katy and covers parts of Cypress, said while oil and gas may not be as dominant locally as it once was, fluctuations in the industry have a domino effect on other sectors of the economy because it still supplies so many local jobs.

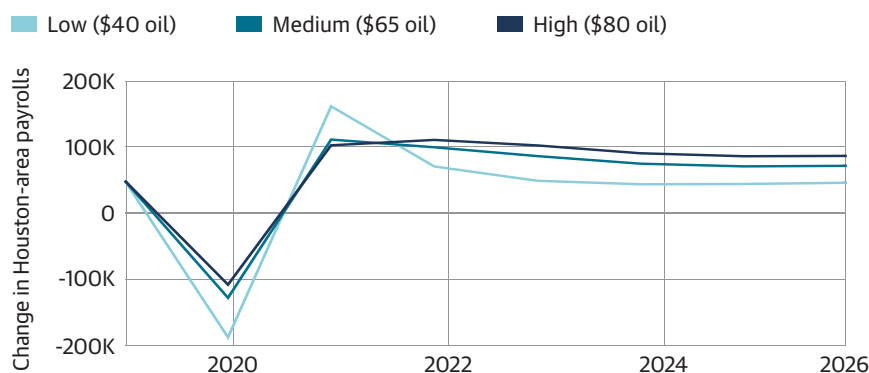
"You cannot damage the oil and gas industry without severely damaging the families that live here," Schofield said. "In my district anyway, when I knocked on doors, it was a bipartisan concern. ... Everybody either was affected by it personally or their family was or their neighbors were."

Major oil and gas companies based in the region laid off thousands of employees throughout 2020, including Chevron, which acquired north-west Houston-based Noble Energy in October and announced plans to lay off 25% of the staff. ExxonMobil also announced staff reduction plans last fall that would affect 1,900 employees—most of which were in Houston-based management offices, officials said in a statement.

Patrick Jankowski, senior vice president of research at the Greater

Road to recovery

Gilmer's projections for regional employment growth depend on the price of oil, with three scenarios ranging from \$40 per barrel to \$80 per barrel. Data below shows projections of payroll employment changes between the fourth quarter of each year and the previous fourth quarter.



SOURCE: BILL GILMER, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON'S BAUER INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL FORECASTING/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Strategies for survival

Oil field researchers said in light of recent changes in the oil market, the industry must make certain changes to remain competitive and profitable.

1

Reorganize and restructure for savings.

2

Use remote technology to reduce in-person costs.

3

Use digital technology for long-term sustainability.

SOURCE: KIMBERLITE INTERNATIONAL OILFIELD RESEARCH/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Houston Partnership, said he projects the region will continue to lose 2,000-5,000 energy jobs in 2021. He said layoffs typically occur in the first quarter of the year, but prospects could improve with the economy.

"We're not going to rebound like we have in the past," Jankowski said of the oil and gas industry, citing industry-wide permanent restructuring.

Local implications

Arnold Gacita, who works in the less-volatile automotive chemical side of the oil industry, said his Cypress-based company, Petra Oil Co., was hit hard at the start of the pandemic.

"[In] March and April, the

automotive industry took a hit as the pandemic got here and as the lockdowns began. ... People were staying home; nobody was driving," he said.

The company pivoted to producing hand sanitizer—resulting in higher revenue last May through July than was brought in the previous year, Gacita said.

Petra Oil Co. distributes to 36 countries, so while business in the U.S. started picking up in May, the international side of the business continues to struggle as other countries have shut down even essential operations.

"I think we're going to overcome this pandemic if we do the right things in the next few months," Gacita said. "I

would say more concerning to the oil and gas [industry] is probably politics. If we're already struggling and the pandemic has already lowered revenues ... the [last] thing you want is some politician making rules that your business has to change."

State Rep. Jon Rosenthal, D-Houston, said a significant portion of his constituents in Cy-Fair and Jersey Village work in energy, and he previously designed equipment manufacturing systems for oil and gas companies.

He said oil demand has picked up slightly since the start of the pandemic, but as local businesses continue remote operations, oil rig counts are still lower than what Houston has seen in the past. According to data from Baker Hughes, the average number of running rotary rigs in the Houston region dropped from 56 in January 2014 to 12 in January 2020 and was at two this January.

Rosenthal said revitalizing the industry will mean branching into renewable energy sources. He is working on legislation that would expand Texas' energy industrial base through incentive programs similar to ones proven in neighboring states.

"Adding [renewable and green energy] to what we do will help us revitalize our energy industry in Texas and especially in Houston, where some of these higher-level trained professionals are having difficulty finding work in their chosen profession," he said.

Looking ahead

While industry leaders are bracing for increased regulations from the federal government, Bell said most oil companies want to innovate to operate in a way that is cleaner and safer.

"They're not just a bunch of careless folks out in the field just drilling holes in the ground and not caring," he said. "They're doing their best to make this better for the environment—clean

drilling, no spills [or] accidents."

Biden issued an executive order Jan. 27 that halted new oil and gas leases on public lands and waters and called for the review of existing permits for fossil fuel development as part of his plan to tackle climate change. The next day, U.S. House District 2, Republican Rep. Dan Crenshaw introduced a bill that would override the president's order if passed into law and ensure oil producers retain access to energy reservoirs in the Outer Continental Shelf.

"Undermining Texas energy jobs and American energy independence appears to be a top priority of the Biden-Harris White House, and the administration is showing little regard to the livelihoods of blue-collar workers who are already struggling during this pandemic," he said in a statement.

David Bat, the president of Kimberlite, an international oil field research and consulting group, said oil consumption should be back to where it was before the pandemic by 2022, and Gilmer said the price of oil should return to \$65 per barrel by that time.

In the meantime, Bat said strategies for companies to survive the pandemic have been to reorganize to bring revenues and expenditures in line and to invest more in remote operations and digital technology.

"Generally speaking in the oil and gas industry, being able to accomplish more with less has been the mantra," he said. "The oil and gas industry has always come through the most painful of times. And as painful as the adjustments are, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, and that's certainly been true for the oil and gas industry over the decades."

Vanessa Holt and Ben Thompson contributed to this report.



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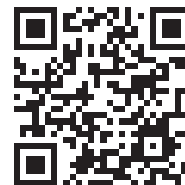
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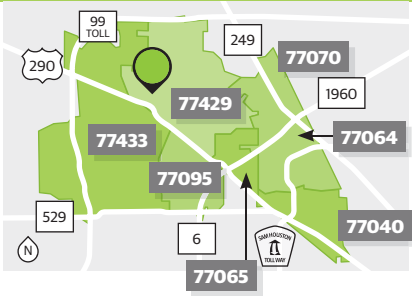
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PARK CREEK, 77429

Park Creek is a neighborhood of 560 single-family homes located off Huffmeister and Barker Cypress roads. The community is zoned to Cy-Fair ISD schools, and several local parks, retail and dining options are located nearby.



Median home value
\$212,543

Homes on the market*
0

Homes under contract
1

Median annual property taxes
\$6,015

Median price per square foot
\$106.07

Average days on the market*
29

Build-out year: 2009
Square footage: 1,449-3,062
Home values: \$196,000-\$275,000
HOA dues (estimated): \$550 annually
Schools: Cy-Fair ISD (Black Elementary School, Goodson Middle School, Cypress Woods High School)
Property taxes (in dollars):
Lone Star College System 0.11
Harris County 0.41
Harris Co. Dept. of Education 0.01
Harris Co. ESD No. 9 0.06
Harris Co. Flood Control District 0.03
Harris Co. Hospital District 0.17
Cy-Fair ISD 1.37
Port of Houston Authority 0.01
NW Harris Co. MUD No. 10 0.66
Total (per \$100 valuation) 2.83

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



*AS OF JAN. 1

MARKET DATA FOR DECEMBER

HOMES SOLD/AVERAGE DAYS ON THE MARKET

	77040	77064	77065	77070	77095	77429	77433
\$1 million +	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/42
\$800,000-\$999,999	-	-	-	-	-	1/69	2/61
\$600,000-\$799,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	15/80
\$500,000-\$599,999	-	-	-	-	1/520	4/44	25/31
\$400,000-\$499,999	4/9	2/20	1/5	1/3	3/9	11/143	22/62
\$300,000-\$399,999	6/38	5/23	4/54	9/8	13/74	16/37	73/44
\$200,000-\$299,999	14/37	12/12	9/25	44/33	62/29	33/30	59/16
\$150,000-\$199,999	8/21	10/38	6/8	6/13	3/5	63/21	9/3
\$149,999 or under	2/2	2/8	-	2/24	2/12	3/9	3/6

Recently sold homes in Park Creek



15506 Wedgewood Park, Cypress
3 bed/2 bath 1,874 sq. ft.
Sold for \$215,001-\$250,000 on Oct. 19



16907 Ranger Ridge Drive, Cypress
4 bed/3.5 bath 2,473 sq. ft.
Sold for \$250,001-\$285,000 on Dec. 10

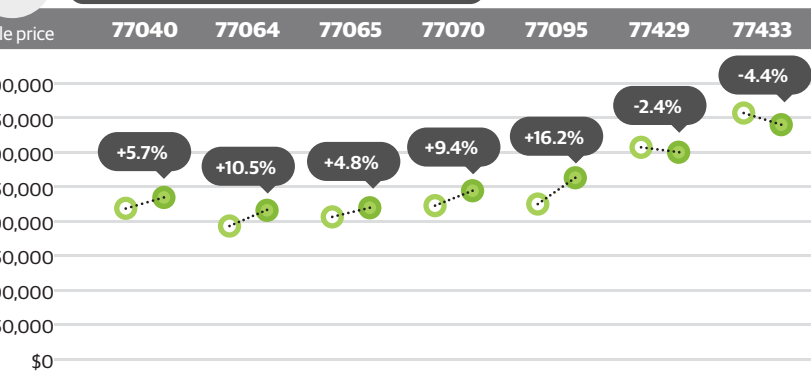


16715 Promenade Park, Cypress
3 bed/2.5 bath 1,832 sq. ft.
Sold for \$215,001-\$250,000 on Nov. 20



16902 Green Star Lane, Cypress
4 bed/2.5 bath 3,062 sq. ft.
Sold for \$250,001-\$285,000 on Oct. 14

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WITH YEAR-OVER-YEAR PERCENTAGE CHANGE



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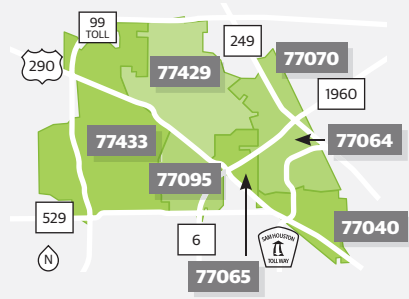


LAKEWOOD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11330 Louetta Road, Houston, TX 77070
281.370.2272

www.lakewoodumc.org

LIVE-STREAM
SUNDAYS
9:30am Traditional
10:50am New Song Contemporary



CY-FAIR JANUARY 2021

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DATA

Vacancy rates in Cy-Fair's industrial sector continued to rise at the start of 2021, hitting 15% as of Jan. 28. Construction has also slowed down on industrial projects while rents are still up since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

TOTAL SQUARE FEET OF SPACE

Q1 2020 As of Jan. 28

OFFICE

10.5 M
10.5 M

INDUSTRIAL

38.9 M
36.9 M

RETAIL

19.6 M
19.9 M

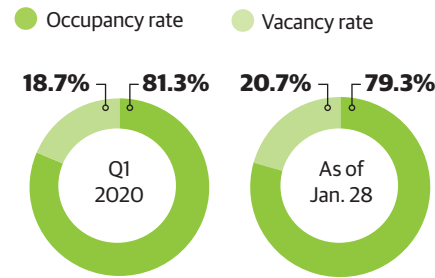


MARKET DATA PROVIDED BY CALDWELL COS.
7904 N. SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY, FOURTH FLOOR
HOUSTON, TX 77064
COLLEGE STATION | HOUSTON | THE WOODLANDS

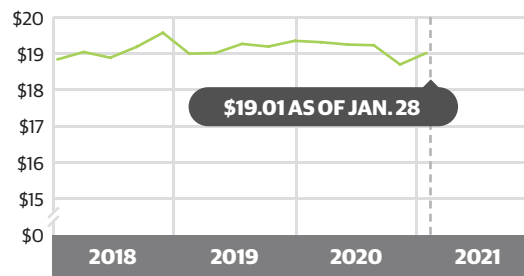
Although every effort has been made to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of this real estate data, Community Impact Newspaper assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

OFFICE

OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY



RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



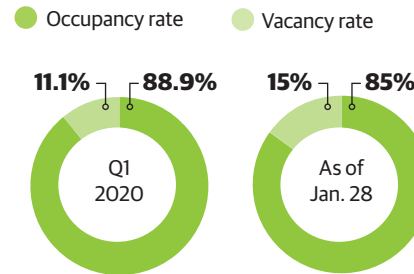
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

208,374 square feet

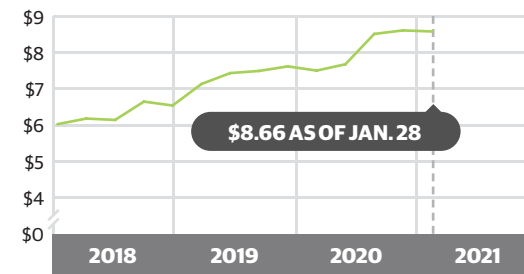
3 buildings

INDUSTRIAL

OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY



RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



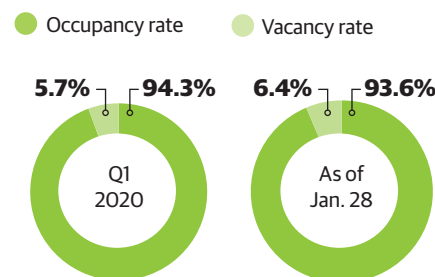
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

617,954 square feet

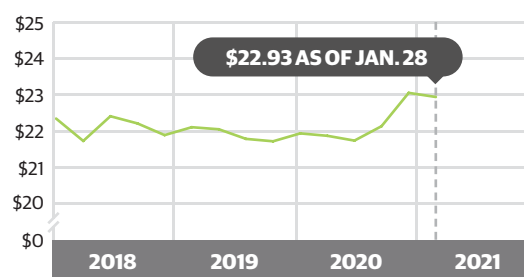
5 buildings

RETAIL

OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY



RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

143,471 square feet

8 buildings



OFFICE CONDOS FOR SALE IN TOWNE LAKE

Take advantage of low interest rates and invest in your office today! Creekstone Office Condos offer the perfect opportunity to own office space in Towne Lake. Ideal for medical, lawyer or professional services, these spectacular office condos are fully fit for your business needs and just a stone's throw from tremendous restaurants and shopping at The Boardwalk.

CREEKSTONE
OFFICE CONDOS
at Towne Lake

10242 Greenhouse Road | Cypress, TX 77433 | CreekstoneOfficeCondos.com | 281.664.6636

IMPACT DEALS

CONNECT TO SAVINGS ON THE GO WHILE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AT [COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM/DEALS](https://communityimpact.com/deals).



NOW OPEN

FOR ZIP-LINING THRILLS



Geronimo Adventure Park opened in October 2020, and what a ride it has been!

In 2018 two moms put their heads together and imagined a great place in the greater Houston area where people could get outside and have a grand adventure! So say "Geronimo!" and jump into fun!

ZIPLINING

3 unique zipline skytrails:

GO EASY with five ziplines and 3 bridges!

GO LONG with the ziplines, bridges, and an aerial park with 9 unique challenge elements and a 555-foot dual zip finale where you can race to the end with a friend!

GO HIGH with the ziplines, bridges, plus a 42-foot simulated free fall experience!"



AXE THROWING

Our newest attraction, Axe Throwing, is opening February 1st. Our outdoor regulation lanes are perfect for everyone from beginners to seasoned competitors!



HUMAN BUMPER BALLS

Round out and bump up your experience as you bounce your way across a field and bowl your friends over in our human bumper balls!



GO PLAY

Come conquer our Ninja obstacle course / get your giggle on our giant seesaw / race for rings across the log jam / battle at box hockey, tetherball, gaga ball, and much more!



Or... find your zen in a hammock or swing under the trees around the park.

You are welcome to bring your own food to enjoy at our picnic tables around the park or rent one of our fire pits and have a cookout!

BOOK YOUR EVENTS, PARTIES, AND TEAM BUILDING NOW!

10% OFF
ANY ZIPLINE PURCHASE!

ENTER CODE **LUVCYF** WHEN BOOKING! EXP 3/31/21

6749 FM 2920 (DOWN LEE RD.),
SPRING, TX 77379

www.GeronimoZip.com
1-830-365-JUMP (5867)



- ✓ 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.



WE ARE OPEN



Floyds
Cajun Seafood
& Oyster Bar

- LARGE PATIO
- CATERING AVAILABLE
- PRIVATE ROOM AVAILABLE

\$10 OFF
PURCHASE OF \$45
DISCOUNT DOES NOT APPLY TO CRAWFISH. MUST PRESENT COUPON TO REDEEM, CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS, DINE-IN ONLY EXPIRES 3/7/21

\$9.95
DOZEN RAW OYSTERS
DINE-IN ONLY

\$9.95
DOZEN BOILED SHRIMP
DINE-IN ONLY

A 38 YEAR HOUSTON TRADITION

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Coming Soon!

Celebrate MARDI GRAS
AT FLOYDS.
FEBRUARY 16TH
LIVE MUSIC
FREE KING CAKE
(DINE-IN ONLY, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

832-653-6830
27126 HWY 290 Exit Mueschke
(both ways & next to Bucees)

Jersey Meadow Golf Club

Owned and Operated by the City of Jersey Village



**WE ARE THE NEW JERSEY MEADOW
WE ARE A CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE**

PERFECT GREENS	AMAZING SHORT GAME AREA
GREAT FAIRWAYS	SUPER PRO SHOP PRICES
BEST SAND BUNKERS	AFFORDABLE JUNIOR MEMBERSHIPS
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WWW.JERSEYMEADOW.COM

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• Allergies • Mold
• Mildew • Dust mites

SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY **WE'RE PREPARED & EQUIPPED TO SAFELY HANDLE YOUR CLEANING NEEDS**

AIR DUCT CLEANING



We open, brush & vacuum each vent and clean all the way to the main unit.
Up to 10 vents.

\$88

CARPET CLEANING

Truck Mounted 100% Natural & Organic Solutions

3 ROOMS	5 ROOMS	7 ROOMS
\$109	\$179	\$229

Includes: Softener & Deodorizer

An area defined as a room, hall, bath, landing or walk-in closet. Rooms over 200 sq. ft. considered multiple rooms. Prices vary for special fabrics, loose back cushions, wool, oriental carpet, and special services. Carpet protector and pet enzyme are each available at added cost.

100% Organic Cleaning Products

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You Need Fresh Air

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Locally Owned & Operated
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2 Mockingbird Circle, Houston, TX 77074

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Units



DRYER VENT CLEANING

Side Exit

\$150

Roof Exit \$200

TILE & GROUT CLEANING

85¢

PER SQUARE FOOT

Some Restrictions May Apply.

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa and Loveseat
INCLUDES SOFTENER

\$197

Some Restrictions May Apply.

Valid on single furnace homes only. Returns are additional. Extra charges may apply for homes with furnaces that are not easily accessible. An area defined as a room, hall, bath, landing or walk-in closet. Combination areas over 200 sq. ft. are considered multiple areas. Prices vary for special fabrics, loose back cushions, wool, oriental carpet, and special services. Carpet protector and pet enzyme are each available at added cost.

Additional 5% OFF
For Veterans & Senior Citizens

Serving Texas for 20 Years! Houston • Dallas • Austin • San Antonio



SHOW HIM SOME LOVE
THIS VALENTINE'S DAY



10% OFF
GIFT CARDS

PURCHASES FOR \$100 OR MORE
(Valid 2/1 - 2/28 only)

HAIRCUTS | SHAVES | HAND & FOOT GROOMING



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hammerandnailsgrooming.com

281-895-1045

LIFE IS SHORT  MAKE IT SWEET



WARM, GOOEY GOODNESS

KETO FREE/GLUTEN FREE/DAIRY FREE/GRAIN FREE/PALEO AVAILABLE

LOCALLY OWNED

DELIVERY AVAILABLE UP TO 10PM

HALF BAKED
GOODNESS

50% OFF
Cookie Box of Your Choice!

IN-STORE ONLY, ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER.
EXPIRES 2/28/21.

63326 MUESCHKE RD STE E-10
CYPRESS, TX 77433

STORE HOURS: 11AM-9PM MON-THURS AND 11AM-10PM FRI AND SAT

(346) 332-2227 • halfbakedgoodness.com



10609 Grant Road
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www.sotoscantina.com
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Large Variety of
Margaritas &
Mexican Beer
Available Every Day!

Monday-Thursday	11 am - 9:30 pm
Friday	11 am - 10:30 pm,
Saturday	9 am - 10:30 pm,
Valentine's Day 2/14	Noon - 8pm




FRESH MEXICAN

Authentic Cochinita Pibil from Yucatan Mexico.
Available Friday 2/12 - Sunday 2/14 only. Reservations available.

**Buy One Entree,
Second Entree is
\$7 OFF**

Valid only Monday-Thursday & Saturday for lunch or dinner. Limit 1 per transaction. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Dine in Only. Excludes Cochinita Pibil.
Expires 03/08/2021

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



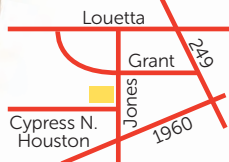
Custard is better!



50% OFF

Buy any item* and get the second item at 50% off

*Any item except pints, quarts, pies and brownies and get the second item of equal or less value at 50% off. Discounted item must be purchased at time of regular priced item. One coupon per visit. Offer expires 3/15/21



**Sundaes * Shakes * Malts * Concretes
Take-out Pints & Quarts**

Creamier & Smoother than ice cream!

Connie's Frozen Custard

12545 Jones Rd. • 281-469-3444

www.conniesfrozenscustard.com



BUY ONE ENTREE GET ONE FREE

VALID FOR DINE-IN ONLY. VALID EVERY DAY.
MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS.
MAX VALUE \$10.

Panaderia
OPENING
THIS MONTH!



25250 NORTHWEST FWY | CYPRESS, TX 77429

WWW.TITOS-CANTINA.COM | (832) 653-6777

10% OFF YOUR FIRST ONLINE ORDER!

Order on: bluewaterseafoodonline.com

QUICK & EASY CURBSIDE PICK-UP FOR ALL YOUR FAVORITE BLUEWATER SEAFOOD DISHES!



BLUEWATER SEAFOOD

FREE APPETIZER

(max Value 6.99) With purchase of entree and beverage. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
(Coupon Code: Community Impact) Expires 3/31/2021

1960/290

12914 FM 1960 W
Houston, TX 77065
(281) 894-9221

2920 SPRING

4921 FM 2920 RD
Spring, TX 77388
(281) 288-9222

CHAMPIONS

6107 FM 1960 W
Houston, TX 77069
(281) 895-9222

FREE ANDOUILLE SAUSAGE

ENJOY A SIDE OF ANDOUILLE SAUSAGE
WITH THE PURCHASE OF 3 OR MORE
LBS. OF BOILED CRAWFISH
Dine in only. Can not be combined
with other offers. One coupon
per visit. Max value \$4.99



AiriRamen

NOW OPEN

Featuring our traditional Japanese Chef

VALENTINE'S SPECIAL
\$39.99

INCLUDES: CHOICE 2 ENTREES (RAMEN OR POKE),
1 SMALL BITES (2 SPRING ROLL AND 2 CRAB PUFF),
AND 2 DRINKS
(OFFER GOOD FEBRUARY 12-14, 2021)

Sunday - Thursday 11am - 10pm | Friday - Saturday 11am - 11pm
28404 US-290, Ste. G19, Cypress, TX 77433
(832) 653-7786 | AiriRamen.com




20% OFF
YOUR PURCHASE

COUPON VALID THRU 3/8/21
CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT OR COUPON.

POPULAR TOYS • DESIGNER CLOTHING
BOOKS • FURNITURE AND MORE!

DROP OFF LOCATION: 11302 HUFFMEISTER HOUSTON, TX 77065

ANGELS' ATTIC RESALE
Benefiting Cypress Assistance Ministries

MON - SAT
10 AM - 6 PM
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11202 HUFFMEISTER, HOUSTON, TX 77065 • WWW.CYPRESSASSISTANCE.ORG

The Kennel Klub

PEOPLE TRUST US, PETS LOVE US.

BOARDING | TRAINING | GROOMING | DOGGIE DAY CARE | DAY BOARDING



Family owned & operated.
Our family taking care of your family!

\$8 OFF
Pet Grooming Services
Offer may not be combined with any other offers. One per family. Exp: 3/8/21

20% OFF
any doggie daycare package
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Hours: M-F 7-7, SAT 9-6, SUN 10-6, Kennel.Klub@yahoo.com
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4 3 6 4




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Sip With A Purpose

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7520 CHERRY PARK DR. SUITE A-1, HOUSTON TX 77095

 @RUGIDGRINDCOFFEE  @RUGIDGRINDCOFFEE

CRAWFISH SEASON IS HERE!

CALL THE RESTAURANT TO CHECK AVAILABILITY



KIDS STILL EAT
FREE ALL DAY
WEDNESDAYS!

**BUY ONE
ENTREE
GET ONE
½ OFF!**

(With purchase of two beverages. Up to \$8 value.) One offer per table. Not to be combined with any other offer. Dine-In Only. Expires 3/8/2021

SIGN UP FOR
OUR E-CLUB



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CREEKWOODGRILL.COM



**ALL DRAFT BEER HALF PRICE
ALL DAY TUESDAY!**

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**DINE IN OPEN!
COME SEE US!**

MARGARITAS TO-GO

WITH FOOD PURCHASE; AVAILABLE ONLY
DURING QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

SUN - THUR 11 - 9 | FRI & SAT 11 - 10

CARRYOUT & TO-GO AVAILABLE

**\$5 OFF
\$20**

CANNOT BE COMBINED
WITH OTHER OFFERS.

FREE

CHILI CON QUESO

WITH PURCHASE, CANNOT
BE COMBINED WITH
OTHER OFFERS.

MIXED FAJITAS FOR 4

TO-GO \$49.95

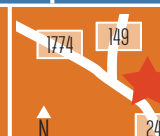
WITH 2 MARGARITAS

KID'S EAT FREE WEDNESDAYS!

WITH PURCHASE OF ADULT ENTREE



12015 PERRY RD.
HOUSTON, 77070
281-890-6200



34616 SH 249
PINEHURST, 77362
281-259-1000



THE STATION

s e a f o o d c o.

GET IT DELIVERED WITH DOORDASH
(RESTRICTIONS APPLY) CONTACT STORE FOR DETAILS

**HAPPY
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**

FROM THE STATION
SEAFOOD FAMILY

**IT'S A GREAT DAY
TO EAT AT THE STATION**

ORDER ONLINE NOW AT ILOVETHESTATION.COM

**FREE SIDE
WITH ANY ONLINE
PURCHASE OF \$10 OR MORE.**

ONE PER PERSON. NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER
OFFER. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. EXPIRES 3/7/21

**FREE SIDE AND A
BREAD PUDDING
WITH A FAMILY DINNER PURCHASE.**

ONE PER PERSON. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.
SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. EXPIRES 3/7/21

9522 Huffmeister Rd #500
Houston TX 77095
(832) 427-6380

5627 Aldine Bender Dr.
Houston TX 77095
(281) 741-4338

GET AN ESTIMATE WITHOUT LEAVING THE HOUSE

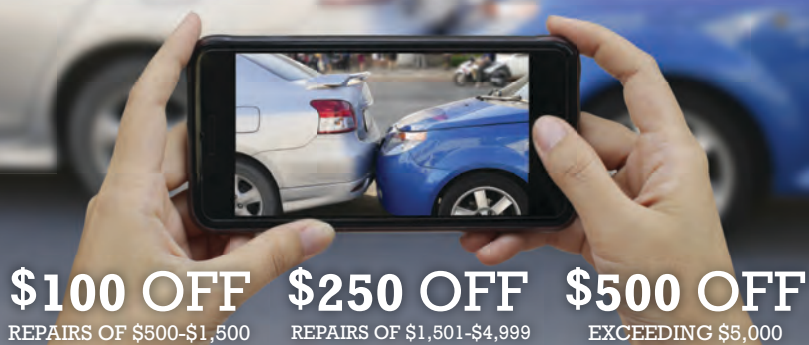
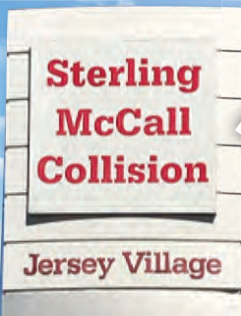


PHOTO ESTIMATES NOW AVAILABLE

Hold your smart phone over the QR code to get started!

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AVAILABLE FOR
QUALIFYING REPAIRS



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Hailey's ITALIAN RESTAURANT

FALL IN LOVE WITH US

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GET ONE
1/2 OFF
WITH PURCHASE
OF 2 DRINKS

Please mention this coupon when
placing your order. Not valid with any
other offers. Expires 3/8/21

15% Off When
You Order Online!
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HOUSTON'S ULTIMATE BINGO EXPERIENCE

OVER \$5,000 CASH PAID DAILY | SMOKE FREE | KIDS 7+ WELCOME
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290 LOCATION

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current playing schedule

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@TripleCrownBingoVFW290

EVENING BINGO

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PLAYING TUE, THUR, FRI, SAT
EARLY BIRDS 6:30AM
BINGO BEGINS 7:00PM

SUNDAY

EARLY BIRDS 5:30PM
BINGO BEGINS 6:00PM

\$5 OFF ELECTRONIC BINGO MACHINE

LIMIT ONE PER GUEST. NOT VALID
WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. NOT VALID
ON SPECIAL EVENTS.
EXPIRES 3/31/2021

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AIR YES... YOU CAN D.I.Y.
We'll show you how!

WORKSHOP
Cypress

THIS OFFICE RUNS ON TEAMWORK, fun & lots of COFFEE

save \$10 with code **IMPACTDIY10**

check out our calendar & reserve a seat:
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MUDBUG MADNESS

EVERY SATURDAY

\$5 OFF REGULAR PRICE FOR BOILING POT

BOILING POT - 3 LBS CRAWFISH, CORN & POTATOES, & SPICY SAUSAGE
 ALSO AVAILABLE WITH 6 SPICY SHRIMP ADDED TO ABOVE

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KIDS EAT FREE WEDNESDAY 5 PM-CLOSE
SATURDAY BREAKFAST 8AM-12PM

12 & under. One free kids meal w/ each adult entree purchased. Dine in only.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR KID EVENT CALENDAR

BACKYARD GRILL

BACKYARD BREW CREW

Drink all 42 Beers and get your name on the wall!

JOIN OUR BYG BREW CREW

Treat your special someone to a romantic night in with our Valentine's To-Go package for 2

Valentine's Package

includes salad sides entree & dessert.

\$45

Complete meal for 2.

Visit thebackyardgrill.com/events for more info & to order

BYG STORE

Backyard Spice Box **\$25**

Add a bottle of Gnarly Knucklebuster Hickory Habanero Sauce for **\$6**

MEALS THE WHOLE FAMILY WILL LOVE!

We'll help you make dinner easier with our **Taco Tuesdays & Special Meat Market Family Packs on Thursdays.**

Visit thebackyardgrill.com/events for more info & to order

BUY ONE ENTREE & 2 DRINKS
GET THE SECOND ENTREE 1/2 OFF
 Expires 2/28/2021 The Backyard Grill - 9453 Jones Road, Houston, 77065

thebackyardgrill.com

9453 Jones Road, Houston, 77065 281.897.9200

RESERVE YOUR NEXT EVENT IN OUR PRIVATE ROOM!

**TAKING CARE OF
ALL OF YOUR AUTO
NEEDS TO KEEP YOU
ON THE ROAD**



RELIABLE AUTO REPAIR



\$19.99

A/C Performance Check

We'll check for worn hoses and seal & test your system for pressure leaks or contamination. Additional charges may apply for eval & recharge or full diagnostic. Redeem coupon in the lobby not valid with any other offers.



\$5 OFF

SEMI-SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE

-OR-

\$10 OFF

ANY FULL SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE

Most cars/light trucks. With coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Redeem coupon in the lobby.



\$95 VALUE

**FREE DIAGNOSTIC
W/ REPAIR**

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\$7 OFF

STATE INSPECTION

Not valid with any other offers. Redeem Coupon in Lobby.

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Houston, TX 77070
(281) 477-8300

www.reliableautorepairs.com



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DOORDASH and Uber Eats

OUR DINING ROOMS ARE OPEN!

☑ DINE IN ☑ TAKE OUT ☑ DRIVE THRU



**EAT FREDDY'S.
EARN FREDDY'S.**
Download the Freddy's app
to become a Fredhead today!

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#)
#FreddysWorthIt



**FREE ONE MINI
CUSTARD DISH**



FreddysUSA.com/locations

Baytown - 10520 I-10 E
Fulshear - 26806 FM 1093
Jersey Village - 12407 FM 1960 W
New Caney - 12007 N Grand Pkwy E
Katy - 24433 Katy Freeway & 1705-b Fry Rd
Magnolia - 32910 FM 2978
Huntsville - 231 IH 45 South
Spring - 19370 IH 45 & 21420 Kuykendahl Rd
Sugar Land - 20450 SW Frwy
Kingwood - 4519 Kingwood Dr
Pasadena - 4637 E Sam Houston Pkwy S
Pearland - 2620 Pearland Pkwy
League City - NWC I-45 & FM 646
Dairy Ashford - 1111 Dairy Ashford Rd
Wallisville - 6125 E Sam Houston Pkwy N

Good for one single scoop dish. Must present this coupon. Only valid at these Freddy's locations. One per guest, per visit. Some restrictions may apply. Expires 5/31/2021

TEX MEX GRILL & BAR

**BUY ONE ENTREE
GET ONE FREE**

With purchase of two drinks. Can not be combined
with any other offers. One per table.

1/2 OFF APPETIZER

Can not be combined with any other offers. One per table.

Queenston Blvd.

529

6

17117 Farm to Market Rd 529
Houston Tx 77095
(832) 906-6748

WWW.TEX-MEXGRILLANDBAR.COM



DELECTABLE FOOD
positive vibes

and here... everyone can **BE SOMEONE**



TEX MEX NACHOS



KETO BOWL



**VEGETERIAN | VEGAN | KETO
OPTIONS AVAILABLE**



SUZYBEEZ BAKERY

CUSTOM CAKES, COOKIES & CUPCAKES

\$5 OFF
\$30 PURCHASE

Can't be combined with
any other offer.
Exp 3/8/21

*Come see
what the buzz
is about*



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**NETFLIX
SUGAR
RUSH**



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Huffman Rd

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Tuesday – Thursday: 10am – 5pm | Friday: 10am – 6pm

Saturday: 10am – 4pm | Sunday – Monday: Closed

DINING ROOM NOW OPEN!



bubble
tea



chicken pho



banh mi

FREE

3pc EGG ROLL

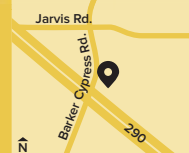
(\$5.45 value.
Must present coupon.
Dine in only.)



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Cypress, TX 77429

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for details



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EXPERIENCE AN EXCEPTIONAL MEAL

Whether you crave a delicious Angus Certified steak,
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an unforgettable dining experience.

Dinner | Lunch | Weekend Brunch

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**Buy One
Get One Free**

Lunch Entree
(up to \$15)

Lunch Menu Only
M-F 11-3 pm; not good
with any other offer;
dine-in only. Exp. 4/30/2021

**Buy One
Get One Free**

Brunch Entree
(up to \$15)

Brunch Menu Only
Sat-Sun 11-3 pm; not good
with any other offer; dine-in
only. Exp. 4/30/2021

**Free
Appetizer**

(up to \$15)
with purchase of dinner
entree and beverage.
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other offer; dine-in only
Exp. 4/30/2021

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Charles**
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ROOM OPEN.**

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*Laissez les bons
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Crab Cakes • Red Beans
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**KING CAKES
ARE HERE!**

**BUY ONE LOUISIANA FAVORITE
GET ONE
HALF OFF!**

with purchase of two beverages
Up to \$9 Value. One offer good per order/
table. Dine-In Only. Not to be combined
with any other offers. Valid at Cypress
location only. Expires 3/7/2021

**1/2 OFF
APPETIZER**

Up to \$8 Value. One coupon per table.
Dine-In Only. Cannot be combined with any
other offers. Valid at Cypress location only.
Expires 3/7/2021

Happy Hours
Monday - Friday
4-6pm

Daily Lunch Specials
Monday - Friday
11am - 4pm

(832) 653-3767

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**10% OFF WHEN YOU
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Must present offer to redeem, one coupon per table.
Dine-In Only. Expires 3/7/21

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