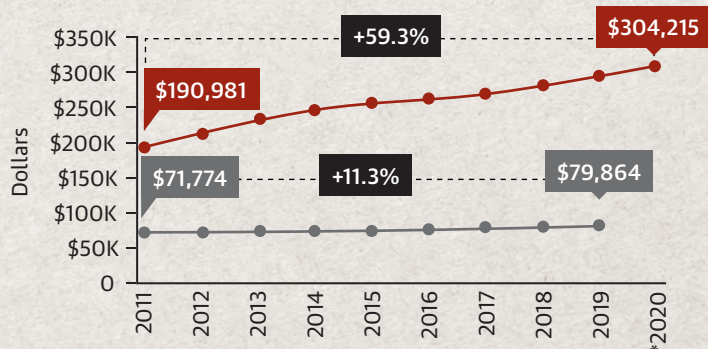


# A HASTY HOUSING HIKE

While the median household income in Cy-Fair has steadily increased in the past decade, housing prices in the community have grown at a faster rate.

- Median household income in Cy-Fair
- Average home sales price in Cy-Fair



\*MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME DATA FOR 2020 WAS NOT AVAILABLE AS OF PRESS TIME.

SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY TEXAS REAL ESTATE RESEARCH CENTER/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

**"THE MEDIAN HOME PRICE IS OVER \$300,000 NOW NATIONWIDE. THAT CUTS SO MANY PEOPLE OUT OF THE ABILITY TO BUY A HOME."**

JANET RYAN, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT FOR CYPRESS ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES

## Climbing housing costs weigh on Cy-Fair renters

### Local agencies offer financial assistance in pandemic's wake

BY DANICA LLOYD

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Cy-Fair real estate agents have managed higher demand from homebuyers with limited inventory.

Nicole Travis, a Cypress-area agent with Texas Realty Select, recalled a listing earlier this year brought more than 60 showings and 28 offers within two days. According to the Texas A&M University

Texas Real Estate Research Center, Cy-Fair had an average of 0.7 months of housing inventory in 2020, a measurement showing how long it would take to sell all properties currently for sale at the average monthly sales pace.

"With buyers, we were strategizing as you're walking up to the house ... and basically [communicating] what we wanted to do for a strong offer even before we saw the house," she said.

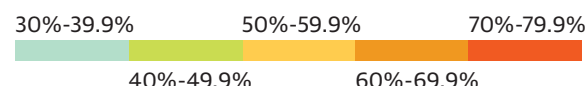
However, at the onset of the pandemic, apartment landlords had to offer specials just to get tenants, ApartmentData.com President Bruce McClenny said.

CONTINUED ON 30

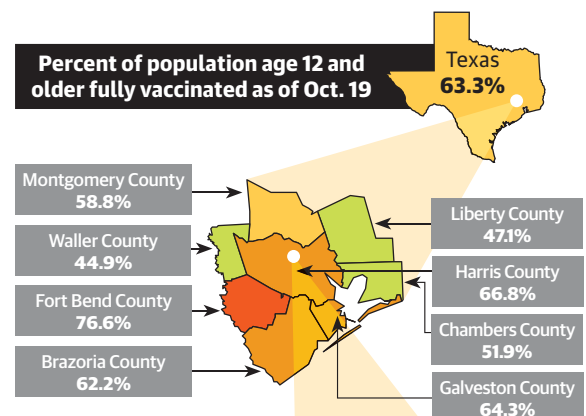
## Vaccine demand dwindles as HESITANCY REMAINS

While the demand for COVID-19 vaccines peaked in the months following its release to the general public, demand began to dwindle over the summer months leaving 59.4% of the Cy-Fair area's total population fully vaccinated as of Oct. 18.

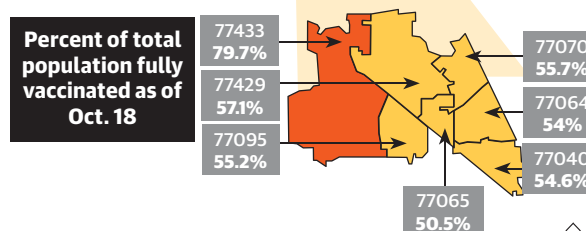
### VACCINATION RATES



Percent of population age 12 and older fully vaccinated as of Oct. 19



Percent of total population fully vaccinated as of Oct. 18



SOURCES: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, 2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5-YEAR ESTIMATES/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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2021  
VOLUNTEER  
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WAYS TO GIVE BACK

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COPPER KETTLE  
CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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IMPACTS

6

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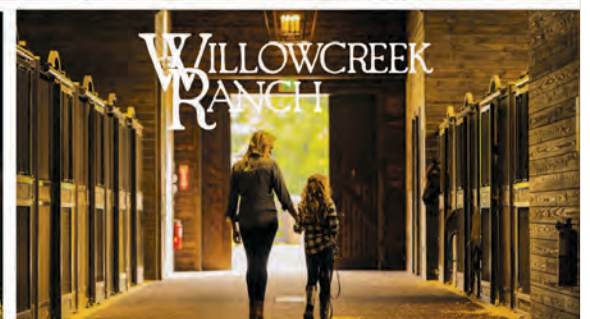
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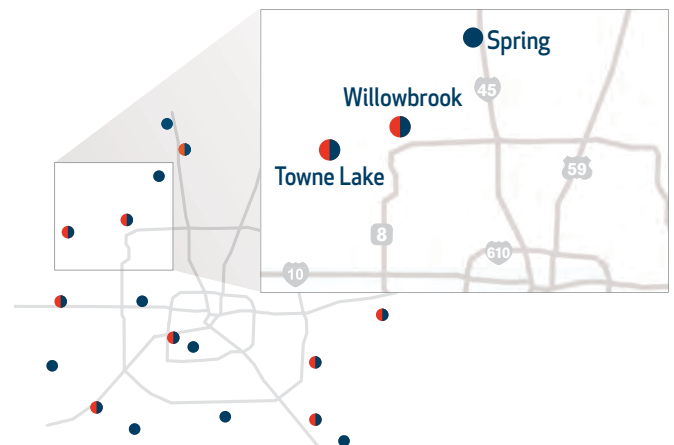
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## ABOUT US



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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## THIS ISSUE

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS MONTH



**FROM EMILY:** November is a great month to get outside and visit several farmers markets in our community. Starting on Page 18 you will find our Farmers Market Guide, providing you with all you need to know about fresh vegetables and where to shop for local produce and artisanal goods. On Page 20 we bring you our annual Volunteer Guide. Nonprofits in our area rely on the generosity of volunteers, and now is the perfect time to find a local charity in need and donate your valuable time.

Emily Heineman, **GENERAL MANAGER**

**FROM DANICA:** In addition to our health care system, we continue to see the COVID-19 pandemic affect the local economy and housing market. The cost of single-family homes as well as apartment rent are rising at unprecedented rates. We talked to local experts about the stressors renters might face as the pandemic threatens their financial stability. Read our front-page story to learn more.

Danica Lloyd, **EDITOR**



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**EDITOR** Danica Lloyd

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Taylor White

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE** Karen Nickerson

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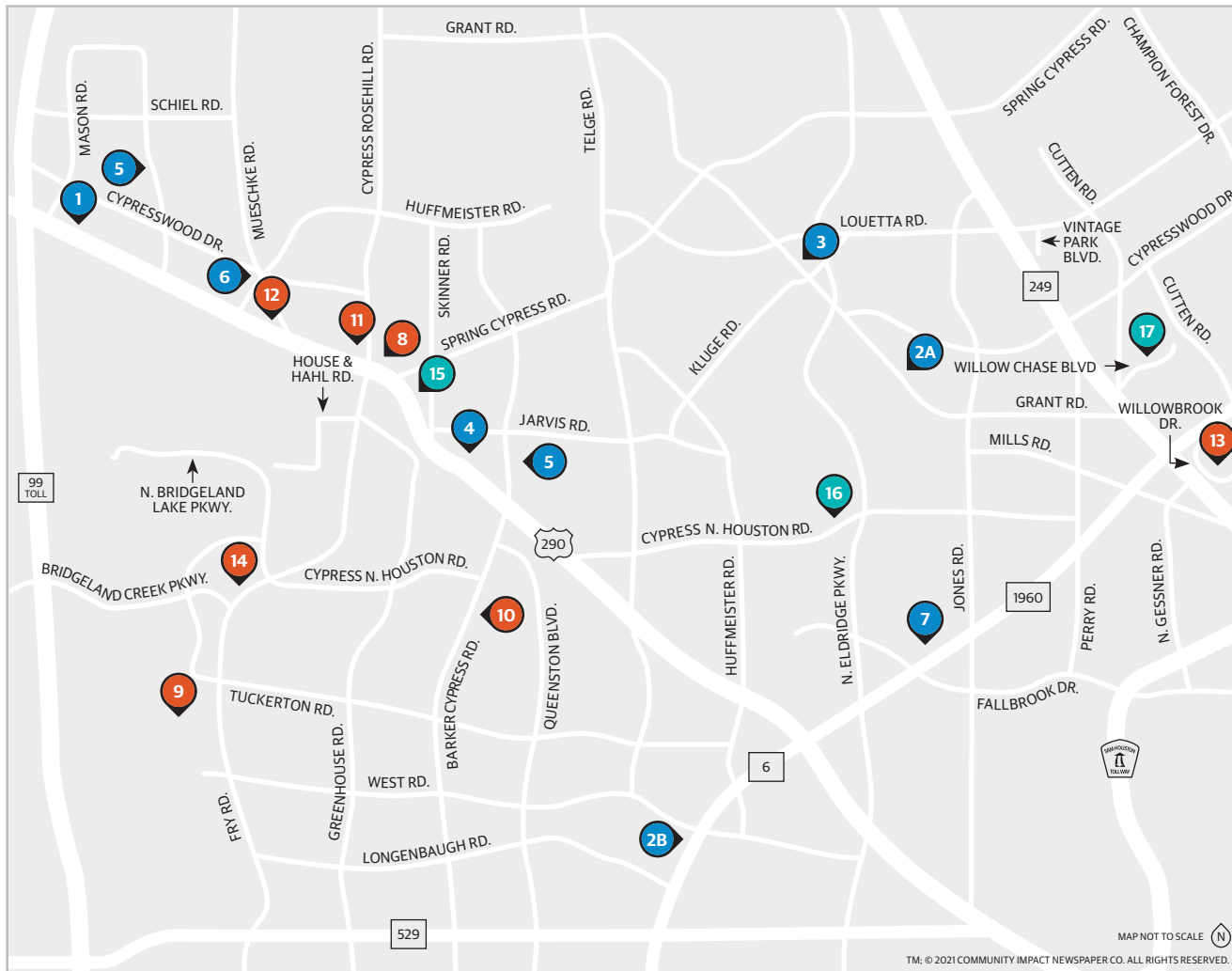
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COURTESY ALOHA POKE CO.

## NOW OPEN

**1** Amanda and Corey Tabb opened fast-casual poke concept **Aloha Poke Co.** on Oct. 6 at the Fairfield Town Center, 29040 Hwy. 290, Ste. A05, Cypress. This is the first of 11 planned Houston-area franchise locations, officials said in a news release. The eatery serves bowls filled with fresh ingredients such as rice, ahi tuna, salmon, tofu, chicken, shrimp, avocado, seaweed, ginger, edamame, pineapple, cucumber and a variety of sauces. The company started in Chicago in 2016 and has 15 locations. 832-220-6858. [www.alohapokeco.com](http://www.alohapokeco.com)

**2** **Simply Greek** opened a new location in early September at **2A** 11702 Grant Road, Ste. C, Cypress, and another in mid-October at **2B** 8475 Hwy. 6, Ste. E, Houston. The eatery serves a variety of burgers, hot dogs, gyros, salads, pitas, pizzas and platters. 832-559-1627. [www.simplygreek.org](http://www.simplygreek.org)

**3** **Cypress TX Nutrition** held a grand opening Sept. 11 at 12748 Grant Road, Cypress, offering grab-and-go snacks; smoothies; energy drinks; and before-, during- and after-workout nutrition options. 832-512-2387. <http://cypress-tx-nutrition.business.site>

**4** A third Cypress-area practice of **Houston Methodist Primary Care Group** opened Aug. 25 in Fairfield at 28606 Hwy. 290, Cypress. Dr. Rashad Ramkisson, a board-certified family medicine physician, offers complete physicals, preventive care, minor procedures and the management of conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, depression and anxiety. 281-737-7355. [www.houstonmethodist.org/pcg/fairfield](http://www.houstonmethodist.org/pcg/fairfield)

**5** **Behavioral Innovations** opened a new location this summer at 15103 Mason Road, Ste. C1, Cypress. The center offers applied behavior analysis therapy services for autism and has another Cypress loca-

tion on Fry Road. 855-782-7822. [www.startaba.com](http://www.startaba.com)

**6** **MINTbody Med Spa & Wellness** opened a second location in September at 14131 Mueschke Road, Ste. 203, Cypress. Services include facials, microdermabrasion, body treatments, peels, laser hair removal, Botox and fillers, makeup services and waxing. The original location is on Fry Road. 832-674-7006. [www.mintbodyspa.com](http://www.mintbodyspa.com)

**7** **Abacep Testosterone & Weight Loss Clinic** opened in mid-October at 11242 FM 1960, Ste. 107, Houston. The clinic specializes in weight management, hormonal treatment, erectile dysfunction and male hormonal replacement therapy, among others. 281-223-1148. [www.abacepwhouston.com](http://www.abacepwhouston.com)

## COMING SOON

**8** **Burro & Bull** is slated to open in November at 25618 Hwy. 290, Cypress, the former location of Corky's Ribs & BBQ. The new eatery's barbecue menu will feature smoky queso, boudin balls, smoked brisket flautas and the entire sausage lineup from Henderson & Kane General Store. An indoor/outdoor bar will highlight Texas spirits and craft beers, according to a news release. [www.facebook.com/burroandbull](http://www.facebook.com/burroandbull)

**9** **The Howard Hughes Corp.** has announced plans to open model homes for Parkland Row, a new neighborhood within Bridgeland, in winter 2022. David Weekley Homes will be the builder of this sustainability-focused project, which is located near the intersection of Fry and Tuckerton roads. Officials said there are

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288 homesites planned for the Parkland Row, which will have modern farm-house and modern prairie architecture. [www.bridgeland.com](http://www.bridgeland.com)

**10 Hotworx** is slated to open a new location this fall at 10710 Barker Cypress Road, Ste. B, Cypress. The studio offers workout classes including yoga, Pilates, barre, cycling and rowing—all with-in an infrared sauna. 346-221-7551. [www.hotworx.net](http://www.hotworx.net)

**11 Crust Pizza Co.** officials said they are planning to bring a new location to 27008 Hwy. 290, Ste. 130, Cypress, in the first quarter of 2022. This will be the pizza eatery's second Cy-Fair location with another located on Louetta Road in Houston. The menu features pizzas, calzones, pastas, salads, hot subs and desserts, including gelato. [www.crustpizzaco.com](http://www.crustpizzaco.com)

**12 Dog House Poker Club** is slated to open in November at 27118 Hwy. 290, Ste. D, Cypress. The club offers a \$20 annual membership, which includes club access as well as free food and drinks. 713-826-6258. [www.doghousepokerclub.com](http://www.doghousepokerclub.com)

**13 Mexican restaurant Bigotes Street Tacos** will open a new food court location in December at Willowbrook Mall, located at 2000 Willowbrook Drive, Houston. Bigotes Street Tacos' menu includes breakfast tacos, tortas, hamburgers, churros and seafood. 346-703-0951. [www.bigotesstreettacos.com](http://www.bigotesstreettacos.com)

**14 Adventure Kids Playcare**, a Houston-based child care center, is slated to open in early spring at 10519 Fry Road, Cypress. The business offers education-based programming for children



Adventure Kids Playcare

COURTESY ADVENTURE KIDS PLAYCARE

ages 6 weeks to 12 years old, such as drop-in child care, youth camps, pre-school, after-school services, parties, events and classes, according to a news release. This location will feature a play-scape, video gaming systems, computers, Legos, play kitchens and costumes. [www.adventurekidsplaycare.com](http://www.adventurekidsplaycare.com)

## RELOCATIONS

**15 Color Me Mine** relocated in mid-October from 26044 Hwy. 290, Ste. 300, Cypress, to 25712 Hwy. 290, Ste. C, Cypress. The pottery painting studio has been in Cypress for about 10 years and offers a range of projects as well as events for children and adults. Projects include ceramic mugs, plates, planters, vases, animal sculptures, banks, sports memorabilia and boxes, among other options. 281-758-4139. [www.cypress.colormemine.com](http://www.cypress.colormemine.com)

**16 Cypress Assistance Ministries** moved into its new location this fall and is holding a ribbon-cutting Nov. 8 at 12930 Cypress North Houston Road, Cypress. The non-profit was formerly located on Huffmeister Road across multiple buildings, and all services will now be located under one roof. CAM is a faith-based organization that serves individuals and families in financial crisis, the elderly and the unemployed. 281-955-7684. [www.cypressassistance.org](http://www.cypressassistance.org)

**17 Psychiatry of Texas** moved to 7877 Willow Chase Blvd., Houston, on Nov. 1. The clinic—which offers psychiatric services for anxiety, depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, postpartum depression, addiction, schizophrenia and PTSD—was previously located on Hargrave Road. 832-869-4818. [www.psychiatryoftexas.com](http://www.psychiatryoftexas.com)



Wing of Fire serves chicken wings, french fries, salads and more.

COURTESY KIRSTEN GILLIAM

## FEATURED IMPACT

### NOW OPEN

Adam and Katie Womack launched Click Click Chew in late September at 11910 Grant Road, Ste. B, Cypress. The husband-and-wife team own multiple locations of Locatelli's Italian eatery in Cypress.

The venture features four different cuisine concepts under one roof, allowing customers to order from multiple restaurants with a single transaction, according to a news release.

Chef Omar Pereney, founder of Culinary Matters, has collaborated with the Womacks to develop menus for each concept, which include:

**1 Wing of Fire**, offering chicken wings, chicken strips, pizza sticks, fries and salads;

**2 Bailey & Buns**, offering sandwiches on homemade bread, ranging from meatball subs to bahn mi, with soups, salads, cookies and other sides also on the menu;

**3 Tia Rita's**, offering Tex-Mex cuisine, including tacos, enchiladas, fajitas, guacamole, chile con queso, quesadillas and empanadas; and

**4 The Smoking Joint**, offering brisket; baby back ribs, beef and pork sausage; pulled pork; chicken; and classic barbecue sides, such as baked beans, creamed corn, potato salad and macaroni and cheese.

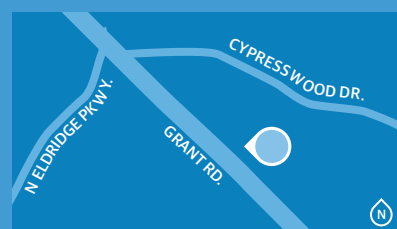
Customers can place orders through third-party delivery app ChowNow or online. Delivery is available within an 8-mile radius, officials said. Diners can also pick up or enjoy their meals on-site.

The eatery is open for lunch and dinner from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays and Sundays as well as from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. 713-804-2055. [www.clickclickchew.com](http://www.clickclickchew.com)



Bailey & Buns serves sandwiches.

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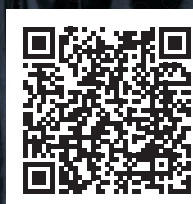
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**NOV. 13 HONKYTONK FOR HOPE**  
THE BARN AT FRIO GRILL

A music festival featuring artists such as John Evans Band, Two Tons of Steel and Ziggy Moonshine will help support Long Way Home, a nonprofit benefiting transplant recipients. Noon. \$35 (ages 16 and up), free (children). 16410 Mueschke Road, Cypress. [www.lwhtexas.com](http://www.lwhtexas.com) (Courtesy Two Tons of Steel)



**NOV. 13 NATIVE AMERICAN POW WOW**  
TRADERS VILLAGE

Traders Village will host the 32nd annual event, which features tribal dance contests, an arts and crafts show, teepees, honoring ceremonies and singing. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free (admission), \$5 (parking). 7979 N. Eldridge Parkway, Houston. 281-890-5500. [www.tradersvillage.com](http://www.tradersvillage.com) (Courtesy Traders Village)



**NOV. 13-DEC. 12 CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ALEGRIA**  
SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK

Cirque du Soleil returns to Sam Houston Race Park with a reimagining of classic show "Alegria: In a New Light." VIP packages are available. Times vary. \$55+. 7575 N. Sam Houston Parkway W., Houston. 877-924-7783. [www.cirquedusoleil.com/alegria](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/alegria) (Courtesy Cirque Du Soleil)

## NOVEMBER

### 02 HEAD TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY

Registered voters living in Cy-Fair ISD's boundaries can cast their ballot for three open seats on the school board of trustees. Several statewide propositions are also on the ballot. Cy-Fair ISD will have a professional day, and campuses will be closed to students. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Various locations. [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com)

### 03 GOLF FOR CY-HOPE

Cy-Hope is set to hold its annual Larry Dierker Celebrity Golf Shootout fundraiser this fall. Registration includes lunch, beverages, dinner, a raffle, player gifts and a round of golf with celebrities. 10 a.m. (registration), 5:30 p.m. (dinner). \$25 (nongolfer dinner ticket), \$500 (individual player). BlackHorse Golf Club, 12205 Fry Road, Cypress. [www.cy-hope.org](http://www.cy-hope.org)

### 05 THROUGH 07 CATCH A PERFORMANCE OF 'LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS'

Playhouse 1960 presents "Little Shop of Horrors," a science-fiction musical about a floral assistant who discovers a devious new plant breed. The show is rated

PG-13, and unvaccinated attendees are encouraged to wear masks. 8 p.m. (Fri.-Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sun.). \$20-\$23. Playhouse 1960, 6814 Gant Road, Houston. 281-587-8243. [www.playhouse1960.com](http://www.playhouse1960.com)

### 06 BOOT WALK TO END CANCER

MD Anderson Cancer Center's sixth annual Boot Walk to End Cancer will be held virtually. Participants will walk 1.2 miles in their own neighborhoods and are encouraged to wear boots, symbolizing efforts to "give cancer the boot." 9 a.m. Free. [www.mdanderson.org/bootwalk](http://www.mdanderson.org/bootwalk)

### 06 THROUGH 07 SHOP A LOCAL FFA CRAFT SHOW

Jersey Village High School FFA hosts its annual fall craft show with more than 200 vendors selling clothing and accessories, artwork, gifts, home goods and food. Proceeds will help fund FFA programs throughout the year. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat.), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sun.). Free (admission). Cy-Fair ISD Exhibit Center, 11206 Telge Road, Cypress. [www.jerseyvillagecraftshow.com](http://www.jerseyvillagecraftshow.com)

### 10 SUPPORT MESA OUTREACH AT A TOURNAMENT

A shooting clay tournament will benefit

MESA Outreach, a nonprofit serving families in need in the northwest Houston region. Registration includes breakfast, lunch, 100 targets per shooter, ammo, drinks and a raffle ticket. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$325 (individual shooter). Westside Sporting Grounds, 10120 Pattison Road, Katy. 281-599-8536. [www.mesa-outreach.org](http://www.mesa-outreach.org)

### 12 THROUGH 30 TUNE INTO A VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIR

Cy-Fair ISD hosts three virtual college fairs throughout November. More than 200 colleges and universities share information about their campuses and programming; school representatives offer live presentations; and one-on-one virtual meetings are available by appointment. The virtual fair is available 24 hours a day through Nov. 30, but live chats are scheduled for Nov. 12, 29 and 30. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (Sat.), 6-8 p.m. (Mon.-Tue.). Free. [www.cfisd.net](http://www.cfisd.net)

### 12 THROUGH 14 ENJOY A BROADWAY TRIBUTE SHOW

Stageworks Theatre's teen actors program will join theaters across the country to perform "All Together Now!" The event

showcases Broadway's most beloved shows and celebrates local theater. 7:30 p.m. (Fri.-Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sat.-Sun.). \$25. Stageworks Theatre, 10760 Grant Road, Houston. 281-587-6100. [www.stageworkshouston.org](http://www.stageworkshouston.org)

### 13 ATTEND A CASINO NIGHT FOR CHARITY

Shield Bearer Counseling Centers will host a casino night to raise money for programming. Attendees can "Play it Forward" with roulette, craps, blackjack, a silent auction, mystery boxes and a wine pull. 7-11 p.m. \$100. Mia Bella Events & Receptions, 22404 Mueschke Road, Tomball. 832-604-3256. [www.shieldbearer.org](http://www.shieldbearer.org)

### 16 LEARN ABOUT LOCAL BUSINESS OFFERINGS

The Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce holds a business expo in conjunction with its monthly membership luncheon. Businesses from across Cy-Fair will showcase their products and services in the vendor hall. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (with a lunch break from noon-1 p.m.). \$30 (before Nov. 9), \$35 (after Nov. 9). Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress. 281-373-1390. [www.cyfairchamber.com](http://www.cyfairchamber.com)

Find more or submit Cy-Fair events at [communityimpact.com/event-calendar](http://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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## TxDOT keeps I-45 expansion in 10-year plan despite investigation

The North Houston Highway Improvement Project will remain in the 10-year plan of the Texas Department of Transportation after unanimous approval Aug. 31.

However, the controversial project remains stalled by a federal investigation, and Bruce Bugg, the chair of the Texas Transportation Commission, said not much can be done until that investigation is completed.

"It's crystal clear to me TxDOT is ready to build the NHHIP, no question about it," Bugg said. "But we can't do it until the [Federal Highway Administration] releases the hold."

The \$7 billion NHHIP has been part of regional transportation plans in Houston dating back to 2004. The project, as proposed, involves rerouting I-45 to follow I-69 east of downtown rather than its existing path through Midtown. Proponents of the project have said it will ease congestion, particularly for commuters; improve safety; and mitigate flooding issues.

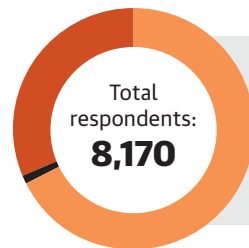
However, opponents have argued the project will have disproportionately negative effects on Black and Hispanic communities along its route. The project would displace over 900 residences, 300 businesses, five places of worship and two schools, according to TxDOT's final environmental impact statement.

"The [Unified Transportation Plan] is stacked with projects that prioritize the movement of a few cars over the well-being of the majority of Texans," said Neal Ehardt, a representative from the group Stop TxDOT I-45.

Launched earlier this year, the FHA investigation is exploring possible civil rights violations within

### THE SURVEY SAYS...

An online survey seeking feedback on the North Houston Highway Improvement Project this summer revealed a majority of respondents supported the project as proposed. However, opponents argued TxDOT did not do enough to garner feedback from those directly affected.



**67.67%** of respondents support the project

**31.27%** respondents want the project removed

**1.05%** respondents want to maintain the project funding but not build the project as proposed

NOTE: PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD UP TO EXACTLY 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.

### EFFECTS OF THE PLAN

The following buildings and facilities could be displaced, according to the current plan for I-45, the Texas Department of Transportation stated.



**900** residences



**300** businesses



**5** places of worship



**2** schools

the project's design. Harris County also sued TxDOT over the project in March, arguing TxDOT failed to adequately consider the full environmental ramifications of the project.

The I-45 expansion project has received the support of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and members of the group's transportation subcommittee approved a nonbinding resolution in March to keep working with TxDOT on the project.

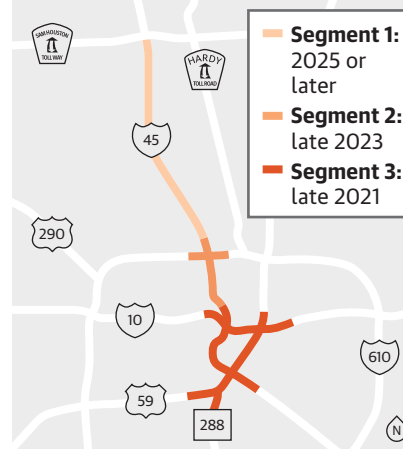
Some opponents, however, stressed the funding should not be removed from the region and that it should instead be used to pursue a more equitable project.

With the UTP approved, Bugg said the commission will revisit the project and the status of the investigation at its December meeting to determine what should be done.

### NORTH HOUSTON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

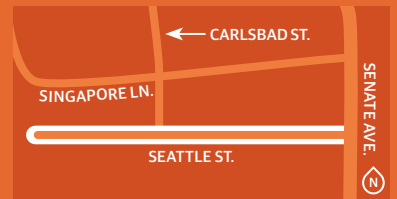
#### SEGMENT START DATES

Construction could begin by the end of 2021 and last into the late 2020s.



SOURCE: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

### UPCOMING PROJECT



#### Seattle Street reconstruction

Jersey Village's Seattle Street will have a full street reconstruction from Senate Avenue west to the dead end, according to U.S. Rep Lizzie Fletcher, D-Houston, who requested the project be federally funded.

This project will replace water lines for approximately 55 homes and sewer lines for approximately 25 homes.

The whole street will receive new sidewalks and storm sewer lines, which will help prevent street flooding and reduce the chance of homes on these blocks being flooded, officials said.

"You don't have to look far to see what happens when you don't maintain your infrastructure properly, and Jersey Village prides itself on having good infrastructure and good streets, so this is just another way for the city to show we're serious about taking care of the infrastructure that we have and taking care of the residents as well," Jersey Village City Manager Austin Bleess said. "Having a proactive plan to do that is vital to the success of a community."

**Timeline:** early 2022-TBD

**Cost:** \$624,835

**Funding source:** federal

ALL INFORMATION ON THIS PAGE WAS UPDATED AS OF OCT. 11. NEWS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE OR OTHER LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS? EMAIL US AT [CYFNEWS@COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM](mailto:CYFNEWS@COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM).

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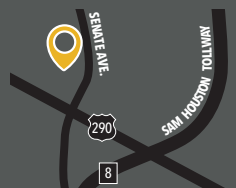
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## PTSD SYMPTOMS

As many as 30% of combat veterans experience post-traumatic stress disorder. Symptoms can include the following, among others.



- Reliving traumatic events through nightmares
- Flashbacks triggered by sights, smells or sounds
- Decreased interest in things that were once enjoyable
- Negative feelings toward other people
- Avoidance of thoughts and emotions with drugs and alcohol
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
- Startled by loud noises
- Outbursts of anger or irritability
- Self-destructive behavior

SOURCE: PTSD FOUNDATION OF AMERICA/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

# PTSD Foundation of America seeks to reduce veteran suicides

BY DANICA LLOYD

An average of 17.2 veterans died by suicide daily in 2019—a 36% increase from 2001, according to a report released by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in September.

David Maulsby, executive director of the PTSD Foundation of America, said crisis line activity has increased drastically since Taliban forces took control of Afghanistan's capital in mid-August.

The Cy-Fair-based organization helps veterans and their families heal from the effects of combat-related post-traumatic stress and to help lower the veteran suicide rate.

Maulsby said about 7,300 military members were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, but more than 30,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan have died by suicide upon returning home following their service.

Many veterans struggle with their sense of purpose and identity when transitioning back to civilian life, and Maulsby said those experiencing PTSD carry guilt associated with what they saw and experienced.

"When they came home, they couldn't rewire their brain back to where we are," he said. "Many of them felt the lack of ability to change some of the things that they saw, [which] carried an awful lot of weight. And then they come home to a society that's basically forgotten about the fact that we even had people at war."

The PTSD Foundation of America has an interim housing facility called Camp Hope, which offers a safe space for veterans from across the country to heal through group lessons and support sessions, individual mentoring and life skills needed to

transition back to society.

Maulsby said Camp Hope typically has 60-75 residents at any given time, but that increased to around 95 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. He said this uptick can partially be attributed to the added stress, anxiety and isolation brought on by the pandemic.

However, VA hospitals closed their doors at the start of the pandemic to anything other than a physical emergency, so veterans in mental health crises ended up in emergency rooms and psychiatric facilities instead.

"The VA has opened some services back up but not all, so there are still guys that are getting no's when they contact the VA," Maulsby said. "It's still an issue in our country."

The PTSD Foundation of America also runs support groups across the U.S. and added Zoom support group options in the wake of COVID-19. Maulsby said while the organization did not replace face-to-face sessions, this helped it reach people it may not have otherwise.

When it comes to current military service members, the U.S. Department of Defense reported 580 members died by suicide in 2020—up from 504 in 2019. Officials said while suicide rates increased in 2020, they did not see a significant enough statistical change over 2019 and 2018 rates to definitively determine the uptick was related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Getting help

Service members and their loved ones can call **800-273-8255**, text **838255** or visit [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net) for support 24 hours a day.

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# Reversing course, Texas Supreme Court grants rehearing for eminent domain case

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ

After initially declining to hear a case challenging the construction of a high-speed rail line in Texas, the Texas Supreme Court granted a motion for a rehearing Oct. 15, allowing the case to move forward.

The case centers on a 236-mile high-speed rail line between Houston and Dallas being planned by the company Texas Central. Filed by landowner Jim Miles in 2016, the lawsuit argues Texas Central does not qualify as a “railroad company” under state law and therefore cannot use eminent domain to acquire land needed to construct the line.

The Texas Supreme Court declined to review the case in June, allowing a decision by an appeals court to remain in place that ruled Texas Central was a railroad company. Shortly after the court declined a review, Miles issued a statement announcing he would file a motion for a rehearing.

In the Oct. 15 order granting a rehearing, the Texas Supreme Court set a date of Jan. 11 to hear oral arguments.

In a statement, officials with Texas Central said they were confident the court would rule in their favor. Opposition groups Texas Against High-Speed Rail and ReRoute the Route celebrated the motion.

“We are so thankful the Texas Supreme Court decided to listen to the voices of numerous stakeholders who raised significant concerns about the proposed high-speed rail project,” ReRoute the Route spokesperson Jennifer Stevens said.

Texas Central has pitched the rail project as an alternative to car travel between Houston and Dallas. The trip would take roughly 90 minutes with one stop in College Station, and prices would be competitive with airlines, officials said. The cost of the project is pegged at \$20 billion on the company’s website, and funding sources could include private investments, commercial loans and federal loan programs.

Some landowners, including Miles, have refused to sell their land to the company needed to build along the selected route, prompting the courtroom



A conceptual rendering shows what a high-speed rail station in Dallas could look like. (Rendering courtesy Texas Central)

showdown. Officials with Texas Central have previously said eminent domain would only be used as a last resort.

Construction was anticipated to start in late 2021 or early 2022, but it is unclear if the renewed case will affect those projections.

# Cy-Fair ISD to suspend No Place for Hate program, create internal character education curriculum

BY DANICA LLOYD

Cy-Fair ISD board President Bob Covey announced Oct. 11 district administration is reviewing its use of the No Place for Hate program and working to create an in-house character education program.

No Place for Hate is a program from the Anti-Defamation League designed to create and maintain school environments where all students can thrive through anti-bias and bullying-prevention activities.

“Because of the changes in some of the materials offered by the Anti-Defamation League—the developers of the No Place for Hate program—we have made a decision

to direct the administration to put a hold on this program across the district,” Covey said. “Our intent is for the district to develop an internal, age-appropriate series of programs specific to Cy-Fair ISD to be

implemented at our campuses.”

Covey said a number of CFISD campuses have participated in this program for more than 20 years. Nearly all campuses earned a No Place for Hate designation as of

2019-20, according to the district.

In September 2020, the board signed a resolution condemning racism, which laid out trustees’ desire to have all campuses earn the No Place for Hate designation.

Covey explained the state government requires public schools to address bullying and support a positive school environment. The passage of House Bill 1026 in the 86th Texas Legislature, which was authored by former Cy-Fair-area state Rep. Dwayne Bohac, R-Houston, required school districts to incorporate character education into their curriculum starting in the 2021-22 school year.

**“OUR INTENT IS FOR THE DISTRICT TO DEVELOP AN INTERNAL, AGE-APPROPRIATE SERIES OF PROGRAMS SPECIFIC TO CY-FAIR ISD TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT OUR CAMPUSES.”**

BOB COVEY, CY-FAIR ISD BOARD PRESIDENT



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# Post office renamed to honor fallen Harris County officer

**HARRIS COUNTY** Elected officials, law enforcement officers and community members attended a post office naming ceremony Oct. 5 to honor Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal.

Nearly a year after Dhaliwal was killed in a September 2019 traffic stop, U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, D-Houston, proposed House Resolution 5317 to rename the post office facility at 315 Addicks Howell Road, Houston, the Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office. The entire Texas delegation co-sponsored the bill.

According to the U.S. Postal Service, naming postal facilities in honor of important local individuals dates back to the 1960s and is now one of the most common forms of legislation enacted in Congress.

"[Dhaliwal] represented the very best of our community: He worked for equality, connection and community through his life of service to others," Fletcher said in a statement.

Dhaliwal was recognized nationally in 2015 for being the first Sikh American in Texas to receive a policy accommodation to wear his Sikh articles of faith, including his turban and beard, while serving in uniform. He



was also the first Sikh police officer to serve in the Harris County Sheriff's Office when he joined in 2009, according to a news release.

Many throughout Harris County knew Dhaliwal for his positive influence on the community and for exemplifying his Sikh faith through humanitarian work.

"We are so grateful and so honored that Sandeep is being memorialized in this way—forever becoming a part of the city that he served faithfully both in and out of uniform," said Dhaliwal's father, Pyara Singh Dhaliwal, in a statement.

## County approves neighborhood cleanup in high-crime areas

**HARRIS COUNTY** A new \$50 million neighborhood safety initiative for areas of Harris County with prevalent crime and gun violence passed unanimously at the Oct. 12 Commissioners Court meeting.

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said neighborhoods with higher levels of criminal activity and violence have often been neglected and received less investment than other parts of the county.

"Too often, blighted buildings, dark streets, unsafe and abandoned structures serve as incubators of crime and gun violence," she said. "Places where families don't even have the benefits of a sidewalk to get to school or even simple things like air conditioning or trees to find comfort in the oppressive heat of summer—those are the places where the seeds of criminal activity often find refuge."

The "Clean Streets, Safe Neighborhoods" initiative will improve street lighting, sidewalks and visibility in residential areas as well as address abandoned structures and restore vacant lots.

## Local mayor speaks out to alter proposed split in Texas House redistricting map

**JERSEY VILLAGE** State Rep. Dan Huberty, R-Houston, introduced a negotiated amendment Oct. 11 to enable Jersey Village to be contained within House District 138.

The amendment came about a week after Jersey Village Mayor Bobby Warren testified before the Texas House Committee on Redistricting, opposing the House's proposed redistricting map, which would split the 3.5-square-mile city between districts 138 and 148.

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries for representation in states and local jurisdictions and is required after every decennial census.

Warren said the community of 8,000 residents is tightly knit and politically engaged. He argued splitting the community between two districts would make it more difficult to work with elected officials on issues such as flood mitigation. The city is currently represented by state Rep. Jon Rosenthal, D-Houston, in House District 135.

"Neighbors who have lived and worked together as one community for over 65 years will, for the first time ever at any level of



government, find themselves represented by different elected officials," he said during the public hearing Oct. 4. "While for some neighborhoods this might seem like a simple reality faced every 10 years, this is completely uncharted territory for Jersey Village."

The amended bill was approved by the Texas Legislature, and Gov. Greg Abbott signed the new district maps into law on Oct. 25.

"Thank you to all of the people who reached out to members of the Texas House," Warren said in a Facebook post Oct. 12. "Dozens of citizens submitted written comments to the House advocating to keep Jersey Village whole, and clearly they heard us!"

### QUOTE OF NOTE

**"I'VE ALWAYS HAD THE PERSPECTIVE THAT IF IT'S INEXPENSIVE TO BORROW MONEY, THEN IT'S BETTER TO GO THAT ROUTE AS OPPOSED TO SPENDING EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAVE WITHIN YOUR SAVINGS BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MAY HAVE AN EMERGENCY."**

JERSEY VILLAGE CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SHERI SHEPPARD ON POTENTIAL BOND ELECTION

### LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

**HARRIS COUNTY** Residents of Harris County will see an overall tax rate decrease for the fourth consecutive year for fiscal year 2021-22 after commissioners unanimously approved a compromised rate between the courts' Republicans and Democrats. The final approved rate is \$0.58135 per \$100 valuation—a 2.97% decrease from the FY 2020-21 overall tax rate of \$0.59920. Despite the lower rate, taxpayers may end up paying more since the values of homes statewide increased this year, officials said. The overall property tax rate includes individual rates for Harris County, the Harris County Flood Control District, the Harris Health System and the Port of Houston Authority.

**HARRIS COUNTY** Following the passage of Senate Bill 476 this year, state law now requires all counties to form an adult sexual abuse response team by December. The team is to meet quarterly and develop a written response protocol for adult survivors, according to the legislation. County commissioners unanimously approved the creation of the team in October to bring together prosecutors, the sheriff's department, and health care and behavioral health services.

### MEETINGS WE COVER

**Jersey Village City Council**  
Will meet at 7 p.m. Nov. 15 at Jersey Village City Hall, 16327 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village. 713-466-2100. [www.jerseyvillagetx.com](http://www.jerseyvillagetx.com)

**Harris County Commissioners Court**  
Will meet at 10 a.m. Nov. 9 at 1001 Preston St., Ste. 934, Houston. 713-274-1111. [www.harriscountytexas.gov](http://www.harriscountytexas.gov)



# FARMERS MARKETS

COMPILED BY DANICA LLOYD

Residents looking for locally grown food and handmade products can visit several farmers markets throughout the month. This list is not comprehensive.

## 1 BRIDGELAND

Location: 10519 Fry Road, Cypress  
Hours: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Dates: second and fourth Sundays monthly  
832-473-0559  
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Offerings: organic produce, fresh meats, cheese, pet treats, artisan food, eggs, breads, juices, crafts

## 2 CYPRESS ROSEHILL

Location: 14540 Cypress Rosehill Road, Cypress  
Hours: 6-9 p.m. (Fri.), 2-8 p.m. (Sat.), 1-5 p.m. (Sun.)  
Dates: Nov. 12-14, 20-21, 26-28; Dec. 11-12, 18-19  
832-515-8859  
[www.facebook.com/celestialbluesmarket](http://www.facebook.com/celestialbluesmarket)  
Offerings: vegetables, fruit, honey, jams, salsa, spices, popcorn, cotton candy, breads, jerky, toys, woodworking, boutique items

## 3 FAIRFIELD

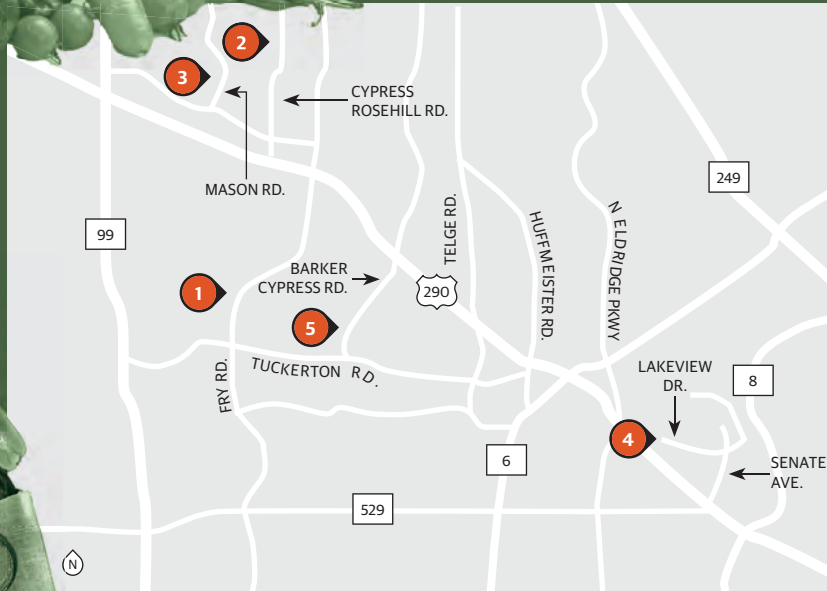
Location: 15103 Mason Road, Cypress  
Hours: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Dates: third Sundays monthly  
832-473-0559  
[www.yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket.com](http://www.yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket.com)  
Offerings: organic produce, fresh meats, cheese, pet treats, artisan food, eggs, breads, juices, crafts

## 4 JERSEY VILLAGE

Location: 16327 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village  
Hours: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Dates: first and third Sundays monthly  
713-466-2189  
[www.jerseyvillagetx.com](http://www.jerseyvillagetx.com)  
Offerings: vegetables, fruit, eggs, beef, poultry, cheese, baked goods, olive oils, salsa, honey, jellies, soaps, popcorn, jewelry

## 5 TOWNE LAKE

Location: 9945 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress  
Hours: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Dates: third and fourth Saturdays monthly  
832-473-0559  
[www.yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket.com](http://www.yourneighborhoodfarmersmarket.com)  
Offerings: organic produce, fresh meats, cheese, pet treats, artisan food, eggs, breads, juices, crafts

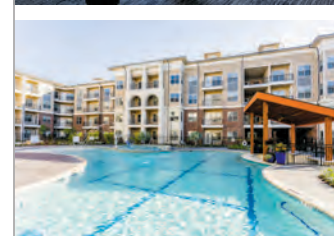


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# WHAT'S IN SEASON?

Certain fruits and vegetables may be easier to come by and typically cost less when they are in season.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

**S** SPRING **S** SUMMER **F** FALL **W** WINTER



**APPLES**

**S S F W**



**BRUSSELS SPROUTS**

**F W**



**GREEN BEANS**

**S F**



**MUSHROOMS**

**S F**



**SPINACH**

**S F**



**AVOCADOS**

**S S W**



**CARROTS**

**S S F W**



**KALE**

**S F W**



**ONIONS**

**S F W**



**STRAWBERRIES**

**S S**



**BANANAS**

**S S F W**



**CRANBERRIES**

**F**



**LEMONS**

**S S F W**



**ORANGES**

**W**



**SWEET POTATOES**

**F W**



**BROCCOLI**

**S F**



**GARLIC**

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# VOLUNTEER GUIDE

## GUIDE

For those looking to help out in the Cy-Fair community, there are several local nonprofit groups that offer volunteer opportunities and accept donations. This list is noncomprehensive.

### VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

- Application
- Background check
- Orientation
- Under age 18 allowed

## GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

### 1 CY-FAIR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Approximately twice a year the department hosts a volunteer fire training academy. Before volunteers can begin, they must pass a written math and reading comprehension test as well as a physical ability test. Training lasts about 26 weeks and is designed to work alongside a daytime work schedule. Gear is provided upon acceptance. Individuals can stop by one of the 13 fire stations to learn more or email [pio@cyfairfd.org](mailto:pio@cyfairfd.org).

**Sample activities:** firefighting, firefighter support services

10710 Telge Road, Houston  
281-550-6663  
[www.cyfairfd.org](http://www.cyfairfd.org)



## HELP THE SICK

### 2 HOUSTON METHODIST WILLOW-BROOK HOSPITAL

The hospital has an active volunteer program for adults and a junior volunteer program for high school students ages 16-18 that runs each year from June through August. Applications for the junior volunteer program are accepted in February of each year. Applications for adults are accepted year-round, with interviews being extended based on the current volunteer needs of the hospital. Orientation includes 1.5 days of training, a drug screen, tuberculosis test, mandatory vaccines for COVID-19 and influenza and safety training.

**Sample activities:** interacting with patients, assisting staff, providing administrative support

18220 Hwy. 249, Houston  
281-737-1063  
[www.houstonmethodist.org/volunteer](http://www.houstonmethodist.org/volunteer)



### 3 MEMORIAL HERMANN CYPRESS HOSPITAL

The hospital has an adult volunteer program best suited for long-term volunteers that want to serve the hospital and its patients.

**Sample activities:** helping out at the information desk, nursing unit, clerical assistance and as a patient advocate

27700 Hwy. 290, Cypress  
[www.memorialhermann.org](http://www.memorialhermann.org)



## EMPOWER CHILDREN

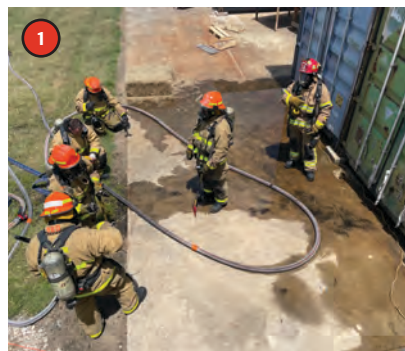
### 4 BOYS AND GIRLS COUNTRY

Boys and Girls Country is a licensed residential home with a mission to break the cycle of poverty by providing a secure home environment for children in crisis with an emphasis on education, building healthy relationships, and setting goals.

**Sample activities:** remote volunteer activities include tutoring, cooking classes and teaching different skills.

**Donations accepted:** Food—canned goods, mashed potatoes, pasta, hamburger helper—as well as towels, washcloths and cleaning supplies are accepted. Donations can be dropped off on campus or purchased through the Amazon wish list at [www.bit.ly/wishlistbgc](http://www.bit.ly/wishlistbgc).

18806 Roberts Road, Hockley  
281-351-4976  
[www.boysandgirlscountry.org](http://www.boysandgirlscountry.org)



Cy-Fair Fire Department

COURTESY DANIEL ARIZPE, PIO/ CY-FAIR FIRE DEPARTMENT

### 5 CY-FAIR ISD

The school district's Volunteers in Public Schools program typically has opportunities for community members to mentor students in addition to serving at community events. Interested applicants should contact Dawn Tryon, the district's director of community engagement.

**Sample activities:** tutoring, campus event staffing, campus grounds upkeep

10300 Jones Road, Houston  
281-894-3950

[www.cfisd.net/volunteer](http://www.cfisd.net/volunteer)



### 6 CY-HOPE

The nonprofit serves local children in need by providing food over weekends, homework help, mentors, counseling, recreation, music and sports initiatives, education, recreation and positive influences. Many volunteer and donation opportunities are available. Background checks are required for volunteers working directly with students, and orientations may be applicable depending on the program.

**Sample activities:** assisting with activities at after school Hope Centers, bagging food and/or delivering food to schools for the Backpack Feeding Program, supporting Dierker's Champs Baseball League as a coach or umpire, working a weekly shift at the Hope Chest Re-sale Market, working with students as mentor in Ambassadors of Compassion, serving at special events throughout the year, serving on



Boys and Girls Country

COURTESY BOYS AND GIRLS COUNTRY

the maintenance team

**Donations accepted:** Snack bags, paper towels, Clorox wipes, and AA and AAA batteries are accepted. More information can be found at [www.cy-hope.org/donate](http://www.cy-hope.org/donate). Donations can be dropped off at Cy-Hope.

12715 Telge Road, Cypress  
713-466-4673

[www.cy-hope.org](http://www.cy-hope.org)



### 7 YMCA OF GREATER HOUSTON

Two YMCAs serve Cy-Fair through programs and social services designed to help individuals and families learn, grow and thrive.

**Sample activities:** coaching youth sports teams, assisting with adaptive programs for youth and adults with disabilities, serving at community events, fundraising, mentoring youth and serving on the board of advisors

**Donations accepted:** There are no running donation drives, but YMCA hosts holiday drives which can be found on its website.

**D. Bradley McWilliams YMCA**  
19915 Hwy. 249, Houston  
281-469-1481

[www.ymcahouston.org/locations/d-bradley-mcwilliams-ymca-cypress-creek](http://www.ymcahouston.org/locations/d-bradley-mcwilliams-ymca-cypress-creek)

**Langham Creek Family YMCA**  
16725 Longenbaugh Drive, Houston  
281-859-6143

[www.ymcahouston.org/locations/langham-creek-family-ymca](http://www.ymcahouston.org/locations/langham-creek-family-ymca)



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## HELP THOSE IN CRISIS

### 8 CY-FAIR HELPING HANDS

The volunteer-driven nonprofit organization serves homeless adults, families and students, as well as individuals, senior citizens, and families experiencing food instability within the boundaries of Cy-Fair ISD.

**Sample activities:** work in the day center for the homeless; provide or sponsor hot meals for the homeless day center; deliver bags of food to those living on the streets; commit to serving one day a week at the community food pantry; volunteer to sub as needed; collect and deliver weekly donations from grocery stores; serve as a Spanish or Vietnamese translator; assist with special events and fundraising

**Donations accepted:** Nonperishable food items are accepted for the Homeless Initiatives and Community Outreach Food Pantry programs. Visit [www.facebook.com/cyfairhelpinghands](http://www.facebook.com/cyfairhelpinghands) for food, clothing, household items and other needs. Community Outreach accepts donations on Mondays, Thursdays and the first and third Saturdays of each month from 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at 7520 Cherry Park Drive, Ste. B, Houston. Homeless Initiatives accepts donations on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m.-noon at 9616 Telge Road, Houston.

7520 Cherry Park Drive, Ste. B, Houston  
281-858-1222  
[www.cyfairhelpinghands.org](http://www.cyfairhelpinghands.org)



### 9 CYPRESS ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES

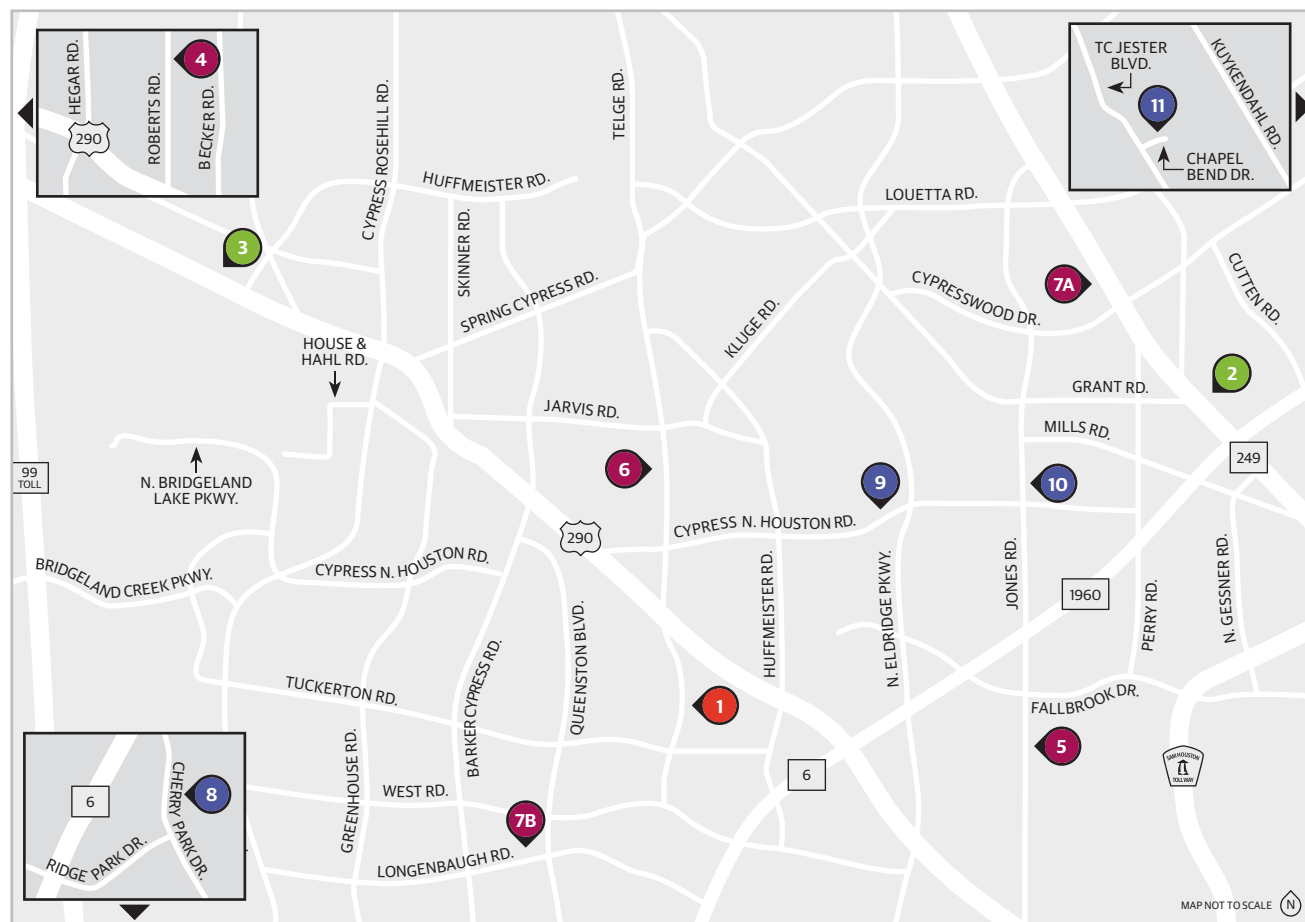
The organization is dedicated to assisting individuals and families in financial crisis.

**Sample activities:** help in the food pantry, assistance office, resale shop, donation center and community outreach programs; serve as a food pick-up driver, job counselor or GED or ESL instructor

**Donations accepted:** Nonperishable foods such as noodles, rice, canned goods and toiletries are accepted and can be dropped off at CAM. More items can be found online.

12930 Cypress N. Houston Road, Cypress  
281-955-7684

[www.cypressassistance.org](http://www.cypressassistance.org)



### 10 SHIELD BEARER

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

**Sample activities:** help transfer donation items and supplies between offices, coordinate events and help in the offices with mailouts, data entry and data organization, among other tasks

**Donations accepted:** Shield Bearer is relocating toward the end of 2021 and is accepting sofas, tables and chairs for the new facility.  
12340 Jones Road, Ste. 290, Houston

281-894-7222

[www.shieldbearer.org](http://www.shieldbearer.org)



### 11 SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE HOUSTON NW CHAPTER

The nonprofit builds bunk beds for children and families in need, operating on a principle that a bed is a basic need for physical, emotional, and mental support. Since 2018 the Houston NW chapter has built over 1,700 beds.

**Sample activities:** building and delivering beds, usually on Saturdays

**Donations accepted:** Financial donations can be made at

[www.shpbeds.org/make-donation](http://www.shpbeds.org/make-donation). SHP also accepts twin-sized "bed-in-a-bag" donations.  
3219 Chapel Bend Drive, Houston  
844-432-2337 ex. 5721

[www.shpbeds.org/chapter/tx-houston-nw](http://www.shpbeds.org/chapter/tx-houston-nw)  
gary.akin@shpbeds.org or mark.proegler@shpbeds.org



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## Copper Kettle Chocolate Factory

*Sweet shop keeps family recipes flowing to the community*

BY JISHNU NAIR

**S**even years after it opened, Copper Kettle Chocolate Factory still has a family flavor in every bite.

Since 2018, Ryan Koussouji has been the head chocolate maker at the shop, which his parents, Scott and Carrie, opened in November 2014. Scott's parents, Ted and Joy, closed their Ohio-based shop, the Golden Turtle Chocolate Factory, in August—but not before passing everything they knew to their son and grandson.

"So many of these recipes have just been passed down," Ryan said.

One of those recipes is the Texas Turtle, which consists of pecan halves dipped in caramel and covered in milk or dark chocolate in the shape of a turtle. The turtles, which can also be salted to make "sea turtles," make up the centerpieces of Copper Kettle's gift boxes.

Some recipes, however, are more modern and inspired by customer tastes. Carrie told the story of their marshmallow melts, which were at first served sliced into bricks. But customers preferred Ryan's presentation of them—which looks more like an amorphous blob.

"It was really funny—we put out the ones that were all sliced nicely and the customers were like 'Hmm, no, I like [Ryan's]!'" Carrie said.

Customers can purchase individual treats or gift boxes of various sizes. Holiday specialties include peppermint bark, cordial cherries and assorted gift boxes.

Copper Kettle found a welcoming home in Cy-Fair. Scott and Carrie were drawn to the neighborhood by its trees and its friendly residents, and the family settled in.

Copper Kettle is donating \$5 for every order of its almond toffee bricks to a local charity. The family

## THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY IN ACTION

Copper Kettle Chocolate Factory offers an extensive selection of chocolate goodies, from toffees to truffles and turtles.



Ryan, Carrie and Scott Koussouji operate the business. (Photos by Jishnu Nair/Community Impact Newspaper)



### 1 BLANK CANVAS

Raw ingredients, such as cookies, are prepared on a tray.



### 2 CANDY COATING

Melted chocolate covers ingredients on the shop's belt, which can handle either dark or milk chocolate depending on the product.



### 3 FINAL PRODUCT

The finished product is set to dry. Customers can purchase treats individually or as part of Copper Kettle's boxes, which feature a selection of the shop's most popular chocolates.

**"SO MANY OF THESE RECIPES HAVE JUST BEEN PASSED DOWN."**

RYAN KOUSSOUJI, HEAD CHOCOLATE MAKER

### Copper Kettle Chocolate Factory

15014 Spring Cypress Road, Ste. 145, Cypress

281-547-7878

[www.copperkettlechocolates.com](http://www.copperkettlechocolates.com)

Hours: Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Sun.-Mon.



has also gotten directly involved in the community, with Scott and Ryan running in local triathlons and Ryan coaching a local lacrosse team.

When COVID-19 struck, Copper Kettle did not have to worry about employees since Scott, Carrie and Ryan are the only ones running the business. However, with a lockdown in place and Easter

2020 approaching, they adapted by implementing pickup orders. Another result of the pandemic has been supply chain disruption, and Ryan said the shop has experienced delays.

Moving forward, Ryan plans to upgrade his existing equipment and workspace. He said he would like to open more storefronts in Cy-Fair.

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# CURBING THE FLU AMID A PANDEMIC

For the second consecutive year, doctors, hospitals and public health officials are bracing for the upcoming flu season. With the delta variant of the coronavirus continuing to spread at alarming rates and with vaccine hesitancy still present, they worry that flu cases will quickly rise, further threatening lives and straining healthcare providers.

"Last year, flu cases were historically low due to higher-than-usual flu vaccinations amid a surge in COVID-19 cases, along with mitigation efforts such as mask wearing, social distancing and enhanced handwashing," says Luis Ostrosky, MD, professor and director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston) and medical director of Epidemiology and Stewardship at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. "This year, we're concerned because people have become complacent, especially as they become fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and now those mitigation strategies that worked well last year against the spread of COVID-19 and the flu are being lifted."

Dr. Ostrosky, who is also the vice chair for Healthcare Quality within the Department of Internal Medicine at McGovern Medical School, warns of the possibility of a "twindemic," where COVID-19 and flu cases converge and increase the need for hospital beds and ICU care. "A 'twindemic' could be catastrophic for our healthcare system," he says.

To prevent a twindemic, Dr. Ostrosky is advising people to get the flu vaccine, even if they have also been vaccinated against the coronavirus. And for

those who have waited to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, Dr. Ostrosky encourages getting both vaccines.

"The CDC has determined that it's safe to co-administer the flu vaccine with the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters," he says. "They should be given in different arms but can be given on the same day."

While the influenza virus—the virus that causes the flu—circulates year-round, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, flu cases begin to emerge in October in North America and typically peak between December and February.

According to Dr. Ostrosky, public health officials monitor the number of cases they see and make their recommendations for when to get the flu vaccine based on those trends. Since we're into fall, the time to get vaccinated is now. Like with the COVID-19 vaccine, it takes about 2 weeks after vaccination to build up the antibodies to fight off influenza.

Dr. Ostrosky, following the CDC recommendations, encourages everyone over the age of 6 months who can get the vaccine to do so yearly.

It's important to note that flu vaccines should be received each year. According to Dr. Ostrosky, that recommendation stems from the fact that flu strains vary from year to year. "We look at the flu strains that are prevalent in the Southern Hemisphere each year, since their seasons are opposite ours, and use vaccines that fight those predominant strains," says Dr. Ostrosky.

It's also important to understand that flu vaccines are not 100 percent effective, Dr. Ostrosky says. Breakthrough cases of the flu do occur because the vaccine used each year may be less effective against certain strains of the influenza virus circulating within the community. But, he explains, like seen with the COVID-19 vaccines, the illness is milder and symptoms resolve faster if you've been vaccinated against influenza.

Dr. Ostrosky adds that even if you get the flu before you're vaccinated, you should still get the vaccine, since the strains vary. Your immunity to one strain, he says, might have little bearing on how you're affected by another strain. The vaccine, though, is effective against multiple strains, so you're likely to be protected for the rest of the year. You'll also protect others from getting the flu if you are vaccinated against it.

"The flu vaccine is an insurance policy to protect yourself against hospitalization, life-threatening illness and death," he says. "Vaccination also provides a community benefit by preventing a 'twindemic' and decompressing hospitals and the overburdened healthcare system. Think about the community."

Primary care and pediatric clinics affiliated with Memorial Hermann have flu vaccines available for their patients. To find a physician or clinic near you, visit [memorialhermann.org](http://memorialhermann.org).



**Luis Ostrosky, MD**  
Infectious Disease Specialist

Learn more about the flu season and how to protect yourself at [memorialhermann.org/flu](http://memorialhermann.org/flu)

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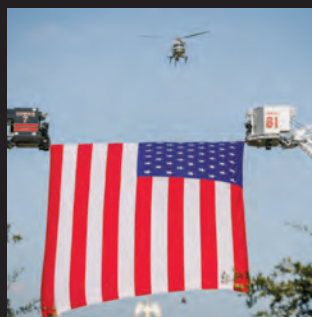
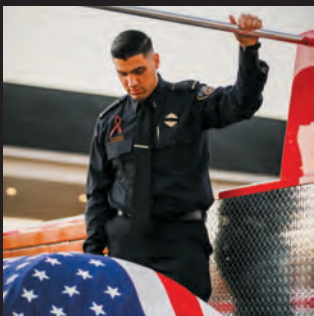
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John and Tamara Hamilton (middle, back row) opened Just Love Coffee Cafe to provide a family environment for the community.

CHANDLER FRANCE/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

## Just Love Coffee Cafe

*Couple opens local eatery to give back to community*

**A**fter being in the restaurant industry for 25 years—more than 20 of those as a senior partner with Papa John's restaurants in Houston—Tamara Hamilton said she wanted to start a new endeavor for herself and for her community. When she and her husband John opened Just Love Coffee Cafe near Shaw Road last November, she said she wanted to offer the area something different.

“Our neighborhood needed something, and not just a doughnut shop [or] another coffee shop,” Tamara said. “We wanted somewhere that provided a good meal with great coffee and a friendly environment.”

Tamara said they chose to open the first Houston-area location of Just Love Coffee Cafe, a

Nashville-based company, because the company is built on giving back. She said she was a single mother for a time, and that motivates her.

“I always promised myself that if I was ever in a position to give back I always would because there was a point in my life where I needed some help,” Tamara said.

The cafe gives back through its Love Fund, which provides money for those in the community with immediate needs, such as gas, groceries or medical bills, Tamara said. The restaurant also “adopted” six single mothers last holiday season and provided them with gifts, wrapping paper and a meal for them and their families, she said.

Beyond giving back, John said he wants the cafe to be a

family-friendly place where all ages can visit.

“We want to be a place where people can come and feel comfortable,” John said.

John said part of what makes Just Love Coffee Cafe unique is most of the food is cooked on waffle griddles, from omelettes to sandwiches and burritos. The restaurant also offers coffees and teas.

Tamara said the couple hopes to open two other locations: one in The Woodlands and the other in Bridgeland in Cypress. She said the plan is to have three locations so each of her three sons can inherit one of the restaurants.

“We didn’t know Just Love was going to be exactly what we wanted to do,” Tamara said.

## WHAT'S ON THE MENU

Just Love Coffee Cafe offers a range of breakfast dishes, sandwich options and beverages, including these three popular items.

### THE BREAKFAST BURRITO

includes eggs, sausage and hash browns (\$8.95).



### THE CLASSIC CLUB SANDWICH

is cooked on a waffle maker (\$9.95).



### A LATTE

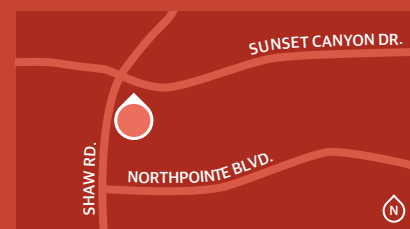
is made with steamed milk (\$3.95) and is just one of the drinks on the menu.

## Just Love Coffee Cafe

213727 Sunset Canyon Drive, Tomball  
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[www.justlovecoffeecafe.com/tomball](http://www.justlovecoffeecafe.com/tomball)

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# Stephen Head

Chancellor, Lone Star College System

With the fall semester underway since Aug. 30, Lone Star College Chancellor Stephen Head spoke with *Community Impact Newspaper* to discuss the changes the college system has seen throughout the pandemic and what students can anticipate as the academic year continues. Head spoke about the college system's hybrid model of classes, which incorporates online and face-to-face courses, as well as safety measures in place for students and staff in regard to the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

## WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS KNOW ABOUT ATTENDING CLASSES THIS YEAR?

Students should know you have options to take classes. For example, you could take them face to face, you can do totally online or do a hybrid [of the two]. We are giving both students and faculty the choice.

About 50% of our classes are strictly online, about 25% are hybrid and about 25% are in person.

By the executive order of the governor, we cannot mandate masks or vaccinations, but we are strongly encouraging everyone to wear a mask and get vaccinated. We know most of the new cases ... are from people that are not vaccinated. I am concerned about the influx of students from roughly 18-24, which is where most of our students are, who may have not been vaccinated yet. It is a health and safety issue for us.

## WHAT IS LONE STAR COLLEGE DOING TO KEEP STUDENTS AND FACULTY SAFE?

We take our lead from the state. We will adhere to state law and what the governor says. [Requiring

vaccinations] would have to come from the state Legislature ... just like in public schools, where you are required to have vaccinations. We are following the governor's executive orders, and we are trying to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines where we can, which are primarily health and safety protocols.

We are asking people to wear a mask, we have social distancing, we have face masks when people need them and we have hand sanitizer all over the place.

## IS THE HYBRID MODEL GOING TO STAY, EVEN AFTER COVID-19?

We are moving forward with the creation of a solely online campus. It will be our eighth campus, and it will be systemwide, so if anybody wants to take all of their classes online, they can come in with this program.

We have about 33 programs that are available online, and we are going to be guaranteeing that schedule. Now, this won't come into total effect until fall 2022, but we are working on that right now.

We had about 35,000 students

taking online classes before COVID[-19]. ... Now we have about 60,000 or so. I do think you will see a better balance when we get back to normal, which hopefully will be in the spring of 2022 or at least in the fall. We want to give students the option, but we are moving toward a much higher profile online.

We have a new executive vice chancellor, Dr. Seelpa Keshvala; she is also the CEO of online programming. She and I are working together to lay out the guidelines for that.

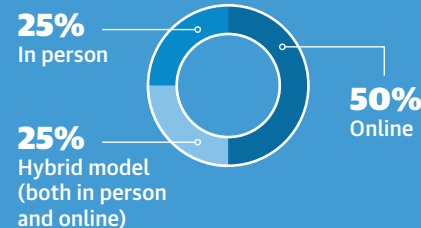
## ARE THERE ANY RECENT MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM LSCS YOU WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT?

We are moving forward on our law enforcement academy; we hope to receive approval for that [soon].

We are moving forward on planning for the Magnolia Center, but we are still in the planning stages there. We are submitting proposals for our fourth bachelor's degree within the next six weeks, and we had our first bachelor degree graduation ceremony for nursing; that program is very healthy.

## STUDENT OPTIONS

Lone Star College System continues to offer a hybrid model of classes for students to continue taking their course work.



SOURCE: LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021-22

The college system is seeing more online students and adding programs.

- Close to **60,000 students** are taking online courses at LSCS.
- 52,000 financial stimulus awards** have been given to students since the start of the pandemic.
- A **fourth bachelor program** at LSCS is being submitted for approval.

SOURCE: LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

We have 10 applications for every opening, so we are expanding that.

We also received another \$6 million in [federal] stimulus funding, ... so we will give out up to \$180 million in stimulus funding over a three-year period to help our students and their families. We have given 52,000 awards already.

It has to be COVID-related; they have to show a need; ... they will need to fill out a financial aid application to show the need. We follow the guidelines from the [U.S.] Department of Education for administering the money.

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# EXPLAINING EVICTIONS

Officials said Harris County was experiencing an eviction crisis before the pandemic began. While moratoriums helped keep evictions down for a few months, they have started trending upward again. There are several steps in the eviction process in Texas, and proceedings may take weeks.

## STEP 1

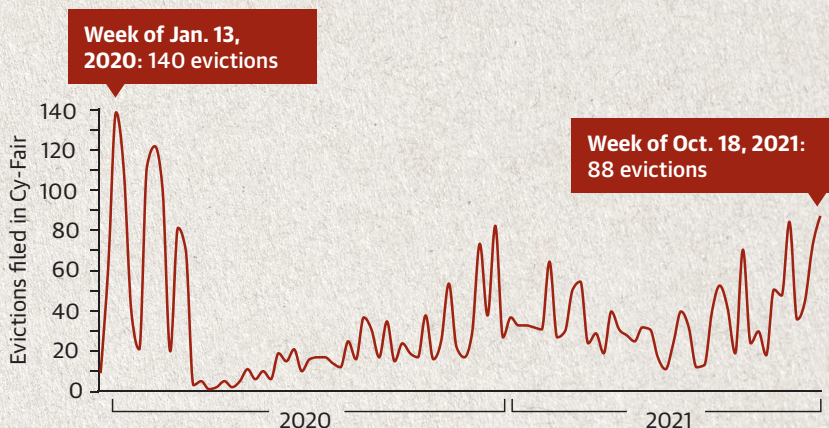
Generally, landlords must give tenants at least three days to move out following a written notice to vacate. Once the notice is issued, they may file an eviction suit.

## STEP 2

An eviction hearing will take place at least 10 days after the petition is filed. Once a judgment is issued, parties can appeal within five days.

## STEP 3

Following the final judgment, the landlord can ask for a writ of possession. From there, the constable must post a 24-hour notice before removing the tenant's property.



SOURCES: TEXAS STATE LAW LIBRARY, JANUARY ADVISORS, HARRIS COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

## CY-FAIR

**3,275 EVICTION CASES**  
filed since start of 2020

**\$7M TOTAL**  
claim amount

**2.4% DEFENDANTS**  
assisted by attorneys

## HARRIS COUNTY

**59,773 eviction cases**  
filed since start of 2020

**\$110.3M TOTAL**  
claim amount

**3.2% DEFENDANTS**  
assisted by attorneys

CONTINUED FROM 1

Apartment rental rates dropped in 2020 for the first time in at least 10 years, but as demand has picked up again, rates are up nearly 13% year over year.

“The supply for single-family homes has dropped, and so that drives the price up,” McClenny said. “Traditionally, there’s this movement from renters to be buyers of homes, and that has been disrupted in a big way.”

About 67% of the homes sold in Cy-Fair in July and August 2019 sold for less than \$300,000. That percentage dropped to 45% in July and August this year while the share of homes priced higher than \$500,000 doubled, according to monthly market data provided by the Baker Foreman team at Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene.

Janet Ryan, development director with Cypress Assistance Ministries, said a decline in affordable housing is not a new concern in Cy-Fair. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Cy-Fair’s median household income has grown about 11% since 2010 while home prices have increased nearly 60%.

CAM only saw a slight uptick in clients seeking financial assistance at the start of the pandemic. Ryan said a boost in unemployment benefits helped many at risk of losing their homes. In fact, many made more money from these benefits than they did working, she said.

The state ended its participation in the federal pandemic unemployment

## RESIDENTS AT RISK

More than 3,100 eviction cases have been filed in Cy-Fair since the start of 2020. These apartment complexes have evicted the most tenants to date.

- 1 Circle at Point Park: **252**
- 2 The Abbey at Willowbrook: **115**
- 3 Avaya Steeplechase Apartments: **71**
- 4 Steepleway Downs Apartments: **52**
- 5 The Chelsea at Bellevue: **49**
- 6 Trails at Corinthian Creek: **47**
- 7 Regency Park Apartment Homes: **42**
- 8 Kessler Jersey Village Apartments: **40**
- 9 The Point at Cypress Woods: **37**
- 10 Palazzo at Cypresswood: **34**

benefits program in late June, and the number of monthly clients at CAM has doubled since. In September, CAM’s services allowed 151 people affected by the pandemic to stay in their homes with electricity and water.

“During a time when the unemployment benefits were available and increased, not everyone chose to budget accordingly, so now they’re in trouble financially,” Ryan said. “Now with [rent] prices going up, ... if you’re already living paycheck to paycheck, that totally takes you out of having the ability to pay your rent.”

## Facing eviction

Passed in March 2020, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act included an eviction moratorium through late July 2020. By September, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had issued its own national eviction moratorium.

While evictions notably dropped during the pandemic, moratoriums were not consistently enforced, according to reports by data science consulting firm January Advisors. The reports show more than 57,000 eviction filings have been made in Harris County, including about 3,100 in

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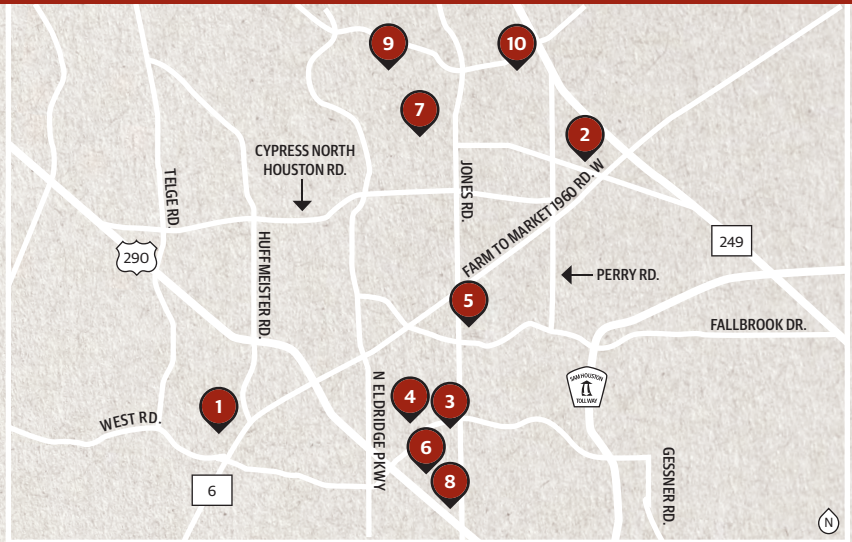


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SOURCES: JANUARY ADVISORS, HARRIS COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

## RENTAL RESOURCES

Cy-Fair residents struggling to pay rent and other bills on time have several options for assistance.

### CYPRESS ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES

#### Qualifications:

Must live in ZIP codes 77065, 77095, 77433 or 77429 and provide identification, proof of residence, proof of income, award letters and proof of a financial problem

[www.cypressassistance.com](http://www.cypressassistance.com)

### TEXAS RENT RELIEF

#### Qualifications:

Must live in Texas, have had their employment been negatively affected by COVID-19, be at risk of losing their home and make 80% or less of the area median family income

[www.texasrentrelief.com](http://www.texasrentrelief.com)

### HOUSTON-HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

#### Qualifications:

Must live in Houston or Harris County, have had their employment been negatively affected by COVID-19, be at risk of losing their home and make 80% or less of the area median family income

[www.houstonharrishelp.org](http://www.houstonharrishelp.org)

Cy-Fair, since the start of 2020.

After multiple extensions, the CDC's moratorium ended late this summer, according to Texas Legal Services Center. Data from Workforce Solutions shows the region's unemployment rate was 6.1% at the time.

A report from January Advisors revealed the CDC's moratorium delayed or prevented evictions for 13% of defendants in Harris County.

"The challenge with the eviction moratorium all along has been that people had to meet certain criteria and fill out a moratorium declaration and take that with them to court, and quite a lot of folks didn't know how to do that, didn't have the support they needed to do that or were scared to use it," said Leah Barton, director of strategic initiatives with the Harris County Office of County Administration.

### Local resources

Barton said as housing becomes a larger share of the budget for many families, some may be forced to cut back on other expenses, such as health insurance or food.

"We know that rents have gone up faster than wages, and people were struggling pre-pandemic," she said.

"As people experienced loss of jobs—or in many cases even if they kept a job, loss of hours—and increase in expenses with kids home and [personal protective equipment] purchase needs, ... they've really felt the squeeze."

Renters needing assistance have a few options. The Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program had pledged or paid over \$221 million to more than 57,000 families as of mid-October, most of which was subsidized by federal funds.

The program can cover up to 18 months of rent as far back as April 2020, and up to two months can be allocated to current or future rent to allow tenants time to get back on their feet, officials said. Harris County renters whose employment has been affected by COVID-19, are at risk of losing their homes, and have household incomes at or below 80% of the area median family income can apply.

Meanwhile, CAM's Operation Jobs program teaches interviewing skills, helps with resumes and sends job leads to unemployed individuals. Those who are working may also be eligible for financial assistance.

### Looking ahead

Evictions are beginning to trend up again throughout the county, officials said. More than 1,400 cases were filed the week of Oct. 11, which was the highest weekly number since before the pandemic.

"Having an eviction on your record makes it really hard to get new housing," Barton said. "Some families are lucky to be able to find a new apartment, but I think that's not the norm. Many wind up moving in with friends and family. Maybe they'll end up finding temporary housing in a pay-by-the-week motel. ... Some may wind up living in their car for a while or becoming homeless."

McClenny said he expects 2022 to look like 2021 in terms of "super-charged demand" for apartments due to population and job growth, single-family home prices and other metros seeing larger rate increases. Apartment rent in Austin has jumped 26% year over year, while Dallas and San Antonio have seen 17% and 14% increases, respectively.

"Where we stand in terms of

everybody else in Texas, our rent growth is not as strong as all the other major markets," McClenny said. "The affordability issue is better handled in Houston, so that might be something that people consider."

Homeownership for these renters is becoming less feasible as single-family home prices continue to climb. Most of Cy-Fair's new-construction homes are in ZIP code 77433, where housing costs have risen 13%-22% each month year over year in 2021.

Even in more established and affordable ZIP codes, such as 77065, prices have risen as much as 27%, according to data from the Baker Foreman team.

"The median home price is over \$300,000 now nationwide. That cuts so many people out of the ability to buy a home," Ryan said.

*Sierra Rozen contributed to this report.*



For more information, visit [communityimpact.com](http://communityimpact.com).



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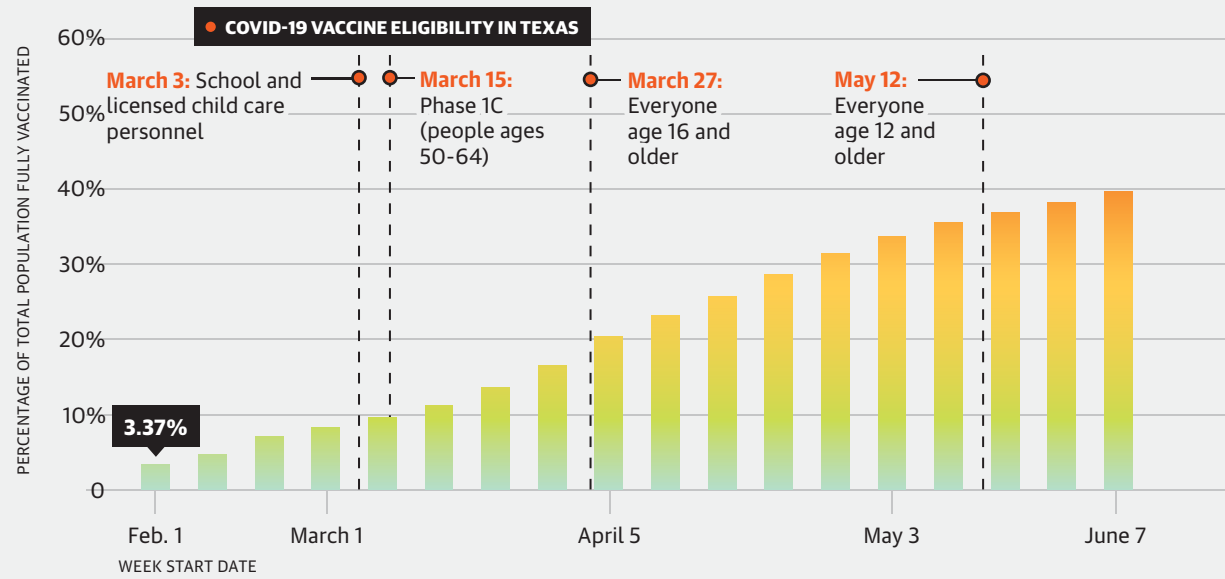
URGENT CARE





While vaccinations in Harris County picked up in the spring following the expansion of vaccine eligibility in December to individuals in phases 1A and 1B, they slowed in the summer months. As of Oct. 4, just over half of Harris County's total population had been fully vaccinated.

SOURCES: HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH, HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



CONTINUED FROM 1

## As vaccinations lag, experts say herd immunity may be unattainable

BY JISHNU NAIR & HANNAH ZEDAKER

When the COVID-19 vaccines first became available, Lydia Garcia, a Cy-Fair resident and former medical professional, was hesitant to get one.

Garcia knew what vaccines were meant to do. But she also knew people who had had heart attacks—like she had during her son's birth four years ago—were being urged to exercise caution.

"I was reading that some of them could give blood clots, so I was going to hold on until they became [Food and Drug Administration] approved or more information came out," she said.

The tipping point came when Garcia's mother-in-law caught COVID-19 in August. With her husband working, she was the sole caretaker.

Now that she has her vaccine, Garcia has had conversations with her family about getting vaccinated without much progress.

"My mother-in-law changed her

tune after she nearly died; she was telling her kids, including my husband, to get the shot," Garcia said. "[My husband] believes it's his right not to if he doesn't want to."

Harris County's COVID-19 response division is seeing the same hesitancy on a countywide scale. Jennifer Kiger, the division's director, said the county is lagging on vaccination rates, including in parts of the Cy-Fair area.

"When we look at vaccination rates across the county, ... we do see lower vaccination rates in the north, central and east parts of the county," Kiger said. "But in general, we're not at the point where we need to be across most [Harris County] ZIP codes."

The new 69-position division was created Aug. 24 and took over COVID-19 testing, vaccination and outreach countywide for the next two years. The \$17 million division is being funded through the Public Improvement Contingency Fund and federal

COVID-19 relief grants.

While Harris County Public Health rolled out initiatives this summer to incentivize vaccines, Kiger said reaching herd immunity—when a sufficient proportion of a population is immune to a disease through vaccination and/or prior illness—is becoming increasingly unattainable.

"[Herd immunity is] getting harder and harder to achieve because of the variants and low vaccination rates," Kiger said. "What we're trying to achieve now is ... a lower hospitalization rate, low morbidity/mortality rates and ... less community spread."

### Summer slowdown

Since Texas expanded COVID-19 vaccine eligibility in mid-May to include everyone age 12 and older, HCPH has been making vaccines more accessible to more than 4.7 million residents by establishing mass and mobile vaccination sites

and a community COVID-19 hotline.

One of those providers is Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital, which launched a vaccine clinic Jan. 18, according to Andy Cole, the hospital's regional administrator who is overseeing the vaccine clinic.

At its peak, the clinic had the capacity to administer up to 900 doses per day; however, Cole said that has since been cut to about 650 doses per day in response to the current demand.

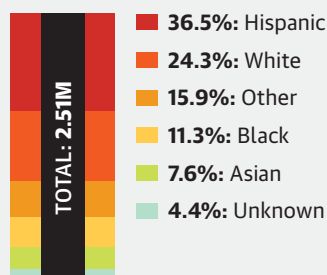
"Mid-June is when [vaccine demand] started dropping significantly, and we've been pretty slow through the summer," Cole said.

Simultaneously, the delta variant began spreading over the summer, causing Harris County to raise its COVID-19 threat level Aug. 5 back to red, signifying severe and uncontrolled spread of the virus.

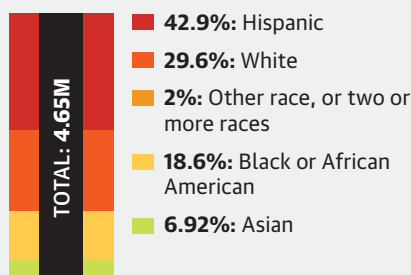
While the FDA issued formal approval of Pfizer's COVID-19

## Who's getting VACCINATED

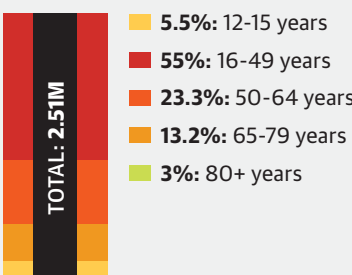
Fully vaccinated Harris County residents by race/ethnicity as of Oct. 19



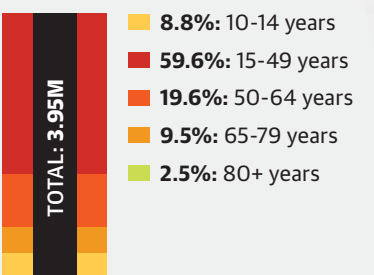
Harris County's total population by race/ethnicity as of 2019



Fully vaccinated Harris County residents by age group as of Oct. 19



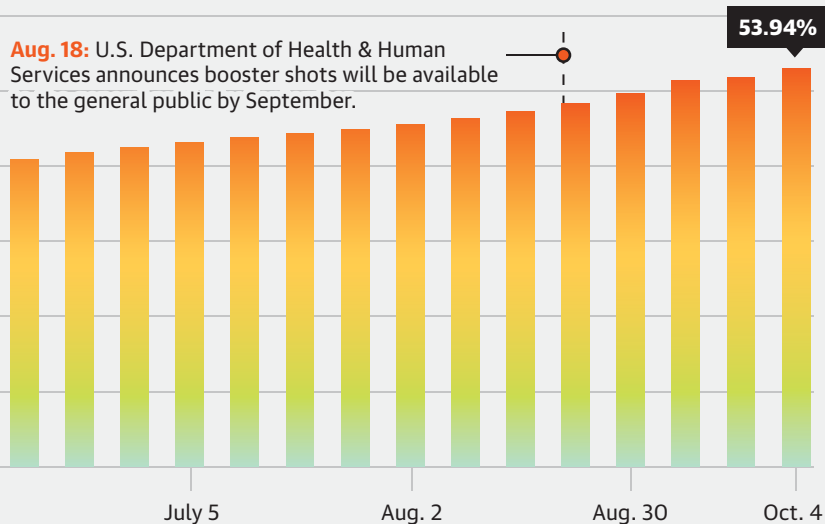
Harris County's total population by age group as of 2019



SOURCES: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, 2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5-YEAR ESTIMATES/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



**Aug. 18:** U.S. Department of Health & Human Services announces booster shots will be available to the general public by September.



vaccine Aug. 23, Cole said the change in demand for vaccines has been minuscule.

### Protecting ineligible children

Children under age 12 are still not recommended to receive any available COVID-19 vaccines as of press time, although Pfizer on Oct. 7 asked the Food and Drug Administration to approve its shot for those ages 5-11. Christine Hanes, a Cy-Fair parent of three, has taken it upon herself to help get her community vaccinated.

Hanes and her eligible family had no hesitation about getting the shot because her 7-year-old daughter, Rory, was born with complex congenital heart defects, serious lung issues and Down syndrome.

“As soon as it was available, my husband and I got vaccinated, for Rory’s sake,” Hanes said. “My son just turned 13, so he became eligible, and we were able to schedule shots for him as well.”

To keep her children safe, Hanes pulled Rory and her middle child, both Cy-Fair ISD students, out of in-person learning. Her oldest son, who began eighth grade in August, is not eligible for the district’s virtual learning, so Hanes began home-schooling him.

“It’s really challenging,” Hanes said. “I hope that we’ll have more options to talk with [the district]. Just so more kids have this as an option.”

CFISD reported over 3,800 students were enrolled in its virtual learning program, which has only been available to students in kindergarten to sixth grade this school year. More than 4,200 confirmed cases were reported on campuses from the start of the school year Aug. 23 through Oct. 19.

Hanes said over the summer, she

participated in the district’s efforts to reach out to parents and informed them of her situation. She said she has been trying to use the risks Rory faces as an incentive for her community to get vaccinated. She has been met with both positive and negative responses.

“In our community, everyone knows about Rory, so she’s almost become the face of vaccination here,” Hanes said. “But I still have people resisting, saying they don’t have to.”

### Incentivizing vaccines

In hopes of driving up vaccination rates, HCPH launched incentive programs this summer, including a 10-week program during which a \$5,000 scholarship was awarded weekly to a student who had received their vaccine from a HCPH site.

Another HCPH incentive program launched Aug. 17, giving anyone who received a vaccine through HCPH a \$100 cash card. Citing a 706% increase in daily vaccinations, county officials expanded the program to include all medical providers in Harris County. The program was later extended twice, ending Sept. 30.

HCPH announced it would begin offering vaccine booster shots Oct. 1. The FDA authorized the third dose of the Pfizer shot Sept. 22 for populations age 65 and older and those age 18-64 at high risk of COVID-19.

Kiger said the COVID-19 division is ramping up its efforts as many fully vaccinated residents will soon hit their eight-month booster shot milestone. Cole said Houston Methodist will continue to host vaccine clinics until the demand runs dry.

# SO, SO *thankful*

our community has been so good to us! we are thankful everyday for your continued support. this holiday season, please keep us in mind for your lighting, electrician and generator needs.

the holiday season is our slow season and we hold on tight to keep everyone’s hands busy so we can all provide for our families.

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happy thanksgiving from our family to yours

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For more information, visit [communityimpact.com](https://communityimpact.com).

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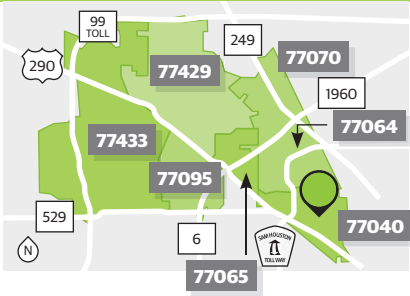
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WOODLAND OAKS, 77040

Woodland Oaks is a community of 1,208 single-family homes located near the intersection of Fairbanks North Houston Road and West Little York Road. The community is zoned to Cy-Fair ISD and has close access to local dining and shopping options.



Median home value

\$157,586

Homes in the community

1,208

Homes sold in the past year

52

Median annual property taxes

\$3,372

Median price per square foot

\$102.67

Average days on the market\*

26

**Build-out year:** 1990  
**Median square footage:** 1,531  
**Home values:** \$80,000-\$500,000  
**HOA dues (estimated):** \$335 annually  
**Schools (Cy-Fair ISD):** Reed Elementary School, Dean Middle School, Jersey Village High School  
**Property taxes (in dollars):**  
Lone Star College System 0.11  
Harris County 0.39  
Harris Co. Dept. of Education 0.01  
Harris Co. Emergency Services District No. 9 0.06  
Harris Co. Flood Control District 0.03  
Harris Health System 0.17  
Cy-Fair ISD 1.36  
Port of Houston Authority 0.01  
**Total (per \$100 valuation)** 2.14

NEIGHBORHOOD DATA PROVIDED BY THE BAKER FOREMAN TEAM  
BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS REAL ESTATE GARY GREENE,  
15103 MASON ROAD, STE. A-1, CYPRESS 832-334-0001.  
MELISSA.BAKER@GARYGREENE.COM  
TRACY.FOREMAN@GARYGREENE.COM

\*AS OF OCT. 1

Recently sold homes in Woodland Oaks



**7823 Sawmill Trail**  
3 beds/2 baths 1,490 sq. ft.  
Sold for /\$185,001-\$215,000 on Sept. 23



**7715 Kempsey Lane**  
4 beds/2 baths 2,500 sq. ft.  
Sold for \$215,001-\$250,000 on May 21



**7923 Fall Glen Drive**  
4 beds/3 baths 2,913 sq. ft.  
Sold for \$250,001-\$285,000 on April 8

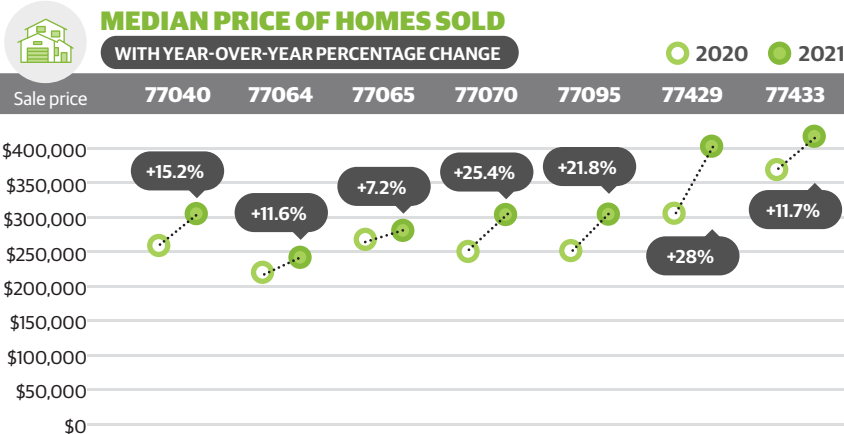


**7911 Woodland Oaks Court**  
3 beds/2 baths 1,498 sq. ft.  
Sold for \$185,001-\$215,000 on May 14

MARKET DATA FOR SEPTEMBER

HOMES SOLD/AVERAGE DAYS ON THE MARKET

	77040	77064	77065	77070	77095	77429	77433
\$1 million +	-	-	-	1/42	-	1/72	2/17
\$800,000-\$999,999	-	-	-	-	-	5/5	4/16
\$600,000-\$799,999	-	-	-	1/36	-	12/8	26/20
\$500,000-\$599,999	2/20	-	1/52	2/19	-	14/10	19/16
\$400,000-\$499,999	2/20	-	1/32	2/19	11/15	26/30	41/27
\$300,000-\$399,999	13/17	9/12	4/7	18/7	43/12	51/11	51/16
\$200,000-\$299,999	15/14	23/15	27/17	44/18	45/16	45/10	48/10
\$150,000-\$199,999	4/18	9/9	4/40	3/8	1/0	4/12	8/5
\$149,999 or under	1/162	-	-	1/13	-	-	1/3



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832.457.1103

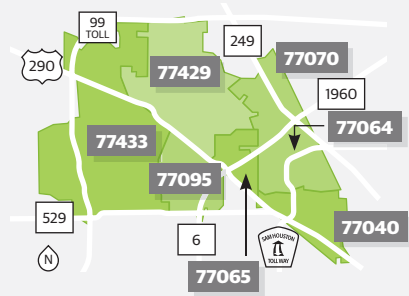


GARY GREENE

CYPRESS OFFICE  
15103 MASON RD SUITE A-1  
CYPRESS, TX 77433  
832.334.0001

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### OCTOBER 2021 COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DATA

More than 1 million square feet of industrial space is under construction in Cy-Fair as of mid-October. Rental rates in that sector have climbed about 50% in the past three years. On the other hand, nearly one-quarter of the region's office real estate is vacant, and rental rates have fallen continually throughout the pandemic. Cy-Fair's retail market, however, has remained fairly steady when it comes to rental rates, and another nine buildings are under construction.

#### TOTAL SQUARE FEET OF SPACE

Q4 2020 As of Oct. 19

#### OFFICE

10.59M

10.71M

#### INDUSTRIAL

40.17M

41.63M

#### RETAIL

20.07M

21.39M



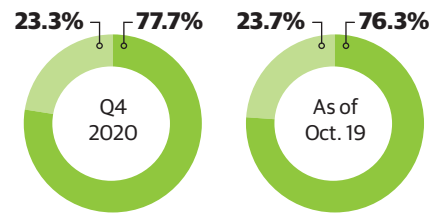
MARKET DATA PROVIDED BY CALDWELL COS.  
7904 N. SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY, FOURTH FLOOR  
HOUSTON, TX 77064  
COLLEGE STATION | HOUSTON | THE WOODLANDS

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.

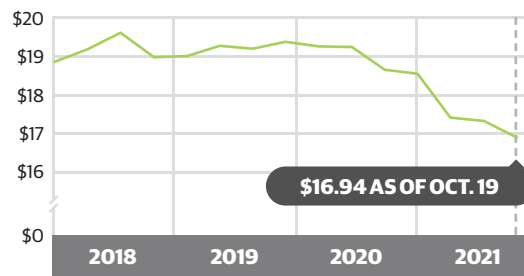
### OFFICE

#### OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY

Occupancy rate Vacancy rate



#### RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



#### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

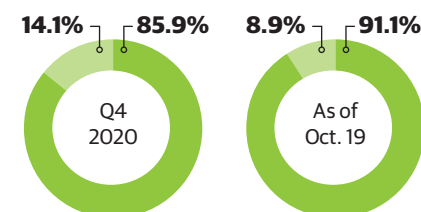
216,410 square feet

3 buildings

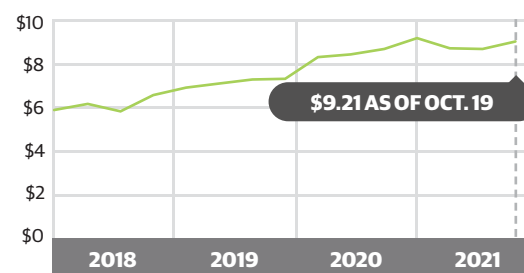
### INDUSTRIAL

#### OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY

Occupancy rate Vacancy rate



#### RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



#### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

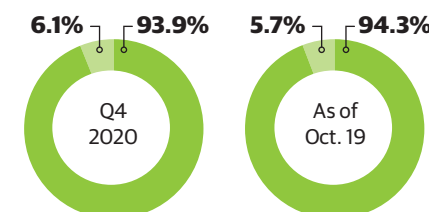
1,129,077 square feet

7 buildings

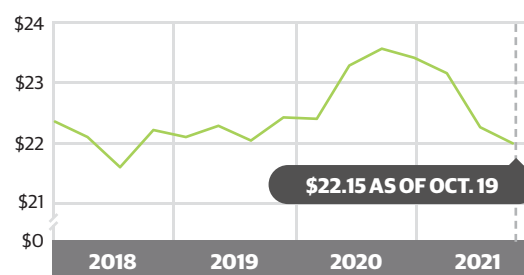
### RETAIL

#### OCCUPANCY VS. VACANCY

Occupancy rate Vacancy rate



#### RENTAL RATES PER SQUARE FOOT



#### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

125,355 square feet

9 buildings

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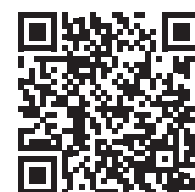
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- Sautéed green beans
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- Gravy

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

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Special  
every  
Friday!**

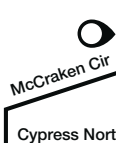
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Featuring a local brewery  
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OF ALL AGES!



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(excludes holidays and outside events)

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**BAILEY & BUNS**  
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BECOME A VIP &  
RECEIVE AN EXCLUSIVE  
**COMPLIMENTARY  
APPETIZER**

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MINIMUM PURCHASE OF \$25  
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Expires 11/30/21

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Expires 11/30/21

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\$5 appetizers Wednesday 2-9pm  
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THE CAPT. BRAD'S CREW  
THANKS YOU  
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The Backyard Grill can handle all of your holiday catering needs from drop off to full service.  
www.BackyardCaters.com/Turkey

**thebackyardgrill.com**

9453 Jones Road, Houston, 77065  
281.897.9200



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



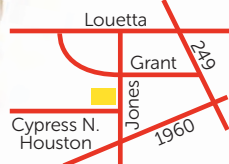
# Custard is better!



## 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 12/15/21



**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](http://www.conniesfrozenscustard.com)

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

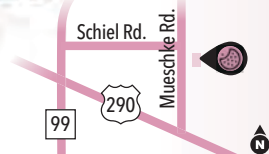
Box of 4 Cookies!

IN-STORE ONLY, ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER.

EXPIRES 12/4/21. CODE: CYF

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

**(346) 332-2227 • [halfbakedgoodness.com](http://halfbakedgoodness.com)**



16326 MUESCHKE RD E10  
CYPRESS, TX 77433

**LOCATED ON THE BACKSIDE OF THE COMPLEX**

# GET AN ESTIMATE WITHOUT LEAVING THE HOUSE



## \$100 OFF

REPAIRS OF \$500-\$1,500

## \$250 OFF

REPAIRS OF \$1,501-\$4,999

## \$500 OFF

EXCEEDING \$5,000

**PHOTO ESTIMATES NOW AVAILABLE**

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



FREE PICKUP AND DELIVERY FOR COLLISION REPAIRS

COMPLIMENTARY RENTALS AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFYING REPAIRS

**Sterling McCall Collision**

Jersey Village



18700 Northwest Freeway, Houston, TX  
(281) 925-3280 | [JerseyVillageCollision.com](http://JerseyVillageCollision.com)



BIERGARTEN  
COPPERFIELD

## 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4**

FIRST 50 CUSTOMERS IN THE DOOR WIN

**FREE HOT DOGS FOR A YEAR!**

(MUST BRING A TOY FOR DEPELCHIN TOY DRIVE TO QUALIFY)

8422 HWY 6 N  
HOUSTON, TX 77095  
(832) 427-1284

Jeep Show @ 3pm  
hosted by Wicked Jeeps



Give-Aways & Drink specials all day



## \$5 OFF \$20 PURCHASE

Admit one per person.  
Not valid with any other offers.



## BUY ONE GET ONE

ANY ITEM OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

One per person. Not valid with any other offers.



THE ABSOLUTE WURST

**DOGS SAUSAGES BURGERS**

**COPPERFIELD.DOGHAUS.COM**





**NOW IS THE TIME TO  
BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY,  
OFFICE, LITTLE LEAGUE  
TEAM PARTY & FAMILY  
CELEBRATIONS!**

**SPACE IS FILLING UP QUICKLY!**



- Lots of party menus to choose from
- Great private space for parties of 20 up to 100
- Indoor and outdoor spaces available to reserve

12710 Telge Road, Cypress, TX 77429

**281-746-6352**

**CREEKWOODGRILL.COM**

**SIGN UP FOR  
OUR E-CLUB**



**KIDS STILL EAT FREE  
ALL DAY WEDNESDAYS!**

**BUY ONE ENTREE  
GET ONE 1/2 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 12/6/2021

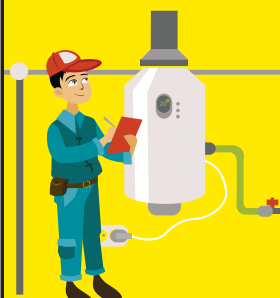
**BUDGET  
HOME  
SERVICES**

**YOUR  
REPIPE  
SPECIALISTS**

## **HOUSTON PLUMBING & A/C REPAIR**

**Underground Tunnel Experts**

Family owned and operated by native Houstonians since 1992



**\$250  
OFF**  
**Whole Home  
Repipe**

Exp 12/6/21.  
Cannot be combined  
with any other offers.

**\$200  
OFF**  
**New Complete  
A/C System Installs**

Exp 12/6/21.  
Cannot be combined  
with any other offers.

**CALL US TODAY! 713-686-4141**

**[budgethomeservices.com](http://budgethomeservices.com)**



Licensed and Insured MPL 37466 TACLBS3102E

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

**\$5 OFF  
FULL GROOMING**

Offer cannot be combined with any other offers.  
One coupon per family. Expires 12/6/21.

**\$10 OFF  
BOARDING**

One coupon per customer. Offer cannot be combined with any other offers. Min 3 night stay. Expires 12/6/21

**\$45 OFF  
ANY TRAINING PACKAGE**

1 per family; not to be combined with any other offer.  
Expires 12/6/21

**THE KENNEL KLUB**

**PEOPLE TRUST US, PETS LOVE US.**

Hours: M-F 7-7, SAT 9-6, SUN 10-6

9040 Hwy. 6 North • Houston, 77095 • **281-345-4DOG (4364)**  
**[www.KennelKlubHouston.com](http://www.KennelKlubHouston.com)** • **[Kennel.Klub@yahoo.com](mailto:Kennel.Klub@yahoo.com)**



*Serving award winning Authentic Mexican food & Tex Mex*

*The wait is almost over! We have been working hard to repair our kitchen and dining room. We are awaiting final permits and should be re-open and ready to serve you very soon!*

*We thank you for your continued prayers and can't wait to re-open as soon as possible!*



-Juan Soto

**Soto's Cantina | 10609 Grant Road Houston, Texas 77070**

**[www.sotoscantina.com](http://www.sotoscantina.com) | 281-955-5667**

Monday-Thursday 11 am - 9:30 pm, Friday 11 am - 10:30 pm, Saturday 9 am - 10:30 pm, Closed Sunday



Serving Authentic, San Antonio Style Food  
**ENCHILADAS, FLAUTAS & BURGERS**

PLACE YOUR  
 HOLIDAY TAMALES  
 ORDERS NOW!

**ADD TAMALES TO YOUR  
 THANKSGIVING MEAL**

**FREE**  
 chips & queso  
 w/ \$25 purchase  
 Must present coupon. Expires 12/6/21



12139 JONES RD. HOUSTON, 77070

**281-970-6807**

CLOSED MONDAY, TUES-FRI 7-3, SAT & SUN 8-3 | WEEKDAYS ONLY OPEN TILL 5 FOR TAMALES TO GO

**DINING ROOM NOW OPEN!**



bubble  
 tea



chicken pho



banh mi

**FREE**

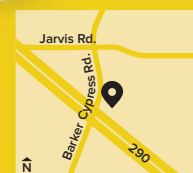
3pc EGG ROLL

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



**PHO BO 2**

12312 Barker Cypress Rd. Ste. 1000  
 Cypress, TX 77429  
 phobohouston.com • 281-758-5269



**Freddy's**  
 FROZEN CUSTARD &  
 STEAKBURGERS®



**KEEP THE  
 GOOD GOING.**

OUR DINING ROOMS ARE OPEN!

☑ DINE IN

☑ TAKE OUT

☑ DRIVE THRU

DELIVERY  
 WITH



**DOORDASH**

and Uber Eats

**Freddy's**  
 FROZEN CUSTARD &  
 STEAKBURGERS®

**FREE** FROZEN CUSTARD  
 SINGLE SCOOP CONE

Good for one single scoop cone - no purchase necessary. Must present this coupon. One per guest, per visit. Some restrictions may apply. Only valid at our Houston area Freddy's locations. [FreddysUSA.com/locations](https://www.freddysusa.com/locations) Expires 12/31/2021

REGISTER COUPON BUTTON: IMPACT



**Restaurant, Buffet, Snack  
 Shop, and Sweets Spot  
 Now serving Veg &  
 Non-Veg Thali**

**FREE**  
 GARLIC NAAN  
 WITH ENTREE

EXP. 12/6/21

**VEG &  
 NON-VEG  
 THALI W/ 3  
 MAIN DISHES  
 JUST \$9.99.**

MONDAY-THURSDAY



INDIAN CUISINE

SWEETS SPOT



11am - 3pm, 5pm - 10pm Daily  
 Closed on Mondays

**15514 FM 529, Houston, TX 77095**

At the corner of FM 529 & Hwy 6,

behind 24 Hour Fitness

**(832) 906-6123**

[www.a1choicehtx.com](https://www.a1choicehtx.com)

**FULL  
 BUFFET**

\$14.99 includes FREE  
 Mango Lassi. Kids 8 &  
 under eat FREE

FRIDAY, SATURDAY &  
 SUNDAY



## BOUDREAUX'S SPECIALS

11AM - 4PM  
DINE-IN ONLY



CYPRESS

PARTY  
PLATTERS  
AVAILABLE!  
ORDER YOURS  
TODAY!

Now Serving Breakfast/Brunch Every Saturday & Sunday



BOUDREAUX'S SPECIAL



GUMBO



SHRIMP & GRITS

FAMILY SIZED MEALS  
TO-GO!  
**\$10 OFF TO-GO  
FAMILY MEALS**

of \$50 or more (pick up only,  
does not apply with 3rd party  
meal delivery service, cannot be  
combined with any other offers).  
Expires 12/31/21

BUY ONE LOUISIANA  
FAVORITE GET ONE  
**50% OFF**

With purchase of two drinks, \$9 max  
value, cannot be combined with any  
other offers, one coupon per table,  
valid at Cypress location only.  
Exp 12/4/21

**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 12/4/21

(832) 653-3767

@thelostcajunecypress

24110 NW Freeway #100, Cypress, TX 77429 • thelostcajun.com/cypress



## Back Pain?

Are you dealing with back aches and pains that  
don't go away with ice, heat or stretching?  
Having trouble keeping up with housework  
because your lower back hurts?  
Has back pain stopped you from enjoying quality  
family time?  
Are you looking for a long-term solution to your  
back pain?

[www.yourgoalspt.com/back-pain.html](http://www.yourgoalspt.com/back-pain.html)



Start Healing From Home Today!  
Go to our website for your FREE EBook!

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BRING YOUR FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS TO THE



CELEBRATING OUR  
25th  
Anniversary



8220 Willow Place Dr. N • 281-847-5283  
FM-1960 at SH-249 (behind Fiesta near Itz)  
[www.AERODROMES.com](http://www.AERODROMES.com)

FIGURE SKATING & HOCKEY  
Learn to Skate Classes

BUY 1 Public Skate Admission  
and Skate Rental, get 1 FREE  
Savings of \$15! Expires 12/6/21.  
One coupon per customer, per visit

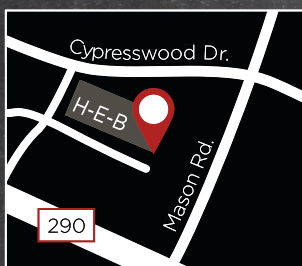


## AiriRamen

Featuring our traditional Japanese Chef

— Now Hiring —

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



HAPPY  
HOUR

Monday - Friday  
2pm - 6pm

**\$3.00**

House Sake, House Wine,  
and Beer





# The buddy system. Perfect for mammograms.

Pledge to schedule your mammogram today, and remind a friend to schedule her mammogram, too. Everyone could use a mammo buddy.

Schedule a visit with your doctor or health care provider today.  
[StLukesHealth.org](http://StLukesHealth.org)

