

Eyeing the storm

Emergency training underway for hurricane season

The projected cost for a coastal levee system **\$11.6B**

The cost of damage caused by Hurricane Ike in 2008 **\$29.5B**

The annual estimated GDP preserved with a coastal levee system **\$700M**

City and county officials are already making preparations for hurricane season, which begins June 1 and runs through Nov. 30.

BY **NORA OLABI**

As Pearland and Friendswood pour millions of dollars into infrastructure improvements, such as roads, buildings, water and sewer upgrades, and parks, to meet development demand,

officials are also looking closer at hurricane preparedness.

Pearland hired its first full-time emergency management coordinator, Allen Portman in an effort to balance population growth and

development with the growing need for improved public safety.

Hurricane Ike, the third costliest hurricane in U.S. history, hit Galveston as a Category 2 hurricane

CONTINUED ON **26**

FISD set to lose more than \$200K to 'Robin Hood' tax

District collects more revenue after tax hike

BY **AMELIA BRUST AND JAKE SNYDER**

Friendswood ISD anticipates it will lose \$232,367 in state funding for the 2016-17 school year due to the district's reclassification as property wealthy by the state, district officials said.

The reclassification—and loss of funds—comes after Friendswood residents approved a 9 cent increase to FISD's tax rate last year. The district called for a special election in September, saying it was necessary to pay a competitive wage to teachers, recruit talent and retain its employees, who were being poached by neighboring districts that offered more enticing salaries.

"We made some drastic cuts when the Legislature cut [funding] in 2011. We hired back most of the teacher spots but not the administrative and specialist spots," FISD Superintendent Trish Hanks said. "Our students were suffering. Our schools were suffering. We wanted to be competitive; we were losing teachers to other districts."

However, the Texas Education Agency took note of the increased tax generation. Because the district crossed a

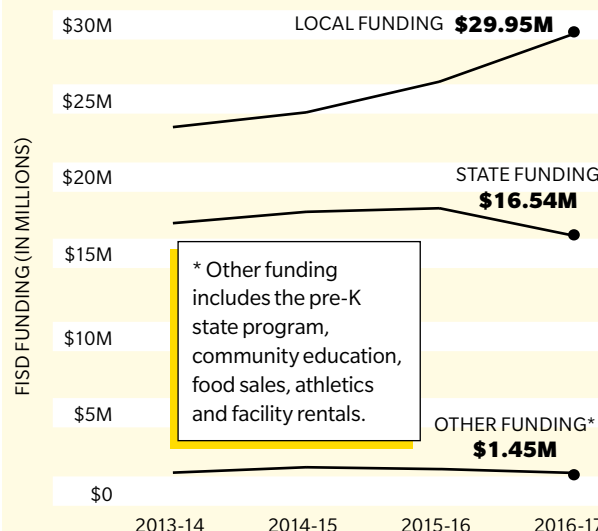
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FRIENDSWOOD ISD

FINDING FUNDING



As Friendswood ISD's operating budget has risen since the 2013-14 fiscal year, the share of state allocations has dropped. As a result, local funds have risen to fill the gap.



SOURCE: FRIENDSWOOD ISD/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



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Now Open, Coming Soon & more



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

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Your guide to picking a perfect summer camp

Remember the excitement as you waved goodbye to your parents and entered another world of campfires, cabins, talent shows and s'mores? Well, summertime has dramatically changed for many families.

Today, children can attend camps for art, technology, math and science as well as a variety of sports. But the search for "The One" takes real work and research. That is why we have put together a guide (pg. 24) that showcases camps in our community that are available to children of all ages.

We feature useful information, such as dates, cost information and locations, for those still researching options. The

listings will hopefully guide you through this important family decision.

In addition to our popular guide, we have continued to follow important issues concerning our local schools. This month, we are diving into how Texas funds schools through its wealth equalization program colloquially known as the "Robin Hood" tax. For the first time, Friendswood ISD will lose state funding through wealth equalization.

We would be remiss if we didn't discuss hurricane season, which is right around the corner.

Our top story will help prepare your family in case of an emergency. It is never too early to prepare for the unexpected.



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ASK THE EDITOR



Nora Olabi

Nora Olabi
EDITOR
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Do you have a question about how local government works or something going on in town? Send it to plfnews@communityimpact.com.

How is public infrastructure funded in west Pearland?

Shadow Creek Ranch residents live within a tax increment reinvestment zone, also known as a TIRZ, which uses tax dollars to spur development.

While a TIRZ does collect tax dollars, it does not directly tax residents. Instead, when Shadow Creek Ranch residents pay property taxes to the city of Pearland or Fort Bend or Brazoria counties and Alvin ISD, any taxes above an established base tax value is deposited in a tax increment revenue fund to be disbursed to the TIRZ. Base values are established for each taxing entity at the time the TIRZ was created, which in this case was in 1998.

Values have skyrocketed in Shadow Creek Ranch, which was an empty field valued at \$7 million. Now property values are nearly \$2 billion and rising, according to the TIRZ annual report. Funds generated by the TIRZ pays for new roads, parks and trails, sewer and drainage, landscaping, fire and police stations, and new schools. Once a project is complete, the TIRZ turns it over to municipalities for maintenance and operation.

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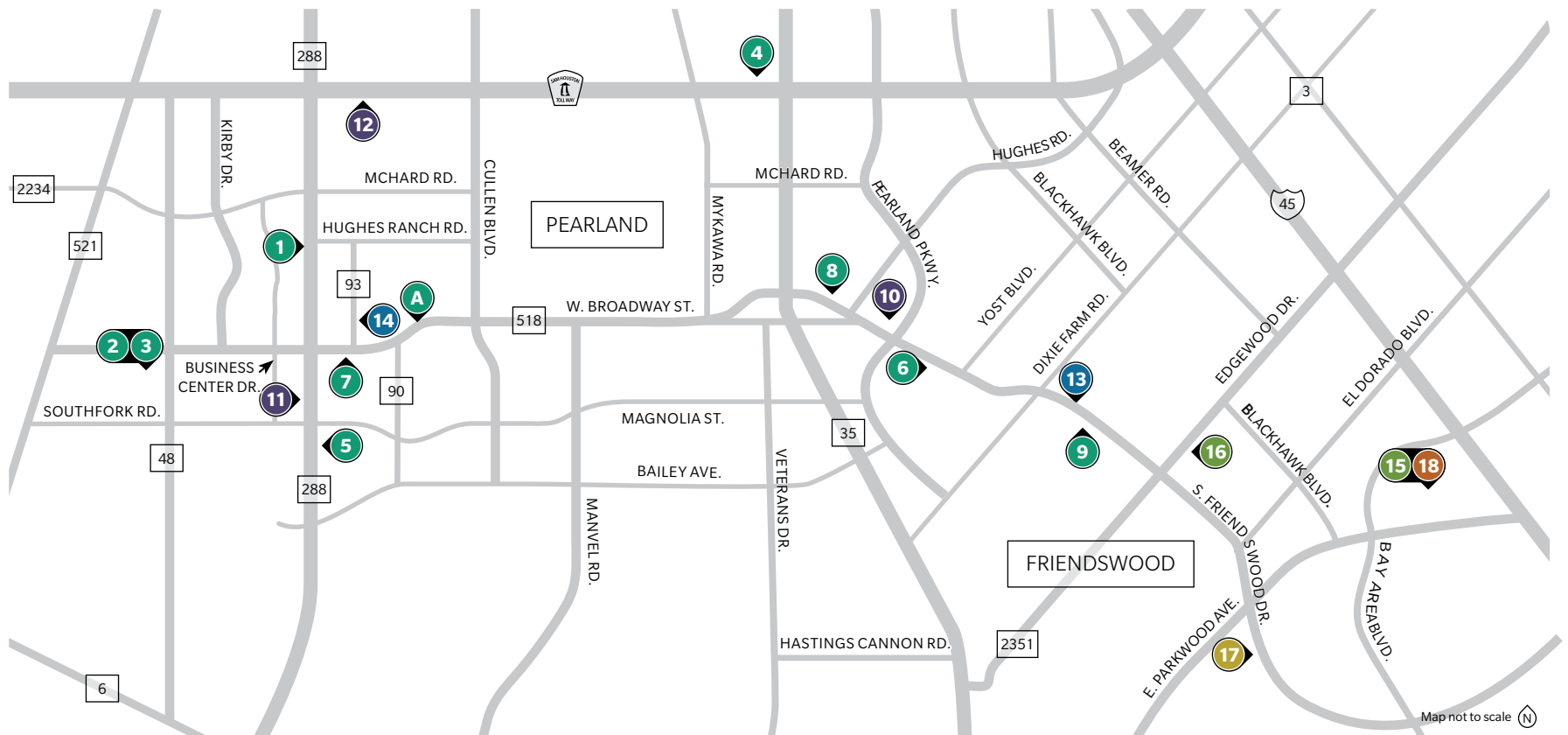
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NOW OPEN

1 Fajita Pete's opened its seventh Texas franchise Feb. 26 at 15718 Hwy. 288, Ste. 170, Pearland, in the former storefront of Moe's Southwest Grill, which closed in October. Fajita Pete's has locations in Dallas and the Greater Houston area, including Katy and Richmond. The restaurant offers a selection of grilled beef and chicken fajitas, hand-rolled tortillas and sides, such as rice, beans, guacamole and queso. Company officials said the chain is expected to grow to 40 locations in the next five years. The next opening will be at Sienna Plantation in Missouri City. 832-406-3640. www.fajitapetes.com

2 Owner David Graham opened **Code Ninjas** in mid-March at 12810 W. Broadway St., Ste. 160, Pearland. Code Ninjas offers after-school programs for children ages 7-17, in computer coding, problem-solving

and math skills through building and playing computer games. Graham was the previous owner of Coder Camps, a Pearland-based franchise specializing in teaching coding skills to adults. 855-446-4652. www.codeninjas.com

3 FASHIO Nail Spa held its grand opening Feb. 23 and is next door to Code Ninja and CVS/pharmacy at 12810 W. Broadway St., Ste. 150, Pearland. The salon has large leather recliners and offers manicures and pedicures. 281-741-1298

4 Indoor trampoline park **Jumping Zaxx** held its grand opening Feb. 18 at its Pearland-area location at 7505 S. Sam Houston Parkway E., Houston. The location features 30,000 square feet of entertainment space, including 120-foot-long trampoline lanes, dodgeball and slam dunk courts, an inflatable obstacle course, air fitness classes, video arcade games and

a snack bar. Jumping Zaxx can also host birthday parties and special events. 713-991-0945. www.jumpingzaxx.com

5 Car dealership **Southfork Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram** held its grand opening in March. The dealership is located at 17725 Hwy. 288, Manvel, and offers new, used and commercial inventory as well as car service and parts sales. 866-431-9790. www.houstonchryslerdodgejeepram.com

6 Owner Gracy Renteria opened boutique fitness center **Infinity Cycling Studio** on March 18 at 2540 E. Broadway St., Ste. J, Pearland. The studio offers spinning classes to the beat of a soundtrack. A variety of yoga classes are also offered, including Vinyasa yoga, kids yoga and prenatal yoga. The studio will offer hot yoga in the near future. Membership is available as well as single class and package rates. 832-524-5498. www.infinitycyclingstudio.com

7 Owner Julie Nunn opened **Once Upon a Child** on March 16 at 10100 W. Broadway St., Ste. 106, Pearland. The children's resale store buys and sells used children's clothing, shoes, toys and baby items. The Pearland location is one of more than 20 of the national franchise's locations in Texas. 281-741-0264. www.onceuponachildpearland.com

8 **RG Vietnamese Sandwich** opened in mid-February at 3419 E. Broadway St., Pearland. The family-owned restaurant offers traditional Vietnamese banh mi sandwiches served on fresh French baguettes. The eatery also offers 43 different fresh smoothies and boba teas. 281-741-0310

9 Owner Geronimo Basurto was a personal trainer for eight years before opening **Forge Fitness**, which is dedicated to a group fitness model, at 1130 E. Broadway St.,

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Pearland. The studio offers three fitness plans—weight loss, muscle-building and general fitness—which are built on its three fitness pillars of cardiovascular endurance, muscle development and neuromuscular efficiency. 281-542-8245. www.forgefitness.net

COMING SOON

10 Cosmetic salon **Amazing Lash Studio** will open its second Pearland-area franchise at the Center at Pearland Parkway in May at 2650 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. The studio offers lash health evaluations and eyelash extensions for a variety of styles, lash volumes and colors. www.amazinglashstudio.com

11 Realty 1 Partners will break ground on its latest Pearland retail development called the **Southfork Centre**, which is next door to Costco on Business Center Drive. The 17,600-square-foot center sits on 2 acres and is slated to break ground this summer with expected build-out during the first quarter of 2018. Interested tenants include restaurants, dental and doctors' offices, and coffee shops. 832-588-0496. www.r1partners.com

12 Indoor trampoline park **Urban Air Trampoline & Adventure Park** will open its first Pearland location this summer at 3207 S. Sam Houston Parkway E., Pearland. The 60,000-square-foot facility will feature wall-to-wall trampoline arenas, dodgeball courts, stunt-airbag, slam dunk tracks, an indoor playground, an indoor ropes course, go-karts, a foam pit and a dedicated area for children age 7 and younger. The indoor park will also host special events and birthday parties. 800-960-4778. www.urbanairtrampolinepark.com

ANNIVERSARIES

13 **BAKFISH Brewing Co.** celebrated its one-year anniversary March 14 at 1231 E. Broadway St., Pearland. The first craft brewery in the city, BAKFISH includes rotating taps and staples, such as I Tell You Wit and All Y'all Golden Ale. The facility includes a 2,000-square-foot tap room where customers can enjoy beer that is made on-site. 281-993-8658. www.bakfishbrewing.com

COMPILED BY **JAKE SNYDER AND NORA OLABI**

News or questions about Pearland/Friendswood? Email us at plfnews@communityimpact.com.

14 Owner Jimmy Aranda celebrated the one-year anniversary of **Dionisio Winery** on Feb. 27 at 2635 Miller Ranch Road, Ste. 103, Pearland. Dionisio offers tours and fruit wine selections, such as green apple riesling, peach chardonnay and black cherry pinot noir. The winery includes a tasting room and a VIP area that can be reserved for private parties. 713-906-2499. www.dionisiowinery.com

EXPANSIONS

15 **LUSH Cosmetics**, located in Baybrook Mall at 500 Baybrook Mall Drive, Friendswood, closed March 1 in order to move to a larger location inside the mall near Forever 21. The new location opened March 10. Based out of Vancouver, British Columbia, LUSH is an international chain offering handmade cosmetic products, such as shower scrubs, shampoos, lotions and makeup. 281-286-5874. www.lushusa.com

16 **Bergamos Retreat** is building a new addition to its spa at 313 E. Edgewood St., Friendswood. The spa is Italian-inspired and features plunge pools, steam rooms, saunas, therapeutic massages, waxing, facials, manicures, pedicures, skin treatments and eyelash extensions for men and women. Although Bergamos Retreat previously contracted for an addition, the spa removed the addition and will reconstruct it. Construction begins this month and will run for a year. The spa will remain open for business during construction. 281-992-3775. www.bergamossparetreat.com

NAME CHANGE

17 Friendswood Fitness changed its name to **World Gym Private** and held its grand re-opening on Feb. 22. The gym, which was renovated to 20,000 square feet, is located at 133 W. Parkwood Ave., Friendswood, and offers a 50-yard indoor AstroTurf field, sprinting track, workout equipment and an outdoor field. World Gym Private also

FEATURED IMPACT — NOW OPEN



The full-color custom apparel franchise **Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More** opened a Pearland location in late February at 9415 W. Broadway St., Ste. 119. The company helps customers print graphics on hoodies, tank tops, T-shirts and tote bags for men, women, children and pets. Graphic artists work at the in-store design station to create custom looks. The company does not charge fees for custom designs or additional colors, and there are no minimum order requirements. 281-607-9339. www.bigfrog.com/pearland



offers 11 workout coaches for one-on-one training. 281-816-5935. www.worldgymprivate.com

CLOSINGS

18 Teen apparel retailer **Wet Seal** closed all of its locations Feb. 26, including its location at Baybrook Mall, 1132 Baybrook Mall Drive, Friendswood, after filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in early February. The company had 478 stores as early as 2014. At the time it filed for bankruptcy, Wet Seal listed \$10 million-\$50 million in assets and \$50 million-\$100 million in liabilities. Boston-based restructuring



firm Gordon Brothers reportedly purchased the brand in a bankruptcy auction for \$3 million.

COMMUNITY

Pearland Arts & Crafts on the Pavilion announced an open call for local artists who specialize in handcrafted pieces and artwork to exhibit their work during the fourth annual fair. The arts event, which is presented by the Pearland Convention and Visitors Bureau, runs Oct. 7-8 at the Pearland Town Center. Exhibitor applications will be accepted through April 30. 281-997-5972. www.visitpearland.com

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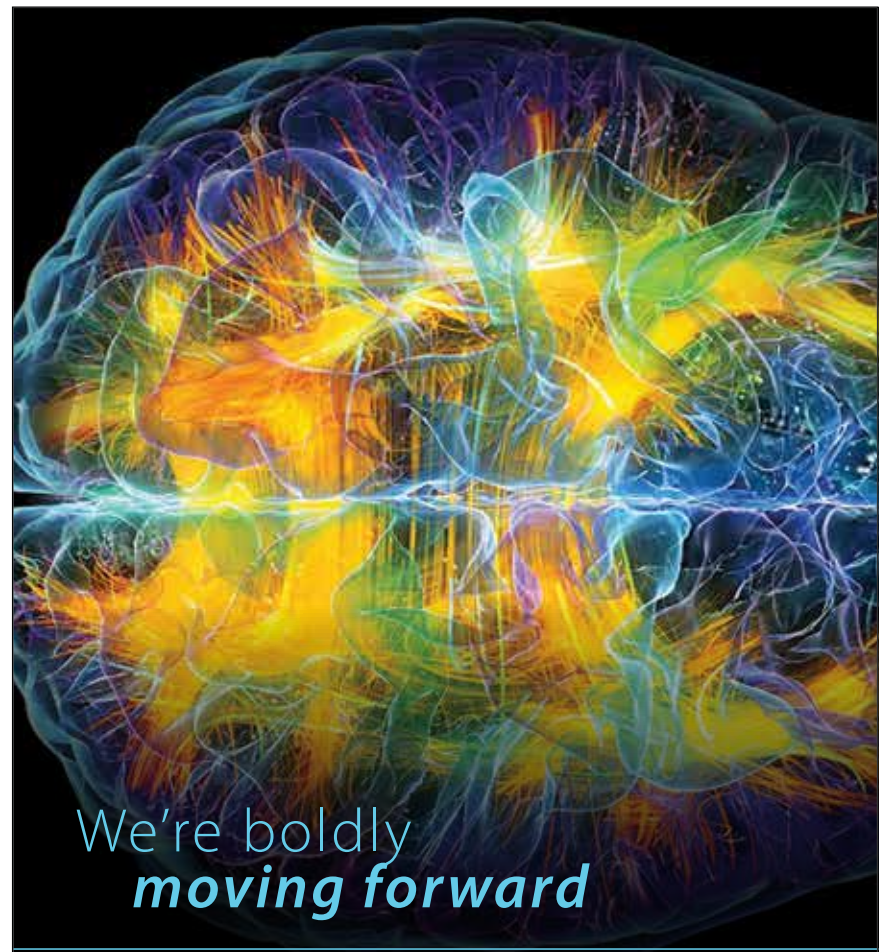
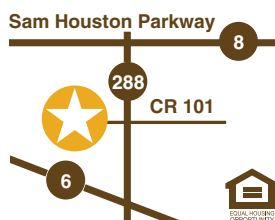
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BUSINESS FEATURE

Brows' Aroun' Antiques

Local shop draws pickers, collectors from around the country

BY NORA OLABI

On the border of Pearland's Old Townsite is a gem for collectors, antique pickers, knickknack hoarders and those looking for unique gifts.

Every inch of Brows' Aroun' Antiques—from hand-made light fixtures hanging from the ceiling to hand-painted hardwood vanity tables—is packed with items for sale. Shelves are lined with glassware and tea sets. The store has so much merchandise it pours outside, greeting patrons as they pull into the driveway.

"There's literally something for everybody in here," said Faith Ellis Demitt, a co-owner and store manager. "It doesn't matter if you're young or old, male or female. You're going to find something you like."

Brows' Aroun' Antiques opened its doors in 2001 and was established by Faith's father, Donald Ellis, who died in August at the age of 83. Faith took over the business after years of working with her father.

"We have a lot of loyal customers. Sixteen years later, we have people come to Pearland just for this," Faith said. "Our plan is to carry on."

The store is deeply connected with the antiquing community across Texas and the Midwest. It also works cooperatively with local vendors who sell their collected, recycled or handmade wares in the shop.

This time of year, the shop is filled with Texas-themed wall art, especially the Lone Star and wagon wheels, for Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo visitors looking to decorate their tents.

However, the shop's bread and butter is not antiques. Thousands of pounds of metal mermaids, fleur-de-lis, Texas stars, horseshoes, and spurs in the Iron Room serve as the store's lifeblood.

The single-largest source of merchandise comes from the Canton Marketplace in Canton, Texas, where hundreds of antique vendors set up shop once a month. And when the semiannual blowout antiques fair in Round Top, Texas, rolls around, local collectors will pick her store clean and bring back new treasures.

"You don't have to go to Round Top. You can come here," Faith said.

1: Brows' Aroun' Antiques is packed from floor to ceiling with unique finds and Texas patriotism. **2:** Since Donald Ellis died in 2016, Faith Ellis Demitt (right) has kept his business and legacy alive.

ANTIQUE PICKING TIPS

When digging through antiques, keep an eye out for these factors to ensure a quality purchase.

- 1. Rarity.** Is it rare, unusual or only reproduced in small numbers?
- 2. Aesthetic.** Does it have a pleasing appearance?
- 3. Desirability.** Is it trendy, in vogue or from a reputable dealer?
- 4. Authenticity.** Is it an original piece, made by an artist, signed or a period piece?
- 5. Condition.** Does it have scratches, chips or signs of age?
- 6. Follow your heart.** Buy what you love.



PHOTOS BY NORA OLABI/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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The staff at Masa Sushi is made up of longtime employees, as many have worked for the company for 10-plus years.



Sushi is the highlight of the menu; Masa Sushi offers a range of options from standard rolls to off-the-wall choices.



Tuna is plated next to a glass with pieces draped in a spicy ponzu sauce.

DINING FEATURE

Masa Sushi

Traditional Japanese cuisine meets American zest in Friendswood

BY JAKE SNYDER

Masa Sushi owner Michael Zhou did not initially intend to blend Japanese and American foods together.

As a student in the mid-1980s in China—under the direction of a Japanese chef—Zhou first learned to make traditional Japanese cuisine. That changed, however, when he came to the U.S. in 1994 and landed a job as a chef in a Tampa Bay, Florida, restaurant. It was there that Zhou said he realized it was time to change how he cooked.

“Everything is changing,” Zhou said. “You can no longer say, ‘This food belongs to the Japanese and doesn’t belong to any other cuisine.’ Now, everything is international cuisine. Even if you go to a French restaurant, you can see sashimi inside [dishes].”

Change does not mean casting aside tradition. Instead, Zhou has created a blend of traditional Japanese cuisine with a spritz of American flavor at his restaurant Masa Sushi, which has three locations in the Houston Bay Area.

Zhou opened his first location in Houston in 2000 but later sold it. He then opened another in Clear Lake in 2005. The Friendswood location—his newest spot—opened in September 2015 off South Friendswood Drive.

“Most chefs are my students,” Zhou said. “I teach them, and then they teach the new people. Most people stay with the company; 10 years is nothing here.”

Along with a tenured staff, Zhou said the secret to his success comes from his ability to adapt the menu to handle many different palates.

The menu offers a diversity of items ranging from the traditional—black pepper tuna sashimi—to off-the-wall options like the Astro, which features shrimp tempura and spicy tuna topped with spicy crawfish and honey wasabi cream.

The quality of ingredients compared to modest pricing at Masa Sushi, Zhou said, was simply a stroke of luck.

“We are lucky because my cousin has a fish company in Honolulu,” Zhou said. “We are able to provide some of the best fish at a reasonable price.”

While Asian fusion cuisine is not new, Zhou said it is the flavor that counts the most.

“As long as you are cooking good food—doesn’t matter what kind of food—people like it,” Zhou said.

CHEF’S CORNER

- **Crazy roll (\$9.50):** shrimp tempura and spicy tuna with green onion, avocado and cucumber
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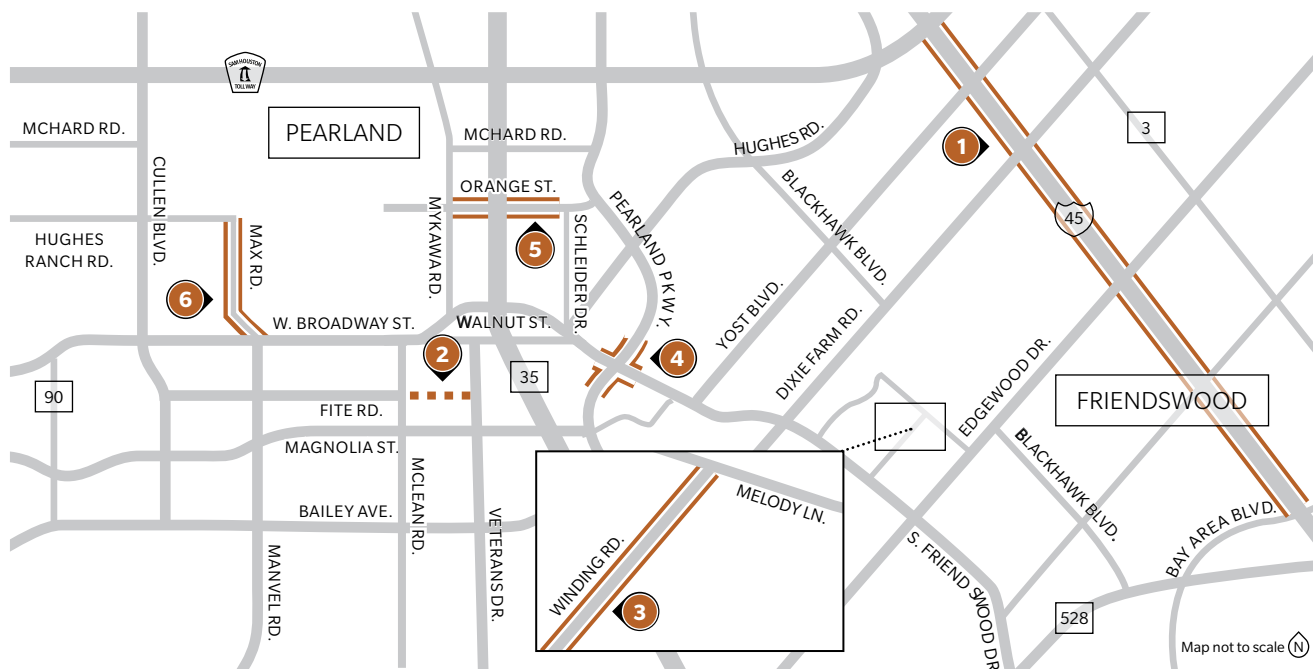
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ONGOING PROJECTS

1 I-45 expansion

The expansion of the I-45 southbound lanes from three to five lanes of traffic was completed on Feb. 13. The project, which will expand I-45 from six to 10 main lanes with a total of six frontage lanes upon completion, is slated to reach completion in early 2018. Texas Department of Transportation officials said construction has not begun on the northbound lanes but is slated to begin in the coming months.

Timeline: June 2011-early 2018

Cost: \$170 million

Funding sources: TxDOT

2 Fite Road extension

The city of Pearland began construction in December to extend Fite Road by about a half-mile from McLean Road to Veterans Drive. The project is expected to improve traffic flow and provide an additional route for emergency vehicles. The new stretch of roadway will be four lanes undivided with a concrete curb and gutter drainage. The project includes traffic signal improvements at the McLean Road intersection.

Timeline: December 2016-December 2017

Cost: \$4 million

Funding sources: Houston-Galveston Area Council, city of Pearland

3 Winding Road reconstruction

The city of Friendswood broke ground in January on its Winding Road reconstruction project between Riverside Court and Melody Lane. The road will replace roughly a half-mile of residential roadway. The project will be funded through bond proceeds. Voters approved a \$24 million bond referendum in 2013, which included about \$7.7 million for road repairs, according to the city.

Timeline: January-March 2017

Cost: \$642,000

Funding sources: city of Friendswood

4 Pearlman Parkway intersection improvements

The city of Pearland will add a second left turn lane heading southbound on Pearlman Parkway at FM 518 in March. Bidding on the project closed on Jan. 26, and city council awarded a construction contract

at its Feb. 27 meeting, according to city officials.

Timeline: March-June 2017

Cost: \$375,000

Funding sources: city of Pearland

UPCOMING PROJECTS

5 Orange Street reconstruction

Beginning in May, contractors will reconstruct the existing asphalt, widen the road from 25 to 33 feet and put in a new concrete curb, gutters, sidewalks and a new storm sewer system between Hwy. 35 and Schleider Drive in Pearland.

Timeline: May 2017-May 2018

Cost: \$5.4 million

Funding sources: city of Pearland

6 Max Road expansion

Max Road will expand to a four-lane boulevard from Hughes Ranch Road to Reid Boulevard. Design was completed in November, and construction bids will go out in March.

Timeline: June 2017-September 2018

Cost: \$7.38 million

Funding sources: city of Pearland



HOW IT WORKS

How are state speed limits determined?

Whenever a new road is built in Texas, the entity constructing the roadway is required to reach out to the Texas Transportation Commission to determine the speed limit for the new road, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

Factors that determine a road's speed limit include the road's length and location, transitions from other speed limits, directional differences, trial runs of the roadway and the location of regulatory speed limit signs along the road, according to TxDOT.

Local governments hold some control over determining speed limits as well. Cities, counties and other government officials work with TxDOT to conduct traffic and engineering studies and pass local speed ordinances, TxDOT Public Information Officer Deidrea George said.

State Rep. Celia Israel, D-Austin, recently filed House Bill 1368 to lower the prima facie speed limits on urban district roads in Texas from 30 mph to 25 mph. The prima facie speed limit is the unspoken speed limit on roads with no posted limit.

All information on this page was updated as of 03/13/17. News or questions about these or other local transportation projects? Email us at plfnews@communityimpact.com.

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Multiple candidates file, placed on ballot in hotly contested May council elections

BY **NORA OLABI**

Candidate applications have poured in for what is shaping up to be a contentious election cycle.

In Pearland, three City Council seats and a mayoral race are slated for the May general election with a total of 13 applicants vying for those positions.

Although four seats are on the ballot, only two incumbents are in the running.

Mayor Tom Reid, the longest-serving mayor in Pearland, is running for re-election. He served from 1978-1990 and then from 1995 to the present. He is a former engineer who retired from the Johnson Space Center in 1997 after 32 years of service.

"There are a lot of things changing in Pearland today, and that's because of the tremendous growth we're experiencing," Reid said. "I haven't finished my job yet. I need to finish a few things, and it's going to take three years to wind it up and give you a chance to see all the things we're doing in Pearland."

Reid faces two challengers. Quentin Wiltz, who has lived in Pearland for 10 years, is running against Reid. Wiltz ran twice for City Council, losing to Council Member Derrick Reed in 2015 and Council Member Tony Carbone in 2013. Wiltz was as ex-officio director for the Pearland Chamber of Commerce and ex-officio chairman for the Pearland Parks and Beautification board. He serves as board president for the Brazoria County Alliance for Children. He is the director of commercial at Stupp Coatings LLC.

The second mayoral contestant is Olajimi "Jimi" Amos, a five-year

resident of Shadow Creek Ranch and a process improvement manager for the e-commerce site of big-box retailer Sam's Club. Amos received his MBA from Emory University and volunteers his time at the nonprofit Selfless4Africa.

Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Gary Moore is the second Pearland incumbent facing re-election this May.

Moore has been a Pearland resident since 2004 and was elected to his first term in 2014. Moore is a senior environmental technologist for Dow Chemical Corp. He has served on the board of Keep Pearland Beautiful and as a Brazoria County election judge.


"Pearland is the hometown I never had," Moore said. "I really enjoy giving back to the community, and I hope I get the opportunity to serve another three years."

Moore's contestant is attorney Jimmy Darnell Jones, a resident of west Pearland who lives near the Silverlake area. Jones is an attorney and retired naval officer who served in the U.S. Navy for 24 years, serving his last four years in outreach positions before retiring in 2016. He is the owner of Houston-based Professional Services Ltd.

Two open seats on the ballot include the newly formed council Position No. 7 and council Position No. 5, which is currently held by Greg Hill. He announced his resignation in January to campaign for a county judgeship in 2018.

In Friendswood, two contested council seats are on the ballot.

Council positions Nos. 2 and 5, which are held by Billy Enochs and John Scott, respectively, are on the ballot in May. Enochs announced he would not



THE BALLOT BOX

The May general election is heating up in Pearland and Friendswood. Here are the candidates who will appear on the ballot.

*The asterisk denotes the incumbent.

PEARLAND CITY COUNCIL	
Mayor	Jude T.A. Smith
Jimi Amos	Council Position No. 7
Tom Reid*	G.C. Sonny Atkins
Quentin Wiltz	Terry Gray
Council Position No. 3	Dalia Kasseb
J. Darnell Jones	Wood Owens
Gary Moore*	Sherry Stockwell
Council Position No. 5	Bud Tollefsen
J. David Little	
FRIENDSWOOD CITY COUNCIL	
Council Position No. 2	Council Position No. 5
Sally Harris Branson	David O'Farrell
Omar Peck	John Scott*

SOURCE: CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD, CITY OF PEARLAND/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

seek re-election this cycle and hopes to run for Galveston County commissioner in 2018.

Council Member Scott is running for a third term on Friendswood City Council. He was first elected in 2011 and ran for his first re-election in 2014. If re-elected again, this would be his last term on council due to term limits. Scott grew up in Friendswood, was in the U.S. Marines and has been a resident for the last 22 years. He is the president of Phoenix Industrial Tires.

"It's still a tight-knit community where everybody knows everybody," Scott said. "I want to run again for people who want to hold government accountable and want to keep things the way they are."

Scott's challenger is David O'Farrell, who is a Realtor at O'Farrell Realty Inc. O'Farrell is the chairman of the city's planning and zoning commission. He has been a member of the commission for 10 years.

In Enoch's place, Sally Harris

Branson and Omar Peck have filed for the council Position No. 2 seat.

Branson is a financial advisor and branch manager for Raymond James Financial Services and is a nearly 30-year resident of Friendswood. She is a member of the city's planning and zoning commission, where she has served for nearly three years. Branson is an at-large member of the Friendswood ISD Education Foundation, the Friendswood Historical Society and the Galveston County Historical Commission.

Omar Peck is a retired Friendswood resident with 46 years of professional experience in the engineering and construction industry. He is a retired U.S. Marine who serves as the president of the Creekwood Estates Homeowners Association, which he was elected to in 2014. Although he has only lived in Friendswood for the last three years, he was a resident in 1973.

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Curbside textile, home goods recycling to roll out in Pearland this spring

BY NORA OLABI

Pearland residents will have another chance to be environmentally friendly when the nonprofit Keep Pearland Beautiful rolls out a curbside recycling program in March.

All residents with existing municipal recycling service will have access to a curbside textile recycling program through third-party contractor Simple Recycling, who was awarded a contract with Keep Pearland Beautiful in February. Simple Recycling is expected to begin its Pearland operations March 27.

“Our mission is to empower Pearland citizens to take responsibility of their environment,” said Andrew Miller, executive director at Keep Pearland Beautiful. “We just want to make it easy for the residents who don’t already [donate] to just put it out curbside.”

The nonprofit contracted with Simple Recycling in an effort to further

divert trash from the landfill.

Residents will receive two orange 19-gallon plastic bags to place clothes and other goods into as well as a brochure about the curbside recycling program a week before the program debuts.

“We make it as easy to recycle this material as it would be to throw it in a trash [can] because all you’re doing is throw[ing] it in a simple recycling bag,” said Sonny Wilkins, the vice president of municipal relations for Simple Recycling.

On recycling day, which may differ by residential subdivision, residents can place their bags of clothes and small home goods to be recycled near the curb—not on top of the existing green bins since another contractor handles municipal recycling.

Simple Recycling will pick up clothes in any condition, regardless of how tattered or old they may be.

The curbside textile recycling



WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?



ACCESSORIES



CURTAINS



BACKPACKS



SHOES



BLANKETS



SMALL HOME GOODS



COATS AND JACKETS



SMALL APPLIANCES



CLOTHES



TOYS

21B

Pounds of textile waste annually in the U.S.

SOURCE: SIMPLE RECYCLING, EPA/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

WHERE WILL IT GO?

65%

International exporters

15%

Thrift stores

15%

Raw textile recyclers

5%

Landfill

program is at no cost to taxpayers, according to Keep Pearland Beautiful and Simple Recycling.

“We don’t charge the residents; we don’t charge the municipality. It’s a 100 percent free program. We are compensating [Keep Pearland Beautiful] for the material that would normally be thrown away. It really is a win-win for everyone,” Wilkins said.

Simple Recycling sells the clothing and other goods it picks up to its Houston thrift store partner Value Village. Clothes and other items that are not selected for resale will then go to international exporters, who will sift through the remaining goods that can be sold overseas. The final tier is raw textile recyclers who break down

clothes for their fabrics. Any remaining items would be sent to a landfill.

Simple Recycling contracts for curbside textile recycling in about 50 cities and municipalities across the country, including about a dozen in Texas. The company is active in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Austin and several Greater Houston area locations, including Sugar Land, Texas City and Meadows Place.

Although Simple Recycling handles small items, the bulk of its recycling operations focuses on textiles.

About 8 percent of all landfill waste—about 21 billion pounds—generated in the U.S. was textiles, according to a November 2016 report from the Environmental Protection Agency.

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Pearland, Friendswood ISDs become districts of innovation

BY JAKE SNYDER

Friendswood ISD has joined the ranks of nearly 80 school districts across the state that have filed for a district of innovation designation.

FISD Superintendent Trish Hanks said the district of innovation designation allows for local administrators and educators, who understand the needs of the specific district, to have control over specific circumstances.

"When you're in a big state like Texas with over 1,000 public school districts all over the state, the circumstances just aren't the same from district to district," Hanks said about the new flexibility given to districts through a district of innovation designation. "To try to make a rule that would fit every one of their needs just doesn't even make sense."

The FISD board of trustees voted on final approval of the District of Innovation plan at its February meeting.

A district of innovation designation provides districts, which meet

certain performance requirements, certain exemptions from the Texas Education Code. School districts must hold public hearings and submit their plan to the Texas Education Agency to become a district of innovation. The designation may not last longer than five years.

Pearland ISD trustees approved and sent a District of Innovation plan to TEA in November.

"We hope this allows us to discard unnecessary bureaucracy," PISD Superintendent John Kelly said.

One item that both PISD and FISD included was the ability to set their first day of classes, which law currently dictates must begin on the fourth Monday of August. The new plan allows districts to exempt themselves from the uniform start date and adjust holiday breaks.

Trustees will still have final approval authority over the school calendar and calendar amendments. But an exemption will allow for different calendar options, Hanks said.

Another exemption both districts

sought was the ability to control student-teacher ratios. The TEA currently mandates the student-to-teacher ratio be 22-to-1 in all K-4 classrooms.

"I think a lot of teacher groups across the state are worried that boards could take advantage of that and raise student-teacher ratios," Kelly said. "We're taking a different approach, asking, 'What power does District of Innovation give us to make teachers' lives or work conditions better?'"

In previous years, school districts would anticipate their classroom needs and would request classroom size waivers if they expected to go over the 22-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio. With district of innovation in place, school districts expect they will be unable to request waivers in the future.

"I think most districts think the same way we do," Kelly said. "Lower student-teacher ratios are beneficial. Right now, our board has pushed very hard to lower student-teacher ratios."

ELEMENTS OF BECOMING A DOI

- **Local control:** Districts decide what exemptions best suit their needs.
- **Customization:** Districts can create an innovation plan for a level of school, grade level or a single campus.
- **Autonomy:** Submit a plan to TEA, but approval is not required.
- **Flexibility:** Can seek exemptions from the 90 percent attendance rule, student discipline provisions and more.

DOI EXEMPTIONS

Pearland ISD approved and Friendswood ISD is set to vote on exemptions under their District of Innovation plans. Here are a few items slated for both districts:

- **Teacher certification:** Certify teachers at the local level in order to teach specialized classes.
- **Uniform start date:** School start date approved by trustees.
- **Class sizes:** Can exceed 22-to-1 ratio for students grades K-4.
- **Minimum attendance requirements:** Develop rules for online course credit that does not require attendance rules.

SOURCE: TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY, PEARLAND ISD, FRIENDSWOOD ISD/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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Races heat up for Pearland ISD trustee election

Three challengers, 3 incumbents in the running for May 6 election

PEARLAND ISD Six candidates are vying for three seats on the Pearland ISD board of trustees in the run up to the May 6 general election.

All three positions—along with every trustee position in PISD—are at-large positions, which represent the entire district rather than a segment of the population.

Three positions are open, as incumbents Charles Gooden Jr., Rusty DeBorde and Pam Boegler will each run for re-election. Gooden will run unopposed for Position 1.

In Position 2, DeBorde—who has been on the board since 2011—faces challenger Mike Floyd, an 18-year-old senior at Dawson High School. Floyd, the son of Texas House District 29 candidate John Floyd, is the youngest person to run for a trustee seat.

Pam Boegler is also up for re-election. Boegler served on the board for two three-year terms from 2010 to 2016. She was then appointed to Position 3 following the death of longtime

trustee Virgil Gant in July.

Boegler's position becomes open following her appointment to serve until the upcoming trustee election. The winner of the election for Position 3 will serve a one-year term in order to fill the remainder of Gant's three-year term, according to district officials.

Boegler will square off against a pair of challengers, Trevor Hale and Al Lloyd.

Hale is a professor of management science at University of Houston Downtown, and Lloyd is an educator.

PISD TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Position 1

• Charles Gooden Jr.*

Position 2

• Rusty DeBorde* • Mike Floyd

Position 3

• Pam Boegler* • Trevor Hale • Al Lloyd

*The asterisk denotes the incumbent.

SOURCE: PEARLAND ISD/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

FISD sets timeline for superintendent search

Board of trustees plans to recommend finalist in early June

FRIENDSWOOD ISD With the retirement of Friendswood ISD Superintendent Trish Hanks at the end of the 2016-17 school year, the FISD board of trustees has started its search for Hanks' replacement.

"Hanks is retiring, and we wish her the best," FISD board of trustees President Rebecca Hillenburg said in a statement. "The plans that must go forward are working to find the next superintendent for Friendswood ISD."

In February, Trustees approved the selection of Executive Search Services—part of the Texas Association of School Boards—to lead the search.

TASB will also direct a survey to community members through the FISD website, allowing faculty, staff and parents to express their own ideas for the search. The search firm will host community meetings March 22 and 23 to gather input, according to district officials.

The board is now slated to meet with TASB on March 29 to compile a list of qualities and characteristics desirable for the position. The deadline for candidate applications is April 17.

Following the application deadline, interviews will be scheduled, though due to confidentiality agreements, interviewed candidates will not be named.

According to district officials, the search will then be narrowed with the expectation for the board to recommend a finalist by the first week of June. The board will then vote on the finalist near the end of June.

MEETINGS

Pearland ISD

PISD Educational Support Center
March 21 at 6:45 p.m.

1928 N. Main St., Pearland

Friendswood ISD

FISD Administration Building
April 10 at 5:45 p.m.

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Pearland City Council approves infrastructure upgrades in mixed-use development Ivy District

PEARLAND The Ivy District, a 50 acre mixed-use development at Beltway 8 and Hwy. 288, is slowly becoming a reality after City Council approved of road development projects on Feb. 27.

"It's a good project and a good partnership with American Modern Green," said Matt Buchanan, president of the Pearland Economic Development Corporation.

City Council approved an agreement with American Modern Green, the Ivy District developer, to extend South Spectrum Boulevard from Hwy. 288 to Kirby Drive as well as an extension of Promenade Shops Drive.

American Modern Green will finance the \$3 million extension of South Spectrum Boulevard to Hwy. 288 and Promenade Shops Drive.

The Lower Kirby Pearland Management District and Pearland Municipal Management District No. 1, are responsible for the \$5.76 million extension of South Spectrum Boulevard to Kirby.



The \$300 million Ivy District is the centerpiece of the Lower Kirby Urban District.

The developer will contribute \$1 million to the Kirby extension. If the districts are unable to secure financing on their own, the city and the PEDC will pre-finance on behalf of the districts and be reimbursed when the districts' tax bases are sufficient.

The extensions also include landscaping, lighting, drainage and other road infrastructure improvements. The projects are in the platting phase.

The Ivy District will include townhomes, retail and restaurant space, hotels, office buildings and green space.

First Pearland liquor store could open months after voters overturn city alcohol restriction

PEARLAND Months after Pearland residents voted to overturn a ban on liquor stores within city limits, the first store is up for a permit to open its doors.

Hiren Patel applied for a permit to open a 1,500-square-foot store called Liquor Zone on 1.57 acres off W. Broadway Street and Manvel Road near a Food Town grocery store.

Pearland planning and zoning commissioners recommended the permit for approval to city council on Feb. 20.

"It would be a great convenience for the customers. Now, they have to drive outside the city [of Pearland] to get liquor. Opening the store in the city will increase the revenue for the city," Patel said. "Hopefully it will be good for the city of Pearland and for us as a small business owner."

Council members voiced their support for the liquor store and the site's location away from residential use.

"I think it's a perfect location for this kind of use. [The local option

election] was approved by the voters, so I approve this use," said Pearland council member Trent Perez.

The council will vote on whether to approve the liquor store permit at a later meeting. Pearland requires all liquor store permits to go through a more rigorous process for approval.

Pearland residents voted in November to loosen alcohol restrictions for off-premises consumption only.



MEETINGS

Pearland City Council meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. www.pearlandtx.gov/government/agendas/city-council

Friendswood City Council meets on the first Friday of each month, 4:30 p.m. www.ci.friendswood.tx.us

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State Rep. Isaac looks to close curtains on Daylight Saving Time

BY BRETT THORNE

State Rep. Jason Isaac, R-Dripping Springs, has proposed legislation that would put an end to the biannual practice of setting clocks forward and backward known as Daylight Saving Time.

"Imagine that it's 2017, and lawmakers have for the first time proposed arbitrarily changing our clocks twice a year. They would be publicly ridiculed," Isaac said in a news release. "The fact is, Daylight Saving Time is an antiquated regulation that no longer serves our state's needs."

Isaac called Daylight Saving Time "an annoyance at best and a burden to our state at worst."

If approved by the House and Senate, the legislation would take effect Nov. 5, which is Daylight Saving Time.

Texas would then join portions of Arizona and Hawaii as the other U.S. states that do not recognize Daylight Saving Time.

As an impetus for the legislation, Isaac cited studies indicating Daylight Saving Time leads to more car accidents and heart attacks, as well as consequences such as lost productivity at work, school and elsewhere stemming from fatigue, decreased alertness, decreased motivation and tardiness.

A 2016 study from the American Academy of Neurology found that the rate of a specific type of stroke was 8 percent higher for two days following Daylight Saving Time than other days of the year.

The study also found that people with cancer were 25 percent more likely to have a stroke within the two days following a Daylight Saving Time. People 65 and older were 20 percent more likely to have a stroke during that period.

A 2012 study at the University of Alabama-Birmingham found a 10 increase in heart attacks during the two days following Daylight Saving Time.

Researchers suspect disruption of the circadian rhythm—also known as the internal body clock—may be partially to blame.

According to the legislation text, the entire state—including the portions using Central Standard Time and Mountain Standard Time as the official standard

time—would opt out of Daylight Saving Time.

Rep. Dan Flynn, R-Canton, filed HB 150, which also would have abolished Daylight Saving Time.

During that session, legislators voiced concerns ranging from children's safety to potential conflicts between football games and church services.

If clocks were permanently set back one hour, Sunday football games that normally start at noon would begin at 11 a.m., when many church are still holding services.

"I don't want to miss church, and I don't want to miss the Cowboys," Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, said, according to multiple news outlets. "So what am I supposed to do?"

HB 150 was ultimately voted down 56-79 in the House during the 84th Legislative Session, but Isaac said he believes it is time for Texas to move forward from Daylight Saving Time.

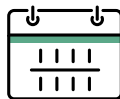
"In Texas, all state agencies go through a 'sunset review' process in which they have to prove their worth to the taxpayers who fund them—or be abolished," Isaac said in a statement. "Outdated regulations should have to do the same. It's time to let the sun set on Daylight Saving Time."

BY THE NUMBERS

In **1916**, Germany became the first country to adopt Daylight Saving Time.



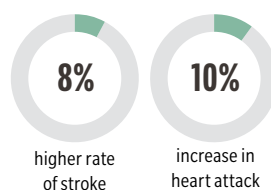
Daylight Saving Time was first codified in law with the Uniform Time Act of **1966**.



Daylight Saving Time takes place the **second Sunday** of March each year and the first Sunday of November each year.

Sources: Texas Legislature Online, American Academy of Neurology, University of Alabama-Birmingham and timeanddate.com/Community Impact Newspaper

Although researchers agree more analysis is needed, studies have linked Daylight Saving Time to



If HB 2400 is approved, Daylight Saving Time would end **Nov 5**.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE CAPITOL



Community Impact Newspaper and The Texas Tribune have established a partnership to share essential updates during the 85th legislative session. The Texas Tribune is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans and engages with them about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues. Learn more at texastribune.org.

Property tax reform

- On March 14, the Senate Finance Committee took up Senate Bill 2, which would limit the growth rate of property taxes across the state. Similar property tax reform legislation has been proposed in the Texas House.

The "bathroom bill"

- On March 14, the full Texas Senate was expected to take up Senate Bill 6, known as the "bathroom bill." SB 6 would require people to use the bathroom in public schools, government buildings and public universities that matches their "biological sex." The legislation would also reverse local ordinances that let transgender people use the bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity.

Budget update

- State Rep. John Zerwas, the Texas House's chief budget writer, has filed House Concurrent Resolution 108, which would pave the way for lawmakers to claw back billions of dollars that voters approved for state highways.

Bill on inappropriate teacher-student relationships

- School principals and superintendents who fail to report teachers involved in inappropriate relationships with students could face criminal charges under Senate Bill 7, which passed unanimously in the Texas Senate.

Public education

- The top public education policymaker in the Texas House unveiled a \$1.6 billion plan that he described as a first step to overhauling the state's beleaguered school funding system. In the Senate, lawmakers will soon take up a bill that would create two programs subsidizing families' private school tuition and homeschooling expenses.

Car sales legislation

- In efforts that could help Texas be more friendly to Tesla's business model, a pair of recently filed bills would allow any vehicle manufacturer to sell directly to Texans—bypassing the middleman dealers.

Free tuition program for veterans

- The stage is set for another debate about the cost of a program that provides free tuition to children of military veterans. New legislation would shrink the number of students who qualify for the Hazlewood program.

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MARCH

WORTH THE TRIP



COURTESY HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO

7-26

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

The annual event returns to Houston with a lineup of live music, riding competitions, food and exhibits. A full list of musical performers can be found online. Since its inception, the HLSR has committed more than \$430 million to various educational youth programs. Times and prices vary. NRG Park, 1 NRG Park, Houston. 832-667-1000. www.rodeohouston.com

17- APRIL 2

'The Odd Couple'

The Pearl Theater presents the Tony Award-winning classic play that was made into a classic movie and a classic TV show. Recently divorced neat freak Felix Unger moves in with his friend, longtime divorced sportswriter and proud slob Oscar Madison. 8 p.m. (Fri., Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sun.). \$14 (students, seniors), \$16 (adults). The Pearl Theater, 14803 Park Alameda Drive, Houston. 832-459-4674. www.pearl-theater.com

25

Paws in the Park

Presented by Westside Veterinary Hospital, the 23rd annual event begins with the H-E-B Pet and Owner Fun Run. It also includes a 1K, 3K and 5K, followed by the national Dock Diving competition, pet exhibitors, food vendors and demonstrations. 8 a.m. (fun run), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (activities). Free (admission). Independence Park, 3919 Liberty Drive, Pearland. 281-412-8900. www.pearlandtx.gov/paws

28

Spring Fling

Hosted by Primrose School of Pearland, the event includes food, games, themed raffle baskets, a silent auction, community helpers and vendor booths. All proceeds benefit Pearland Neighborhood Center and Primrose Children's Foundation. 4-7 p.m. Free (admission). Primrose School of Pearland, 2350 CR 94, Pearland. 713-436-4120. www.primrosepearland.com

WORTH THE TRIP



COURTESY CITY OF TOMBALL

31- APRIL 2

Tomball German Heritage Festival

The German roots of Tomball come alive for three days during the annual festival. Three city blocks are filled with live German music, over 175 vendors, four music stages, street performers, a carnival and children's play area. 6-10 p.m. (Fri.), 10 a.m.-10 p.m. (Sat.), 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Sun.). Free. Tomball Historic Depot Plaza, 201 S. Elm St., Tomball. 281-379-6844. www.tomballgermanfest.org

APRIL

1

Bunny Trail Market

Hosted by the Pearland Small Business Saturday Craft Show, the event features local vendors with a wide variety of handcrafted items for sale, food, entertainment, the Easter Bunny and free Easter eggs. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free (admission). 4201 W. Broadway St., Pearland. 832-643-8742. www.pearlandsmallbusinessaturday.org

1

Don't Mess with Texas Spring Litter Cleanup

Keep Pearland Beautiful hosts two community cleanups every year. On this date, volunteers across Pearland clean adopt-a-spots (up to 72 miles of roads, parks and schools in Pearland). Participants can enjoy breakfast then pick up supplies for the event. Registration is required. 7:30-9 a.m. (breakfast, pick up supplies). Free. Stella Roberts Recycling Center, 5800 Magnolia St., Pearland. 281-489-2795. www.keeppearlandbeautiful.org

3

Houston Metro Chamber of Commerce golf tournament

The 28th annual event includes a shotgun start, hole in one contest for a car, long drive cannon, dinner, a silent auction and networking. Noon (check-in), 1 p.m. (start). \$175 (individuals), \$600 (foursome); sponsorships are available. Pearland Golf Club, 3123 Flower Field Lane, Pearland. 713-666-1521. www.houstonmetropolitanchamber.biz

8

Spring Sparkle

The city of Friendswood hosts the communitywide cleanup event, which includes donating or getting rid of items for shredding and garage sales, as well as

FEATURED EVENT



COURTESY THE ADULT READING CENTER

MARCH 23

The Red Hat Literacy Luncheon

The Adult Reading Center's 14th annual event is the organization's main fundraiser for its adult literacy, GED and citizenship programs. There is a raffle and silent auction. Last year's event attracted more than 500 attendees and raised about \$67,000. The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation has agreed to a \$10,000 dollar-for-dollar match for Celebrity Waiter Tips raised at the event. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$60. Pearland Knights of Columbus Hall, 2320 Hatfield Road, Pearland. 281-485-1000. www.adultreadingcenter.org

wildlife rehabilitation. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Centennial Park, 2200 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood. 281-996-3200. www.ci.friendswood.tx.us/spring-sparkle

13

Candidate forum: city of Pearland May election

The Pearland Chamber of Commerce and The Pearland Police Officers Association co-host the forum to educate the public on issues, allow face-to-face comparisons of the candidates and their positions, and stimulate and increase voter interest and participation in the election. The forum is moderated by Judge Gordon Starkenburg. 6-8 p.m. Free. Barry Miller Junior High School, 3301 Manvel Road, Pearland. 281-485-3634. www.pearlandtexaschamber.us

15

Easter Egg Hunt

First Baptist Church of Pearland's second annual event features an Easter egg hunt with over 10,000 eggs and activities for toddlers through sixth-graders. After the hunt, local food trucks are available for lunch. 10:30 a.m. Free. First Baptist Church Pearland, 3005 Pearland Parkway, Pearland. 281-997-9000. www.fbcpearland.org

21

'The Space Ball' charity fundraiser

The Chance for Hope Foundation hosts the benefit event to raise funds for the pediatric cancer charity. The evening features entertainment from The Space Rockers, a live auction and a raffle. The mission of the Pearland-based Chance for Hope Foundation is to provide support services for children with cancer and their families, funding for pediatric cancer research and treatment, and educational resources to the general public regarding pediatric cancer.

7:30-11 p.m. \$125 (general admission); sponsorships are available. The Redneck Country Club, 11110 W. Airport Blvd., Stafford. www.chanceforhopefoundation.org

22

Pearland ISD job fair

The event is open to individuals who would like to work at Pearland ISD. No registration is required. Participants should bring copies of their resume because interviews and job offers happen during the fair. 9 a.m.-noon. Free. Pearland High School, 3775 S. Main St., Pearland. 281-485-3203. www.pearlandisd.org

22

Pomona's Ultimate Block Party

The event, which is hosted by Pomona's lifestyle manager First Service Residential, includes music, food trucks, fishing, bubble soccer, backyard games and face painters. Free kites are handed out to the first 500 children. Pomona is a 1,000-acre residential community that broke ground in 2014. 3-7 p.m. Free. Pomona, 4714 Croix Parkway, Manvel. www.pomonabyhillwood.com

ONLINE CALENDAR

Find more or submit Pearland/Friendswood events at communityimpact.com/events.

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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Trish Hanks leaves lasting legacy at Friendswood ISD

Superintendent retires after 40 years in education

Friendswood ISD Superintendent Trish Hanks said she did not intend to be an educator. Instead, she first set out to be a speech pathologist at a private clinic before getting into public education four decades ago.

"I was getting married so I decided not to do that," Hanks said about becoming a speech pathologist. "I took a job in a public school, kind of as a default until we got married and decided where we were going to settle. Then, I was going to get my master's and go to work in a clinic."

Hanks, a Galveston County native, said once she began working in public schools, however, she quickly found out her calling was in education.

"That first year, special education was just beginning in public schools," Hanks said. "Teachers didn't know how to handle some of these kids. I had a lot of really good training for that. That first year of working in schools, I realized that's where I was really being called."

Since then, Hanks has put together a resume that spans 40 years, two school districts and several titles, including counselor, teacher, assistant superintendent and superintendent.

Following an eight-year stint at Texas City ISD, Hanks moved to Friendswood to become a special education teacher at Friendswood High School. Over the next 17 years, she served several roles before becoming superintendent in 2002.

FISD board of trustees President Rebecca Hillenburg said 15 years is not an accomplishment that should

be taken lightly.

"The average longevity of a superintendent is somewhere around three years," Hillenburg said. "To think that she has been here five times that in the role of superintendent has allowed us to push ourselves forward not only on a state level but on the national level."

Since then, she has steered FISD in the direction of the future, focusing on technology and a stronger understanding of what is happening outside of Friendswood.

"One word sort of sums up Trish: excellent," Hillenburg said. "She has brought a confidence level to Friendswood ISD that we could always reach excellence. Her leadership has really developed that sense of excellence in our community and in our schools."

Preparing students for the future is what FISD trustee Tony Hopkins said he will remember as part of Hanks' legacy.

"She's leaving the district in phenomenal shape—academically, financially and just all-around," Hopkins said. "What we've well known has been one of the top districts in the state, she's only improved it over her 15 years and made our job as a school board much easier."

With the end of the school year a few short months away, Hanks said she is looking forward to some rest, relaxation and family time with her grandchildren.

"I have never not worked, so I'm not really sure [what is next]," Hanks



Trish Hanks spent eight years as an educator at Texas City ISD before joining Friendswood ISD in the '80s. Hanks has served as the superintendent for the last 15 years.

said. "I have four little grandchildren that I want to spend more time with. I want work to fit into my life, rather than my life fit around my work."

As Hanks transitions into retirement, the school district is searching for a new superintendent. Although the school board is ready to find another superintendent to lead the district, Hopkins said it will be sad to see FISD's longtime superintendent depart.

"The Friendswood ISD motto is, 'Leading to achieve excellence,'" Hopkins said. "I think there is no one that epitomizes that motto better than Trish Hanks."

THE HANKS FILE

40

Years in education

32

Years at FISD

15

Years as superintendent

Community leadership positions:

- President, State Academic Decathlon Board
- Executive Committee for Texas Association of School Administrators
- Region IV Executive Advisory Committee
- Friendswood Rotary
- Education Advisory Committee of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
- City of Friendswood Economic Development Council

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SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

2017

COMPILED BY **JAKE SNYDER** DESIGNED BY **CATHY CHEDRAWI**

Summertime is a chance for children to explore, learn new school skills, harness their imagination and, most importantly, have fun. Check out our noncomprehensive guide to local youth summer camps across the Pearland and Friendswood areas.



ACADEMIC

Active Learning Services

Ages: 5-16 (chess), 7-16 (video game creation)

Cost: \$275-\$510, weekly

Dates: July 31-Aug. 4

Several camps are available, including chess and a variety of video game creation programs. Campers follow a custom curriculum and using coding software, they are given the opportunity to create a video game of their own. Parents are invited on the last day to observe a class and see their child's creation.

Tottenberry's
7302 W. Broadway St., Pearland
281-257-0078
www.activelearningcamps.com

Bricks 4 Kidz

Ages: 5-12

Cost: \$135-\$200, weekly

Dates: June-August (weekly)

The annual summer camp allows children to play and create models with Legos and the camp's own specially designed bricks. Camps are divided into two age groups. Children make unique projects that explore engineering, architecture, robotics and animation movie-making. Camps are hosted at five locations in the Pearland area: Pearland Parks and Recreation Department, First United Methodist Church, St. Andrew's Academy, Shepherd of the Heart United Methodist Church and Lake Jackson Parks and Recreation Department.

Five locations
832-350-8645
www.bricks4kidz.com/pearland

Code Ninjas

Ages: 7-16

Cost: \$350, weekly

Dates: June 5-Aug. 4

Three different camp options are available—Minecraft Hackathon, Beginning JavaScript and Game Developers' Club—in which campers learn different functionalities of computer programming and gaming.

12810 W. Broadway St., Ste. 160, Pearland
855-446-4652
www.codeninjas.com



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A SUMMER CAMP FOR YOUR CHILD

1. Consider whether your child would enjoy a specialty camp.

"It's important to know a child's personality and identify what camp programs will benefit him or her most," said the American Camp Association website.



SPORTS

Bay Area Equestrian

Ages: 6 and older

Cost: \$300, weekly

Dates: June 8-Aug. 22 (overall); each program has a specific date range

Two-day camps include hours of horseback riding, games, crafts and making horse treats. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Second-day activities include parent show-off during the final hour of camp. Registration can be done online, by phone or in person. Eight camps are available throughout the summer.

1908 E. Broadway St., Pearland
281-996-1515
www.baectx.com

Bushi Ban

Ages: 4 and older

Cost: varies based on camp selection

Dates: May 30-Aug. 18; each program has a specific date range

Campers learn multidisciplinary techniques from a variety of martial arts, including

karate, jiu-jitsu and kickboxing. Each weekly camp runs from 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and includes daily field trips, such as roller skating, swimming and movies. Preregistration before April 1 includes a discounted rate.

3350 Manvel Road, Ste. A, Pearland
281-997-9500
www.bushiban.com

1625 Friendswood Lakes Blvd., Friendswood
281-482-8000
www.bushiban.com

Reflex Gymnastics

Ages: 4-12

Cost: \$60-\$215, weekly

Dates: June 5-Aug. 11

Two-day camps including hours of horse back riding, games, crafts and making horse treats. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Second day includes parent show-off during final hour of camp. Registration can be done online, by phone or in person. Eight camps are available throughout the summer.

2530 Garden Road, Ste. I, Pearland
281-412-3350
www.reflexgymnasticsacademy.com



2. Select a camp based on your child's interests.

Dr. Heather Domjan, interim executive director of the University of Houston STEM Center, said summer camps can help both academically and with socialization. "It's important for students' interests to be matched in order for them to excel," she said. "But it's a chance for them to try something out on a short-term basis."



ARTS & PERFORMANCE

Creative Edge Art Studio

Ages: 2-14

Cost: \$110-\$185, weekly

Dates: May 30-Aug. 11

Weekly art camps allow children to create art projects in a variety of mediums, such as paint, papier-mache, clay and drawing. Projects are based on a different theme each week; for example, during "Around the world in five days," children draw inspiration from different countries on a variety of projects.

Camps for children ages 2-4 take place from 9-10 a.m., with camps for those age 5 and older running from 9 a.m.-noon. Snacks are provided, and registration is required in advance.

2975 Kingsley Drive, Ste. 137, Pearland
832-295-9099
www.creativeedgearchstudio.com

Popstar Performers

Ages: 3-16

Cost: \$125, weekly

Dates: June 5-July 27 (overall); each program has a specific date range

Campers learn to sing, dance and perform popular songs and routines. The camps include themes, such as "Trolls," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Moana," where campers learn vocal parts and choreography from the popular movies. Two separate classes are available for the weekly camps at 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., along with a night class from 6-7 p.m. Registration is available online.

607 S. Friendswood Drive., Ste. 17, Friendswood
832-693-5040
www.popstarperformers.com

Kid Creations

Ages: 5 and older

Cost: \$35 per day; \$160 per week

Dates: June 5-July 10-26 (overall); each program has a specific date range

Campers complete a different art project—plaster painting, ceramics, canvas, sand art, mosaics, stepping stones and kids Pilates—every day during weekly camps. Sessions can be purchased in single days or for the full three-day camp. Camps run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and snacks are provided.

607 S. Friendswood Drive., Ste. 13, Friendswood
832-569-4694
www.kidcreations4me.com



DAY CAMPS

City of Friendswood

Ages: 6-13

Cost: \$140-\$240, weekly

Dates: June 1-Aug. 15 (overall); each program has a specific date range



Creative Edge Art Studio

COURTESY CREATIVE EDGE ART STUDIO



City of Friendswood summer camp

COURTESY CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD



Popstar Performers

COURTESY POPSTAR PERFORMERS



Kid Creations

COURTESY KID CREATIONS

Camps feature indoor and outdoor activities, including arts and crafts, nature studies, scavenger hunts, swimming and multiple sports. There are six sessions that involve various field trips, including Galveston's Pleasure Pier, Moody Gardens and Schlitterbahn. Camps run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. with extended child care hours: 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning April 10 for Friendswood residents and April 24 for nonresidents.

910 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood
281-996-3220
www.ci.friendswood.tx.us

3. Find out if your child would prefer a structured or unstructured camp.

Some children, especially when away from home, can benefit from a more structured program with a set schedule. "Consistent routines and rules help create order," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guide, "Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers". "Things go more smoothly when you and your child know what to expect."

Little Gym of Friendswood

Ages: 3-8
Cost: \$30-\$140, weekly
Dates: June 5-Aug. 10

The gym offers three-hour camps throughout the summer where campers explore the gym, play games and participate in arts and crafts. Camps are Monday-Thursday. Missions or quests challenged are completed

each day, based on different themes such as "Pirate ship," "Hawaiian hide-and-seek" and "Race to outer space." Options for sibling discounts and camp packages are available, as well as single-day or full-week packages.

400 W. Parkwood Ave., Ste. 108, Friendswood
281-482-4242
www.thelittlegym.com

Little Gym of Pearland

Ages: 3-12
Cost: \$24.80-\$40 per camp session, daily
Dates: June 5-Aug. 18

Camps feature physical activity, games, and arts and crafts. Each week has a different theme, including "Animal adventure," "Princess" and "Super heroes." Sibling discounts and camp packages are available. There are two separate camp options: skill thrill camps—which include skill-building for campers ages 5-12—and super kid camps for campers ages 3-10, which includes a Lego building session, and craft and snack time.

9607 Broadway St., Ste. 105, Pearland
713-340-0042
www.thelittlegym.com

Vic Coppinger Family YMCA

Ages: 5-15
Cost: \$150-\$205, weekly
Dates: May 30-Aug. 18 (overall); each program has a specific date range

Weekly day camps run 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. There is a youth camp for younger children that features various activities and crafts, and a teen camp for those ages 12 and older that focuses on leadership training

and group exercises. Campers attend field trips once a week—such as the circus or the zoo—and trips to a swimming pool two to three times weekly.

2700 YMCA Drive, Pearland
281-485-6805
www.ymcahouston.org/vic-coppinger

4. Factor in how how comfortable your child is in social situations.

"It's more the social learning aspect. Play is a fundamental portion of development," said Dr. Nedra Washington, program coordinator for the University of North Texas at Dallas Child Development and Family Studies program. "Children are able to learn rules, learn how to communicate, choose new friends and learn different cultures."



RELIGIOUS

The Harbor (formerly known as Friendswood Community Church)

Ages: first-sixth grades
Cost: \$260, weekly
Dates: July 31-Aug. 4

Campers participate in indoor and outdoor activities under the guidance of college-age counselors. Activities include laser tag, archery training, obstacle courses and a fashion show. Scholarships are available.

2821 W. Parkwood Avenue, Friendswood
281-388-3500
www.theharbor.life

First United Methodist Church Pearland

Ages: second-12th grades
Cost: \$400, weekly
Dates: June 12-16 (vacation Bible school)
June 18-23 (Lakeview Summer Camp)

A variety of weekly camps are available, including vacation Bible school and Lakeview Summer Camp—in which campers engage in faith-based activities on over 1,300 acres of land. The overnight camp is held just outside Palestine, Texas.

2314 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland
281-485-1466
www.fumcpearland.org

Epiphany Lutheran

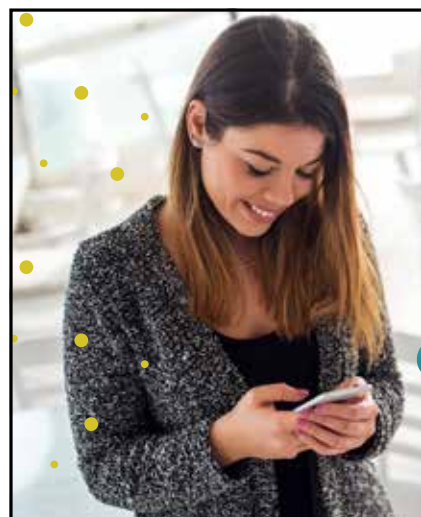
Ages: 3-10
Cost: TBA
Dates: June 12-16

Children are invited to participate in a four-day vacation bible school. Registration lasts until April 23, with options for online registration and in-person sign ups.

5515 Broadway St., Pearland
281-485-7833
www.shiningthelight.org

5. All camps are not created equal: What kind of certifications or training do staff members receive?

Domjan said parents should look for transparency from camps. "How is the staff hired or screened? With students who may need (medication), how is that handled? What is that daily schedule? Are the administrators upfront?"



Have a story idea?

We're looking to hear from you. Contact our newsroom with the inside scoop on the latest business opening, upcoming events, or questions about commerce, roads, development and schools. You could see your idea in print!

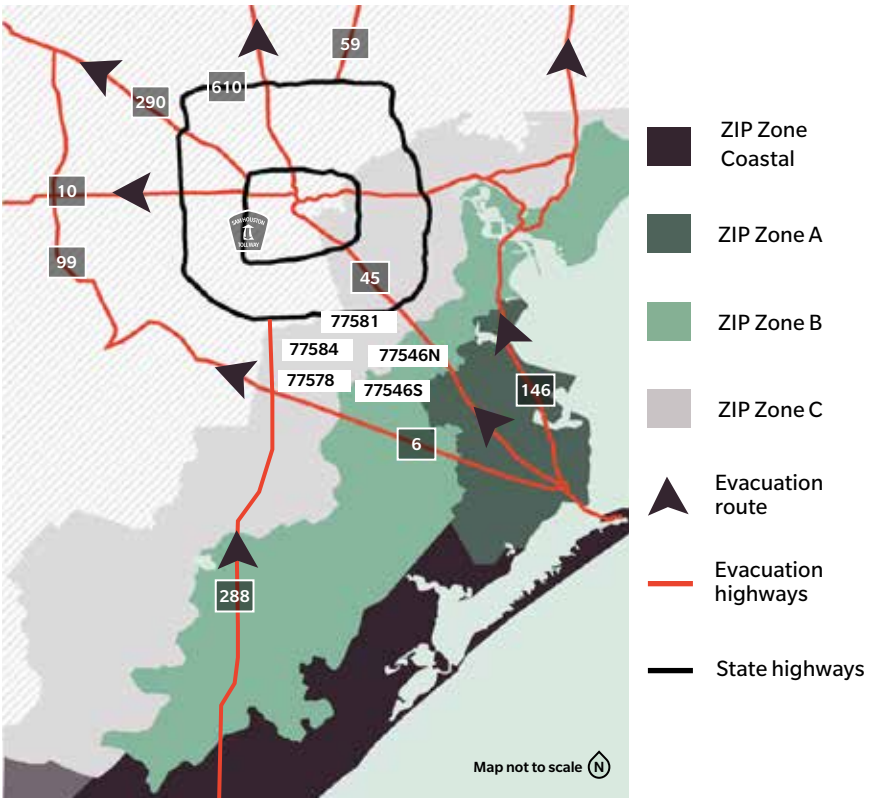
COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM/NEWSROOM

TEXAS CYCLONE

The Texas Gulf Coast is vulnerable to storms during the hurricane season. Planning ahead for a storm could save time and lives.

EVACUATION ROUTES FOR PEARLAND AND FRIENDSWOOD

When officials make the tough decision to call for evacuations, residents will be evacuated by ZIP code or ZIP Zones.



CHASING THE STORM

NOAA rates hurricanes in five categories on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

Category	Wind Speed	Damage
5	157 mph or higher	Homes and roofs destroyed with power outages lasting weeks or months
4	130-156 mph	Catastrophic damage to homes and roofs with long-lasting power outages
3	111-129 mph	Devastating damage to homes and roofs with total power loss
2	96-110 mph	Extensive damage to homes, major roof damage and near-total power loss
1	74-95 mph	Some damage to homes, roofs and power lines

CONTINUED FROM 1

in 2008, wreaking \$29.5 billion worth of damage on the Gulf Coast with its high storm surge and sustained winds, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Ike may be in the rearview mirror, but cities and counties are planning around the fact that thousands of new residents from out of state may have no experience with emergency evacuations and hurricane preparedness.

“It is never too early [to prepare],” said Galveston County Judge Mark Henry, who is also the county’s top disaster official. “We think everyone regardless of where you are should pay attention.”

PREPARING FOR A STORM

Pearland has quickly grown from a small town with strong agricultural roots to a bustling urban center. In the next five years alone, the city plans to spend more than \$545 million on capital improvements, according to Pearland’s 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan, to keep up with a growing population.

“The city is growing very fast,” Portman said. “A lot of people can tell you how to deal with an earthquake, ice storm or snow 10-feet deep because of where they transferred from. But they really have no knowledge or understanding of tropical systems. That is a big part when it comes to public education.”

In Brazoria County alone, more than 4,000 residents moved in from another state and an additional 1,200 moved in from another country, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2010-14 county migration flows. Many of those residents have been drawn to new developments in northern Brazoria County, including Pearland.

And in Galveston County, nearly 7,000 residents moved in from out of state or abroad between 2010 and 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Portman is a retired Texas City fire captain and, most recently, a master

continuity practitioner for the city of Houston’s Office of Emergency Management. Prior to Portman’s hire, the city fire marshal was also the acting emergency manager for the three-county Pearland area.

Coming into a newly created position, Portman’s priorities include boosting public awareness, increasing resident registration for emergency notifications, identifying key employees and functions for continuity of government, formalizing emergency management policies departmentwide, continued training and exercises for key city employees and emergency medical personnel, and potential technology upgrades to the city’s emergency operations center.

“A major focus for us is public education and making sure the public is tied to us ... where they can make decisions for their families and pets,” Portman said.

In addition to city preparedness, residents should prepare disaster kits for themselves, their children and any pets, he said.

EVACUATION PLANS

Every community in Brazoria and Galveston counties is in one of four hurricane evacuation ZIP Zones. The zones list ZIP codes from those most vulnerable—called ZIP Zone Coastal—to high winds and storm surge brought on by a hurricane to those less vulnerable but still at risk.

While most of Pearland is in the last evacuation zone—ZIP Zone C—Friendswood residents are in ZIP Zone B, which is the third evacuation tier.

“Our hazards are a little different from Galveston and Houston ... We’re concerned about surge and heavy amounts of rainfall,” said Steve Simmons, deputy fire marshal in Friendswood.

To prepare for a widespread evacuation scenario, area counties and cities are participating in a weeklong state-sponsored exercise in June when hurricane season starts, officials said.

Ask the Editor

Do you have a question about how local government works?

Is something going on in town you’re curious about?

Send your inquiries to the editor!
nolabi@communityimpact.com

As part of the exercise, Galveston and Brazoria counties activate emergency transportation hubs, which transport volunteers and pets to shelters across the state. Officials also practice computer tracking for each individual throughout the process.

"If there's a concerned family member in Nebraska that's wondering where mom and dad in Brazoria County went with this big storm coming, there's ways that they can figure out that mom and dad are safe," said Glenn LaMont, deputy emergency management coordinator at Brazoria County.

The Pearland Recreation Center and Natatorium is one of two evacuation hubs in Brazoria County. Friendswood residents would be sent to hubs in either Texas City or Pasadena.

Any evacuation will be announced by ZIP Zone with coastal residents given evacuation priority.

"Those not in the ZIP codes called for, we're asking you to stay put, let the storm pass and evaluate whether you can stay put or not," Henry said. "Our most vulnerable, and therefore our greatest concern, are our coastal residents."

The messy evacuation and widespread anxiety during Hurricane Rita caused most of the fatalities, with at least 55 reported evacuation-related deaths and only seven deaths from the storm itself, according to the NOAA.

FUTURE MITIGATION

Officials from Brazoria and Galveston counties joined a six-county coalition called the Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District in 2010 to develop a storm surge protection system for future storm mitigation.

"Ike is now eight years in our rearview mirror even though we're still dealing with it. We'd like to be more proactive in dealing with the next one," said Henry, who is the chairman of the district.

The Texas General Land Office administered a \$3.9 million grant to the

district in 2013 for a storm surge suppression study, which was completed last June. A fourth phase of the study to determine the indirect economic impact of a hurricane will be complete in late March.

The recovery district recommended an \$11.6 billion levee system covering 277 miles of coast in what has been dubbed the "coastal spine." In total, the system would protect 6 million coastal residents as well as industrial assets and sea ports.

Henry said he hopes to press lawmakers for funding to begin preliminary engineering design for a 2035 completion date. The project is estimated to preserve more than \$700 million annually of gross domestic product between 2035 and 2085 if implemented. But until funding is secure, the plans will remain on the back burner.

"This is a very expensive insurance policy that would be paid off with one storm. And we know there will be another storm; we just don't know when it will be," Henry said.

Tell us what you think.
Comment at communityimpact.com.

PLANNING CHECKLIST

Hurricane preparedness should begin before the season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. The start of a disaster kit should include:

- ☐ 7 gallons of water per person
- ☐ 7 days of dry food per person
- ☐ Battery-operated radio
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ First-aid kit and medication
- ☐ Change of clothes and shoes
- ☐ Cash, credit cards or checks
- ☐ Important documents and ID
- ☐ Maps with evacuation routes
- ☐ Pet food and supplies
- ☐ Plastic bags
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ☐ Towels

GULF COAST HURRICANES

Coastal communities are the most vulnerable to hurricanes; six storms have made landfall within 75 miles of Houston since 2000 alone. Here are some historical highlights.

JUNE
2015

TROPICAL STORM BILL
58 mph wind
3.5-foot surge
14 inches of rain

SEPT.
2008

HURRICANE IKE
Category 2
109 mph wind
13 fatalities in Texas
\$29.5B in damages

SEPT.
2005

HURRICANE RITA
Category 3
115 mph wind
62 fatalities in Texas
\$12B in damages

JUNE
2001

TROPICAL STORM ALLISON
40 inches of rain
22 fatalities
\$9B in damages

INFORMING THE PUBLIC

Municipalities are preparing for hurricane season. To sign up for emergency notifications, track a developing storm or learn more about preparedness, visit these sites.

Harris County Flood Control District Hurricane Tracker

www.hcfdc.org

Pearland Office of Emergency Management

www.pearlandtx.gov

Galveston County Office of Emergency Management

www.gcoem.org

Brazoria County Office of Emergency Management

www.brazoriacountytx.gov

NEED A RIDE OUT OF TOWN?

Evacuation assistance is available for residents who are elderly, disabled or lack transportation.

MEETINGS

City of Friendswood will host two public meetings at the Friendswood Public Library: 10 a.m., June 1 and 6:30 p.m., June 6.

Brazoria County officials expect to draw more than 1,000 residents for its hurricane preparedness expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 8 at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds in Angleton.

SOURCE: BRAZORIA COUNTY, CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

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 **TERRATA HOMES**

cost-per-student threshold, the state's wealth equalization plan, known as "recapture" or the "Robin Hood" tax, will kick in this year.

STATE FUNDING CUTS

Every school district in the state has two budgets with separate tax rates: a maintenance and operations—M&O—budget and an interest and sinking—I&S—budget. Friendswood residents approved a tax ratification election in September to specifically increase the district's M&O tax rate from \$1.04 to \$1.13, which funds everything from employee salaries and health care plans to school textbooks and office supplies. I&S funds are used to pay down debt.

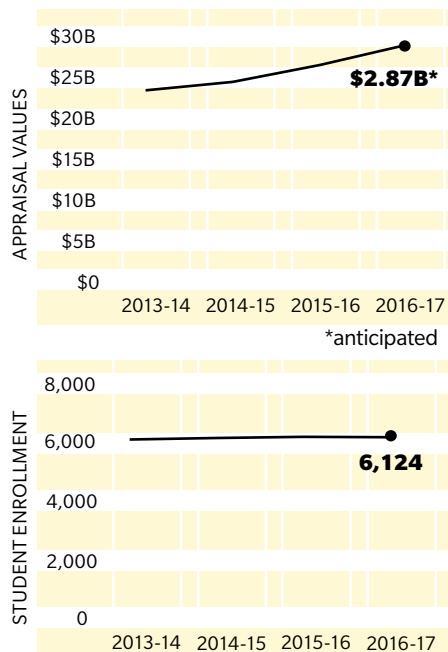
By raising M&O rates by 9 cents, FISD officials expect to generate more than \$2.2 million in the 2016-17 school year over the previous year. However, after the state recaptures some of its funding, FISD will see a net increase of about \$2 million.

FISD expects to lose state funding every year following the election due to recapture.

"We calculated all of that for the [election]," FISD Superintendent Trish Hanks said. "We knew that we would probably have to pay a penny's worth of that increase back to the state. That's why we raised it the amount that we did."

STUDENT ENROLLMENT vs. APPRAISAL VALUES

Property values have steadily ticked up for Friendswood ISD, but enrollment has remained flat. That means less state funding and more reliance on local taxes.



SOURCE: FRIENDSWOOD ISD/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER
Pearland / Friendswood edition • March 2017

Hanks said the district made the decision to hold the tax ratification election—also known as a TRE—after taking into account a variety of factors, such as federal and state funding, tax rates and teacher salaries. She said, as a property wealthy school district, FISD has to find creative ways to balance the budget.

Prior to the TRE, the district said more than \$2 million collected for 2016-17 would be used specifically to increase teacher salaries, along with around \$700,000 for capital improvement projects.

"It definitely made a difference this year, and will help to make a difference in the future, as well," Hanks said. "But it is not the permanent solution, at all, as the funding system is written today. We will still have challenges. We will still have to be an efficient district."

The process of recapture is outlined under Chapter 41 of the Texas Education Code. Recapture was first created in 1993 as a way to divert tax revenue from districts deemed property wealthy to those deemed property poor in an attempt to even the scale for public school students across the state.

COMPARING LOCAL DISTRICTS

Recapture was established after a 1989 Texas Supreme Court ruling found the existing school funding system to be unconstitutional. Fast-forward to the 2016-17 school year, and 379 school districts across the state are considered property wealthy and are expected to send more than \$2 billion in total to the state, according to the Texas Education Agency.

La Porte, Sheldon and Spring Branch ISDs were the only school districts in the Greater Houston area that paid recapture in the 2015-16 school year. Sheldon ISD, which had 8,477 students that year, paid \$1.8 million and La Porte ISD, with 7,753 students, paid \$24.5 million.

In Galveston County, both Galveston ISD and Texas City ISD paid out \$13.2 million and \$1.4 million in 2015-16, respectively.

According to Hanks, each of these districts has one key difference from FISD.

"The difference in all of those other districts is that they are heavily industrial," Hanks said. "The big difference with Friendswood is that we do not have that kind of profile. We are property wealthy only because our [property] values keep going up and we're building more houses



**BREAKING
DOWN**

the **TRE**

In September, FISD passed a tax ratification election, which raised the maintenance and operations rate by 9 cents. Overall, the tax rate went from **\$1.367 to \$1.387**.

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

M&O taxes fund the day-to-day operations of the school district.

$$\$1.04 + 9\text{¢} = \$1.13$$



INTEREST & SINKING TAXES

I&S taxes fund debt repayment, including bonds.

$$32.70\text{¢} - 7\text{¢}^{**} = 25.70\text{¢}$$

Total 2016 tax rate

\$1.387

*M&O tax increase approved through the TRE.

**Trustees approved an I&S tax decrease.

School districts deemed property wealthy lose state funding to property poor districts. Here is how it works.

WEALTH EQUALIZATION FORMULA

FISD is subject to recapture because it exceeds \$319,500 per weighted average daily attendance or WADA, a specialized state student enrollment calculation.

FISD

Net taxable property values in the district
\$2.87 BILLION

Net taxable property values in the district



weighted average daily attendance
6,856

weighted average daily attendance



\$418,313*

*Estimated for the 2016-2017 year

Due to the TRE, which raised rates above the \$1.06 threshold

\$232,367

SUBJECT TO RECAPTURE

SOURCE: FRIENDSWOOD ISD/
COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

and some commercial, but we're not growing in student [enrollment]."

CHANGES FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Although the 85th legislative session is underway and would give legislators the opportunity to amend the state's funding formula, FISD officials do not expect much change.

"I'm not expecting any change this session. I don't think they are far enough along to do that," Hanks said. "I haven't read anything that has been a serious proposal coming out of the Legislature."

While tweaks to the formula may be more difficult to achieve, the House-proposed 2018-19 biennium budget includes an additional \$1.5 billion of public school funding, or a 3.5 percent increase from the last biennium.

House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, said the increase is contingent upon a reduction in recapture.

"Our school finance system may meet the legal definition of constitutional. But parents and taxpayers know something different," Straus said on the session's opening day. "They know that the system is broken ... and they know that it's our job to fix it."

Chandra Villanueva, senior policy analyst for the Austin-based Center

for Public Policy Priorities, is skeptical recapture would be reduced with a funding increase that size. She said the House budget bill does not adequately raise a district's basic state funding allotment, which is the starting point for campuses' funding.

"The easiest way to meet those stipulations is to increase the state's basic allotment," Villanueva said of reducing the need for recapture. "When that allotment goes up, recapture goes down because schools are able to keep more."

All districts receive a basic allotment from the state, but only property poor districts receive money from recapture payments.

Friendswood ISD Chief Financial Officer Connie Morgenroth said the district must keep any potential legislative changes in mind when forecasting the future.

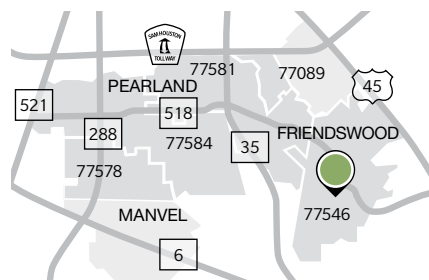
"It's hard to forecast way into the future," Morgenroth said. "You can try, and I go out two or three years, but I have to assume the formula is not going to change when I make those assumptions, and nobody knows what's going to happen."



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Amenities: conveniently located near restaurants, schools, and shopping options
Schools: (Friendswood ISD) Westwood Elementary School, Friendswood Junior High School, Friendswood High School
Property taxes (in dollars):
 Galveston County 0.546
 City of Friendswood 0.546
 Friendswood ISD 1.387
 County Road and Bridge 0.006
 Galveston Co. consolidated drainage 0.112
Total (per \$100 valuation) **2.597**

Median home value
\$899,900

Homes on the market*
7

Homes under contract*
3

Median annual property taxes
\$9,147

Median price per square foot
\$195

Average days on the market*
119



*As of 3/6/2017

Neighborhood data provided by Alina Rogers, Realtor
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MARKET DATA

ON THE MARKET (FEBRUARY 2017)

Price range	Number of homes for sale/average days on the market			
	77581	77584	77578	77546
\$149,999 or less	2/16	1/44	-	2/12
\$150,000-\$199,999	6/76	4/26	1/76	10/25
\$200,000-\$299,999	52/57	86/41	17/59	15/50
\$300,000-\$399,999	26/43	82/53	32/127	25/88
\$400,000-\$499,999	7/80	41/93	20/233	31/83
\$500,000-\$599,999	1/126	7/92	8/65	15/88
\$600,000-\$799,999	5/143	9/150	3/220	23/92
\$800,000-\$999,999	2/95	1/41	2/137	11/115
\$1 million +	1/169	-	1/233	9/204

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 Stanfield Properties



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 Bruce Ham 832-271-7001
 Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan



1107 Pine Hollow Drive

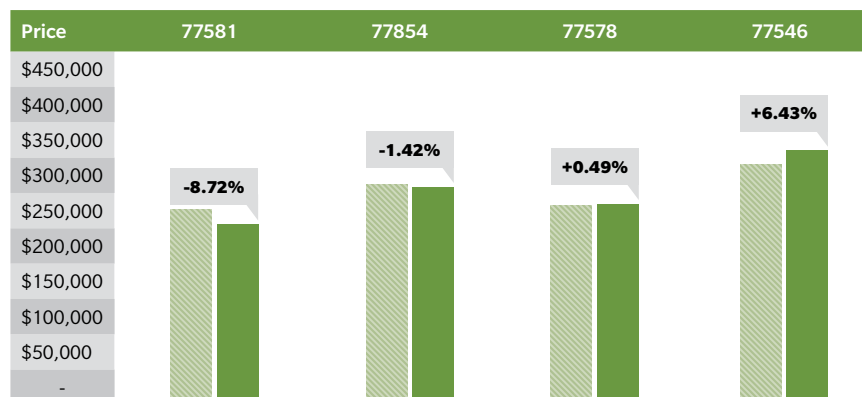
4 bedroom / 4 bath 4,594 sq. ft. \$899,900
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Crescent City	32
Flaming Wok	34
Menchie's Frozen Yogurt	34
Papa Murphy's	31
Wingstop	33

RETAIL

MK Floors	35
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SERVICES

White Gloves Kleaning Services	33
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Family
1 Topping

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Large
\$12
Family
(CYO up to 5 toppings)

WEDNESDAY

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2 Topping
for \$7
or
Family
2 Topping
for \$9

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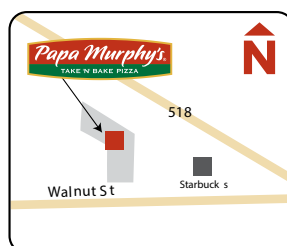
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The Woman's Hospital of Texas
AT PEARLAND MEDICAL CENTER

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