When it came time for Erin Shelton to decide where to send her child to school, the decision was almost automatic, she said.

A public school graduate and a former counselor in Katy ISD, she said she first looked to the schools and magnet programs in Houston ISD near her home in Bellaire.

“We are very fortunate. We are zoned to very academically superior schools, and my son was accepted into multiple great schools,” she said. “We had an abundance of choices.”

But Shelton said she also felt compelled to look at private school, an option that appears to be growing in the Houston area, where several institutions are investing in new growth initiatives and multimillion-dollar, privately funded projects.

With suicide rates steadily growing at the national, state and county levels, local organizations are trying to make a difference in their communities.

Community-led resources focus on mental health

BY ALEX HOSEY

Ashley Duncan, a Bellaire High School senior and volleyball player, died by suicide in 2012.

Through the process of grappling with the grief and trying to understand the loss of her teenage daughter, Cheryl Duncan said she started the Ashley Jadine Foundation to spread awareness about mental health in youth and to tell those struggling with depression that it is OK to talk about what they are feeling.

“It was hard for a lot of people. We thought, ‘How could this happen?’” Duncan said. “If you start a conversation, people will continue to talk, and you’ll find out that you’re not alone.”

Duncan’s foundation is one of many efforts to educate Harris County residents about mental health amid rising suicide rates. To address the growing issue, local organizations are working to confront the factors

CONTINUED ON 14
OUTSMARTING CANCER TAKES LEADING MEDICINE.

Our nationally recognized specialists are finding new ways to outsmart cancer.

From screenings and diagnosis to the most advanced treatments, our leading cancer care is available at seven locations across Greater Houston with personalized guidance and support, so you can focus on healing, surviving and thriving.

H O U S T O N
Methodist
CANCER CENTER

713.790.2700
houstonmethodist.org/outsmartcancer
A reminder to look out for one another

In our front-page story this month, Alex Hosey explores the growing concern for mental health among our youth. Suicide rates are alarmingly high, and it’s important that everyone come together to be aware and able to identify children and teens in trouble. It takes a village! We assess how our community and schools are coping with this increasing problem in addition to providing some local resources for help.

Even though it feels as if school just started, it is already time to begin planning for the 2020-21 year. Many private schools have application deadlines soon approaching and open house events over the next few months. Our editorial team has included a Private School Guide (see Pages 16-17) to help you navigate your search. Also this month, we have a look at the growth, expansions and renovations underway, bucking national trends.

On behalf of the entire Community Impact Newspaper family, I want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving! It’s a great time to pause and reflect on all the things we have to be grateful for and especially the people in our lives: our family, friends and neighbors. I hope you take the opportunity to spend some time with those who mean the most to you this holiday season.

What are super neighborhoods?

In October, Houston City Council recognized the 20th anniversary of the city’s Super Neighborhood program, an initiative that got underway under then-Mayor Lee Brown, a former police chief who also championed community-oriented policing strategies.

The initiative formed 88 districts across the city, each representing a cohesive group of smaller neighborhoods linked by geography and infrastructure, such as Neartown/Montrose or Meyerland. Each is charged with engaging its residents to address their common concerns, which may cut across council district lines, and help connect the tens of thousands of residents of those neighborhoods to city government. In 2003, the Super Neighborhood Alliance was formally recognized as an official advisory board to the mayor, with representation from each super neighborhood.

Unfortunately, 37 of the 88 groups are listed as inactive by the city, including some inside the Loop. To learn more, we have a feature on the Super Neighborhood program at communityimpact.com/bmw.
NOW OPEN

1. **Life Time** opened its Greenway Plaza location, 1 City Club Drive, Houston, on Oct. 28. The 150,000-square-foot gym includes a spa, cafe, Kids Academy and a resort-style pool deck. [www.lifetime.life](http://www.lifetime.life)

2. **Color Factory**, an interactive exhibit that began in San Francisco in 2017 and New York in 2018, opened its Houston presence at 5475 W. Loop S., Houston. The space also includes a popup of the Los Angeles-based My/Mo Mochi Ice Cream, serving dairy and vegan treats encased in mochi, a pillowy rice cake. This edition of Color Factory touts 20,000 square feet of Houston-inspired creative work using color and space to pique curiosity and engage the senses through self-guided installations. [www.colorfactory.co](http://www.colorfactory.co)

3. Plano-based **Sixty Vines** opened its location in the Rice Village, 2540 University Blvd., Houston, on Oct. 14. The wine bar offers 60 wines on tap as well as brunch, lunch and dinner service. 281-800-8808. [www.sixtyvines.com](http://www.sixtyvines.com)

4. **Grinder’s Coffee Bar** opened at 5410 Kirby Drive, Ste. B, Houston, on Oct. 4. Along with hot coffee, lattes and tea, the coffee bar has a full food menu with pastries, salads and sandwiches and relies on local vendors for the majority of its ingredients. It also sells CBD products and CBD-infused food items. 346-406-5960. [www.grinderscoffeehtx.com](http://www.grinderscoffeehtx.com)

5. **Poke in the Bowl** opened in mid-September at 6611 Main St., Houston. The made-to-order poke bowls begin with a choice of base or a poke burrito, sides, proteins, mix-ins, sauces and other toppings. Its first location opened in December 2017 at 515 Westheimer Road, Ste. D, Houston. 832-767-3592. [www.pokeinthebowls.com](http://www.pokeinthebowls.com)


7. **School of Rock** now plans to open its West University location, 2607 Bissonnet St., Houston, in December. The private music school offers lessons for children as well as adults in guitar, bass guitar, drums, singing, piano and keyboard, in addition to regular camps and workshops. 832-900-7625. [www.schoolofrock.com](http://www.schoolofrock.com)

8. The developers of **Blossom Hotel** held a topping-out ceremony Sept. 27 for the 16-story building at 7118 Bertner Ave., Houston, in the Texas Medical Center. At $70 million, it is the largest Chinese project in Houston and will offer 267 rooms, meeting space for up to 400 people and a boutique Asian restaurant, according to the US-China Chamber of Commerce. The project began construction in 2018 and will be completed in 2020.

9. **Pepper Twins** will open a location inside Houston’s Galleria, 5065 Westheimer Road, followed by another at 5161 San Felipe St., Ste. 300, in early 2020. Its menu specializes in organic, gluten-free dishes with several spicy options, including numb-inducing peppercorn dishes. The Houston-based restaurant has six other locations throughout the area. [www.txpeppertwins.com](http://www.txpeppertwins.com)

10. **Jade’s Tea House**, 5475 W. Loop S., Ste. 170, went under new management in August. The shop serves bubble tea with a variety of add-ins and flavorings and also serves coffee drinks, sweets and snack items. 281-974-1437. [www.facebook.com/jadестeahouse](http://www.facebook.com/jadестeahouse)

ANNIVERSARIES

11. **June & Co.** celebrated its first anniversary since opening in September 2018. The women’s clothing, gift and accessory store, located at 2476 Times Blvd., Houston, is also planning on relocating to a new location in Rice Village at 2476 Times Blvd., Houston, and will host a grand reopening by the end of November. 281-501-3398. [www.facebook.com/shopjuneandco](http://www.facebook.com/shopjuneandco)

EXPANSIONS

12. **Bercutt Physical Therapy & Wellness Center** has expanded its footprint at 5252 Kirkwood Rd., Houston, on Oct. 28. The physical therapy and wellness clinic offers a variety of physical therapy services, including massage therapy, sports therapy, and injury prevention. [www.facebook.com/BercuttPT](http://www.facebook.com/BercuttPT)

NEW MANAGEMENT

13. **Jadesteahouse** now plans to open its West University location, 2607 Bissonnet St., Houston, in December. The private music school offers lessons for children as well as adults in guitar, bass guitar, drums, singing, piano and keyboard, in addition to regular camps and workshops. 832-900-7625. [www.schoolofrock.com](http://www.schoolofrock.com)
The revamped menu is divided into small, medium and large, with dishes ranging from smoked trout roe to sea urchin carbonara to Phillip Kim's Asian fusion food truck will bring its lineup of sandwiches on steamed buns.

Torshi is a Mediterranean concept by Rafik Abohattab who will bring his take on hummus, falafel, shawarma and other items.

KelseyCare Advantage, a Medicare Advantage plan offered in the Houston area, earned five out of five stars in its annual assessment for the fourth year in a row, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced Oct. 11. Founded in 2008, the program now has over 35,000 participants, according to a release, and is affiliated with Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, which has a main campus located at 2727 W. Holcombe Blvd. KelseyCare Advantage plans provide Medicare Part A and B coverage, and some plans include Part D prescription drug coverage. The Medicare open enrollment period ends Dec. 7. www.kelsey-seybold.com

The Rice Management Co. announced the creation of a formal organizational structure for its startup incubator, The Ion, located at 4201 Main St., in October, and named former Station Houston CEO Gabriella Rowe its first executive director. “We know that under Gaby’s leadership The Ion will become an innovation hub for not only all Houstonians, but for anybody looking to thrive and collaborate in an entrepreneur-first, tech-forward environment,” RMC President Allison Thacker said in a release. Multiple institutions, including Station Houston, will provide programming and services in the facility, expected to be completed in 2021. www.ionhouston.com

At Allegiance, we believe in the power of local. From marathons to rodeos, our commitment to giving back to the communities we serve is the heart of our business. That’s why we proudly volunteer at and sponsor activities, events, and partnerships that benefit area organizations, schools and residents.
JOIN FPC THIS Advent

FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT
Sun | Dec 1 | 5–7 PM
An evening of family worship, dinner, and kid-friendly activities

18TH ANNUAL ADVENT MISSIONS MARKET
Sundays | Dec 1–15 | 8 AM–1 PM
Unique crafts from artisans around the world

39TH ANNUAL MESSIAH SING-ALONG
Sun | Dec 8 | 7:30 PM
The oldest continuous-running Messiah Sing-Along in Houston

FPC Houston
5300 Main St., Houston, TX 77004
713.620.6500

HARRISHEALTH SYSTEM

More than medicine.
Real people helping real people live well.

To truly improve the health of Harris County residents who need us most, we’re reaching out in more personal ways than ever before. Our new population health team is forming strong partnerships with community organizations to help provide nutrition, housing and transportation support.

Our Cancer Resource Centers offer chemotherapy patients education, guidance, even makeup tips, along with referrals to Wig Out, a special nonprofit program offering high-end wigs at no charge.

We’ve built the Community Farm at LBJ Hospital and opened the Food Farmacy at Strawberry Health Center to help those who struggle with food insecurity. And there’s more, much more, on the horizon.

Creating a healthier community is why we’re here.

harrishealth.org

NUTCRACKER MARKET

NOVEMBER 14-17, 2019
NRG CENTER

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
All proceeds benefit Houston Ballet, its Academy and scholarship programs.
NutcrackerMarket.com

NOT ALLOWED: STROLLERS, WAGONS, ROLLING BAGS, ROLLING CARTS AND PETS.
NOVEMBER

09 CHECK OUT THE ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL
After a hiatus of about 10 years, the Arts and Crafts Festival is returning to Bellaire. The festival will take place at Evelyn’s Park with the aim of recreating the atmosphere of the old event that began in 1972 and will feature local vendors and artists. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 4400 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire. 713-662-8222. www.bellairetx.gov

13 RAISE MONEY TO BUY BOOKS FOR CHILDREN
Books Between Kids will host the fourth annual Book Bash event at the Goode Company Armadillo Palace in an effort to raise money to buy books for economically disadvantaged children in the Houston area. This year, the organization was able to distribute more than 300,000 books to 40,000 children in the area. 6:30-9 p.m. $100 for an individual ticket, with underwriter options available. 5015 Kirby Drive, Houston. 832-831-1402. www.booksbetweenkids.org

14 LISTEN TO MUSIC INSPIRED BY THE MOON LANDING
Rice University will host a live performance of “Canti Lunatici,” composed by Bernard Rands, and “Night of the Four Moons,” composed by George Crumb, at the Moody Center for the Arts. Jerry Hou, the associate conductor for the Shepherd School of Music, will lead Shepherd School musicians in the performance inspired by the moon landing. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Free. 6100 Main St., Houston. 713-348-2787. www.moody.rice.edu

14 EXPERIENCE TIME AND SCIENCE THROUGH DANCE
The Houston Museum of Natural Science will host “Ticktock,” a collaboration between astrophysicist Paul Sutter and the Syren Modern Dance Company that explores the concept of time through choreographed dance performed to the music of Mozart. 7-9 p.m. $65. 5555 Hermann Park Drive, Houston. 713-639-4629. www.hmns.org

15 ATTEND A GALA TO SUPPORT NATURE DISCOVERY CENTER
The Hana and Arthur Ginzberg Nature Discovery Center will host its 25th Twilight Gala at The Briar Club. The fundraiser will include dinner, dancing and an auction. 6:30 p.m. $250 for an individual ticket, with underwriter options available. 2603 Timmons Lane, Houston. 713-667-6550. www.naturediscoverycenter.org

COMPiled BY ALEX HOSEy
FORT BEND TOLL ROAD EXTENSION

The Harris County Toll Road Authority is revisiting plans to extend the north section of the Fort Bend Toll Road to connect to the southwest corner of Loop I-610.

“The engineer is collecting current traffic data to reassess the original 2003 schematic development to determine benefits and impacts to the area,” said Roxy Sibrian, a spokesperson for the transit authority. “The development process of the schematic is expected to be complete early 2020.”

According to an HCTRA financial statement, the county purchased land for the project in 2005 for $3.86 million. The Harris County Commissioners Court approved $870,000 for a contract with Brown & Gay Engineers Inc. to evaluate and prepare schematic plans in February 2018.

The HCTRA plans to hold public input meetings to obtain community feedback at a later date, Sibrian said.

6,290 SF LOT FOR SALE

Texas Medical Center, Rice University, and Museum District
2111 Watts Street
Houston, TX 77006

- Prime residential location in the heart of the prestigious Southgate Subdivision
- Deed Restricted
- Cleared and ready for construction
- Minutes from Texas Medical Center, Rice University, and Museum District
- Sales Price: $700,000

Pollan Hausman
Real Estate Services, LLC

Woodshire north area street and drainage improvements

Originally scheduled to finish this year, this project is now estimated to wrap up in spring 2020, officials said. The city of Houston is updating stormwater drainage, utilities and pavement infrastructure. The work covers the streets from Glenshire Drive to Breakwood Drive and Fordshire Drive to Bassoon Drive. A second phase effort is in the works for construction next year, according to the Houston Capital Improvement Program.

Timeline: fall 2017-spring 2020
Cost: $14.11 million
Funding source: city of Houston

Whole Earth Provision Co.

KIDS FLEECE
Soft, lightweight warmth

Get real-time traffic updates in the Houston, Texas region throughout the year, and learn where roadway flooding risk is high during heavy rain events.

Download the Free Mobile App

Visit www.HoustonTranStar.ORG/CI for more information

All information on this page was updated as of 10/28/19. News or questions about these or other local transportation projects? Email us at bmwnews@communityimpact.com.
**HARRIS COUNTY** After enduring multiple floods, the demolished Meyergrove Apartment property located at North Braeswood and I-610 could soon become a flood mitigation project in the Brays Bayou watershed.

The Harris County Flood Control District purchased the 7.7-acre site for $14.3 million in October, and preparations are underway to secure contracts for additional study and engineering for the site, HCFCD deputy director Matt Zeve said.

“It’s a lot of money, but I’d like to provide as much flood protection as possible, knowing the magnitude of the problem there and the density of development,” Zeve said.

Open lots with enough acreage to allow for effective detention facilities are rare inside the Loop, he said.

“Where we see a good opportunity like this, we do our best to make use of it.”

---

**BELLAIRE** In response to concerns from Bellaire city staff, SLS West Loop LP presented revised plans for the former Chevron campus at an Oct. 17 Planning and Zoning Commission workshop.

The plans reduced the maximum height from the previously requested 85 feet to 65 feet and removed the proposed multifamily development on the western side of the property.

The majority of the property plans show the space being used for retail, restaurants, office space and parking garages, according to the revised master plan.

“If we get restaurants that are out here, we have people in Bellaire that can afford to go to nice places,” SLS owner Danny Sheehan said at the workshop.

A new draft of the proposed development is expected to be released by Nov. 5, to be followed by another public hearing the week of Nov. 18. A vote by the commission is expected at its Dec. 12 meeting.

---

**HARRIS COUNTY** The Commissioners Court approved the effective tax rates for Harris County, the Harris County Flood Control District, Harris Health System and the Port of Houston Authority for fiscal year 2019-20 during a special meeting Oct. 14.

The tax rate approval came less than a week after the court was unable to approve a proposed tax rate increase during the regular Oct. 8 Commissioners Court meeting, a meeting that Precinct 3 and 4 Commissioners Steve Radack and Jack Cagle skipped in protest.

The total combined tax rate for the four county entities is $0.61170 per $100 valuation—down from $0.62998 in FY 2018-19. The originally proposed increase would have set the rate at $0.65260 per $100 valuation—a $0.02262 increase.

County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioners Rodney Ellis and Adrian Garcia called for a tax rate increase to provide additional funding to the county’s Rainy Day Fund as well as to the Harris Health System.

Hidalgo said the proposed tax rate increase would have come before Senate Bill 2 goes into effect Jan. 1, which requires voter approval to authorize an increase of more than 3.5% from the previous year.

“Starting next year, we’re hamstrung at a level of growth that doesn’t keep up with the real growth of the county,” Hidalgo said during the Oct. 8 meeting.

---

**HOUSTON** Just days after an appeals court ruled in favor of Houston’s implementation of its drainage fee, a new lawsuit was filed Oct. 21 in Harris County District Court alleging the city mishandles how it allocates property taxes to fund street and drainage projects.

The suit, which joins a string of legal challenges to the city’s drainage fund, was filed by three plaintiffs including Allen Watson, an engineer who helped advocate for the fund’s original implementation as part of the ReNew Houston effort in 2010.

At the heart of the legal argument is how the city calculates the property tax revenue for the fund, which also receives dollars from developer impact fees and other sources.

“According to the 2020 budget, the City is short-changing the Dedicated Drainage and Street Renewal Fund by nearly half,” Watson said in a statement. “We are confident the court will uphold the will of the people and direct the City not to engage in budget shenanigans like this in the future.”

The city argues, however, that the ordinance creating the fund calls for “an amount equivalent to proceeds from $0.118 of the City’s ad valorem tax levy minus an amount equal to debt service.”

The phrase “equivalent to” is being interpreted by the city as a proportion of the overall tax rate rather than an exact amount.

When the ordinance was passed in 2010, 11.8 cents was equivalent to 18.5% of the overall rate at the time; today 11.8 cents comprises closer to 21%, according to a statement from Mayor Sylvester Turner.

“Transferring the 11.8 cent full amount would mean a reduction to the General Fund budget of $50M in this fiscal year alone,” the mayor’s statement read. “That would mean cuts to essential services like police, fire, solid waste, and other services.”

---

**NUMBER TO KNOW**

$35,500 Maximum amount of federal dollars a household can receive in federal aid for recovery from Tropical Depression Imelda.

---

**QUOTE OF NOTE**

“INCLUSION IS BEING ABLE TO GET INTO THE BUILDING. DIVERSITY IS BEING AT THE TABLE. ACCESSIBILITY IS HAVING YOUR VOICE HEARD AT THE TABLE. BUT BELONGING IS HAVING YOUR VOICE HEARD AND YOUR POINTS RECOGNIZED.”

—GABE CAZARES, FORMER MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS FOR THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, UPON HIS APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE MAYOR’S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.
WHAT ARE STEM CELLS?
Stem cells are our body’s internal repair system. Stem cells seek out damage in the body and work to repair, restore, and regenerate damaged tissue.

WHAT CAN STEM CELLS HELP?
- Chronic neck and back pain
- Degeneration of Shoulders, Hips, Knees
- Asthma
- Arthritis
- Chronic Fatigue
- Parkinsons, Alzheimer
- Lung, Heart, Kidney problems

Give yourself THE GIFT OF HEALTH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
CALL TO SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION
713-557-1013
Most Health Savings Accounts accepted

ADVANCED NUTRITIONAL AND REGENERATIVE WELLNESS CENTER
4141 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY SUITE 615 HOUSTON, TX 77027
ADVANCEDMEDICINECENTER.NET | 713-557-1013

DR. MARK D. SCHULZ, D.C. C.C.N., D.A.C.B.N.
Licensed Texas Chiropractor
Functional Medicine Practitioner Certified Clinical Nutritionist
27 years of practice experience

Join the natural healing revolution NOW with Stem Cell Therapy with Dr. Schulz, D.C.

STOP HURTING Start Healing

Join today! hmns.org/membership
Three Dog Bakery
Pet-friendly store creates pastries and treats for furry friends

BY ALEX HOSEY

The display case at the front counter of Three Dog Bakery is filled with a variety of creatively designed and named cookies and cakes, though none of them are meant for people to eat.

A little over a year since opening in Houston, the Rice Village store has provided fresh, made-from-scratch treat options for dog owners to give to their pets, with all of the treats available being made with all-natural, dog-friendly ingredients.

"Part of what makes this place special is the experience. It’s not just about coming in and buying your dog a treat off the shelf,” co-owner Carin Giga said. “You can smell them baking in the oven; you can see us working with mixers and pouring. Everything is made here right from scratch.”

Three Dog Bakery offers 40-50 different varieties of treats on any given day, and free samples are given to all of the dogs that come into the store to see what they like best, with seasonal varieties being made at different times of the year.

Co-owner Sara Saber said she likes it when dogs can decide for themselves what they want. “[The dogs] will show preferences if given an option,” Saber said. “The whole concept is keeping everything all natural, really understanding the dogs’ dietary needs and making sure we’re meeting them with everything we have in the bakery—the food, the chews and our packaged treats.”

Along with fresh-baked goods, Three Dog Bakery also sells dog food, a variety of chews and dog toys and accessories.

Giga and Saber, who are dog owners themselves, said one of their favorite parts of running Three Dog is getting to know all of the customers and their dogs who come in to shop for treats and toys.

“We have become part of so many local residents’ daily routines,” Giga said. “They’ll stop in, and we know the dogs and their parents’ names, and that’s the really fun part of it. … It’s a personal experience and one that we take very seriously. We really want to be a part of this community.”

Three Dog Bakery
2402 Rice Blvd., Houston
713-533-9933
www.threedogbakeryhtx.com

Hours: Mon.-Thu. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
MORE OFTEN

Local News
MORE OFTEN

Sign up to get unbiased, relevant and web-exclusive content delivered straight to your inbox!

COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM/NEWSLETTER
McHugh Tea Room & Gifts
Business owner steepes Bellaire in tea culture and knowledge

Kim McHugh’s obsession with tea began with a concern for the health of her husband, who would drink multiple cups of tea a day.

“I married a Scotsman from Glasgow, and he was drinking 11 cups a day, and I’m Googling ‘death by tea’ because I thought there wasn’t any way he could survive by drinking that much,” McHugh said. “I came to find out he’s probably going to outlive us all.”

After learning more about tea and leaving a career in pharmaceuticals, she decided to open up a tea room in Bellaire and had over 400 people come to the grand opening in August 2013.

“I was doing tea talks and learning more about this, and when I lost my job with the company I was working with, this just sort of came to life,” McHugh said. “Thankfully, there was a very big embrace by the community. I don’t even have the words for it—I was just so grateful.”

Along with the multitude of salads, sandwiches, quiches and desserts on the menu at McHugh’s Tea Room is a tea list of over 60 varieties, including different types of white tea, green tea, black tea, matchas and caffeine-free teas.

The different teas are available to purchase by the pot or by the bag to go, along with tea cups, sets, instructional books and a lot of other tea-related merchandise at the front of the restaurant.

After six years of business, McHugh said one of the most rewarding aspects of running the restaurant is the kindness of her customers, and she said her customer base is full of cultural diversity and a slew of regulars who all come to enjoy the atmosphere and community available at the tea room.

“There’s something about tea drinkers. … A lot of these people come in from different cultures, different religions and different everything, and everybody is talking to each other,” McHugh said. “I’ll have a table over here playing Mahjong and then another three tables away having a Bible study group, and they’ll stop and talk to each other, and they’re so kind to each other.”
People struggling with suicidal thoughts and ideation almost always exhibit warning signs and changes in behavior prior to attempting to take their own life.

If a person talks about

- • Killing themselves
- • Feeling hopeless
- • Having no reason to live

People who are considering suicide often display one or more of the following moods

- • Depression
- • Anxiety
- • Loss of interest
- • Irritability

- • Being a burden to others
- • Feeling trapped
- • Unbearable pain

Behaviors that may signal risk

Especially if related to a painful event, loss or change:

- • Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- • Looking for a way to end their lives, such as searching online for methods
- • Withdrawing from activities
- • Isolating from family and friends

- • Sleeping too much or too little
- • Visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- • Giving away prized possessions
- • Aggression
- • Fatigue

CONTINUED FROM 1

that lead to suicide while creating a dialogue about mental health and connecting those who struggle with appropriate resources.

CONFRONTING THE CAUSES

Laurie Silver, the director of mental health programs at the Jewish Family Service in Meyerland, said suicide rates are rising at both the local and national levels, with the highest rates of suicide occurring in younger and elderly age groups.

“What happens in our community is actually replicated in the city of Houston, Harris County, the state of Texas and in the country,” Silver said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported suicide as the second-leading cause of death for ages 10-34 and the 11th-leading cause of death in the state of Texas in 2017.

At the county level, the number of suicides has increased by 18.1% from 2010-18 while the population has increased by 14.8% in the same time period.

Silver attributes the rising rates to a variety of intersecting factors, with mental health conditions, poverty and substance misuse often being related and influenced by events such as relationship breakups, financial stress and health conditions.

“Those factors have always existed, but when you look at the rates of mental health conditions that are on the increase, part of it is that this is finally being spoken of,” Silver said. “There’s this increasing ability to commit self-harm that we haven’t seen in the culture before.”

According to Silver, one of the greatest obstacles to preventing suicide and connecting people with the resources they need is the stigma surrounding mental health, which can be prevalent at a community level and up to the broader societal level.

“There’s this sort of stoic, historical context in this country that you should just buck up and pull yourself up by the bootstraps,” Silver said. “There hasn’t been a true understanding or acceptance that brain diseases are no different than other diseases of the body.”

CREATING A DIALOGUE

Confronting the stigma surrounding mental illness and suicide by opening up conversations about often difficult topics is something Duncan said she has striven to do for years through the Ashley Jadine Foundation.

“Sometimes you just need to talk about things that have occurred in your life and how you can continue to live. ... It’ll get better when we as a society don’t look down on it,” Duncan said. “You still want to celebrate life even though there’s hurt and pain.”

For those at the Jewish Family Service, Silver said creating awareness about mental health is the first step to addressing and preventing suicide.

“What we’re working on clinically and in terms of programming is starting a conversation, and I think that’s what you’re seeing across the country,” Silver said. “Years ago, there just wasn’t a dialogue, and there was so much family shame and so much guilt for family members that there just wasn’t any place to any seek help or support.”

After suicide can be spoken about more openly, communities and individuals can begin being better educated about the factors and warning signs of those who struggle with suicidal thoughts, according to Silver.

“I don’t think there are very many...
families that haven’t been touched by mental health conditions,” Silver said. “By shining a light on mental health conditions as opposed to keeping it as this dark, shameful thing, we’re seeing more and more people reach out for support and help.”

Ada Cheung, the managing director of the JFS Family and Children Counseling Department, said education could allow people suffering from mental health issues to recognize their symptoms and create better communication between patients and mental health care providers.

“We see some clients who cannot admit that they have mental health issues, and they’ll shift it and say they just have a headache or a stomach ache,” Cheung said. “They minimize their mental health symptoms, and that’s a major problem. We have to create awareness through education not just for the community but also for upcoming therapists.”

CONNECTING WITH RESOURCES
Finding and connecting with the right form of treatment is not always an easy process, as Meyerland resident Ryan Schwartz said he discovered after his mother died.

“I was trying to figure out how to grieve in a healthy way while also supporting my family and my mom’s friends, and I really had a hard time finding the right therapist,” Schwartz said. “What makes finding a therapist different than anything else is a need for a personality fit... it’s that you feel safe with them and comfortable with them and that you feel like you’re in good hands.”

From his search for mental health treatment, Schwartz said he was inspired to create Mental Health Match, a site that can connect those seeking professional treatment with the right therapist in order to get the help they need.

“Therapy is about taking some dedicated time to figure out how to feel better and be your best self,” Schwartz said. “Whatever folks are experiencing, there is somebody who has made a career out of helping people like you. ... No matter what’s going on with you, you aren’t alone.”

Cheung said treatment for mental health can begin in a variety of different formats, with the JFS providing many different support groups, options for individual therapy and other resources available through the organization.

“Our programs are designed in a way that all of the support groups are free,” Cheung said. “We want to push them out to the community and say, ‘Just come and learn.’”
GUIDE

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

COMPILED BY MATT DULIN

Parents have a variety of education options beyond the public school system. This guide includes a list of area private schools as well as information to help parents make the best decision for their children.

RELIGIOUS

PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL
Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old to eighth grade
Application deadline: Jan. 6, 2020
Enrollment: 600
Tuition per academic year: $16,590-$25,195
Special programs/extracurriculars: iPad program for third to eighth grades, no-cut policy for sixth-eighth grades (34 teams), class trips for fifth-eighth grades, choir, Odyssey of the Mind teams, service projects
40 Oakdale St., Houston
713-520-0284
www.pshouston.org

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Grades served: Pre-K to eighth grade
Application deadline: Jan. 1, 2020
Enrollment: 505
Tuition per academic year: $10,000
Special programs/extracurriculars: Religion, art, music, Spanish, technology
2120 Westheimer Road, Houston
713-526-3279
www.stvdp.org

ST. ANNE’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old to eighth grade
Application deadline: Feb. 1, 2020
Enrollment: 500
Tuition per academic year: $10,000
Special programs/extracurriculars: Religion, art, music, Spanish, technology
2120 Westheimer Road, Houston
713-526-3279
www.stannes.org

ST. MARK’S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old to eighth grade
Application deadline: Jan. 1, 2020
Enrollment: 470
Tuition per academic year: $12,600-$21,400
Special programs/extracurriculars: STEM/design thinking courses, athletics, after school clubs, extended care, summer programming
3816 Bellaire Blvd., Houston
713-667-7030
www.stmes.org

ST. NICHOLAS SCHOOL
Grades served: Infants to eighth grade
Application deadline: Year round
Enrollment: 100
Tuition per academic year: $13,520 (8 a.m.-4 p.m. school day)
Special programs/extracurriculars: Montessori lower school, classical curriculum with English, Spanish, French, and Latin; STEAM; chef-prepared meals; summer camp; chess, soccer, ballet and martial arts
3511A Linkwood Drive, Houston
713-791-9977
www.snschools.com

SAINT THOMAS’ EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Grades served: K-12
Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2020
Enrollment: 600
Tuition per academic year: $15,800 to $19,900 (varies by grade level)
Special programs/extracurriculars: Soccer, choir, swimming, cross country, orchestra, theatre and yearbook; Scottish Arts program includes Highland dance, bag-piping and drumming
4900 Jackwood St., Houston
713-666-3111
www.stes.org

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH SCHOOL
Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old to eighth grade
Application deadline: Feb. 14, 2020
Enrollment: 387
Tuition per academic year: $9,077-$10,821 (varies by grade level)
Special programs/extracurriculars: athletics, band, art club, chess club, debate club, STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math)

MMA — A College-Prep Boarding School for Boys in Grades 7-12 — 320 Iwo Jima Blvd. — Harlingen, TX

ATTEND A FREE LOCAL PRESENTATION!
»» Wednesday Nov. 13 @ 7 p.m.
»» Houston Marriott West Loop Galleria 1750 West Loop South, Houston. 713-960-0111.

MMA-TX.ORG »» 956.423.6006 »» ADMISSIONS@MMA-TX.ORG

At Marine Military Academy, challenge leads to growth and growth leads to success. By providing a college-preparatory curriculum in a structured, disciplined and focused setting, our cadets rise to new heights as scholars and leaders. No other school can unlock a boy’s potential like MMA. The sooner he starts, the sooner his transformation begins.

REGISTER NOW FOR MID-TERM

40 Oakdale St., Houston
713-520-0284
www.pshouston.org

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Grades served: Pre-K to eighth grade
Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2020
Enrollment: 505
Tuition per academic year: $12,600-$21,400
Special programs/extracurriculars: STEM/design thinking courses, athletics, after school clubs, extended care, summer programming
3816 Bellaire Blvd., Houston
713-667-7030
www.stvdp.org

ST. ANNE’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old to eighth grade
Application deadline: Feb. 1, 2020
Enrollment: 500
Tuition per academic year: $10,000
Special programs/extracurriculars: Religion, art, music, Spanish, technology
2120 Westheimer Road, Houston
713-526-3279
www.stannes.org

ST. MARK’S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old to eighth grade
Application deadline: Jan. 1, 2020
Enrollment: 470
Tuition per academic year: $12,600-$21,400
Special programs/extracurriculars: STEM/design thinking courses, athletics, after school clubs, extended care, summer programming
3816 Bellaire Blvd., Houston
713-667-7030
www.stmes.org

ST. NICHOLAS SCHOOL
Grades served: Infants to eighth grade
Application deadline: Year round
Enrollment: 100
Tuition per academic year: $13,520 (8 a.m.-4 p.m. school day)
Special programs/extracurriculars: Montessori lower school, classical curriculum with English, Spanish, French, and Latin; STEAM; chef-prepared meals; summer camp; chess, soccer, ballet and martial arts
3511A Linkwood Drive, Houston
713-791-9977
www.snschools.com

SAINT THOMAS’ EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Grades served: K-12
Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2020
Enrollment: 600
Tuition per academic year: $15,800 to $19,900 (varies by grade level)
Special programs/extracurriculars: Soccer, choir, swimming, cross country, orchestra, theatre and yearbook; Scottish Arts program includes Highland dance, bag-piping and drumming
4900 Jackwood St., Houston
713-666-3111
www.stes.org

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH SCHOOL
Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old to eighth grade
Application deadline: Feb. 14, 2020
Enrollment: 387
Tuition per academic year: $9,077-$10,821 (varies by grade level)
Special programs/extracurriculars: athletics, band, art club, chess club, debate club, STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math)
**THE FAY SCHOOL**

Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old to fifth grade  
Application deadline: Jan. 31, 2020, rolling admissions after that date  
Enrollment: 285  
Tuition per academic year: $15,907-$25,769  
Special programs/extracurriculars: small class sizes; middle school travel-education program, middle school interscholastic sports, student council, National Elementary Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Great Books Program, Veritas Conservatory of Music  
7000 Ferris St., Bellaire  
713-773-9605  
www.thefayschool.org

**THE POST OAK SCHOOL**

Grades served: 14 months old through 12th grade  
Application deadline: priority admission Jan. 10, 2020  
Enrollment: 514  
Tuition per academic year: Starts at $17,821 (depends on grade level)  
Special programs/extracurriculars: internships, travel, Model United Nations, arts  
4600 Bossonnet St., Bellaire  
713-771-5600  
www.postoakschool.org

**THE JOY SCHOOL**

Grades served: Kindergarten to eighth grade  
Application deadline: Rolling basis  
Enrollment: 150  
Tuition per academic year: $40,000  
Special programs/extracurriculars: Caters to learning differences and learning disabilities  
1 Chelsea Blvd., Houston  
713-523-0660  
www.thejoyschool.org

**MONTESSORI LEARNING INSTITUTE**

Grades served: Kindergarten to eighth grade  
Application deadline: open  
Enrollment: 75  
Tuition per academic year: $12,000-$13,500  
Special programs/extracurriculars: small class sizes; middle school travel-education program, middle school interscholastic sports, student council, National Elementary Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Great Books Program, Veritas Conservatory of Music  
7000 Ferris St., Bellaire  
713-681-8300  
www.montessorilearninginstitute.com

**MONTESSORI/NONSECTARIAN**

Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old to third grade  
Application deadline: March 1, 2020  
Enrollment: 110  
Tuition per academic year: $25,769  
Special programs/extracurriculars: Out-door education, leadership development, early day and extended day programming, art, makerspace/engineering, library, physical education, Spanish  
105 N. Post Oak Lane, Houston  
713-681-8300  
www.thefayschool.org

**VERITAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

Grades served: Pre-K from 3 years old through eighth grade  
Application deadline: Jan. 17, 2020 (Round 1); March 31, 2020 (Round 2); rolling basis after that date  
Enrollment: 198  
Tuition per academic year: $8,900-$13,500  
(varies by grade level)  
Special programs/extracurriculars: small class sizes; middle school travel-education program, middle school interscholastic sports, student council, National Elementary Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Great Books Program, Veritas Conservatory of Music  
7000 Ferris St., Bellaire  
713-773-9605  
7000 Ferris St., Bellaire  
713-773-9605  
www.veritasca.org

**MONTESSORI LEARNING INSTITUTE**

Grades served: Kindergarten to eighth grade  
Application deadline: open  
Enrollment: 75  
Tuition per academic year: $12,000-$13,500  
Special programs/extracurriculars: small class sizes; middle school travel-education program, middle school interscholastic sports, student council, National Elementary Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Great Books Program, Veritas Conservatory of Music  
7000 Ferris St., Bellaire  
713-681-8300  
www.montessorilearninginstitute.com

**THE JOY SCHOOL**

Grades served: Kindergarten to eighth grade  
Application deadline: Rolling basis  
Enrollment: 150  
Tuition per academic year: $40,000  
Special programs/extracurriculars: Caters to learning differences and learning disabilities  
1 Chelsea Blvd., Houston  
713-523-0660  
www.thejoyschool.org

**NEW CAMPUS COMING 2022**

**AVONDALE HOUSE**

Grades served: Pre-K to 12th grade  
Application deadline: Open enrollment period No deadline.  
Enrollment: 75  
Tuition per academic year: $33,000  
Special programs/extracurriculars: Specialized school for students with moderate to severe autism; applied behavior analysis in a classroom setting with a 1-3 teacher-student ratio; extended school year  
737 Omeara Drive, Houston  
713-993-9544  
www.avondalehouse.org

**MONTESSORI LEARNING INSTITUTE**

Grades served: Kindergarten to eighth grade  
Application deadline: open  
Enrollment: 75  
Tuition per academic year: $12,000-$13,500  
Special programs/extracurriculars: small class sizes; middle school travel-education program, middle school interscholastic sports, student council, National Elementary Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Great Books Program, Veritas Conservatory of Music  
7000 Ferris St., Bellaire  
713-681-8300  
www.montessorilearninginstitute.com

**THE POST OAK SCHOOL**

Grades served: 14 months old through 12th grade  
Application deadline: priority admission Jan. 10, 2020  
Enrollment: 514  
Tuition per academic year: Starts at $17,821 (depends on grade level)  
Special programs/extracurriculars: internships, travel, Model United Nations, arts  
4600 Bossonnet St., Bellaire  
713-771-5600  
www.montessorilearninginstitute.com

**MONTESSORI LEARNING INSTITUTE**

Grades served: Kindergarten to eighth grade  
Application deadline: open  
Enrollment: 75  
Tuition per academic year: $12,000-$13,500  
Special programs/extracurriculars: small class sizes; middle school travel-education program, middle school interscholastic sports, student council, National Elementary Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Great Books Program, Veritas Conservatory of Music  
7000 Ferris St., Bellaire  
713-681-8300  
www.montessorilearninginstitute.com

**THE JOY SCHOOL**

Grades served: Kindergarten to eighth grade  
Application deadline: Rolling basis  
Enrollment: 150  
Tuition per academic year: $40,000  
Special programs/extracurriculars: Caters to learning differences and learning disabilities  
1 Chelsea Blvd., Houston  
713-523-0660  
www.thejoyschool.org

**NEW CAMPUS COMING 2022**

**AVONDALE HOUSE**

Grades served: Pre-K to 12th grade  
Application deadline: Open enrollment period No deadline.  
Enrollment: 75  
Tuition per academic year: $33,000  
Special programs/extracurriculars: Specialized school for students with moderate to severe autism; applied behavior analysis in a classroom setting with a 1-3 teacher-student ratio; extended school year  
737 Omeara Drive, Houston  
713-993-9544  
www.avondalehouse.org

**MONTESSORI LEARNING INSTITUTE**

Grades served: Kindergarten to eighth grade  
Application deadline: open  
Enrollment: 75  
Tuition per academic year: $12,000-$13,500  
Special programs/extracurriculars: small class sizes; middle school travel-education program, middle school interscholastic sports, student council, National Elementary Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Great Books Program, Veritas Conservatory of Music  
7000 Ferris St., Bellaire  
713-681-8300  
www.montessorilearninginstitute.com

**THE POST OAK SCHOOL**

Grades served: 14 months old through 12th grade  
Application deadline: priority admission Jan. 10, 2020  
Enrollment: 514  
Tuition per academic year: Starts at $17,821 (depends on grade level)  
Special programs/extracurriculars: internships, travel, Model United Nations, arts  
4600 Bossonnet St., Bellaire  
713-771-5600  
www.montessorilearninginstitute.com
Area private and independent schools are investing in campus improvements, land acquisitions and strategic plans, as school leaders anticipate enrollment growth and new programs.

### Campus Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Estimated Investment</th>
<th>Expected Completion</th>
<th>Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$200 million</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects: 46,000-square-foot lower school building; middle school renovation</td>
<td>$25 million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected completion: lower school now open; middle school opens in January</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Oaks Baptist School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects: 166,000-square-foot expansion, middle school building and parking garage</td>
<td>$65 million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected completion: summer 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anne’s Catholic School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects: New commons with gym, multipurpose space; community center and parking garage</td>
<td>$20.8 million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected completion: 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Nicholas School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects: New campus as part of 48-acre residential/commercial development</td>
<td>$34 million (by developer)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected completion: 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Staff vs. Student Ratio at Private Schools in U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Staff:Student Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Oaks Baptist School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Average Private School Tuition in Texas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Average Tuition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Oaks Baptist School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Accredited Private Schools in Houston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Accreditation</th>
<th>Enrollment Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian School</td>
<td></td>
<td>+ 9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Oaks Baptist School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Houston Private School Enrollment 2017-18 VS. 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Enrollment Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Oaks Baptist School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONTINUED FROM 1**

funded expansions.

Houston is bucking national trends, with private school enrollment growing in 2018 by 10% year over year, compared to a statewide increase of about 3.5% and U.S. enrollment falling slightly during the same period, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics and the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission.

“Houston is out of the norm,” said Laura Colangelo, the executive director for the commission, which provides oversight to 17 accrediting bodies and lobbies for private schools in the state Legislature. “It’s a function of the city’s overall growth … but it also has a rich tradition of strong private schools.”

### BIG INVESTMENTS

Private schools in the area are undergoing or have recently completed major construction projects, driven by strategic plans and capital campaigns.

One of the biggest fundraising efforts in the country is coming to fruition at the River Oaks Baptist School, where a $65 million transformation is underway, adding a middle school building with a theater, robotics lab, music rooms, visual arts studios, science labs and outdoor learning space. The building is on track to open in fall 2020, officials said.

“The new building will be a mecca of active learning space,” Head of School...
Leanne Reynolds said.

The emphasis on redesigning spaces for new educational programming is also underway at The Presbyterian School, located in the Museum District.

Officials there raised $20 million, more than three times a previous effort, Headmaster Mark Carleton said, to build a new lower-school building and renovate its middle school, both focusing on collaborative learning spaces.

“We’ve rebuilt the whole school, but we have even bigger plans. ... This is the beginning of an exciting time for us,” Carleton said, as school leaders are developing a new strategic plan. The improvements will also allow the campus to grow its enrollment by about 20%, he said.

COMPETITIVE TRENDS

While area schools are capitalizing on a wave of growth that is expected to continue, private schools at large are experiencing a slowdown in enrollment. From 2000-16, enrollment grew for public schools and charter schools nationwide, but private school enrollment fell by about 4%, the NCES reported.

The drop is driven largely by declines in Catholic schools, which account for 1 in 3 private school students in the U.S., according to the NCES. Their enrollment has dropped 20% since 2008, according to figures published by the National Catholic Educational Association.

That trend does not appear to be prevalent in Houston, with leaders at St. Anne’s, St. Thomas and others planning for growth.

All private schools compete for enrollment by positioning themselves as an alternative offering features that align with parents’ needs, Colangelo said.

“Our schools offer things that families want—safety, smaller classes, mission driven or faith based—while public school has to be all things to all people, which they should be,” Colangelo said.

Being small has its advantages, Carleton said.

“The are able to be more nimble than big schools and school systems. It’s hard for bigger schools to scrutinize how they teach and how kids learn, and then implement changes to that,” he said. “There’s no substitute for independence and autonomy to do that.”

MAKING THE LEAP

Cost can be a barrier to some of these schools, with the average tuition in Texas around $7,900 and some Houston schools charging as much as $30,000 or $40,000 a year. But nearly every school offers financial aid, Colangelo said.

“It is challenging because whatever you are offering, you are competing with free, which is always a hurdle,” she said.

Students at or near poverty levels make up about 20% of private school enrollment compared to 40% for public schools, according to NCES data. There is also a gap in racial demographics: White students account for almost 70% of private school enrollment compared to 50% for public schools.

Tapping into diverse communities has become a strategic investment for St. John’s School, which hired its first chief diversity officer three years ago.

“This was a board directive. It puts St. John’s up there with what the top innovators are doing in the country. It’s about delivering a 21st century education,” said Gene Batiste, St. John’s director of community and inclusion.

The commitment includes incorporating cultural proficiency and empathy skills in the curriculum, recruiting and retaining teachers and leaders of color, and improving the school’s community engagement, he said.

For Shelton, St. John’s commitment to supporting and challenging her child socially as well as academically won her over, she said.

“It’s not just about academics. It’s how will they learn to succeed as well as fail? How will they navigate tough choices and experiences and grow?” she said.

For more information visit communityimpact.com.
**SEPTEMBER SALES DATA**

**HOMES ON THE MARKET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77005</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77025</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77030</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77096</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77401</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEDIAN PRICE OF HOMES SOLD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>+4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,250,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>+33%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>-18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>+28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
<td>-9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOMES SOLD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price range</th>
<th>77005</th>
<th>77025</th>
<th>77030</th>
<th>77096</th>
<th>77401</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$299,999 or less</td>
<td>6/48</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5/78</td>
<td>6/131</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300,000-$399,999</td>
<td>8/97</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19/71</td>
<td>3/28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$400,000-$499,999</td>
<td>3/88</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8/71</td>
<td>1/107</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500,000-$599,999</td>
<td>1/36</td>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4/129</td>
<td>4/140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$600,000-$699,999</td>
<td>2/140</td>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>2/28</td>
<td>5/40</td>
<td>5/153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$800,000-$999,999</td>
<td>3/50</td>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>2/78</td>
<td>1/825</td>
<td>1/270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 million +</td>
<td>25/141</td>
<td>6/85</td>
<td>5/198</td>
<td>2/173</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FEATURED NEIGHBORHOOD**

**KNOLLWOOD VILLAGE**

Knollwood Village was built in the early 1950s where the Main Street Airport was once located. The original houses in the neighborhood were ranch-style homes ranging from 1,600 to 2,400 square feet. The mid-century neighborhood offers a mix of original, updated homes as well as new construction offering more square footage. Over 600 homes comprise the community, which has an active civic club that enforces deed restrictions, provides a security patrol and maintains street medians. Located along Brays Bayou, the neighborhood is about 2 miles from the Texas Medical Center.

**Schools (HISD):** Longfellow Elementary School, Pershing Middle School, Bellaire High School

**RECENT LISTINGS**

**2903 Conway St.**

3 bed / 2 bath  | 1,704 sq. ft.  | $475,000
Charlie Kriegel  | Winhill Advisors
| 832-768-2608 |

**3011 S. Braeswood Blvd.**

3 bed / 2.5 bath | 2,227 sq. ft.  | $395,000
Tricia Eby  | Abundant Living Real Estate
| 713-825-1010 |

**2814 Linkwood Drive**

3 bed / 2 bath    | 1,675 sq. ft.  | $425,000
Kay Krampitz  | Texas Trust Real Estate
| 979-885-9948 |

**3017 Stanton St.**

3 bed / 2 bath    | 1,665 sq. ft.  | $390,000
Debra Hight  | Coldwell Banker United
| 713-501-6880 |

**MARKET DATA COMPILED BY**

**GARY GREENE**

BHGRe Gary Greene  | 713.961.1722 • www.garygreene.com

**GALLERY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTHSIDE PLACE</th>
<th>BARKLEY SQUARE SOUTH</th>
<th>MAPLEWOOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6409 EDLOE</td>
<td>5659 YARWELL</td>
<td>5475 JACKWOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,199,000</td>
<td>$559,888</td>
<td>$399,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>936.447.9625</td>
<td>713.961.1722</td>
<td>281.980.5050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

©2019 Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate LLC. Better Homes and Gardens® is a registered trademark of Meredith Corporation licensed to Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate LLC. Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Franchise is Independently Owned and Operated. If your property is currently listed with a real estate broker, please disregard. It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. Real estate advertising and listing information ©2019 Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate LLC. Used with permission.
CAFE NOW OPEN

Join us for one of our leather crafting workshops and test your creativity and skill—all while enjoying delicious, light bites and craft beverages.

LEATHER | PAINTING | SEWING

Follow Us: @gaspypert and @workshop

Sign up online at gaspycafe.com

COME BY AND SEE US AND GRAB A FREE PAstry ON US!

*mention ad*

2413 RICE BLVD, HOUSTON, TEXAS
GASPYCAFE.COM | 713-750-9042

DEALS THIS MONTH

AUTOMOTIVE
Uptown Automotive .................................. 23

BEAUTY
Wigs by Andre ....................................... 23

CHILDREN’S
Blue Leaf .................................................. 22

DINING
Auntie Pasta’s Restaurant .......................... 23
Tapster’s ................................................ 22

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Tranquility Dental Spa .............................. 23
Well, well, well... Chiropractic, PLLC .......... 23

PACKING & SHIPPING
PostNet - West University ......................... 22
For all things
Precious & Unique
Baby and Kids • Fine Linens
Gifts • Jewelry • Stationary • Crystal

15% OFF
children's gifts
when you mention this ad.
Does not apply to
sale items.

Complimentary
Gift Wrapping

Blue Leaf
2303 South Blvd. at Greenbriar
(713) 520-9975 | blueleafhouston.com

Protect Your Packages
We accept deliveries from all shipping carriers, keeping
packages safe until you're ready to pick them up.

Rent a mailbox today!

TAPESTER’S GRILL
DINE-IN | DRIVE-THRU | CARRY-OUT | CATERING
DAILY BRUNCH | LUNCH | DINNER
GET CATERED AWAY! WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO
OFFER CUSTOM CATERING FOR ANY EVENT!

FREE STICKEE
with $10 Brunch purchase
*While supplies last*
*Cannot be combined with any other offers*

$5 OFF A $25 PURCHASE
*Cannot be combined with any other offers*

True comfort food
Done Right!
MADE FROM SCRATCH IN YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RESTAURANT

2301 South Blvd. at Greenbriar
(713) 520-9975 | mytapestersgrill.com

Hyperlocal Advertising
HERE FOR YOUR PRINT AND DIGITAL NEEDS

CONTACT US TODAY
COMMUNITYIMPACT.COM/ADVERTISE
Balance, Comfort and Quality

Personalized, gentle, comprehensive patient care is our number one priority.
Experience tranquility from the dental chair.

6750 West Loop South • Suite 325 • Bellaire, TX 77401
832-930-7727 • www.tranquilitydentspa1.com

Wigs by Andre

$20 OFF WIG PURCHASE
NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY. MUST PRESENT COUPON.

5322 Weslayan Street
(IN WESLAYAN PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER)
HOUSTON, TX 77005
(713) 622-6933 | WWW.WIGSBYANDRE.COM

Free Dessert with the purchase of 2 entrees
Not valid with any other offer.
Bellaire location only.
One coupon per visit.
CT Newspapers.
Expires 12/14/19

Auntie Pasto’s

Hours:
Mon – Thurs 11am – 10pm
Friday 11am – 11pm
Saturday 4pm – 11pm
Sunday 4pm – 9pm

5419 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX
713.669.8658

Catering Available
LUNCH MENU AND SPECIALS STARTING AT $8 (M-F)

Well, well, well...chiropractic

$40 OFF INITIAL VISIT & TREATMENT (OFFER ENDS 11/30/19)

2410 Tangleley St., Suite C.
Houston, TX 77005
832-791-9977
WWW.WWWCHIROPRACTIC.COM

PRINTING IS OUR passion

LET US PRINT YOUR NEXT PROJECT:
direct mail • recreational programs • sports programs
culture books • marketing products • and more

COMMUNITYIMPACTPRINTING.COM
We’ve been dedicated to the care of Texas’ children since 1954. With Texas Children’s Specialty Care Bellaire right in your community, we’ve got you covered, from specialties like otolaryngology, orthopedics and pediatric surgery to complex inpatient and emergency care offered at Texas Children’s Hospital. Our focus on kids means we’re able to treat more pediatric conditions than any other hospital in the region.

It’s our specialty.

Texas Children’s Hospital
Specialty Care