



# +HEALTH CARE DIRECTORY | 2015-16

## Katy area hospitals expand to increase accessibility

Facilities continue to bring medical care closer to fast-growing area

By Bethany Knipp

Four hospitals in the west Houston and Katy areas are expanding their campuses in an effort to make a trip to the hospital a little more accessible.

“Our hospital is frequently full, and the population in Katy continues to grow. I’m excited for our hospital to offer our same type [of] quality, to expand our services, be able to keep more patients and expand our capacities to population growth,” said John Kueven, chief operating officer of Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

### Memorial Hermann

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital will open a new patient tower the first week of January with additional projects opening from spring until the fall of 2016. The new tower will expand nearly all of the Katy hospital’s services on the first four floors, Kueven said.

“Katy is still the fastest-growing area in Houston,” Kueven said. “We’re projecting more than a 13 percent growth rate over the next five years in Katy, and we often are at capacity. Our ER is full and our hospital is full, so really in January [that] gives us a lot more

See **Health care** | 19



Memorial Hermann is one of four hospitals in the Katy area undergoing expansions and will finalize its second patient tower Jan. 8.

**6 IMPACTS**  
Now Open, Coming Soon & more



**9 BUSINESS FEATURE**  
Southern Gossip



**11 DINING FEATURE**  
Snappy's Cafe & Grill



**+HEALTH CARE**  
DIRECTORY  
2015-16



**16**  
HEALTH  
CARE NEWS,  
DOCTOR  
LISTINGS





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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. Now, with 20 markets in the Austin, Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth metro areas, the paper is distributed monthly to nearly 1.5 million homes and businesses.

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## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Thanksgiving is my favorite time of year. I love the smell of all the wonderful food my family has prepared and the joy and laughter that fills my parents' home. I'm thankful for so many of the blessings I have, including my husband, my two handsome boys, my family and friends. I'm also thankful for having an opportunity to work for a company that has a mission I'm proud to be a part of. Katy is a special place. It is the only community I have known growing up and in my adult life. I'm so blessed to have an opportunity to be back serving you and providing in-depth local news coverage in this thriving area.

Thanksgiving is my favorite time of year. I love the smell of all the wonderful food my family has prepared and the joy and laughter that fills my parents' home. I'm thankful for so many of the blessings I have, including my husband, my two handsome boys, my

Our staff has been busy at work on this month's issue, which features our annual Health Care Directory. Along with physician and hospital listings, the directory features news on health care developments and trends. Detailed in our cover story, four major hospitals are undergoing expansions as the health care industry in Katy works to keep up with demand in our growing area.

Also featured in this issue is our Holiday Gift Guide, which is filled with distinctive items you can only find in locally owned Katy stores. I encourage you to consider these businesses as you go about your holiday shopping.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season.

*Kelly Hammons*

Kelly Hammons  
GENERAL MANAGER

khammons@communityimpact.com

## CONTENTS

### 6 IMPACTS

Now Open, Coming Soon & more

### 9 BUSINESS FEATURE

Southern Gossip Boutique

### 11 DINING FEATURE

Snappy's Cafe and Grill

### 12 TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

News, data on local road projects

### 13 TRANSPORTATION

Grand Parkway park and ride

### 14 DEVELOPMENT

West Harris County Water Authority infrastructure projects

### 15 COUNTY & SCHOOL

DIRECTORY

News, features and doctor listings

### 36 CALENDAR

### 38 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

### 40 REGIONAL

### 41 REAL ESTATE

Cross Creek Ranch, 77450

### 43 IMPACT DEALS

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

### TAKE THE POLL

**What do you think is the greatest health care need in the Katy area?**

➔ Take the poll online at [communityimpact.com/kty-poll](http://communityimpact.com/kty-poll)

Look for the results right here in next month's print edition of *Community Impact Newspaper*.

### LAST MONTH'S POLL RESULTS

**What project in the Harris County bond proposals is most important to you?**

Major road and bridge projects

**28.99%**

New animal shelter for Harris County

**28.26%**

Harris County Flood Control District projects

**15.22%**

I do not support any projects in the Nov. 3 bond referndums

**14.49%**

Park and trail projects

**13.04%**

Results from an unscientific Web survey, collected 10/22/15–11/18/15

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## IMPACTS



## Now Open

**1 Airwheels America** opened its first store at Katy Mills on Oct. 24 at 5000 Katy Mills Circle, Ste. 801, Katy. The store sells a variety of electronic transportation products, including electric scooters, unicycles, Air boards and Segways. 281-347-3925. [www.airwheelsamerica.com](http://www.airwheelsamerica.com)

**2 Bath and Body Works** opened a Katy Mills location Oct. 25 at 5000 Katy Mills Circle, Ste., 655, Katy. The store offers scented lotions, shower gels, candles, soap and other fragranced products. 281-644-4333. [www.bathandbodyworks.com](http://www.bathandbodyworks.com)

**3 Beauty Empire** opened its first Katy location in September at

1245 N. Fry Road, Ste. 4, Katy. The shop features cosmetics, hair products, wigs and hair extensions. 281-206-7271

**4 Cottage Greens** opened Nov. 16 at 27730 Morton Road, Katy, at the Cottage in the Woods retreat. A vegan eatery, Cottage Green menu items include appetizers, entrees, salads, desserts and snacks that are prepared

with reiki energy, or positive intention. 281-574-0153. [www.cottagegreens.com](http://www.cottagegreens.com)

**5 Homewood Suites by Hilton** opened a location Oct. 30 at 25495 Katy Mills Parkway, Katy. The hotel is a 121-room all-suite, extended-stay hotel that features an indoor swimming pool, fitness center and a putting green. Suites feature kitchens with separate living or sleeping areas for some rooms. 281-391-5500. [www.homewoodkaty.com](http://www.homewoodkaty.com)

**6 LemonPop** opened a store at Katy Mills on Oct. 24 at 5000 Katy Mills Circle, Ste. 661, Katy. The store is a part of the Charlotte Russe family and sells children's, women's and plus-size clothing. 281-644-2040. [www.lemonpop.com](http://www.lemonpop.com)

**7 Mattress Firm** has opened two new Katy-area locations. The Houston-based mattress store sells brand-name mattresses, including Tempur-Pedic, Sealy, and Stearns & Foster. [www.mattressfirm.com](http://www.mattressfirm.com)

**A** The first new Katy location opened Oct. 28 at 102 Grand Parkway, Ste. 100, Katy. 281-392-0091

**B** The other new store opened Nov. 7 at 1266 Fry Road, Houston. 281-398-1325

**8 Proud Pie** opened Nov. 9 at 3522 S. Mason Road, Ste. 300, Katy. The pie shop serves homemade pie varieties with all-butter crust and features locally roasted coffee as well as tea, hot chocolate and blended coffee drinks. 832-278-2442. [www.proudpie.com](http://www.proudpie.com)

**9 Simply Mac** opened Oct. 30 at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Ste. B135, Katy. The business held a grand opening Nov. 21. Simply Mac sells and



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services Apple products. 832-913-1252. [www.simplymac.com](http://www.simplymac.com)

**10 Slim Chickens** opened Nov. 16 in Katy at 23320 Mercantile Parkway. The Arkansas-based restaurant serves Southern-cooked chicken, Buffalo wings and sides, including potato salad and coleslaw. 281-347-0100. [www.slimchickens.com](http://www.slimchickens.com)

**11 Fritz Industries** opened a new office at 19408 Park Row Drive, Ste. 320, Houston. The Mesquite-based company held a ribbon cutting for the 13,000-square-foot office Nov. 5. Fritz Industries specializes in chemistry, manufacturing, and research and development in the energy sector. The Houston office is the first in the city. 972-329-8800. [www.fritzind.com](http://www.fritzind.com)

**12 Carus Dental** opened Nov. 18 at 23641 I-10, Ste. 200, Katy. The dental office provides cleanings, exams, fillings, root canals, deep cleanings and other services for children and adults. 832-913-1151. [www.carusdental.com](http://www.carusdental.com)

## Coming Soon

**13 AlCaliente** plans to open its first location Nov. 30 at 20210 I-10, Houston. The restaurant will serve fresh Tex-Mex cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner. 832-321-5235. [www.alcalientetexmex.com](http://www.alcalientetexmex.com)

**14 Green Oaks Cleaners** will open its sixth Katy location Dec. 6 at 1443 FM 1463, Ste. 700, Katy. Green Oaks is a family dry cleaning business franchise and offers on-site environmentally friendly cleaning and dry cleaning. 281-924-1333.

**15 Massage Envy** opens Dec. 8 at 1708 Spring Green Blvd., Katy. The business

offers therapeutic massage options and facials, and patrons have the option of becoming members, who can use their membership at any Massage Envy location. [www.massageenvy.com](http://www.massageenvy.com)

**16 My Place Early Learning Center** will open its second location in December at 2212 Katy Flewellen Road, Katy. The family-owned learning center works with bilingual teachers to serve children ages 6 weeks to fifth grade and follows preschool education guidelines from Katy ISD. 281-392-5900. [www.mylaceincoranch.com](http://www.mylaceincoranch.com)

**17 SH Salon** will open in late November at 1708 Spring Green Blvd., Ste. 170, Katy. The business provides full-service haircuts and color services, eyebrow waxing and carries its own brand of organic hair care products as well as hair treatment and anti-aging products. [www.shsalons.com](http://www.shsalons.com)

**18 Uncle Julio's Restaurant** will open in mid- to late December at 20526 I-10, Katy. The Mexican restaurant uses fresh ingredients in its dishes, which include mesquite-grilled fajitas. The restaurant also serves swirl margaritas. [www.unclejulios.com](http://www.unclejulios.com)

**19 A Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market** will open Jan. 13 at 20903 Highland Knolls Drive, Katy. Smaller than a traditional Wal-Mart at 40,000 square feet, the market store will offer a full line of grocery products. 281-398-1983. (hiring center) [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com)

**20** Construction for an **Element Katy** hotel at 23645 I-10 is expected to be finished in spring 2018. Element hotels emphasize environmentally friendly accommodations with recycle bins, natural lighting, silverware, glassware

and bath amenities in dispenser systems. Element is the latest line of Starwood hotels. [www.starwoodhotels.com/element](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/element)

## Relocations

**21 Tista's Fine Furniture** opened a new location in mid-November at 1553 Hwy. 90 in Old Katy, closing its location at 403 W. Grand Parkway S. The business features rustic furnishings as well as home decor and accessories. 281-347-5289. [www.tistashome.com](http://www.tistashome.com)

## Expansion

**22 Starbucks**, located at 19235 I-10, Ste. 100, Houston, started serving wine, beer and appetizers in the evenings Nov. 3. The Seattle-based coffee company offers teas, smoothies and baked goods along with its coffee selection. 281-578-2062. [www.starbucks.com](http://www.starbucks.com)

**23 Current Christian Church**, at 26600 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, is adding a new front wing in January to accommodate additional children's ministry space, a lobby, offices and an adult gathering space. Children make up to 40 percent of the church's attendance. 281-395-4722. [www.currentchristian.org](http://www.currentchristian.org)

Texas-based grocer **H-E-B** launched an online store Nov. 12 offering a selection of 50,000 shelf-stable foods, drug store items and general merchandise. Products available at the online store include H-E-B brands, such as Central Market Organics, as well as national brands. Orders can be shipped throughout Texas, to 46 states within the continental U.S. and to military bases worldwide. 210-938-8357. [www.heb.com](http://www.heb.com)

Compiled by Bethany Knipp

News or questions about Katy?  
Email us at [ktynews@communityimpact.com](mailto:ktynews@communityimpact.com)



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**AlCaliente** plans to open its first location Nov. 30 at 20210 I-10, Houston.



**SH Salon** will open in late November at 1708 Spring Green Blvd., Ste. 170, Katy.

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## BUSINESS FEATURE

# Southern Gossip Boutique

Boutique brings east and west coast style to Katy

By Bethany Knipp

**A** former flower shop in downtown Katy is now a place for fashion. Southern Gossip Boutique, at 5609 Third St., took up residence last August to bring coastal fashion and home goods to the Katy area.

"I like the idea of people realizing that down South, we're pretty fashionable, too," boutique owner Nita Bailey said. "For the most part, when people think about fashion, they think about [Los Angeles], they think about New York, and I want to give [people] a taste of that in the South."

"I love [selling clothes from the coasts], and ladies seem to love it, too, especially here in downtown Katy where I hear it's just different from the other shops," Nita said.

The clothes in the store are always changing, and Nita said they suit different occasions, from date night and girls' night out to everyday attire.

"We like to work with vendors that once they're done with the fabric, they move on to something else. That makes us very different because we have new shipments every week," she said.

The boutique not only sells clothes, but it also has hats, handbags, jewelry, shoes, and a selection of prom and homecoming dresses as well as home decor items and gifts.

The boutique celebrated its first anniversary Aug. 1. With a longtime love of fashion, opening the store was a dream come true, Nita said.

"That's just always been a love of mine," Nita said. "I love putting pieces together. I love working with different textures and different looks

and trying something different."

Nita said helping customers coordinate pieces is one of her specialties.

"We really consider ourselves stylists, not salespeople, so when people come in and want to work here at the shop I always tell them, 'I'm not looking for a salesperson; I'm looking for a stylist' because anybody can check somebody out," Nita said.

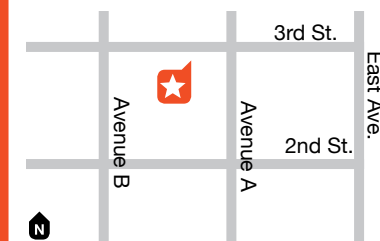
She said customers sometimes bring in outfits from their homes to ask her for fashion help.

"We encourage [customers] to do that and to do complimentary style sessions to add some freshness to their existing wardrobe," Nita said.

She runs the store with help from her daughters, Alexis and Angelique.

"People come here for the clothes, but they also come for [Nita], and it's so amazing to see," Alexis said. "Her goal is to make everyone feel beautiful and confident and special, so she really wants everyone from the age of 25 to 85 to feel fabulous and I love watching her interact with the customers," Alexis said.

## Southern Gossip Boutique



5609 Third St., Katy  
281-371-0043  
www.southerngossip.com  
Hours: Tue.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m



Nita Bailey (right) owns the Southern Gossip Boutique and her daughter, Alexis, helps her run it.



Southern Gossip features clothes from both the west and east coast and rarely carries the same item twice to keep inventory fresh.



Southern Gossip also sells gifts and home décor items.

**CUSTOMER FAVORITES**

- Gossip Girl jeggings
- Not Your Boyfriend jeans

★ ★ ★

**ITEMS FROM OVER**

**100**

**BRANDS AND DESIGNERS**

## Fashion Tips From Nita Bailey

- ★ Have a go-to tailored blazer to wear with skirts, dresses or casually with jeans and pumps.
- ★ Leopard print is timeless, edgy and glamorous as an accessory print.
- ★ Wear items that feel comfortable and can be worn with confidence.

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Co-owner Bobby Katsabas points to the numerous awards Snappy's Cafe and Grill has received.



Co-owners Bobby Katsabas (left) and Alex Tsounakas opened Snappy's 13 years ago.



Snappy's displays items signifying hometown pride on its walls.



The restaurant offers lunch menu items as well as a buffet.



Snappy's waitress Marian Sanders stays busy serving customers.

## DINING FEATURE

# Snappy's Cafe and Grill

Eatery serves homestyle meals and community connectivity

By Bethany Knipp

Since Alex Tsounakas and Bobby Katsabas opened Snappy's Cafe and Grill 13 years ago in Old Town Katy, the restaurant has remained a hub for small-town chitchat and homestyle fixings.

"We have a large buffet every day, homemade," Tsounakas said.

The menu on the Katy eatery's buffet changes from day to day, but one item is served all week long: chicken-fried steak.

Along with the food, Snappy's is known for its small-town attributes—a place where community elders come for coffee every day to discuss the news and maybe Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt.

"The old-timers, they're all here every morning," Katsabas said.

Operating with the values of safety and trust, Tsounakas said he and Katsabas do not even open their own

restaurant.

"A customer opens our restaurant. He's got the key, and he comes every morning at 4 or 5, makes some coffee and they'll sit here until we get here," he said.

In another nod to old-time dining, Snappy's still allows smoking, but only until Jan. 1, after which they will allow smoking from 6-8 a.m.

Tsounakas said the restaurant is not required to make the change but wants to accommodate customers who want a smoke-free environment.

"We've got a lot of families coming in with little kids so we have to respect that," Katsabas said.

Snappy's supports its local schools and sports: it lists information about Katy ISD on its menu and displays Katy High School Tigers apparel.

"We're kind of headquarters for the Katy Tigers here," Tsounakas said.

The restaurant even has a menu item

geared toward Katy's hungry high school football players. The Katy Nation Tiger Mania serves four eggs with chicken breast, bacon, sausage, pancakes and choice of hash browns, grits or home fries.

When Katsabas and Tsounakas opened Snappy's in 2002, Tsounakas said it seemed like a good business decision because of the growing Katy community. Now, the restaurant boosts hometown pride with its Katy memorabilia and sponsorships.

"It's where everybody gathers to get together," Tsounakas said. "Everybody knows everybody."

## LUNCH BUFFET

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**Tuesday:** beef tips, enchiladas and chicken-fried steak

**Wednesday:** chicken and dumplings, fried catfish and chicken-fried steak

**Thursday:** meatloaf and either sausage with cabbage or chicken with rice, chicken-fried steak (variable)

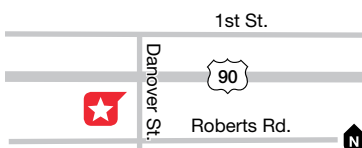
**Friday:** fried catfish, liver and onions chicken-fried steak

**Weekends:** menu varies

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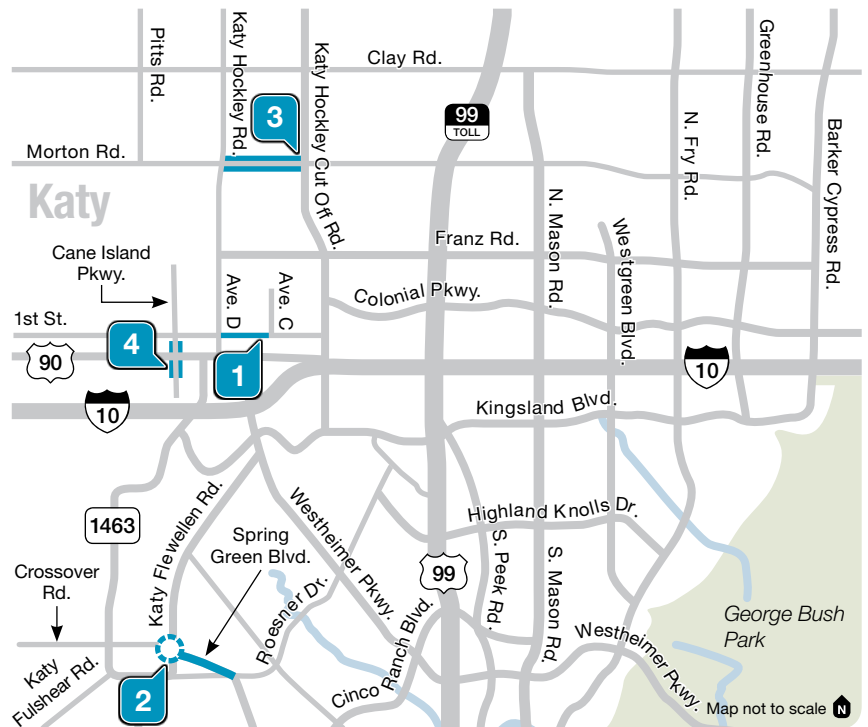
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littlejo@garygreene.com

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Major projects in the area

Compiled by Bethany Knipp



## Recently completed



### 1 First Street storm sewer improvements

The First Street storm sewer project, which has accompanied construction of a new City Hall in downtown Katy, was completed Nov. 13. The sections of street between First and Second streets and between avenues D and C, is now open. The Katy City Council awarded the bid for the project April 13. Construction crews installed a large drainage pipe in an effort to improve storm drainage downtown.

**Timeline:** April-Nov. 13, 2015

**Cost:** \$327,967

**Funding sources:** city of Katy

### 2 Spring Green Boulevard roundabout

Construction crews will begin construction on a roundabout at the intersection of Crossover and Katy Flewellen roads in early 2016. The exits of the roundabout will be Cinco Trace Drive to the southwest, Katy Flewellen Road to the northeast and Spring Green Boulevard both to the northwest and southeast.

**Timeline:** early 2016-June 2016

**Cost:** \$3.1 million

**Funding sources:** Fort Bend County, Newland Communities

road and constructing a sidewalk on its south side from Katy Hockley Cut Off Road to Avenue D.

**Timeline:** March 2016-March 2017

**Cost:** \$6.8 million

**Funding sources:** city of Katy

### 4 Cane Island Parkway, Hwy. 90 connection

The Katy City Council approved a resolution Nov. 19 for a partnership with Union Pacific Railroad to create an intersection connecting lanes at Hwy. 90. The Texas Department of Transportation project will be funded by the city of Katy.

**Timeline:** TBD

**Cost:** \$3 million

**Funding Sources:** city of Katy

### 3 Morton Road expansion

The city of Katy will accept bids for the widening of Morton Road to four lanes in January. Phase 1 involves widening the



## TRANSPORTATION

# Grand Parkway park and ride facility doubles its parking spaces

By Jocelyn Kerr

Katy-area commuters gained access to additional parking space Oct. 26. The Grand Parkway park and ride location added nearly 450 new parking spaces, which more than doubled the location's existing 423 spaces.

The new spaces are considered interim parking while a new 1,650-space parking garage is constructed at the northeast corner of the I-10 and Grand Parkway frontage roads, said Clint Harbert, senior director of system planning for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County.

The parking structure will break ground in early 2016 and should be complete by fall 2016, he said.

"Ridership growth [at the Grand Parkway location] has been growing for some time," Harbert said.

About 400 cars parked at the location when it launched in 2008, and that number has doubled to 800 per day, Harbert said. Commuters were parking in undesignated lot space, which

prompted the need for expansion.

"We were over-parked. New Quest has been very helpful [in working with METRO to provide more space]," he said.

Commercial real estate lender New Quest Properties owns the property and will fund the estimated \$21 million cost of construction for the parking structure. A long-term lease with METRO will reimburse the company for the cost of construction, METRO Asset Management Specialist Andrew Buchmann said.

When the parking structure is complete, demand on opening day is expected to be 1,000-1,300 cars per day, Harbert said.

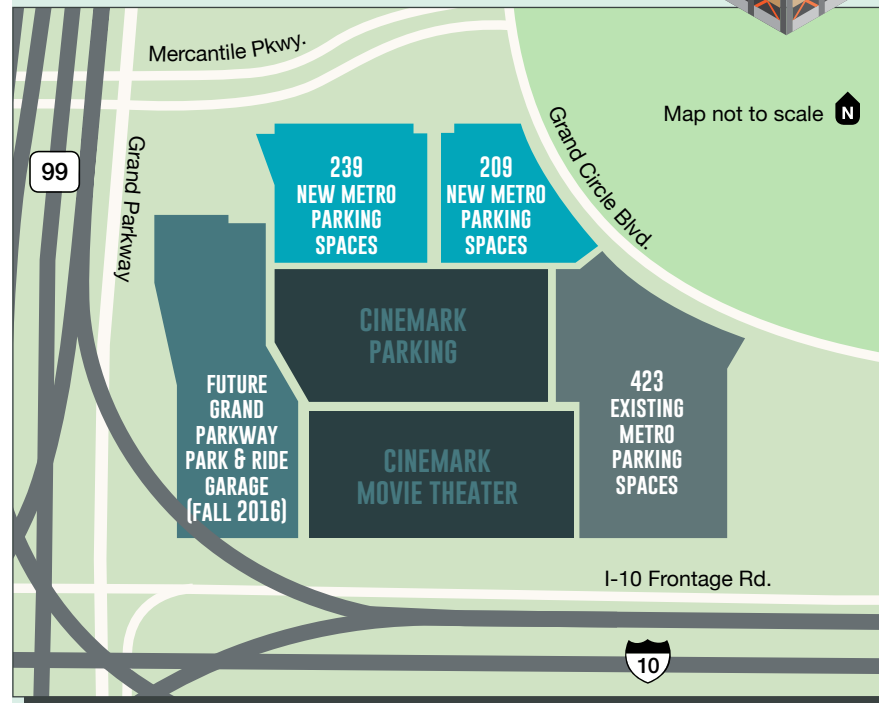
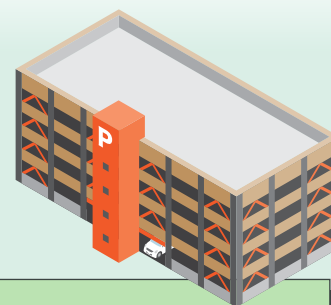
Daily ridership at Grand Parkway has seen a more than 14 percent increase between 2014 and 2015, according to METRO ridership data.

"This is a very successful park and ride [location]," Harbert said. "We're continuing to find ways to help people get downtown."

## EXPANSION PLANS

### NEW STRUCTURE AND INTERIM PARKING

METRO ridership continues to rise in the Katy area, prompting the need for additional parking spaces.



Source: METRO/Community Impact Newspaper



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## DEVELOPMENT

## Four water pipeline projects to keep up with region's growth

By Bethany Knipp

The West Harris County Regional Water Authority will allocate \$1.126 billion in bond funding to complete four water pipeline projects between 2015 and 2019.

The water projects will help the authority reach surface water usage goals mandated by the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District. According to the mandate, the water authority must convert the water it pumps to 60 percent surface water by 2025 and 80 percent surface water by 2035.

"To do this takes an extensive program of construction to deliver this volume of water," said Bruce Parker, the president of the authority's board of directors, at a town hall meeting Oct. 22.

The meeting was held to present timelines for the upcoming water pipeline projects.

The mandate aims to prevent subsidence, or the sinking of the ground as a result of withdrawing groundwater.

The first mandated goal for the WHCRWA was to convert local water usage to 30 percent surface water by 2010.

"We have achieved this goal and are currently running about 36 percent conversion," Parker said.

Board of directors Vice President Larry Weppler said the authority has been teaming with other entities to try to reduce the cost of conversion.

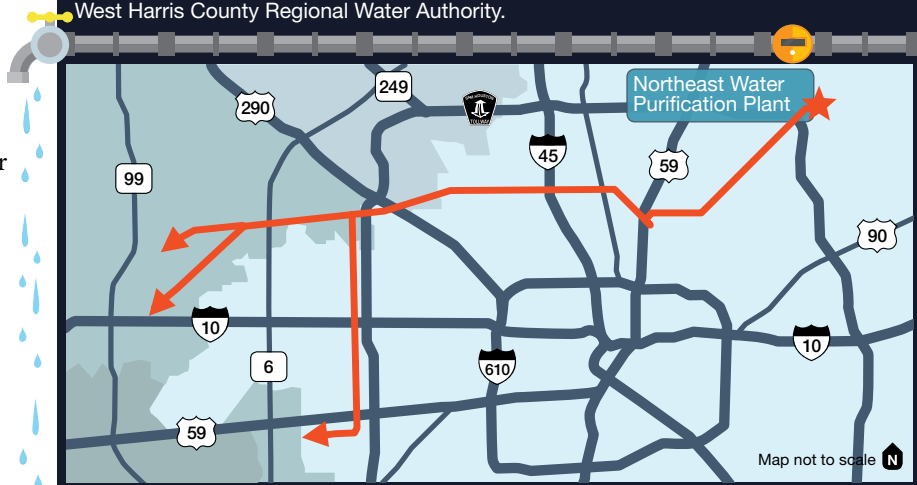
Projects include the Luce Bayou Project, which will bring water from Trinity River across to the San Jacinto River into Lake Houston. That water will then be picked up and used by the Northeast Water Purification Plant.

The total cost of the project will be \$350 million, and the WHCRWA's share is \$70 million, Weppler said.

In addition to that project, the Northeast Water Purification Plant will be expanded at a cost of \$1.28 billion. The local authority's share of that project is \$320 million.

### Surface water supply project

The project will be west Harris County's primary source of water. The project is 39 miles long and it will be the most expensive endeavor of several water pipeline projects for the West Harris County Regional Water Authority.



Source: West Harris County Regional Water Authority/Community Impact Newspaper

There is also the Surface Water Supply Project, a 39-mile long project that will carry water from the Northeast plant to west Harris County.

"It is going to be our primary source of water," Weppler said. "That project is estimated to cost about \$680 million. It will be shared with North Fort Bend Water Authority. We have a 55 percent share in that. That cost is \$375 million."

Weppler said once the water gets to west Harris County, it will have to be split among all of the municipal utility

districts in the area, adding about 75 miles of varying sizes of water pipelines. The project costs \$361 million.

To pay for all the projects, the authority will be selling bonds every year and adjusting its fees for water per 1,000 gallons to the MUDs in the authority.

"We're trying to very good stewards of your money and deliver a project that is as efficient and economical as possible," board assistant secretary Eric Hansen said.

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## COUNTY & SCHOOL

News from Katy ISD, Harris County and Fort Bend County

Compiled by Bethany Knipp

### Voters in Harris, Fort Bend counties approve bond propositions

**FORT BEND COUNTY/HARRIS COUNTY** Every bond measure on the ballot in Harris County won voter approval during the Nov. 3 election. Likewise, voters in Fort Bend County overwhelmingly supported all four propositions of a \$98.6 million bond initiative with each proposition garnering more than 60 percent of voter support.

The Harris County ballot included a proposal for \$700 million in bonds for road construction, \$64 million for flood control, \$60 million for parks projects and \$24 million for a new county animal shelter.

"I think all four of them got the attention of voters, and they overwhelmingly approved them," Precinct 3 Harris County Commissioner Steve Radack said.

Voter turnout in Harris County was 20.5 percent, according to unofficial election results from the county. There were 420,970 people who voted out of 2,054,717 registered voters.

The road bond referendum was passed by 73.3 percent of voters with 26.7 percent voting against the measure.

"Roads, transportation, go hand in hand with many issues, and one of them is public safety," Radack said.

The \$24 million animal shelter bond item was also approved by 61.7 percent of voters while 38.3 percent voted against it.

"I think the animal shelter is something that is badly needed," Radack said. "The other one is very old. Now and in the future, we'll get more animals adopted."

In Fort Bend County, 69 percent of voters supported Proposition 1 of the bond with 48,366 votes tallied. Proposition 2 received 61 percent support with 48,116 total votes. Seventy percent of voters supported Proposition 3 with a total of 48,323 votes. Proposition 4 also received the support of voters with 60 percent voting in favor and 48,028 votes cast. Of the 373,832 registered voters in the county, 49,947 cast a vote in the election, which puts the voter turnout at 13.36 percent.

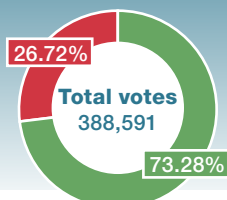
The bond funds address needs, such as park improvements, upgrades to the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, library expansions and new criminal justice facilities.

#### SWEEPING SUCCESS

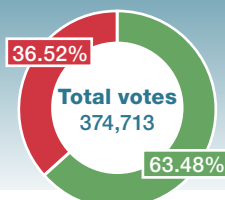
All four of Harris County's bond referendums passed Nov. 3 and received at least 61 percent voter approval.

For Against

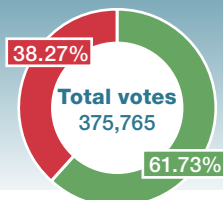
**Proposition 1:**  
\$700M for mobility projects



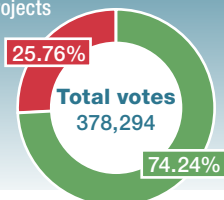
**Proposition 2:**  
\$60M for parks and trails



**Proposition 3:**  
\$24M for a new animal shelter



**Proposition 4:**  
\$64M for Harris County Flood Control District projects



Source: Harris County/Community Impact Newspaper

### Katy ISD considers partnership with Simon Youth Foundation

**KATY ISD** Katy ISD could partner with the Simon Youth Foundation to help students who dropped out of the district get back to school and earn their GED diploma.

The Simon Youth Foundation, a nonprofit created by Simon Property Management, partners with school districts that include a Simon property within district boundaries.

KISD Chief Academic Officer Christine Caskey said a 5,000-square-foot space has been identified should the partnership move forward.

The Simon Youth Foundation would contract with an

architect and build out an academic setting at Katy Mills. The foundation would also pay the lease for the space for the duration of the partnership, which can be renewed every four to five years, Caskey said.

The district would pay for staff and technology. There would need to be five to six teachers, a counselor and a coordinator, Caskey said, along with a possible part-time social worker.

The district's goal is to get the program up and running by fall 2016, she said.

#### Meetings

##### ► Katy City Council

Meets at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 14  
910 Avenue C, Katy  
www.cityofkaty.com

##### ► Katy ISD

Meets at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 14  
6310 S. Stadium Lane, Katy  
www.katyisd.org

##### ► Fort Bend County Commissioners Court

Meets at 1 p.m. on Dec. 1, 8 and 15  
500 Jackson St., Richmond  
281-341-8608  
www.fortbendcountytx.gov

##### ► Harris County Commissioners Court

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## NEWS

## Houston-area taxpayers continue to cover care for uninsured population

Local health care providers, hospitals learn to cope with state's decision not to opt into national Medicaid expansion

By Jocelyn Kerr and Marie Leonard

Health care providers across the Greater Houston area are grappling with the effects of an evolving Medicaid program. As the area grows, taxpayers increasingly cover the cost of public care, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett said.

"The Harris County Health System has to provide indigent health care—someone has to pay for these services. Right now, the private taxpayers are paying for it," he said. "If we had Medicaid expansion, that [Harris County health] tax bill could be reduced quite a bit. Unfortunately, the state leaders try to make it seem like part of the [Affordable Care Act]—it's not."

Essentially, Harris County taxpayers are contributing more than \$600 million a year of local property taxes to provide indigent care, said Ken Janda, CEO of Community Health Choice, a nonprofit health plan which provides insurance to individuals across the Greater Houston area.

"That number could likely be cut in half if we did expand [Medicaid]," he said. "Therefore, we could lower property taxes or take those dollars and fill a few potholes or do other things."

### Expansion details

The Affordable Care Act assumed each state would expand Medicaid coverage for individuals living between zero and 138 percent of the

poverty line—more than 1 million Texans—who would not qualify to purchase a subsidy through the health insurance marketplace. However, the Supreme Court ruled the expansion would be optional by state, and Texas decided to opt out.

While it was initially thought the decision to opt out would affect public hospitals the most, particularly in urban areas, it has affected all hospitals, said John Hawkins, senior vice president for government relations for the Texas Hospital Association.

"I think the reality is, with the high number of uninsured people in the state, and just the existing number of Medicaid patients and low payment on rates, it impacts all hospitals," he said. "Any hospital that is running a true emergency room is going to see a lot of uninsured [patients] coming in through the ER."

In Harris County, Emmett said a Medicaid expansion program would enable the state to draw down federal funds to reimburse the county and private hospital systems like Memorial Hermann that provide indigent care.

"We still have populations that are uncovered because of the failure to expand the Medicaid program, and so that really places a greater reliance on the safety net hospital system," said Dennis Laraway, executive vice president and chief financial officer for Memorial Hermann. "Memorial

Hermann is a very important safety net provider in the Houston community. That's part of our mission."

### Expanding coverage


The only groups that can qualify for Medicaid in Texas are pregnant women, children and disabled adults, Janda said.

"The rationale is that [other populations are] able-bodied adults who should go out and get a job," he said. "But when you look at the details, most of them are women taking care of small children or have chronic mental health conditions that make it impossible to keep a job."

Adult males and females without children are not covered under the system, Laraway said. These people end up becoming charity care patients that hospitals are not reimbursed for under the existing system.

"If we look at our [Harris County] population from fiscal year 2015 and the percentage of our population [living] from zero to 134 percent of the federal poverty level that theoretically would have qualified for Medicaid—but for us represent charity care—it was over 50,000 patients with a potential reimbursement of approximately \$75 million," said Michael Norby, executive vice president and CFO of Harris Health System.

There are 19,000 existing patients in the Harris Health System living



## GLOSSARY

**Coinsurance:** An individual's share of the cost of health care services.

**Copayment or copay:** A fee paid to a health care provider at the time of service.

**Deductible:** An amount that must be paid out-of-pocket before a health insurance company will cover certain services.

**Federal Poverty Level (FPL):** An annual income level measurement issued by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI):** A household's adjusted gross income plus any tax-exempt social security payments, interest or foreign income.

**Premium:** A monthly payment to keep health insurance active.

**Primary care provider, or PCP:** A health care provider that serves as the main point of contact for annual checkups, routine medical care and referrals to specialists.

Source: Texas Hospital Association/Community Impact Newspaper

between 138 percent and 150 percent of the poverty line who were left without Medicaid coverage and unable to qualify for the insurance marketplace when the ACA was passed, Norby said.

"If you evaluate the total number of uninsured patients in the county, there are over a million," he said. "If you look at our data, I probably see about 200,000 of that million. [Of] the other 800,000 [patients], maybe 200,000 are visiting other providers' emergency rooms and 600,000 just aren't getting care."



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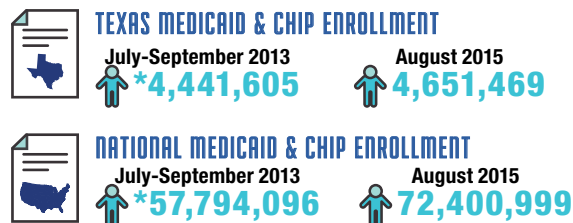


## TEXAS MEDICAID AND CHIP ELIGIBILITY LEVELS

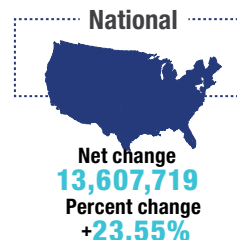
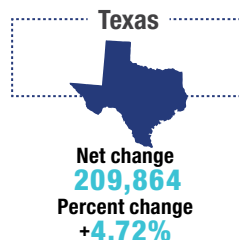
To qualify for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Plan, a household's modified adjusted gross income has to fall at or below a certain percentage of the federal poverty level.

CHILDREN-MEDICAID				CHIP	PREGNANT WOMEN			PARENTS		OTHER ADULTS
Ages (in years)	0-1	1-5	6-18	0-19	Eligible programs	Medicaid	CHIP	Percent of federal poverty level	15%	0%
Percent of federal poverty level	198%	144%	133%	201%	Percent of federal poverty level	198%	N/A			

## TEXAS VS. NATIONAL ENROLLMENT DATA



### NET ENROLLMENT INCREASE



\* Average monthly enrollment

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services/Community Impact Newspaper

### Expansion politics

Political discussions about Medicaid expansion focus on increasing the number of people served, but Emmett said the number of indigent residents covered would not change. He said the purpose of an expansion is to increase federal reimbursement.

In 2015, the federal government funded Medicaid expansion programs in other states at 100 percent, Norby said.

"That would've meant, for Harris Health alone, an incremental \$75 million in reimbursement for care provided," he said. "We ended up, in fiscal year 2015, with a \$17 million loss. We would've had \$58 million more to provide incremental care for other segments of the population that didn't have access to care."

Alternatives to Medicaid expansion include waivers and block grants that would enable the state to draw funds from the federal government and disburse them for health care, said state Rep. John Zerwas, R-Simonton.

Zerwas authored House Bill 3791, a Medicaid expansion alternative, in the 2013 legislative session.

"We proposed [HB 3791] to give the commissioner of Health and Human Services and the governor authority to provide waivers [through services such as] health savings accounts, [a] copay [system] and rewards for healthy behavior—things we might see in private market plans that foster personal responsibility rather than an entitlement mentality," Zerwas said.

The bill did not make it to a House vote, and no major legislation was proposed in the 2015 session. A waiver program known as the 1115 waiver did come out of negotiations, he said.

"The 1115 waiver is a bucket of money to invest in health improvement projects," Zerwas said.

Another option is the 1332 provision of the ACA that could give states block grants to reimburse Medicaid programs. Zerwas said the provision would not become an option until

federal fiscal year 2017.

"I see that as an opportunity for states to take greater control over Medicaid—[but] like block grants, you always have to be wary of the strings that come attached," he said.

### Private coverage

Janda said Community Health Choice supports private coverage for Medicaid, and he believes the state will eventually find a way to draw down more funding for Medicaid.

"It's much better to have people in a managed system," he said. "They wait until they're so sick they end up in an emergency room, and the person is much sicker than when they would have gone to the doctor."

Hawkins also said the private market route could be more viable.

"I think from a policy perspective when I talk to colleagues in other states who went the private market route, early returns are positive," he said. "For providers, the private



### NEW SELF-PAY SYSTEM

To help mitigate the cost issues facing the county, Harris Health System is introducing a new self-pay program for residents who do not qualify for Medicaid or the ACA health insurance marketplace.

My Harris Health will provide a self-pay system where people pay a sliding scale amount each month to cover the cost of care.

"The objective is really to try to get people who need care to get care. We believe at the end of the day that is going to be a less expensive alternative even though those monthly payments aren't going to cover all the costs of the care," said Michael Norby, executive vice president and CFO. "It's still a better alternative than having them avoid taking care of themselves and ending up in the ER for a \$100,000 inpatient stay."

Web: [www.harrishealth.org](http://www.harrishealth.org)

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market is a better alternative. I think with private market rates, even under some of these higher cost-sharing plans, you'll have a better chance of negotiating rates more reflective of the costs than in dealing with the state. We argue the private market option works on a lot of different levels."

Whether federal funds arrive in the form of Medicaid expansion, block grants or waivers, Norby said the funds will be welcomed regardless.

"We're faced this year, next year [and in] 2018 with the probability we're going to be essentially capped from a revenue standpoint," he said. "This is all the money we have. Inflation happens. Labor, wages, supply costs, etc. go up 2-3 percent a year. We're going to have to figure out a way to mitigate those increases because our revenue is stuck."

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CEO, Houston Methodist West

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CEO, Memorial Hermann

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\$85 million east patient tower and second medical plaza. The east tower will house intermediate care units and women's services, including a level 3 NICU and OB Special Care unit. In addition to

doubling the size of the Emergency Center, we are making significant expansions to our catheterization labs and diagnostic imaging areas. The expansion also includes additional surgery suites in the west patient tower. And you can expect all of our advanced offerings to maintain the highest quality and safety standards, because a community as special as ours deserves the very best.

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# MULTIPLYING MEDICAL SERVICES



Four hospitals in the west Houston and Katy areas are expanding to bring more health care options and specialized services to a rapidly growing population.

## Houston Methodist West

**Project:** expanded hospital tower  
**Cost:** \$177 million  
**Completion:** first quarter 2018  
**Services:** additional 95 beds, double the space for emergency rooms, 10 additional operating rooms, expanded radiology and diagnostic and women's services



**SIX**  
Floors

230,000 sq. ft.

## MD Anderson

**Project:** outpatient facility  
**Cost:** unknown  
**Completion:** 2018  
**Services:** screening, imaging, pathology support, outpatient surgical procedures, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and support services, including rehab, nutrition and social work



**Three**  
Floors

175,000 sq. ft.

## Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital

**Project:** patient tower  
**Cost:** \$78.4 million  
**Completion:** fall 2016  
**Services:** neonatal intensive care unit and obstetric special care, pediatrics, intensive care and step down units for immediate care, increased medical capacity



**SIX**  
Floors

73,250 sq. ft.

## Texas Children's Hospital West Campus

**Project:** West campus build-out  
**Cost:** \$50 million  
**Completion:** 2018  
**Services:** 24 inpatient beds, dedicated interventional radiology suite, 18 bed expansion on fifth floor, conversion of current office space to clinical space



73,250 sq. ft.

Map not to scale



Source: Houston Methodist West, MD Anderson, Memorial Hermann, Texas Children's Hospital/Community Impact Newspaper

## Health care

Continued from I 1

capability to grow with our community over the next five years.”

Looking ahead, he said hospital officials are exploring expansion in the new tower on floors five and six in the next five years. Plans for the fifth floor could include a general medicine and surgical floor, he said.

“Katy has grown so much and the hospital has grown, and a lot of people still have the mentality of needing to go down to the [Texas] Medical Center, but we can provide it at Memorial Hermann Katy,” he said.

### Texas Children's West

Texas Children's Hospital West Campus is also planning for growth.

“We have a \$50 million expansion underway right now, and it's a three-year expansion,” Texas Children's West Campus President Chanda Cashen Chacón said.

“We've just started the second year of that and really the goal is to build out almost all of our remaining shell space that we have on the campus right now. That's really not because we want to build—it's because the community needs us to build.”

The hospital is expanding its medical office building space to include ambulatory care and adding space in its inpatient building for beds along with expanding operating rooms and interventional radiology, she said.

In October and November, the hospital opened 18 acute care beds. Eight of those beds are in a special isolation unit, which is exclusive to the West campus, Cashen Chacón said.

By the end of the expansion, the hospital will be an 86-bed facility.

In addition to the building expansion, the hospital group owns additional land on its campus.

“The next step would be expanding building capacity on the campus,” she said. “We are trying to stay ahead of the growth curve of the pediatric population in this area, which is very challenging.”

### Houston Methodist West

In January, Houston Methodist West Hospital will begin Phase 2 of its expansion project, which will include taking its patient bed count from 193 to 288 and adding more operating rooms, among other projects.

Houston Methodist West has been in the Katy area for only five years, but Vice President Peyton Elliott said there was a need to expand about two years

sooner than anticipated.

“This campus has been master-planned for a 400-bed hospital campus with four medical office buildings,” Elliott said.

To this end, the construction beginning in January will not be the last project for the West campus.

Future phases of growth will include adding 100 more beds. The cost and timeline of the project has yet to be fully determined.

“This is a very young community, but it is projected to age and as the population ages, they need more medical care, so that's another driver of need for increased hospital beds,” said Vicki Brownell, vice president and chief nursing officer.

### MD Anderson Cancer Center

Near Hwy. 6 in west Houston, MD Anderson Cancer Center is expanding to provide medical services to those who may not want to travel to the TMC downtown, said Kent Postma, executive director of MD Anderson's Houston-area locations.

Plans for an outpatient facility were approved in late August by the Texas board of regents and will be built east of Hwy. 6 and north of I-10.

“MD Anderson has patients who

come from all over Texas, all over the U. S., all over the world, and with over 30 million people in the state of Texas, we know that not everybody can come into the Texas Medical Center. As we've gone out in the suburban markets of Houston, we've been able to attract patients [who] have told us otherwise they may or may not have chosen to come into the [TMC],” Postma said.

The cancer center already has a presence in Katy, including a radiation treatment center on the former Christus St. Catherine campus owned by Houston Methodist.

Postma said the outpatient campus is the focus of MD Anderson's west Houston efforts for the next five-plus years.

“We hope to migrate the imaging services, the radiation, the medicine, the surgery [services] that are peppered throughout these different locations into a campus location right there at Hwy. 6 and I-10, and that will allow for ‘one-stop’ services.”



Take the poll online at  
[communityimpact.com/kty-poll](http://communityimpact.com/kty-poll).

What do you think is the greatest health care need in the Katy area?



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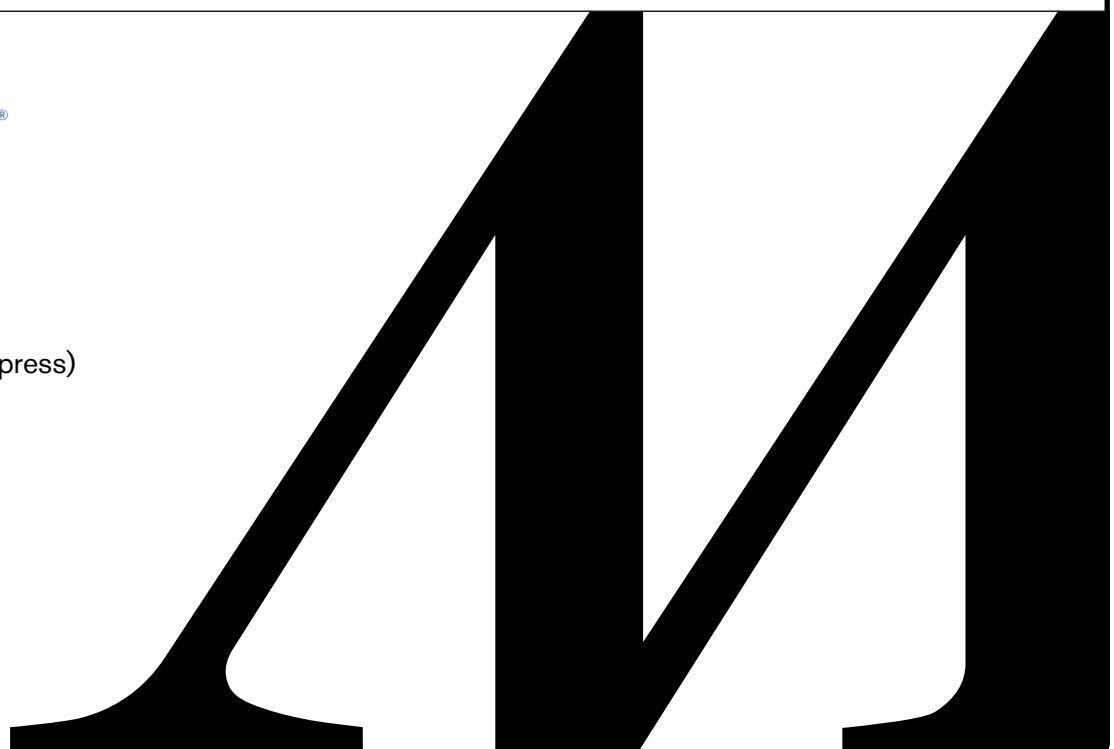


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## NEWS

# Houston-area employers, providers prepare for ACA changes in 2016

By Matt Stephens

Two years after the major pieces of the Affordable Care Act were implemented nationwide, health care providers, residents and businesses across the Greater Houston area have adjusted to the changes brought on by health care reform.

However, with open enrollment set for Nov. 1, the ACA will affect more businesses and bring higher penalties to noncompliant residents in 2016.

The employer shared responsibility mandate—which stipulates employers of at least 100 full-time employees must offer a minimum level of coverage to full-time employees—will expand in January to employers of 50-99 employees, according to the ACA.

Concerns the mandate would cause employers to fire employees or cut hours when the first phase was implemented this year may have been overblown, said Tony Nista, vice president of medical underwriting and analytics for G&A Partners, a Houston-based human resources services provider.

“We should give [employers] credit,” Nista said. “They understand it’s probably more economical to have one full-time [employee] they have to offer benefits to than to have two part-time individuals just because they don’t want to pay the cost of coverage.”

Nista said most employers of at least 50 employees already offer insurance to their employees with the exception of some companies in the hospitality and food service industries. He estimates 75 percent of employers were already meeting most of the ACA requirements prior to the legislation’s passage.

## Health care providers

With more than 300,000 residents across the Greater Houston area now insured through the federal marketplace, at least 60 percent of those patients’ health care costs are covered by health care providers thanks to the ACA, said Dennis Laraway, executive vice president and chief financial officer for Memorial Hermann.

Laraway said about half of Memorial Hermann’s patients who are insured through the federal marketplace were previously uninsured.

“That’s favorably received by the provider community because we had often been providing services previous to the [ACA] at uninsured and uncompensated levels,” Laraway said.

Despite an increase in the number of insured in the Greater Houston area, Laraway said he does not attribute overall patient growth of about 4-5 percent per year at Memorial Hermann to the ACA.

“It’s not really as a result of the ACA,” he said. “Even though we’ve seen a pull back in the energy sector with declining prices in oil and natural gas, this is still very much a growth region.”

The ACA has not changed the services Memorial Hermann provides or the quality of services provided to all populations, Laraway said. In fact, the hospital system—which already offers health insurance plans—plans to offer plans on the federal marketplace and private marketplaces in January 2017.

## Insuring individuals

Houston and Harris County residents enrolled through the marketplace



## Ensuring insurance

The number of residents around the Greater Houston area enrolled in the federal health insurance marketplace rose in 2015, but the region’s uninsured population still totals more than 1 million residents.

### Enrolled through federal health insurance marketplace

U.S.A.

2014

8.02 million

2015

11.69 million

TEXAS

2014

734,000

2015

1.2 million

HARRIS COUNTY

2014

278,000

2015

305,000

## What's new in 2016?

### PENALTY

\$695  
or 2.5%

### Individual shared responsibility mandate

Individuals who opt to not have health care insurance in 2016 will have to pay a penalty when they file their income taxes the following year. The penalty is increasing from 2015 and will be either \$695 or 2.5 percent of their household income—whichever is higher.

### 50+

### EMPLOYEES

### Employer shared responsibility mandate

The Affordable Care Act requires employers of at least 50 full-time equivalent employees to provide a certain level of health care coverage to their full-time equivalent employees—or employees who work an average of 30 hours per week—or pay an annual penalty.

### PENALTY

\$2,000

### Tier 1 penalty

Employers of at least 50 full-time equivalent employees who do not offer at least minimum essential coverage to 95 percent of their full-time employees are required to pay \$2,000 per full-time uninsured employees.

### PENALTY

\$3,000

### Tier 2 penalty

Employers who do not provide the minimum qualifying level of coverage may be subject to this penalty. For every employee not provided coverage who is eligible for a subsidy on the health insurance marketplace, the employer can be fined up to \$3,000.

### OPEN ENROLLMENT

The next open enrollment period begins Nov. 1 for coverage that starts as soon as Jan. 1, 2016. The last date to enroll in plans for next year is Jan. 31, 2016. To enroll or for more information, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). For help navigating the website or enrolling in federal marketplace plans, visit [www.enrollgulfcoast.com](http://www.enrollgulfcoast.com).

Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation, Houston Health Department, G&A Partners, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Community Impact Newspaper

rose to 305,000 last year, said Porfirio Villarreal, public information officer for the Houston Health Department.

Villarreal said the region still has plenty of uninsured to reach as Texas leads the nation in uninsured residents. Beginning in 2016, the penalty for residents who do not have health insurance will be \$695 per year or

2.5 percent of household income—whichever is higher.

HHD and other organizations in the Enroll Gulf Coast Health Insurance Marketplace Collaborative host events to inform the region about the federal marketplace and offer a call center to provide one-on-one service to residents as they navigate [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).



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## NEWS

# Texas Children's extends services to mobile technology platforms

By Bethany Knipp

Texas Children's Hospital is now offering a smartphone app called Texas Children's Pediatrics Parent Advice Center that helps parents

determine the right place to go when their child is sick.

"It's almost like, 'OK, my kid has a sniffly nose. What do I need to do? Where do I need to go?' and so it's helping families know, 'Do I need to go to my pediatrician

or do I need to go to urgent care or do I need to go to the emergency center' because we really want to help families," Texas Children's West Campus President Chanda Cashen Chacón said.

The app helps parents find

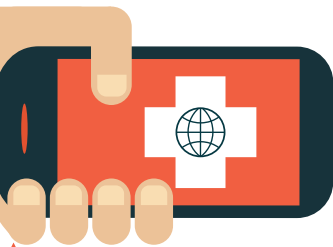
treatment centers within the hospital's system and allows access to MyChart, an app that acts as a patient portal for access to medical records.

Cashen Chacón said Texas Children's is also working on concepts for other apps.

"We also have started piloting an app that families use when they come into our operating room here where it helps them see where their child is in the process," she said.

## MOBILE HEALTH CARE APPLICATIONS

Several mobile apps are available from iTunes and Google Play to provide medical information and connect patients with health care providers. Mobile apps should not be used in place of a physician to diagnose or treat illnesses or injury. In the event of an emergency, seek professional medical attention.



### WEBMD

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[www.webmd.com/mobile](http://www.webmd.com/mobile)

- Users can search for illnesses based on symptoms
- Research various conditions, access treatment information and find local physicians, pharmacies and hospitals
- Provides information on infants, pregnancy stages and allergies

### TEXT4BABY

• FREE



[www.text4baby.org](http://www.text4baby.org)

- Users receive text messages as reminders for doctor's appointments
- Provides prenatal care and information on pregnancy stages
- Offers infant health information
- Texts new parents about upcoming pediatrician appointments and vaccine requirements

\*Message and data rates may apply

### DOCTOR ON DEMAND

• FREE



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

- Can be used to avoid waiting in a doctor's office
- Connects users with board-certified physicians, pediatricians and consultants via video chat
- Can be used to diagnose colds and other common illnesses
- Doctors can prescribe non-narcotic medications without a clinic visit

\*Charges \$40 per 15-minute call

### TCHP

• FREE



<http://texaschildrenspediatrics.org/app/>

- Provides an online symptom checker with medication and care guides
- Allows access to MyChart patient portal
- Parents can find treatment centers, whether urgent care or physician practices, within the Texas Children's Pediatrics system

### MYCHART

• FREE



<https://mychart.texaschildrens.org/MyChart/>

- Access your child's medical records
- View and print test results and immunization records
- Confirm and cancel appointments

Sources: Texas Children's Hospital, iTunes, Google Play, Amazon/Community Impact Newspaper

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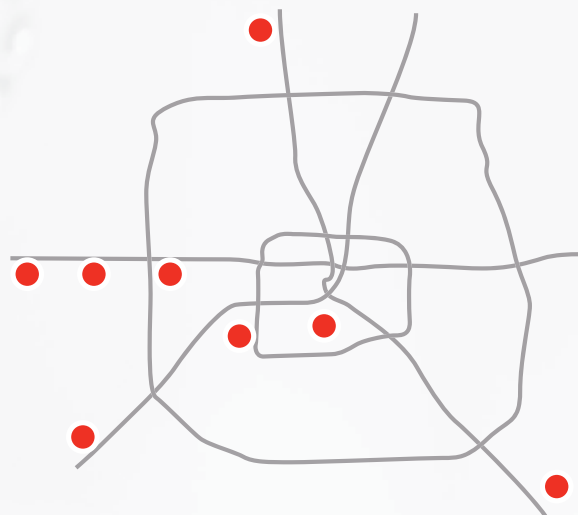


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# ER vs. URGENT CARE

There are several differences, including types of care, cost and wait times, between urgent care centers, freestanding emergency centers and hospital-based ERs.

Compiled by Jocelyn Kerr

UP TO **27%** OF ALL EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS COULD TAKE PLACE AT AN URGENT CARE CENTER OR RETAIL CLINIC.

AVERAGE VISIT TO AN URGENT CARE CENTER **\$155**

AVERAGE VISIT TO AN EMERGENCY CENTER/ROOM **\$750-\$1,250**

## WHERE SHOULD I GO?

### URGENT CARE CENTERS

#### Minor emergencies:

- Sprains
- Broken bones
- Flu
- Colds
- Other common illnesses
- Sinus, ear, eye and other infections
- Sore throat
- Fevers
- Minor stitches

### EMERGENCY CENTERS/ROOMS

#### Life- or limb-threatening conditions:

- Substantial illnesses or injuries
- Signs of heart attacks, including chest pain
- Signs of stroke, such as sudden onset of numbness in arms or legs
- Severe shortness of breath
- Poisoning
- Coughing up or vomiting blood
- Uncontrollable bleeding
- Loss of consciousness

### FREESTANDING ERs vs. HOSPITAL-BASED ERs

Freestanding emergency centers are required to provide the same level of service as hospital-based emergency rooms with the exception of trauma care. All ERs must operate 24 hours a day and have physicians on-site at all times.

Sources: U.S. Health Works Medical Group, Urgent Care Association of America, study published in the medical journal *Health Affairs*, Texas Association of Freestanding Emergency Centers/Community Impact Newspaper



Courtesy of Memorial Hermann

### Memorial Hermann Convenient Care Center

In June, Memorial Hermann opened a 24-hour emergency room and comprehensive medical care center at the corner of the Grand Parkway and the Westpark Tollway. The 30,000-square-foot center features 24-7 emergency care, physical and occupational therapy services and sports medicine and rehabilitation. Specialists are on staff, along with lab and imaging services.



Jocelyn Kerr/Community Impact Newspaper

### Urgent Clinics Medical Care

Urgent care clinics have opened up across the Katy area in recent years, including Urgent Clinics Medical Care on the Grand Parkway near the intersection of I-10. The facility provides prevention and wellness services, in addition to orthopedic care and general medical care. Other clinics with locations in the area include Optum Clinic and Urgent Care, Next Level Urgent Care, MedSpring Urgent Care and First Choice ER.

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# Wellness Programs

Compiled by Shawn Arrajj and Jocelyn Kerr

Research shows employers in the Greater Houston area and across the nation are making a greater effort to fund wellness programs in 2015. Office wellness programs can target a variety of health issues, including nutrition, exercise and stress management. Specialty programs have been developed by area health care providers to provide health screenings, manage existing conditions and help participants quit smoking.

## JANAY ANDRADE

BENEFITS SPECIALIST, HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL



### What are the most popular aspects of your wellness program?

Our most popular [initiative] has been the integration of fitness devices. We entered into a partnership with Fitbit that allowed us to subsidize the cost of the devices to our employees and spouses. About 60 percent of our employees have purchased a device so far.

### Why is the program a good investment?

We are encouraging our employees to exercise—to get healthy and have fun doing it. It allowed employees and spouses to participate in our Healthy Directions program [and] compete in challenges each month with their co-workers. We hold a CEO challenge each summer where our employees are incentivized to outstep their CEO. Our CEOs averaged about 12,000 steps each.

# 80%

OF HOUSTON-AREA WORKSITES WITH 50 OR MORE EMPLOYEES OFFER SOME KIND OF HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

ON AVERAGE, FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT ON EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAMS:

Employee health care costs fell by

## \$3.27

per employee

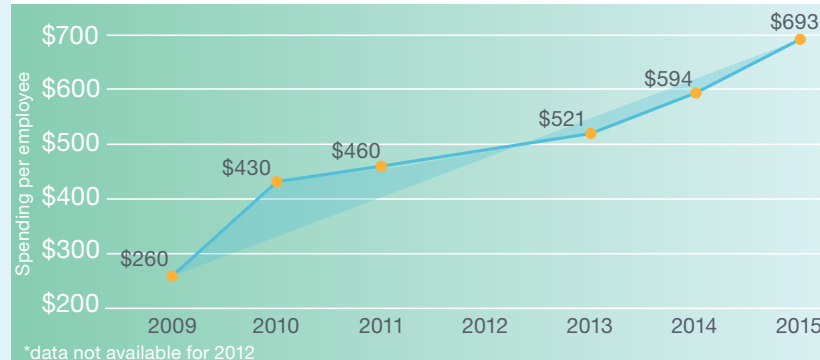
Employee absenteeism costs fell by

## \$2.73

per employee

Sources: Fidelity Investments, National Business Group on Health, RAND Corporation, Employee Benefit Research Institute, Health Affairs/Community Impact Newspaper

In 2014, employers nationwide spent a total of \$6 billion on wellness programs.



**72%** Biometric screenings: evaluations intended to identify past, current and potential medical problems



**70%** Health risk assessments: a questionnaire used to evaluate health risks and quality of life



**54%** Physical activity programs: opportunities for employees to learn about and increase activity

## THE STAGE IS SET FOR SANTA

Santa closes out the parade for the Conroe Christmas Celebration

December 12 from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Conroe opens up hearth and home for the 6th Annual Conroe Christmas Celebration held in the streets of historic Downtown Conroe. The holiday festivities include free admission, two real snow hills, face painting, petting zoo and pony rides, train rides, live nativity scene, and much more. Come celebrate with Conroe as we ring in the season.

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Whether you choose the convenience of Priority Emergency Room or a hospital based ER, your out of pocket costs will be determined by your specific insurance benefits. Priority Emergency Room gives their patients the option to have their **co-payment billed** at the time of treatment. For more information please visit [www.priorityer.com](http://www.priorityer.com). Come check out our **awesome treasure chest filled with free toys for our littlest patients!**



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## INSIDE INFORMATION

Compiled by Wendy Cawthon

# HEALTH INSURANCE 2015 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS



## IN NETWORK/OUT OF NETWORK

**Exclusive provider organization (EPO):** A type of plan where claims are only covered if a health care provider is within the plan's network.

**Health maintenance organization (HMO):** A type of plan that limits the insurance coverage to health care providers who work for the organization. The plan will typically not cover out-of-network providers.

**Preferred provider organization (PPO):** A type of plan where health care providers contract with an insurance provider to create a network. Health care providers outside the network can also be used but will cost more than an in-network provider.

## HEALTH INSURANCE ACCOUNTS

### HSA

**Health savings account:** A medical savings account for individuals enrolled in a high deductible health plan (HDHP). Funds in the account are deducted from an employee's paycheck before taxes and are eligible for certain medical expenses. Funds roll over from year to year if unused.

### FSA

**Flexible spending account:** An account set up through an employer to set aside pretax wages to pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses. Funds can be used to cover costs, such as copays and qualifying prescription drugs. Unlike an HSA, funds from an FSA do not roll over from year to year.

### HRA

**Health reimbursement account:** Employer-funded group health plans that can be used to reimburse employees for certain medical expenses up to a certain amount each year. Unlike an HSA, health reimbursement accounts do not use employee money to pay expenses.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

COVERAGE THROUGH THE HEALTH INSURANCE  
MARKETPLACE BEGAN **NOV. 1.**

Source: www.healthcare.gov/Community Impact Newspaper

## HEALTH CARE PLANS AND COVERAGE

**Qualifying life event:** A life change that can open a special enrollment period, which allows individuals to make changes to existing insurance plans. For example, adding a new spouse or child to a plan. Typically, the special enrollment period spans 30 days.

**High deductible health plan (HDHP):** A plan with a higher deductible than other health plans that is usually combined with an HSA or HRA to help pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses.

**Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA):** A federal law that allows individuals to temporarily keep health coverage after loss of employment, loss of coverage as a dependent or other qualifying life events.

**Health insurance marketplace:** A state- or federal government-run resource where individuals and small businesses can research health insurance options, compare costs and enroll in coverage. Plans in the health insurance marketplace are sorted into four categories based on the percentage of essential health care costs covered. Costs vary between health plans.

### HEALTH PLAN CATEGORIES

PLATINUM: 90 PERCENT  
GOLD: 80 PERCENT

SILVER: 70 PERCENT  
BRONZE: 60 PERCENT

**Deductible:** The amount an individual pays before a health insurance provider begins coverage.

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## PEOPLE

# Chanda Cashen Chacón

## President, Texas Children's Hospital West Campus

By Bethany Knipp

Chanda Cashen Chacón has been with Texas Children's Hospital for 13 years and began serving as president of the West Campus in January.

A native Texan, she came to the hospital system after attending graduate school at Yale University. She said she began her career with Texas Children's Hospital as an administrative fellow. Before moving to West Campus, she was involved in outpatient operations in the Texas Medical Center as well as its pharmacy, Heart Center and Fetal Center.

Her pursuit of a career in health care stemmed from a bad experience in adult medical settings when she was a child, Cashen Chacón said. At age 11 she was in a car accident that left her temporarily unable to walk. She relied on a wheelchair and was in chronic pain, she said. For two years medical professionals

could not figure out what was wrong.

Her family eventually found an orthopedic surgeon who was good at working with children. He brought two Shetland sheepdogs to her first appointment and spoke directly to her, Cashen Chacón said. He also correctly diagnosed and treated her cracked vertebral discs.

That experience changed her life trajectory, and she pursued a career in health care because she did not want another family to go through the negative hospital visits her family had experienced, she said.

Cashen Chacón said the West Campus facility is working to stay ahead of the area's growth curve. She cites expanded specialty care, including sports medicine and a new pediatric special isolation unit, as ways the hospital is meeting the needs of Katy-area families.



### Why did Texas Children's Hospital decide to build in west Houston?

We look at where the pediatric market is. We really want to build infrastructure close to families and where they live. Houston's gotten so large and it takes a lot of time to travel [to the main campus], and the patient experience for us is key.

### Why would parents choose pediatric care over a traditional hospital?

It's really for [the] unique training we have in dealing with children. We always say, 'Kids aren't just small adults.' When you walk in, when you see what [the hospital] looks like, we have personnel who are trained to help children and their families and

their siblings understand what's going to happen. They're called child-life specialists, and those employees really focus on how children learn and experience [events] and they help make it less scary.

### What specialties are unique to the West Campus?

The one that comes to mind is the special isolation unit. By far that is probably the most unique service that we provide here that will not be replicated anywhere else in our system. Another service that is really the hub here right now is sports medicine. We provide that service all over the Houston market, [and] we've invested quite a bit [in Katy] because there are a lot of kids out here.

### What are a few examples of why a child might require a stay at the isolation unit?

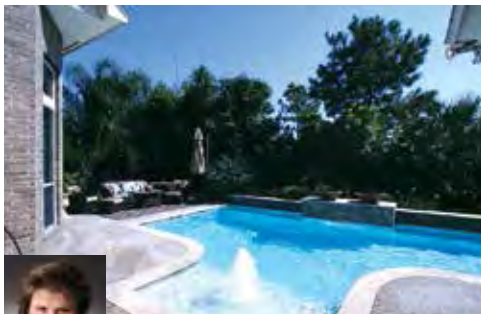
You may have heard about the outbreak of [Middle East respiratory syndrome] and also hemorrhagic fever, Marburg [virus], [or] Lassa [fever]. Those would be really serious pathogens [for which] we would call in our specially trained team. If we had a measles outbreak here like we saw in California [earlier this year], we could cohort those patients and keep them safe, our employees safe and other patients here safe as well. Also with different strains of the flu—which are really a lot more prevalent than any of the special pathogens—that would be an ideal patient to have in this unit.

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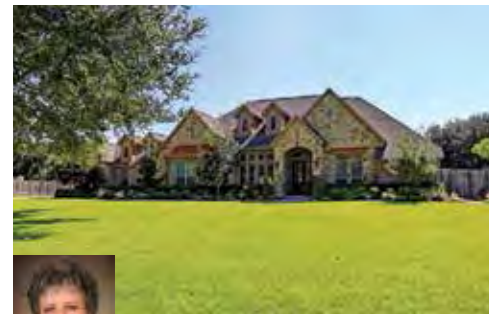
Texas Children's and Baylor College of Medicine manage their NICU at Methodist West and across the [Houston] system, so we have really strong alignment both in partnership and in how we care for patients. We just opened a helipad here. It's the first helipad in the [Texas Children's] system. [Houston] Methodist West next door also has a helipad, and so we've had really good partnership discussions. If something happens to our helipad or if something happens with theirs, we will work together to say, 'OK, land over here. Land over there,' because it's the right thing to do and with families and patients, we don't want it to be confusing. We partner to do the right thing for our families.



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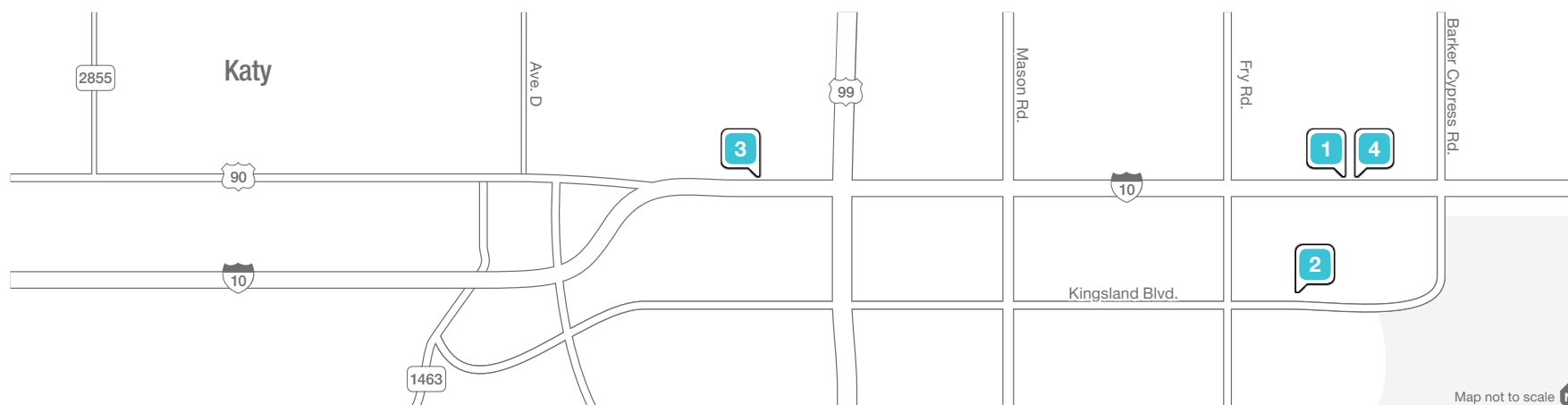
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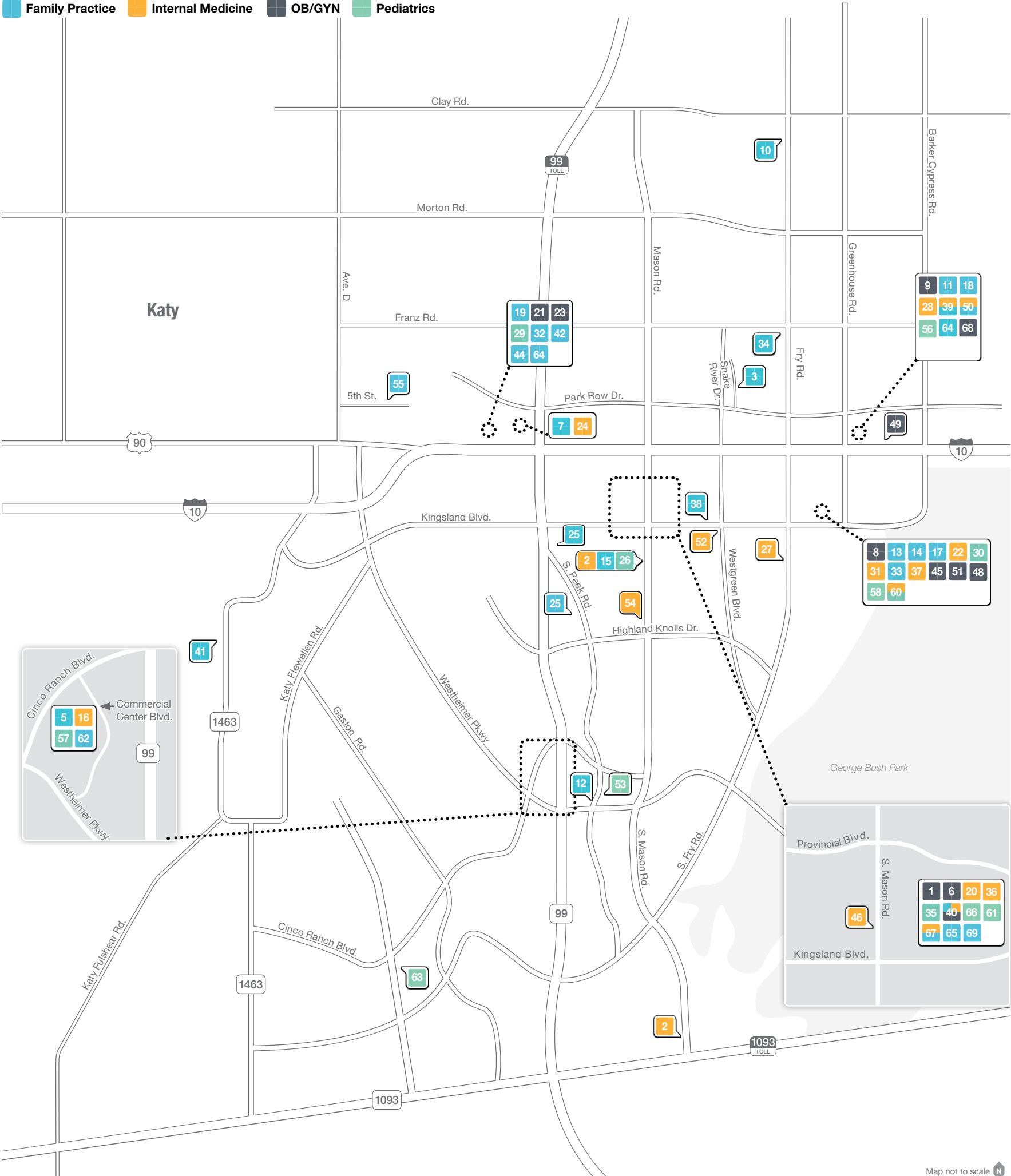
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The Sugar Land Skeeters host this annual event, featuring eight new themed areas, craft and trade vendors and an appearance by Santa Claus. 6-9 p.m. (Sun.-Thu.), 6-10 p.m. (Fri.-Sat.). \$14 (general admission, discounts available). Constellation Field, 1 Stadium Drive, Sugar Land. 281-240-4487. [www.sugarlandholidaylights.com](http://www.sugarlandholidaylights.com)

**28 Olde Thyme Christmas Market**

Cross Creek Ranch Community Center serves as the venue for the second annual Arts Fulshear Olde Thyme Christmas Market, which promotes Katy-area small businesses and artists. The event features handmade jewelry, handcrafted Christmas ornaments, original art and home-based retailers along with food and entertainment. Arts Fulshear provides art and theater classes to children in the area. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Cross Creek Ranch Community Center, 6450 Cross Creek Bend Lane, Fulshear. 281-533-4109. [www.fb.com/events/862840893791121/](http://www.fb.com/events/862840893791121/)

**29 Photos with Santa**

The Katy Contemporary Arts Museum brings Santa Claus to the KCAM workshop. Children can get their picture taken with Santa to support the arts in Katy. 4-6 p.m. \$5 (suggested donation). Katy Contemporary Arts Museum, 805 Avenue B, Katy. 832-857-1340. [www.katycam.com](http://www.katycam.com)

**30 Dec. 1-4, 7-11 and 14 Santa tour**

Santa Claus tours the city of Katy in conjunction with the Katy Fire Department. Santa and his elves also accept canned goods for the Eternal Food Ministry Center in Katy and new, unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots program, all of which can be dropped off at the fire station. Santa leaves the fire station at 6:30 p.m. on tour days. Santa's stops include visits to neighborhoods in city limits, rather than the Katy area this year. Dates are subject to change and will be rescheduled in cases of inclement weather. Katy Fire Department, 1417 Avenue D, Katy. 281-391-4090. [www.cityofkaty.com](http://www.cityofkaty.com)

## December

**01 08 and 15 Pajama story night**

Children can come to the Cinco Ranch Branch Library to hear bedtime stories while they relax in pajamas and do family activities. 7 p.m. Free. Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd., Katy. 281-395-1311. [www.fortbend.lib.tx.us](http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us)

**02 through 23 'Inspecting Carol'**

The Texas Repertory Theatre Company presents "Inspecting Carol." Directed by Walter Baker, the comedy looks behind the scenes of "A Christmas Carol" and its struggles to prepare for opening night. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 2-3), 8 p.m. (Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19), 3 p.m. (Dec. 6, 13 and 20), 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 10, 17, 21, 22 and 23). \$15-\$43. The Texas Repertory Theatre, 14243 Stuebner Airline Road, Houston. 281-583-7573. [www.texreptheatre.org](http://www.texreptheatre.org)



Courtesy Robert R. Shaw Center for STEAM

**04 Science movie night**

Katy ISD's Robert R. Shaw Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics hosts a movie night with a keynote speaker. The speaker talks about the science behind the movie shown. 6-9 p.m. Free. Robert R. Shaw Center for STEAM, 1730 Katyland Drive, Katy. 281-396-7670. [www.katyisd.org/dept/rsc/pages/default.aspx](http://www.katyisd.org/dept/rsc/pages/default.aspx)

**05 Holiday on the Plaza**

The city of Katy hosts this annual event, featuring crafts, carolers and activities for children. The event also features a tree lighting and a visit from

Santa Claus. The evening of activities starts near the end of an Old Fashioned Christmas by Katy Market Days in Karankawa Park in an all-in-one event. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (A Katy Old Fashioned Christmas), 4 p.m. (Holiday on the Plaza), 6 p.m. (tree lighting). Free. Harvest Plaza (Holiday on the Plaza), 5701 Third St., Katy. 281-391-4800. [www.cityofkaty.com](http://www.cityofkaty.com)

**08 Katy MakerSpace**

The Maud Smith Marks Library hosts an evening with the organizers of Katy MakerSpace—located at 2900 Katy Hockley Cut Off Road, Ste. 104—where creators can tinker, invent and create their various projects or handmade items. The group brings different tools to the library for demonstrations. 7-9 p.m. Free. Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. 281-492-8592. [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net)

**11 Fall and winter gallery**

The Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center hosts this seasonal art gallery, showcasing the work of all of the after-school visual arts classes of the semester. The work includes drawings, paintings and sculptures. Light refreshments are served. Following the event, the gallery is open for the next week by appointment. 5-7 p.m. Free. Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center West Oaks Campus, 2600 Hwy. 6 S., Ste. 504, Houston. 281-829-2787. [www.kvpac.org](http://www.kvpac.org)

**12 through 13 Houston Dressage Society Schooling Show Championships**

The Great Southwest Equestrian Center hosts the Houston Dressage Show Schooling Show Championships. Horses and riders in dressage competitions perform predetermined movements from memory in individual tests. All day (exact times TBD). Free (to watch). Great Southwest Equestrian Center, 2501 S. Mason Road, Katy. 713-523-0448. [www.houstondressagesociety.org](http://www.houstondressagesociety.org)

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Compiled by Bethany Knipp

Featured **EVENT**

Courtesy Current Christian Church

**10** through 13  
**'Journey to Bethlehem'**

Current Christian Church presents its annual walk-through journey through Bethlehem featuring live animals and more than 200 costumed actors. Thousands of visitors attend the annual event. Tickets are required to reserve a spot on the guided tours, which depart approximately every 30 minutes. 7-9 p.m. (Dec. 11), 5-9 p.m. (Dec. 12), 5-8 p.m. (Dec. 13). Free with ticket (Dec. 11), \$6 (general, Dec. 12-13), \$12 (express pass, Dec. 12-13). Current Christian Church, 26600 Westheimer Parkway, Katy. 281-395-4722. [www.jtbccurrent.com](http://www.jtbccurrent.com)

**12** **Fourth annual Gingerbread Jog**

LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch serves as the starting point for the annual event, which includes a 5K run and 1-mile fun walk. The race benefits the Pregnancy Help Center of West Houston, which serves the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of pregnant women. 6:45 a.m. (registration), 8 a.m. (5K), 8:10 a.m. (fun walk). Early registration closes Dec. 9. \$20 (1-mile fun walk), \$15 (kids run), \$30 (5K), fees increase \$5 if registering on race day. LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch, Heritage Square, 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy. 281-578-0078. [www.thedriven.net](http://www.thedriven.net)

**14** **'Rejoice' concert**

The Lone Star Symphonic Band performs a concert featuring Christmas songs, including classics such as "Sleigh Ride," and contemporary hits including Mariah Carey's Christmas songs. The



Courtesy The Pregnancy Help Center West Houston

concert features the Odessa Kilpatrick Elementary School fifth-grade Outback Singers, a silent auction and refreshments. 4 p.m. \$5.50 (preorder online). Crosspoint Community Church, 700 S. Westgreen Blvd., Katy. 281-769-5129. [www.lssb.org](http://www.lssb.org)

**14** **'The Nutcracker'**

Members of the Connolly Dance Arts studio perform the holiday favorite for one afternoon. 3 p.m. \$10 (general), \$16 (priority seats). Morton Ranch High School Performing Arts Center, 21000 Franz Road, Katy. 281-693-1232. [www.connollydancearts.com](http://www.connollydancearts.com)

**14** through 17  
**'Polar Express' pajama party**

Attendees are invited to join the "Polar Express" conductor for a special reading of the book at Katy Budget Books. Holiday treats are served, and attendees are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite holiday pajamas. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Katy Budget Books, 2450 Fry Road, Houston. 281-578-7770. [www.katybooks.com](http://www.katybooks.com)

**18** **Open gym**

Katy Kips Gymnastics Club gives parents a night off as their children learn to jump and tumble and play games. Pizza and soda are available for participants. 7:30-11 p.m. \$15 (prior to Dec. 18), \$20 (Dec. 18). Those paying the day of the

event are encouraged to call ahead of time. Pump It Up building, 923 S. Mason Road, Katy. 281-578-5477. [www.katykips.com](http://www.katykips.com)

**19** **Holiday puppet show**

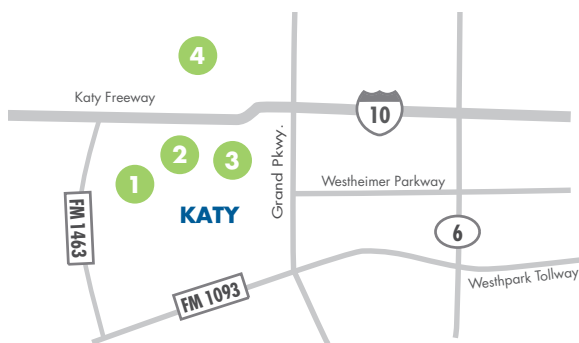
The Katy Branch Library hosts a Christmas puppet show for the first time. Carranza Puppets, which presents hand and marionette puppet shows with music for children at schools in the Houston area, performs "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." Children can make their own puppets after the show. 1-4 p.m. Free. Katy Branch Library, 5414 Franz Road, Katy. 281-391-3509. [www.hcpl.net/location/katy-branch-library](http://www.hcpl.net/location/katy-branch-library)

## Online Calendar

Find more or submit Katy events at [communityimpact.com/kty-calendar](http://communityimpact.com/kty-calendar)

To have Katy events considered for the print edition, they must be submitted online by the first of the month.

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Katy • From the mid \$200s

**3. Westlake**

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Compiled by Jocelyn Kerr  
Designed by Kara Nordstrom

Whether you are looking for a stocking stuffer or something bigger to put under the Christmas tree, the Katy area is full of small businesses offering goods for just about everyone on your holiday shopping list. The locally owned businesses highlighted in this guide sell distinctive items to help you find one-of-a-kind gifts.

2015

# Holiday GIFT GUIDE

## ARAYA ARTISAN CHOCOLATE

Araya Artisan Chocolate owners Stefano Zullian, Carla Susi and Silvana Susi use all-natural, fair trade Venezuelan cocoa to create their handcrafted chocolates. The trio opened three stores in the Greater Houston area, including one in Katy. Chocolates are available individually or as part of gift sets. Specially crafted holiday flavors include eggnog, gingerbread pecan and peppermint.

\$6-\$210

Grand Pkwy.



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1575 W. Grand Parkway S.  
Katy  
281-395-1050  
[www.arayachocolate.com](http://www.arayachocolate.com)



Photos by Jocelyn Kerr/Community Impact Newspaper

## THE COBBLESTONE COTTAGE

Cinco Ranch gift shop The Cobblestone Cottage features clothing, jewelry, home goods and specialty gifts for children. To celebrate the holidays, the store sets up a holiday display with collectible ornaments and customizable gift sets.

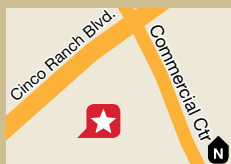
\$22-\$28



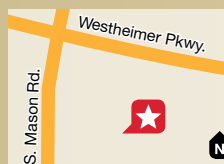
## ROBYN'S NEST BOUTIQUE KATY

Robyn's Nest Boutique Katy is tucked away in the corner of a Westheimer Parkway shopping plaza. Designer clothing is displayed next to unusual and hard-to-find home goods. The store also carries a wide array of fragrances, soaps and sports memorabilia to suit just about anyone on a holiday gift list.

\$4-\$33



23701 Cinco Ranch Blvd.  
281-693-4080  
[www.facebook.com/cobblestone-cottage-304942077211/](http://www.facebook.com/cobblestone-cottage-304942077211/)



22167 Westheimer Parkway  
281-944-9707  
[www.facebook.com/robynsnebstkaty](http://www.facebook.com/robynsnebstkaty)

## HAUERLANDS

With two Katy area locations, Hauerlands provides gifts for men, women and children ranging from fragrances to jewelry to home goods. Sought after holiday items include Gianna Rose Atelier soaps that range in price from \$22-\$24. Department 56 seasonal collectible town villages are so popular they are available year-round for \$49-\$240.

\$25 AND UP



1648 S. Mason Road  
281-395-4595



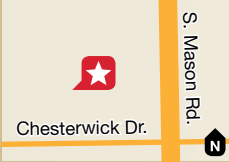
2717 Commercial Center Blvd.  
Ste. D150  
281-394-9272  
[www.facebook.com/hauerlands](http://www.facebook.com/hauerlands)



## DOSTAL'S DESIGNS FINE JEWELRY

Family-owned Dostal's Designs Fine Jewelry has locations in Katy and historic downtown Richmond. Now in the family for four generations, the shop carries its own line of watches and custom-designed jewelry in addition to class rings, loose diamonds and fine jewelry for men and women.

\$120-\$600



S. Mason Rd.

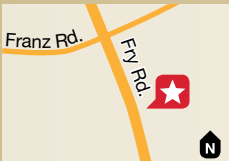
1830 S. Mason Road  
281-579-8834  
www.dostalsjewelry.com



## KATY BUDGET BOOKS

In operation for more than 30 years, Katy Budget Books, offers a wide range of gifts, including Texas-based Tyler Candle Company wax melts, candles and reed diffusers, treats from The Great San Saba River Pecan Company, and a large assortment of locally made jams from Sweet Heat Jam Company.

\$8.95-\$14.95



2450 Fry Road  
Houston  
281-578-7770  
www.katybooks.com



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## REGIONAL

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Full stories online at communityimpact.com

## TOP STORIES

## Health care providers target a growing Cypress population

**CY-FAIR** As people continue moving to Cypress, health care providers are doing everything they can to keep up with growing demand for services.

Providers, such as Memorial Hermann Health System, Houston Methodist Hospital System and North Cypress Medical Center, have been targeting master-planned communities along the Grand Parkway in their expansion efforts. At the same time, developers are dedicating parts of commercial projects to medical office buildings.

"The evidence was overwhelming that we needed to have a presence out in Cypress," said Scott Barbe, CEO of

the Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital under construction near Fairfield.

The Memorial Hermann Hospital is the largest project underway in Cypress, consisting of an 80-bed acute care hospital, a 45,000-square-foot convenient care center and 125,000 square feet of medical office space.

The development of hospital satellite centers and independent emergency centers are also addressing needs in the growing community, said Leslie Martone, president of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce.

Barbe said the convenient care center will include a sports medicine and

rehabilitation center, physical therapy treatment and a MD Anderson Breast Screening Center. It will cater to patients in emergency and nonemergency situations.

Master-planned communities in the area are keeping demand for health care services in mind as they develop retail projects. Plans for the Lakeland Village Center in Bridgeland include medical office space. In addition, the first wave of tenants at the Boardwalk at Towne Lake includes a 10,000-square-foot Texas Children's pediatrics office, making it one of the larger tenants.

Mischer Investments, the Cypress



Rendering courtesy Memorial Hermann Health System

Creek Lakes developer, brought health care tenants to the Shops at Cypress Creek Lakes, including a Cy-Fair Medical Group location. More health care tenants could also come to a development at Tuckerton and Fry roads, said Randy Corson, Mischer's vice president of residential development.

Full story by Shawn Arraji

## BUSINESS

## The Cupcake Cowgirls

**CY-FAIR** In a world of fast food and box-mix baking, Rebecca Clanton-Lewis has clung to her roots.

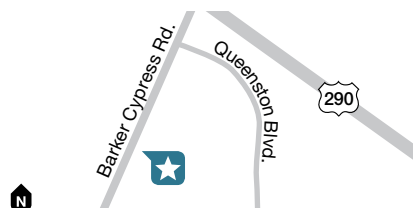
Clanton-Lewis learned the art of baking from her grandmother at the age of 8. Now, her grandmother's floral apron and handwritten recipe hang on the walls of The Cupcake Cowgirls—the Cypress bakery Clanton-Lewis opened in 2014.

Each morning, Clanton-Lewis whips up hundreds of made-from-scratch cupcakes. Flavors include vanilla salted caramel, maple bacon, chocolate cream pie, and pecan sandy. In early November, Clanton-Lewis introduced lunch items to the menu, including soups, salads and sandwiches.

Full story by Virginia Lascara



Courtesy The Cupcake Cowgirls



10750 Barker Cypress Road., Ste. 112, Cypress  
281-256-8824  
www.thecupcakecowgirls.com  
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or until sold out

## DINING

## Nikoz Fusion Grill

**SURGAR LAND** To try and spark activity within his retail center, Karim Pirani opened his own restaurant, Nikoz Fusion Grill, in 2011.

"I was sitting here in prime Sugar Land retail [space], and nobody was wanting to rent," he said.

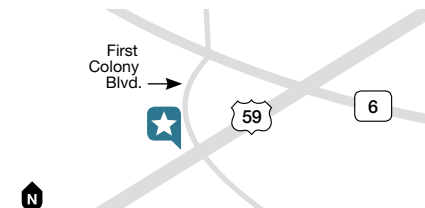
Pirani's concept was to combine the Mediterranean and Asian cuisines into one food genre. He developed the restaurant's menu to offer traditional Greek, Mediterranean and Asian dishes and seasoned them with Indian spices.

With the success Nikoz Fusion Grill has experienced over the past four years, Pirani is restructuring the restaurant's menu—which will be unveiled in November—to offer more Asian dishes.

Full story by Connor Hyde



Courtesy Nikoz Fusion Grill



16754 Hwy. 59, Ste. A, Sugar Land  
281-313-0325  
www.nikozgrill.com  
Hours: Tue.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.,  
Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

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281.395.4595

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Fri.-Sat.: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Sunday: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.



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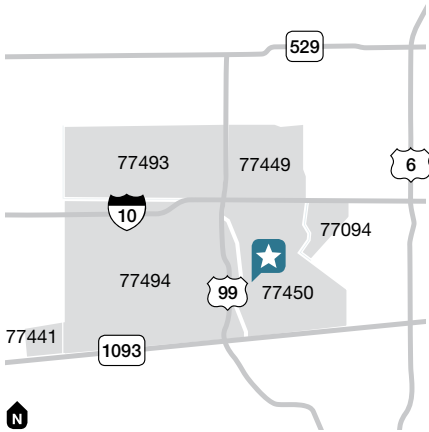
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REAL ESTATE

Located in Fulshear, Cross Creek Ranch features proximity to hike and bike trails, lakes and parks. The community falls within Katy and Lamar Consolidated ISDs. Amenities include two water parks, Adventure Island and Flewellen Creek Pool; a 6,000-square-foot gym; tennis and basketball courts; several parks, including a disc golf course; and proximity to Weston Lakes Country Club and golf course.



Market data provided by  
**Jamie McMartin, CNAS**  
Coldwell Banker United  
281-961-5151  
www.coldwellbanker.com



FEATURED NEIGHBORHOOD

Cross Creek Ranch, 77450



**Square footage:** 1,857–5,476

**Home values:** \$244,990–\$907,990

**HOA dues (estimated):** \$1,150 annually

**Schools:** Randolph Elementary, Huggins Elementary, Seven Lakes Jr. High, Brisco Jr. High, Tompkins High, Foster High

**Property taxes (in dollars):**

City Of Fulshear	0.17829
Katy ISD*	1.5266
Fort Bend County General Fund	0.47276
Fort Bend Drainage	0.022
Fort Bend County ESD 4	0.09
Fort Bend MUD 171	1.22

**Total (per \$100 value)** **3.50965**

\*Some homes are zoned to Lamar Consolidated ISD and pay 1.39005.



Median home value  
**\$505,569**



Median price per square foot  
**\$131.93**



Median annual property taxes  
**\$17,743**



Homes on the market\*  
**116**



Homes under contract\*  
**34**



Average days on the market\*  
**103**

Recent listings



**103 Walton Water Way** **\$894,990**  
5 Bedroom / 4.5 Bath 4,460 sq. ft.  
Agent: Richard Barnett  
281-780-4652



**162 Lake View Loop** **\$485,000**  
3 Bedroom / 2.5 Bath 2,927 sq. ft.  
Agent: Michael Roller  
RE/MAX Realty West 281-346-0222



**27619 Enclave Cove** **\$509,990**  
5 Bedroom / 4.5 Bath 4,591 sq. ft.  
Agent: Joe Rothchild  
Keller Williams Signature 281-599-6500



**5811 Spring River Lane** **\$399,900**  
4 Bedroom / 3.5 Bath 3,681 sq. ft.  
Agent: Darla Dever  
Anderson Properties 832-419-1970

\*As of 11/10/15

Although every effort has been made to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of this real estate data, *Community Impact Newspaper* assumes no liability for errors or omissions. Contact the property's agent or seller for the most current information.

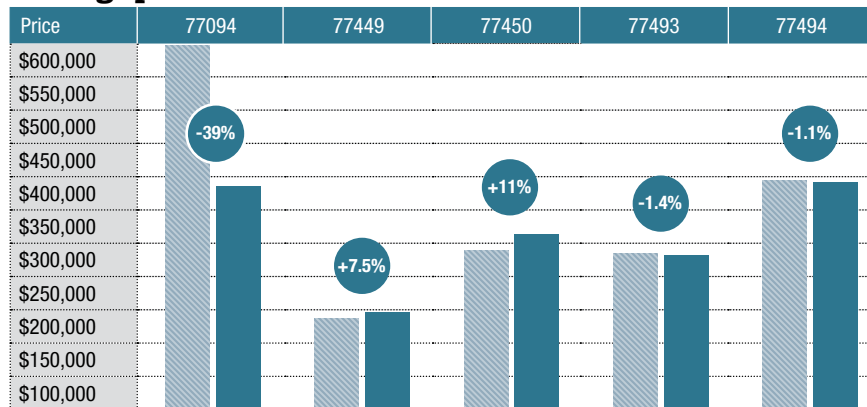
Market Data

On the market (October 2015)

Price Range	Number of homes for sale/Average days on the market				
	77094	77449	77450	77493	77494
\$149,999 or under	–	27/30	1/37	5/34	–
\$150,000–\$199,999	–	115/45	20/39	17/28	4/75
\$200,000–\$299,999	4/63	66/57	73/52	93/82	162/57
\$300,000–\$399,999	17/84	–	46/61	42/125	250/83
\$400,000–\$499,999	8/103	–	13/72	23/113	172/82
\$500,000–\$599,999	2/60	–	20/69	10/90	90/86
\$600,000–\$799,999	8/59	1/486	9/49	14/91	69/90
\$800,000–\$999,999	4/69	–	3/21	2/116	19/105
\$1 million +	3/59	–	8/138	3/196	10/190

Average price of homes sold

Oct. 2014 vs. Oct. 2015



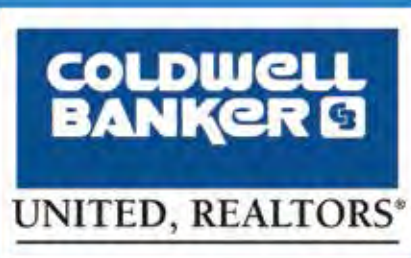
Where Are The Buyers Coming From?

Besides the typical FirstTime Homebuyers, the Move-up Buyers and the Downsizers, in a market like Katy, our growing job market is bringing Buyers from around the country and around the world.

Relocation does play a big role because we have buyers waiting on homes to come available. The Katy area is a prime relocation market where clients aren't

afraid to take risks if they are transferred in a few years.

As the Principal Broker in Katy for the CARTUS Broker network, Coldwell Banker United, REALTORS agents are relocation trained, work with many relocation clients and are supported by an award-winning relocation department.



**Katy Office**  
3333 South Mason Rd.  
Katy, TX 77450 • 281-579-2300  
www.cbunited.com/katy





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2735 Town Center Blvd. N  
Suite A  
Sugarland, TX 77479

#### CARILLION

{713} 784-8811  
10001 Westheimer Rd.  
Suite 1060  
Houston, TX 77042



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# IMPACT DEALS

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Dining

Alicia's Mexican Grille .....	45
Antonia's Italian Ristorante.....	48
Brown Bag Deli.....	47
Bullritos .....	48
Chick-fil-A .....	51
China Inn Café .....	45
Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers	48
Katy Soul Food.....	46
Mantra.....	46
Midpoint Bar & Eatery.....	49
PDQ .....	47
Pho Katy .....	51
Texas Mesquite Grill.....	44

### Gifts & Shopping

Great Harvest Bread.....	51
Harvest Natural Market.....	50
The Cottage Door.....	48

### Home & Garden

Bathroom Renovations by Tileworks..	49
-------------------------------------	----

### Recreation & Fitness

Katy Youth Soccer .....	44
KI Motion Wellness Studio.....	49
Pilates and Motion .....	51
Yoga West Katy .....	45

### Services

DryStyle Blow Dry Bar.....	44
Freedom Munitions .....	47
Gentle Dental .....	46
Louetta Automotive .....	48
Tradition Outdoor Living.....	49
Wen Chick Salon.....	46



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- ❖ Walk up registration is at Times Square on January 23 from 10 AM – 3 PM
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[www.katyyouthsoccer.com](http://www.katyyouthsoccer.com)

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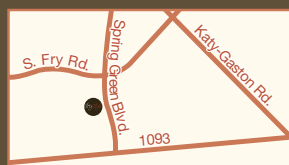
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marvinositaliankitchen.com • aliciasmexicangrille.com • dariosamericancuisine.com









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5:30pm – 9:30pm  
Fri-Sat  
5:30pm – 10:30pm

**Lunch**

**50% off of 2nd Buffet**

With purchase of 2 lunch buffet & 2 drinks.  
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**Dinner**

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