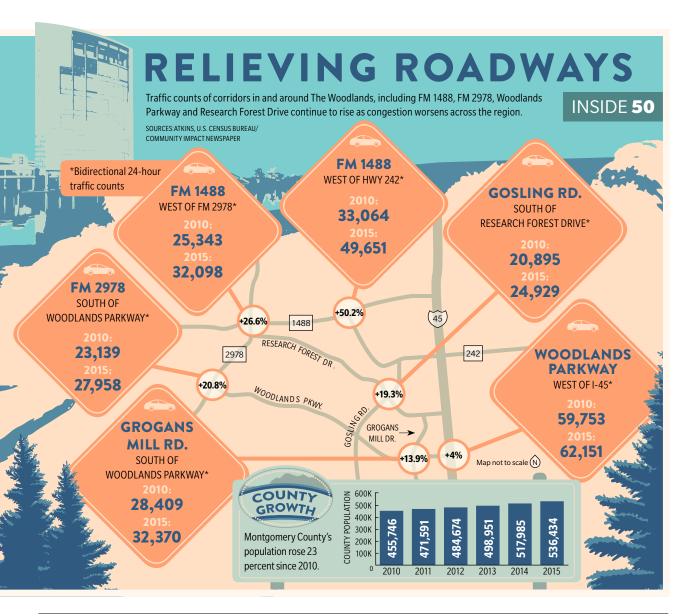
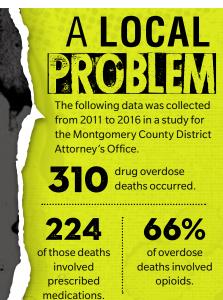


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SOURCES: SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE/

Opioid abuse rises in Montgomery County Local experts discuss recovery, national epidemic

BY HANNAH ZEDAKER

In 2016, the opioid epidemic claimed nearly 40,000 lives in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 1,500 of those deaths occurred in Texas, according to the Texas Department of State and Health Services.

As a result, officials are seeking prevention and recovery tactics to help keep Montgomery County clean.

According to a countywide study completed earlier this year by Ling Ren, Sam Houston State University criminal justice professor, for the Montgomery County District

ing rate from 2011 to 2015.

According to the study, Montgomery County also experienced 310 drug overdose deaths from 2012 to 2016, 224 of which involved a prescribed controlled substance, making prescription drug overdose the second-leading cause of death in the county, just behind fatal traffic crashes.

"As a county, we are experiencing

THE **WOODLANDS EDITION**

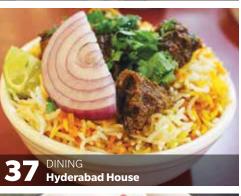
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4 | DEC. 12, 2017-JAN. 17, 2018

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Attorney's Office, Montgomery County had the third-highest average prescription drug mortality rate among Texas' 10 most populous counties and the second-highest average prescrib-

CONTINUED ON 52



We wish you a holiday season filled with love and laughter!



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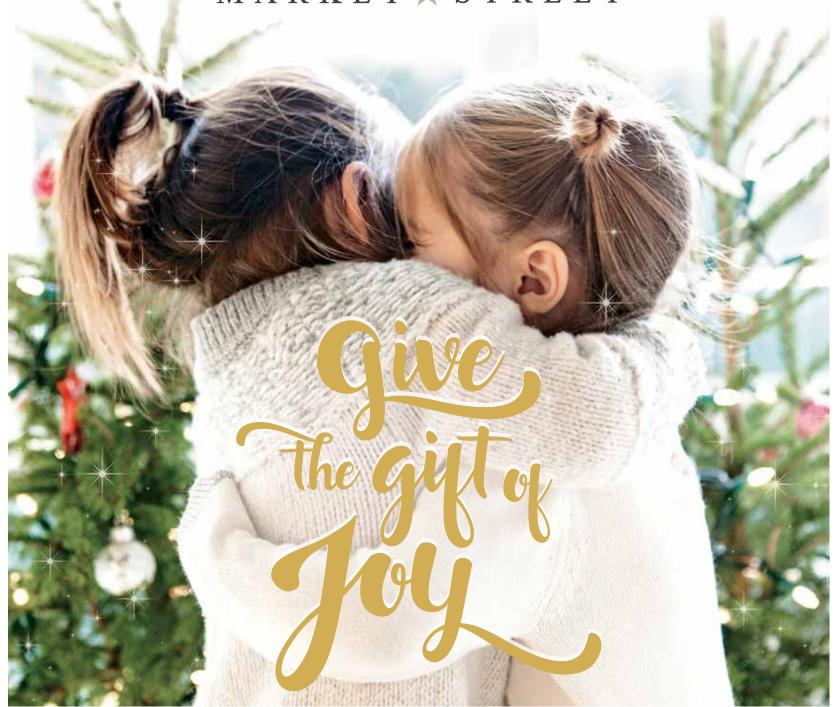
The Art of Residential Real Estate



BY THE KINK TEAM

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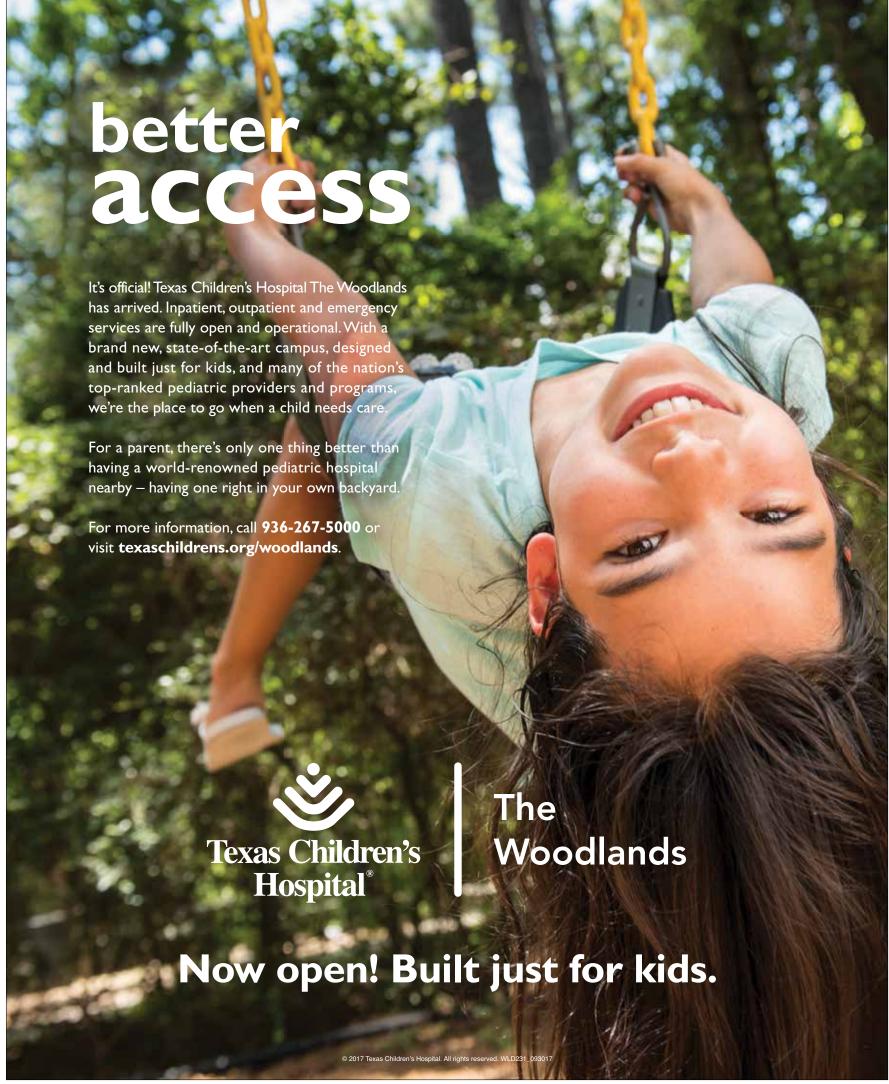
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ABOUT US

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

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Give back this holiday season

Happiest of holidays to you and your family! This is a special time of the year, and as we fill our days with the hustle and bustle of the season, I encourage you to make time to share your gifts and talents with those less fortunate. 2017 has been a quite a year, but we came together to demonstrate our great belief in community and how difficulties bring forth strength.

In our December issue, we feature our Volunteer Guide, which highlights nonprofit organizations in our area that would welcome your time. The *Community Impact Newspaper* Woodlands team was fortunate to spend an afternoon recently volunteering in the New Danville community along with our friends from

The Woodlands Area Economic Development Partnership and others.

While it is always difficult to carve time out of our busy schedules, doing so can be fulfilling and is always appreciated by those in need. Take a look at our list of volunteer opportunities on Page 48 and consider spending a few hours with one or more organizations that pull on your heartstrings. I promise, you will not regret it.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Community Impact Newspaper*. As always, I welcome your feedback or any suggestions you may have.

We wish you and yours a safe and joyous holiday season!



Paray Nethols

Patty McHugh

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pmchugh@communityimpact.com

ASK THE EDITOR



Wendy Canthor

Wendy Cawthon
EDITOR
wcawthon@communityimpact.com

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

Why do we feature local businesses?

Longtime readers of *Community Impact Newspaper* have likely noticed the businesses we choose to feature each month are independently owned, often by people living right here in The Woodlands area.

In an age where more and more is done online, it can be easy to forget about the mom and pop shop around the corner or the family-run eatery just down the road.

Small businesses not only provide an income for the people who own them, but they also create approximately 45 percent of jobs in Texas, according to the Small Business Administration, bolstering the local economy and generating tax revenue that goes to pay for public services, such as law enforcement and fire departments.

This holiday season, when shoppers are in search of that perfect one-of-a-kind gift for a family member or loved one, remember to stop in and say "Hello" to a local business owner. Need inspiration? Be sure to check out our local business features starting on Page 31 to find this month's featured businesses.

FEATURED STORIES

8 IMPACTS Now Open, Coming Soon & more

12 TO DO LIST

17 TRANSPORTATION UPDATES News, data on local road projects

25 DEVELOPMENT
Grace Church continues work on

land sales near I-45

29 CITY & COUNTY NOTES

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 $Volunteering\,in\,The\,Woodlands$

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55 REAL ESTATE

65 IMPACT DEALS

CARLTON | HOFFERKAMP & JENKS WEALTH MANAGEMENT



MONTHLY COMMENTARY FROM THE DESK OF JIM CARLTON

The holiday season is a time to reflect on the year that has passed, give thanks for the gifts we have received and spend quality time with family and friends. Here at CHJ, we like to take this time to thank all of our clients and friends for allowing us to guide them on the road to financial success. We hope with our help, the nearly 200 families we serve are able to find peace of mind with regards to their financial future. As fiduciaries, the well-being of our clients and their success is our sole mission. We hope you all are having a wonderful holiday season and from all of us here at CHJ we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For our daily commentary, visit www.chjwealthmanagement.com 10200 Grogan's Mill Road, Suite 340 • 281-298-2700







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The Heartburn & Acid Reflux Institute at CHI St. Luke's Health–The Woodlands Hospital offers a minimally invasive procedure to implant LINX®, a small, titanium device that prevents stomach acid from rising into your esophagus. This simple solution can give you the freedom to eat the foods you currently have to avoid. We provide access to the latest treatment options because something as small as LINX® can make a big impact on your health.

Request a consultation at WoodlandsAcidReflux.org or call (936) 647-3674.



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December 31 | Dinner 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Party 6:00 pm to 2:00 am Ring in the New Year Gatsby style. Revel in the 20s at our themed New Year's Eve celebration complete with dinner buffet, and a roaring good time on The Terrace with live band "Password", open house bar and fireworks extravaganza. For reservations or for more information call 866-681-5870.

Room package available, deluxe accommodations with late check out. Access to Polar Bear Plunge with bloody marys, screwdrivers and mimosas New Year's Day morning. Book your room now visit woodlandsresort.com

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

December 25 | 11 am to 3 pm The Woodlands Dining Room or Robard's Steakhouse

Let our culinary team prepare a delectable meal for you and your family this Christmas Day at our Christmas Brunch. Call 866-681-5870 for reservations. Reservations are required.

Robard's - \$105 per person, \$50 kids 12 and under

The Woodlands Dining Room - \$75 per person, \$35 kids 12 and under

Complimentary bloody mary and mimosa bar





FEAST OF SEVEN FISHES

December 18 to 24 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Enjoy a traditional celebration of Christmas with a meal of fish and other seafood and savory dishes at Robard's Steakhouse. For reservations call 281-364-6400.

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CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER December 24
CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER December 25
5:00 pm to 10:00 pm | CURRENT
Celebrate Christmas with a delicious threecourse plated dinner at CURRENT.
Call 832-839-5436 to make your holiday
reservation. \$45 adults, \$15 kids

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

December 31 | 7:00 pm to 1:00 am CURRENT & SideBar

Ring in the New Year with a New Year's Eve extravaganza complete with live entertainment and DJ, small plate and action stations, complimentary whiskey and wine tasting, photo booth, oyster bar, late night street tacos, cash bar, and champagne toast at midnight. Call 281-419-4300 for reservations. \$75 per person

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CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

December 24 | 6:00 to 8:30 pm | E'terie Celebrate Christmas Eve with our delicious dinner buffet and Martini Mashed Potato Station. For reservations call 281-298-2900. Adults \$39.95, kids 12 and under \$12.95

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER

December 31 | 6:00 to 10:00 pm | E'terie Begin your New Year's Eve celebration with a wonderful four-course dinner at E'terie. Call 281-298-2900 for reservations. \$55 per person

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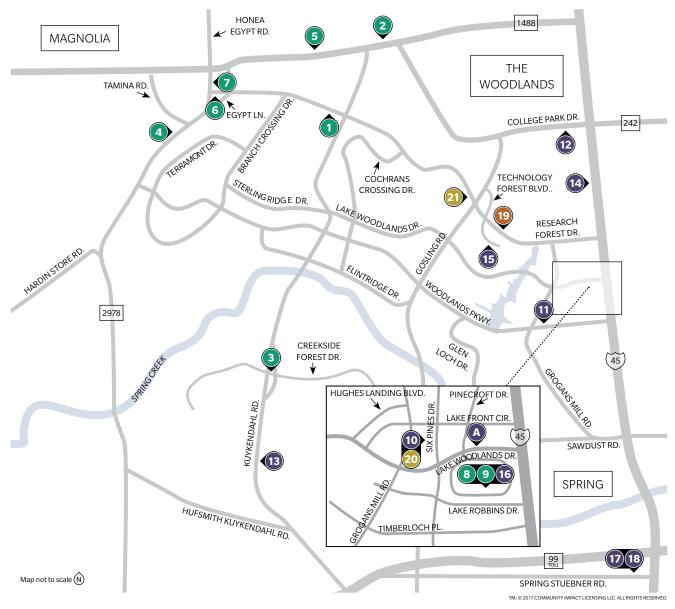
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NOW OPEN

1 Taco Nation opened Nov. 23 at 8021 Research Forest Drive, Ste. A, The Woodlands. The eatery specializes in Mexican and Tex-Mex cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner and offers catering, delivery, dine-in and takeout options. 713-389-5391. www.facebook.com/taconation.us 2 Body & Brain Conroe celebrated its grand opening Dec. 10 at 3600 FM 1488, Ste. 175, Conroe. Owned by Cherie Clark-Moore, the holistic yoga and meditation studio offers yoga classes, meditation classes, workplace wellness, family classes, children's classes, natural healing programs, workshops and life coaching as well as monthly meditation circles and one-onone healing sessions. 936-235-4924. www.bodynbrain.com

3 Jeffrey and Company Jewelers celebrated its grand opening in Village of Creekside Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 30, at 8522 Creekside Forest Drive, The Woodlands. Owned by Jeffrey Scott, the full-service jewelry store offers custom jewelry design, appraisals, restoration and repairs, and also purchases gold and silver. The shop specializes in antique and estate jewelry and carries bracelets, earrings, necklaces, rings, pendants and

men's accessories. The jewelry shop also features the Tomassi Collection as well as art deco, retro-modern, and Edwardian pieces. 281-964-8733.

www.jeffreyandcompanyjewelers.com

4 Bungee Workout opened at 31911 FM 2978, Magnolia, on Nov. 1, offering Thailand original workout classes with bungee cords. The business offers two classes, including Bungee Workout and Bungee Fit. The Bungee Workout class incorporates dance and cardio with bungee cords. The Bungee Fit class focuses on strength and conditioning through low impact and cardio with bungee cords. The business will add more classes in the future incorporating dance and yoga. 832-521-5744. www.bungeeworkoutus.com

5 Jennifer Keeling opened **Ashley's Accessories** on Oct. 24 at 5428 FM 1488,
Ste. D, Magnolia. The business offers home decor, accessories and jewelry.
936-242-1759. www.facebook.com/ashleysaccessoriesinteriors

6 CareNow Urgent Care opened Nov. 7 at 10422 Research Forest Drive, Magnolia. The urgent care facility is open Sunday through Saturday and offers care for nonlife-threatening medical conditions, including minor cuts, bruises, burns, rashes, allergies, common colds and flu-like symptoms. 832-702-7699. www.carenow.com

7 Co-owner Lorenzo Serna and his daughter, Lorena, opened **Lorenzillos Mexican Grill & Cantina** on Nov. 1 at 32823 FM 2978, Magnolia, in the former location of Cisco's Baja Grill & Cantina. The restaurant offers Tex-Mex dishes, lunch specials and a full bar, including margaritas. 832-521-5787.

8 Cilantro's opened Nov. 21 in The Woodlands Mall food court, at 1201 Lake Woodlands Drive, The Woodlands. The Mexican restaurant offers signature dishes, such as nachos and tacos. 281-363-3409. www.thewoodlandsmall.com

9 The Fix opened Nov. 6 in The Woodlands Mall, at 1201 Lake Woodlands Drive, Ste. 1092, The Woodlands. The shop offers repair services for all brands of cellphones and tablets, while also selling accessories such as cases, Bluetooth speakers, wall

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chargers and earphones. 281-363-3409. www.thefixsolutions.com

COMING SOON

True Food Kitchen is expected to open in summer 2018 at 9595 Six Pines Drive, The Woodlands, in the Market Street shopping district. This will be the fifth location for the Texas eatery, which serves a rotating menu of salads, sandwiches, pizza, soups and entrees using in-season ingredients. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options are available.

www.truefoodkitchen.com

Glade Arts Foundation will open in January in the former location of The Woodlands Information Center, at 2000 Woodlands Parkway, The Woodlands. Founded by Glade Gallery owner Dragos Tapu, the nonprofit works to provide accessible fine arts experiences with art education, scholarships, public art projects and exhibits. The new building will house a permanent collection of painter and sculptor David Adickes as well as temporary exhibits by local and international artists. The building was originally slated to open in November. 832-557-8781. www.gladeartsfoundation.org

Nona's Ristorante Italiano will open in January at 3091 College Park Drive, Ste. 185, The Woodlands. This will be the second location of the eatery, as the original restaurant, Nona's Italian Grill, opened in Tomball in 2010. The restaurant offers authentic Italian cuisine from pizza and pasta to veal, chicken and seafood dishes. 281-255-6088. www.nonasitaliangrilltx.com

13 Zazza's Pizza Cafe will open a second location at 25750 Kuykendahl Road, Tomball, in January. With an original location on FM 1488, the cafe offers signature pizzas, pasta dishes, baked sandwiches, calzones, salads and chicken wings. The eatery also offers a children's menu, desserts and a \$10 lunch special. 936-271-2776. www.zazzapizzacafe.com

Construction on a **Sleep Number** store is underway in Shenandoah west of I-45 and north of Wellman Road, between Ethan Allen and Red Lobster, city officials confirmed. The shop offers mattresses, bedding, pillows and other home furnishing items. An opening date has not yet

COMPILED BY ABIGAIL LOOP AND HANNAH ZEDAKER

News or questions about The Woodlands? Email us at wdlnews@communityimpact.com.

been announced. 1-877-720-3878. www.sleepnumber.com

15 Based in Jacksonville, Florida, Lakeview Health at The Woodlands will open a second location in January at 2610 Technology Forest Blvd., The Woodlands. The 10,727-square-foot facility will offer partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient mixed-gender programs, with day and evening treatment options available for individuals with addiction and psychiatric disorders. 866-265-2778. www.lakeviewhealth.com

(16 Cinnabon will open in late December inside The Woodlands Mall food court, at 1201 Lake Woodlands Drive, The Woodlands. The bakery offers its signature cinnamon rolls, as well as iced and hot coffee drinks, hot cocoas and lemonades. 281-363-3409, www.cinnabon.com

in January at 2174 Spring Stuebner Road, Ste. 390, Spring, in Springwoods Village. The Japanese restaurant franchise specializes in serving different combinations of ramen noodles and broth with various toppings as well as salads, small plates, minitacos, rice bowls and desserts. www.jinya-ramenbar.com

18 Edible Arrangements will open in January at 2174 Spring Stuebner Road, Ste. 330, Spring. The business offers bouquet arrangements made with fresh fruit and chocolate that can be gifted for birthdays, holidays or corporate gifts. www.ediblearrangments.com

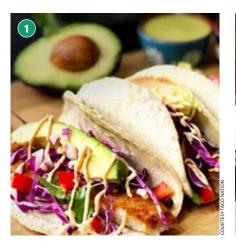
RELOCATION

19 The Woodlands Behavioral Health & Wellness Center relocated Oct. 2 from 111 Vision Park Blvd., Ste. 250, Shenando-ah, to 2700 Research Forest Drive, Ste.130, The Woodlands. The center offers testing and assessment services, psychotherapy, psychiatry, counseling, nutrition and wellness, coaching and skills training, and academic services for school. 281-528-4226. www.addwoodlands.com

FEATURED IMPACT—COMING SOON



House of Pies Restaurant & Bakery will open its fourth location next summer in the former location of Black-eyed Pea, at 1330 Lake Woodlands Drive, The Woodlands. Jon Jamison, a landlord representative with NewQuest Properties—the developer for the shopping center—confirmed Nov. 30. The Houston-based restaurant chain offers more than 40 types of pies and cakes, in addition to a lunch and dinner menu that features sandwiches, soups and salads. The bakery operates 24 hours, seven days a week at its three other locations. www.houseofpies.com





ANNIVERSARIES

Elaine Turner, the Texas-based luxury handbag and shoe brand, celebrated its fifth anniversary in late November at Market Street, 9595 Six Pines Drive, The Woodlands. The store features a shoe salon, handbags and shoes, clothing, jewelry, tabletop gifts and candles. 832-585-0805. www.elaineturner.com

Amerejuve MedSpa, which specializes in cosmetic and nonsurgical skin treatments, celebrated its five-year anniversary at 4747 Research Forest Drive, Ste. 155, Spring, in late September. Amerejuve has six Greater Houston area locations and also offers laser hair removal for men and women. 713-960-6262. www.amerejuve.com

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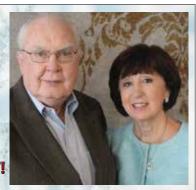
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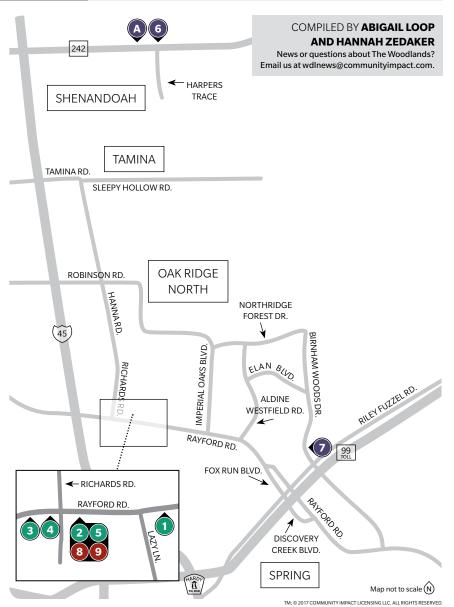
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NOW OPEN

1) Jjigae-Korean Cafe opened Oct. 12 at 990 Rayford Road, Ste. 114, Spring. The cafe offers Korean-inspired dishes, such as kimchi fried rice, spicy stir-fry calamari and bulgogi for lunch and dinner. 281-719-0393.

2 Mario's Mexican Restaurant reopened Nov. 12 at 610 Rayford Road, Spring, after closing for over two months due to Hurricane Harvey. The restaurant replaced its walls, kitchens and tables. The Mexican eatery offers enchiladas, tacos, chalupas and seafood options for lunch and dinner. Breakfast is also served on weekends. 281-367-9336. www.mariosmexican.com

3 Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers reopened Nov. 14 at 520 Rayford Road, Spring, after closing for two months following Hurricane Harvey. The restaurant sus-

FEATURED IMPACT—COMING SOON



Mestizos Mexican Cafe will open in mid-December at 9803 Hwy. 242, Ste. 900, Conroe. Owned by Juan and Dana Martinez and Jacob and Tonya Jaimes, the restaurant will offer authentic Mexican cuisine such as enchiladas, fajitas, tacos, gorditas, buildyour-own-burritos and a full bar. The family-friendly restaurant also boasts an extensive children's menu and children eat free on Sundays. 936-273-1010. www.facebook.com/mestizosmexicancafe

tained 4 feet of floodwaters and underwent a complete renovation. The chicken chain offers chicken fingers, fries, coleslaw and Texas toast as well as iced tea and freshsqueezed lemonade. 281-419-5444. www.raisingcanes.com

4 Walgreens reopened Oct. 30 at 560 Rayford Road, Spring, after closing for month following Hurricane Harvey, due to water damage. The drugstore offers health and beauty items, household products and first-aid supplies, in addition to pharmaceutical and photo services. 281-298-0040. www.walgreens.com

Golden Shears Salon and Day Spa reopened Oct. 31 at 610 Rayford Road, Ste. 648, Spring, after sustaining 5 feet of water damage due to Hurricane Harvey. The 39-year-old business worked out of a temporary location on Sawdust Road for two months while the original location underwent a total renovation. The full-service salon offers hair services, sunless tanning, waxing services, makeup services, facials, massages and other spa services. 281-681-9017. www.goldenshearssalonspa.com

COMING SOON

6 Starbucks will open a new location at

the intersection of Hwy. 242 and Harpers Trace this winter, according to a Starbucks spokesperson. The coffee chain based in Seattle offers hot, cold and frozen coffee beverages, espresso options, Teavana teas and pastries. The new location will feature a drive-thru, as well as indoor and outdoor seating options. www.starbucks.com

7 Ivy Kids Early Learning Center will celebrate its grand opening with a Premiere Night on Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m. and will begin offering classes in January at 28813 Birnham Woods Drive, Spring. The learning center serves children ages 8 weeks to 12 years old and combines academic innovation with a nurturing and joyful environment, officials said. The center is now enrolling students for January. 281-353-7777.

www.ivykids.com/birnhamwoods

CLOSINGS

8 Tony Nail Spa, located at 610 Rayford Road, Spring, closed after sustaining water damage due to Hurricane Harvey in late August and will not be reopening.

Subway, located at 610 Rayford Road, Spring, closed after sustaining water damage due to Hurricane Harvey in late August and will not be reopening.

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Your ultimate local guide for events, business openings, meetings and more in the month of December

DEC. 12

Kendra Scott hosts charity event for local nonprofit

Kendra Scott hosts this event for the Magnolia Education Foundation. Attendees can enjoy treats and 20 percent of sales go to the foundation. 6-8 p.m. Free. Kendra Scott, 9595 Six Pines Drive, Ste. 690, The Woodlands. www.kendrascott.com

DEC. 15

Oak Ridge North presents Christmas celebration

The annual Oak Ridge North Christmas event features park activities, a hot chocolate stand, pictures with Santa Claus and a hay ride. 5 p.m. Free. Marilyn Edgar Park, 26531 S. Hillside Drive, Oak Ridge North. 832-381-3215. www.oakridgenorth.com



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See a list of full events at www.communityimpact.com/wdl

DEC. 15-17

Class Act Productions presents 'A Christmas Carol, The Musical'

Class Act Productions performs a musical inspired by the popular Charles Dickens classic Christmas story. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 15,16), 2:30 p.m. (Dec. 16,17). \$15-\$32. Nancy Bock Center, 3800 S. Panther Creek Drive, The Woodlands. www.classactproductions.org



Find more or submit Woodlands events at **communityimpact.com/wdl-calendar.**

Event organizers can submit local events online to be considered for the print edition. Submitting details for consideration does not guarantee publication.

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DEC. 15-17

Go caroling and visit Santa Claus at the mall

The Woodlands Mall hosts a caroling night where mall customers hear holiday songs while having the opportunity to take a photo with Santa Claus. 6-8 p.m. Free. The Woodlands Mall, 1201 Lake Woodlands Drive, The Woodlands, 281-363-3409. www.thewoodlandsmall.com

DFC. 18

Oak Ridge North holds special meeting

The city of Oak Ridge North only has one City Council meeting in December: It will hold a special called meeting Dec. 18.7 p.m. Oak Ridge North City Hall, 27424 Robinson Road, Oak Ridge North. 281-292-4648. www.oakridgenorth.com

DEC. 17

Santa's Workshop event features crafts, cookies

Participants can build small toys and crafts while enjoying treats and holiday music. 3 p.m. \$20 (residents), \$25 (nonresidents). The Recreation Center at Rob Fleming Park, 6464 Creekside Forest Drive, The Woodlands. 281-210-3950. www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov



DEC. 19

Adult Crafternoon offers ornament creation

The Montgomery County South Regional Library hosts this event where ornaments are created from books. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Montgomery County South Regional Library, 2101 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands. 936-442-7727. www.countylibrary.org/south.htm

DEC. 25

Enjoy a Christmas brunch

The Woodlands Resort hosts a Christmas brunch at Robard's Steakhouse and The Woodlands Dining Room. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$75-\$105 (for adults), \$35-\$50 (for children age 12 and younger). The Woodlands Resort, 2301 N. Millbend Drive, The Woodlands www.woodlandsresort.com

Science Madness features **Christmas smells**

The Woodlands Children's Museum hosts an event that allows guests to explore Christmas smells. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. The Woodlands Children's Museum, 4775 W. Panther Creek Drive, Ste. 280, The Woodlands. 281-465-0955. www.woodlandschildrensmuseum.org

DEC. 27-29

Kids Camp features post-Christmas activities

Children can draw holiday pictures and decorate sweets at this event. 8 a.m.-noon (ages 5-7,) 2 p.m.-6 p.m. (ages 7-13). \$150. Over the Top Cake Supplies, 453 Sawdust Road, Ste. 102, Spring. 832-458-0995. www.overthetopcakesupplies.com

COURTESY OVER THE TOP CAKE SUPPLIES

DEC. 24

Attend Shenandoah's **luminary ceremony**

As tradition follows, the city of Shenandoah lights luminaries to celebrate the holidays every Christmas Eve. 6 p.m. Free. Shenandoah Municipal Complex, 29955 I-45 N., Shenandoah. 281-298-5522. www.shenandoahtx.us



COMING UP

Dec. 12 | Civic Club Meeting www.shenandoahtx.us

Dec. 15 | Needlecrafts: Knit and Stitch www.countylibrary.org/mitchell.htm

Dec. 16 | Movies in the Park-"Elf" www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov

Dec. 17 | Feliz Navi-Dog www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov

Dec. 19 | Children's Craft Fun www.countylibrary.org/mitchell.htm

Dec. 20 | The Woodlands' Business and Social Network for Women www.womenwinewednesday.com

Dec. 31 | New Year's Eve Party www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/The-Woodlands-Country-Club

Dec. 31 | NYE Gatsby Celebration www.woodlandsresort.com





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MAIN STREET CROSSING

111 W. MAIN STREET, TOMBALL

December

- **12** Ian Moore, 8 p.m.
- 13 Charlie Robison, 8 p.m.
- 14 Gene Watson, 8 p.m.
- 15 Prophets and Outlaws, 8 p.m.
- **16** Vince King, 8 p.m.
- 20-21 Roger Creager

with Kyle Hutton, 8 p.m.

The Texas country singer-songwriter grew up in Corpus Christi.

- 22 Hard Candy Christmas Show, 8 p.m.
- 23 Penny Gilley and Dough Allen Nash, 8 p.m.
- 26-28 Stoney Larue Fanpage, 8 p.m.
- 29 Satisfaction, 8 p.m.
- **30** Reverand Horton Heat, 8 p.m.

- Red Feather Tribe, 8 p.m.
- Jarrod Birmingham, 8 p.m.
- Dion Pride, 8 p.m
- Derek Spence, 8 p.m.

CRUSH WINE LOUNGE



281-362-7874 www.thecrushbar.com

December

- **14** DJ Bad Company, 10 p.m.
- 15 Chandler Lawn, 8 p.m., and Mike Crown, 10 p.m.
- **16** D| Enigma, 10 p.m.
- 21 DI Bad Company, 10 p.m.
- 22 Chandler Lawn, 8 p.m., and Mike Crown, 10 p.m.
- **23** DJ Enigma, 10 p.m.
- 29 DJ Bad Company, 10 p.m.
- 29 Chandler Lawn, 8 p.m., and Mike Crown, 10 p.m.
- 30 D| Enigma

January

- 4 DJ Bad Company, 10 p.m.
- 5 Chandler Lawn, 8 p.m., and Mike Crown, 10 p.m.
- **6** DJ Enigma, 10 p.m.
- 11 DJ Bad Company, 10 p.m.
- 12 Chandler Lawn, 8 p.m., and Mike Crown 10 p.m.
- **13** DJ Enigma, 10 p.m.
- 16 DJ Bad Company, 10 p.m.
- **17** DJ SK, 10 p.m.
- **18** DJ Enigma, 10 p.m.

BAKER STREET PUB

25 WATERWAY AVE., STE. 200, THE WOODLANDS

281-362-7431

www.bakerstreetpub.com

December

- **14** DJ, 9:45 p.m.
- **15** Vertigo, 9:45 p.m.
- **16** The Fuse, 9:45 p.m.
- **19** Karaoke, 9:45 p.m.
- **21** DJ, 9:45 p.m.
- **22** Fidelity Maxx, 9:45 p.m.
- 23 Sick Duck and Turning Point, 9:45 p.m.
- **26** Karaoke, 9:45 p.m.
- **28** DJ, 9:45 p.m.
- **29** The Slags, 9:45 p.m.
- **30** Goodtime Muffin with DJ Neko, 9:45 p.m.
- **31** Swagger, 9:45 p.m.

January

- 2 Karaoke, 9:45 p.m.
- **9** Karaoke, 9:45 p.m.
- 16 Karaoke, 9:45 p.m.
- 23 Karaoke, 9:45 p.m.
- **30** Karaoke, 9:45 p.m.

See a list of full events at www.communityimpact.com.

WORTHWHILE CONVERSATIONS

WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? A CONVERSATION ABOUT PERFECTING YOUR ROADMAP....

Q: Are most Americans comfortable with the direction of their wealth planning?

In our 46 years of meeting families who sit down for a "get-acquainted" conversation, we rarely meet people who are completely confident with their financial roadmap. Most families have at least a few issues that keep them awake at night and many in fact feel overwhelmed." The surveys done by major financial companies confirm this: Even among Baby Boomers now retiring, more than 70% have doubts about whether they can sustain their lifestyle in retirement.

Q: What kinds of things are "keeping them awake?"

We posed this question to our firm's Wealth Planning Committee. Our team of professionals from multiple disciplines including CPAs, CFA® charterholders and CFP® practitioners concluded these were the most common concerns we most often hear: Will we have enough? Are we carrying too much debt? Can we trust the big banks, brokerage firms, and insurance companies? Are long-term health care costs a potential wipe-out? How do we draw down our retirement accounts without getting killed on taxes?

Q: That's a lot to worry about. Is there any good news?

It was Yogi Berra who said, "If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up somewhere else." There is indeed a variety of things to worry about, but a single answer for each - develop a solid plan and roadmap. If you cannot do it alone, get guidance from someone you can trust. The good news? Imagine the peace of mind from having a well-conceived strategy that has addressed all these important concerns.

Q: So you can help?

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For more information, or a copy of our Form ADV, Part II, with all of our disclosures, call Craig Ivy or Larry Napier at 281 841 0707, or visit www.linscomb-williams.com.



J. Harold Williams, President & CEO, underscores the importance of having a financial roadmap with the L&W Woodlands team. (Left to right: Paul Vitale, CFP®; Lauren Rich, CFP®; Larry Napier, CPA; B. Craig Ivy, AIF®; Foreground, J. Harold Williams, CPA/PFS, CFP®)

Linscomb & Williams is not an accounting firm.



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DOSEY DOE BIG BARN

25911 I-45 N., THE WOODLANDS

281-367-3774 • www.doseydoe.com

December

- **11** Annie Moses, 7 p.m.
- **14** Holiday Jazz with Keiko Matsui, Euge Groove, Lindsey Webster and Adam Hawley, 8:30 p.m.
- & the Crew, 8:30 p.m.
- 16 Rusted Root's Michael Glabicki with Dirk Miller, 8:30 p.m.
- 17 The Texas Tenors, 7:30 p.m.
- 21 The Homestead, 8:30 p.m.
- 22 Pam Tillis "Christmas" Trio, 8:30 p.m.
- 23 Mike and The Moonpies, 8:30 p.m.
- with Market Junction, 8:30 p.m.
- 29 Alex Weeden and Rosehill, 8:30 p.m.
- **30** Johnny Lee, 8:30 p.m.
- 31 Mike Zito, 9 p.m.

This St. Louis native plays the blues and was a founding member of Royal Southern Brotherhood.

- Josh Weathers, 8:30 p.m.
- Blue Water Highway Band, 8:30 p.m.
- Larry Carlton, 8:30 p.m.
- Cracker and
- 11 Bart Crow, 8:30 p.m.
- **12** Micky and The Motorcars, 8:30 p.m.
- 13 Gallagher "Joke's on You" comedy tour, 8:30 p.m.

THE GOOSE'S ACRE

21 WATERWAY AVE., STE. 140. THE WOODLANDS

281-466-1502

www.thegoosesacre.com

December

- 13 Jeff Canada, 10 p.m.
- **15** DJ Ne-Ko, 10 p.m.
- 16 D| Socialite, 10 p.m.
- **20** Jeff Canada, 10 p.m.
- **22** DJ Ne-Ko, 10 p.m.
- 23 DJ Socialite, 10 p.m.
- 27 leff Canada, 10 p.m.
- **29** DJ Ne-Ko, 10 p.m. 30 DJ Socialite, 10 p.m.

THE REFUGE BAR & BISTRO



24 WATERWAY AVE., STE. 110, THE WOODLANDS

713-389-5674

www.refugeinthewoodlands.com

December

- 15 Jimmie Hunter, 8 p.m.
- **22** Louis Lamb, 8 p.m.
- 23 |-Walkers, 8 p.m.
- 29 Yelba, 8 p.m.

This variety band has a repertoire of more than 1,000 songs featuring everything from Frank Sinatra and Bruno Mars to Gloria Estefan and Celia Cruz.





Tuba Christmas 2017

The 38th annual event attracts tuba and euphonium players of all ages from around the Greater Houston area to perform a Christmas concert at Market Street. Under the direction of Henry Howey and guest conductor Robert Daniel, the event will also include an instrument decorating contest with prizes. Noon. \$100 (per participant), Free (to attend). Market Street, 9595 Six Pines Drive, The Woodlands, 281-419-4774. www.tubachristmas.com

GENUWINE TASTING ROOM



6503 FM 1488, **MAGNOLIA**

832-934-2675

www.mygenuwine.com

December

- **14** Damon, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Sean Harrold, 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Cassidy Hurst, 7:30 p.m.
- **21** Thawind Mills, 7:30 p.m.
- **22** Ryan Davis, 7:30 p.m. 23 Louis Lamb &

The Gentle Lamb Project, 7:30 p.m.

28 Magpie and Loon, 7:30 p.m.

This acoustic duo covers songs from the 1960s to today's hits.

- 29 Sean Harrold, 7:30 p.m.
- **30** Phatso, 7:30 p.m.

January

6 Sheri Lavo and Ain't Nobody's Business, 7:30 p.m.



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December

19 LGM Trio, 8 p.m.

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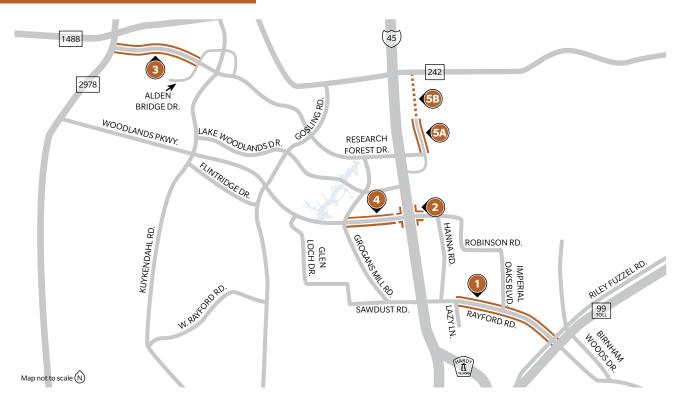






TheWoodlandsAC.com

(281) 363-4822



1 Rayford Road widening

This project will widen Rayford Road from four to six lanes between Lazy Lane and the Grand Parkway. A six-lane bridge will be constructed over the railroad tracks, and new traffic signals and a raised median will be added. Construction is underway on the bridge over the railroad. Pavement, curbs and gutters will be added between West Hawthorne and Wild Rose drives. The project will expand the existing bridge between Wild Rose Drive and Aldine Westfield Road.

Timeline: April 2017-summer 2019

Cost: \$60 million

Funding source: Montgomery County

Precinct 3

2 Robinson Road and I-45 intersection improvements

During the Montgomery County Commissioners Court meeting Oct. 24, the court approved an advance funding agreement for a project between the Texas Department of Transportation and Montgomery County for the reconfiguration of the intersection of

Robinson Road and I-45, allowing Precinct 3 to begin the design process. The project will convert the Woodlands Parkway-Robinson Road interchange to a diamond interchange.

Timeline: TBA **Cost:** \$4.5 million

Funding sources: Montgomery County Precinct 3, TxDOT, Oak Ridge North

3 Research Forest Drive widening

This Montgomery County road bond project will widen Research Forest Drive from two to four lanes from FM 2978 to Alden Bridge Drive. The section from Egypt Lane to FM 2978 has been completed, and construction on the remaining portion of the project—Egypt Lane to Alden Bridge Drive—is expected to be finished by the first quarter of 2018.

Timeline: May 2016-first quarter 2018

Cost: \$8 million

Funding source: Montgomery County

Precinct 2

Woodlands Parkway widening

The project will add an additional lane to

both the westbound and eastbound sides of Woodlands Parkway from I-45 to Grogan's Mill Road. The project was awarded to Triple B Services by the Montgomery County Commissioners Court. Officials are working on utility adjustments.

Timeline: February 2018-TBA

Cost: TBA

Funding source: Montgomery County

Precinct 2

5 David Memorial Drive extension

This project will extend David Memorial Drive from Shenandoah Park Drive to Hwy. 242. Phase 1, which begins at Shenandoah Park Drive and ends south of the Sam Moon Center was completed in late May. Phase 2, which will extend David Memorial Drive to the Shenandoah city limit, is in the design phase.

Timeline: October 2016-May 2017 (Phase 1), TBA (Phase 2)

Cost: \$2.3 million

Funding source: Shenandoah Municipal

Development District



HOW IT WORKS

FM road designations have pre-WWII roots

In unincorporated areas of Texas counties and less developed parts of cities, drivers may notice unconventional designations for roadways. Instead of highway, street, road, avenue or parkway, roads in these areas often have a FM—or farm-to-market—designation.

In the years before and after World War II, these secondary roads were of great importance to rural travelers, according to a U.S. Department of the Interior study, "Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas. 1866-1965."

The development of FM roads was integral to providing transport of farm and ranch produce to market, ensuring regular mail delivery service, and providing access to schools, medical care, church and social gatherings.

The first "feeder" roads—which served as precursors to the FM road system—were constructed in the 1930s using Works Progress Administration funding following President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. By the 1960s, Texas' secondary road network was recognized as the most developed rural highway network in the country.

All information on this page was updated as of 11/30/17. News or questions about these or other local transportation projects?

Email us at wdlnews@communityimpact.com.



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FLOOD PERSPECTIVE

While some areas of The Woodlands flooded during Hurricane Harvey in late August, a large number of other entities across the state have also applied for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Woodlands:

550 structures flooded



Montgomery

County:

000

Harris County:

142,000

structures flooded

structures flooded

counties are eligible for individual federal assistance 357,536

FEMA applications approved as of early December

SOURCES: THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY/
COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



GOVERNMENT

The Woodlands expands task force in response to flooding

BY WENDY CAWTHON

With many homeowners in Harris and Montgomery counties working to repair their homes while waiting on federal assistance, local officials are working to determine what can be done locally and are identifying challenges to future mitigation.

The Woodlands Township has spearheaded the Storm Drainage Task Force—developed in June 2016 to help find solutions for drainage issues in the area.

Township Director Bruce Rieser said, following Hurricane Harvey in late August, the task force has expanded to include representation from 33 area agencies, including the Harris County Flood Control District, area municipal utility districts and the offices of U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands, state Rep. Mark Keough, R-The Woodlands, and state Sen. Brandon Crieghton, R-Conroe.

"This is the only place where everybody is in the same room at the same time exchanging ideas and talking to each other about what needs to get done," Rieser said during a Nov. 29 presentation to the township board.

While the township and Montgomery County are working with Brady to request federal funding for a countywide flood study and mitigation projects, Rieser warned there is already a high volume of funding requests from entities across the U.S.

"Let's also remember that we had a huge hurricane come through Florida two weeks after [Harvey] and an even bigger one than that, that came through Puerto Rico a month later," Rieser said. "Federal funding is going to be very sought after by a lot of different entities, so I think it is unrealistic of us to expect that we're going to get a ton of federal funding in that scenario."

Additionally, Rieser said any solutions found and proposed by the group for mitigation along Spring Creek would still have to be approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before any work could begin.

Township Chairman Gordy Bunch

said the group will also have to work with other entities to tackle the problem regionally, as any mitigation projects completed only in The Woodlands would likely not be effective.

"Anything we do in isolation may not even improve our situation unless the areas around us are part of the solution," Bunch said.

Rieser said the group has not found a tangible solution for area flooding yet. However, the group is working with officials from MUD No. 386 and The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency to develop digital models of waterways in the area to understand why certain areas flood during heavy rain events, which could help engineers identify future projects.

"It's probably going to involve more retention. It may involve some levies. It may [involve] other potential solutions," he said. "I think we're going in the right direction—we're doing the active modeling that we need to do to get an effective handle on this."





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Officials break ground on The Woodlands Hills community

BY KELLY SCHAFLER

After an announcement earlier this summer, the Howard Hughes Corporation hosted a ground breaking ceremony for its newest 2,000-acre master-planned community, The Woodlands Hills, on Nov. 15.

Located 13 miles north of The Woodlands near I-45, The Woodlands Hills will feature 112 acres of open space, more than 20 neighborhood parks connected by hiking and bike trails and the 17-acre Village Park. It will also offer an event hall, fitness center, a resort-style pool with a

beach entry and a lazy river, according to a release from the company.

"Leveraging our 40 years of experience developing some of the most successful master-planned communities in the country, The Howard Hughes Corporation will develop The Woodlands Hills with the high-quality standards and design principles that have made The Woodlands and Bridgeland two of the best-selling master-planned communities in Texas," said David R. Weinreb, CEO of The Howard Hughes Corporation, in a statement.

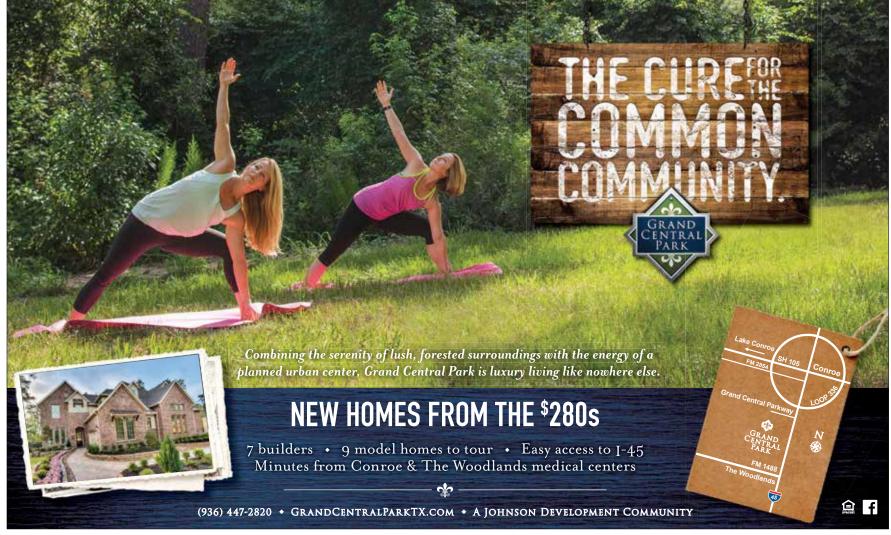
While the development features only paved roadways and coves of trees so far, developers plan to announce homebuilders and begin construction of an amenity center by the end of the year, officials said.

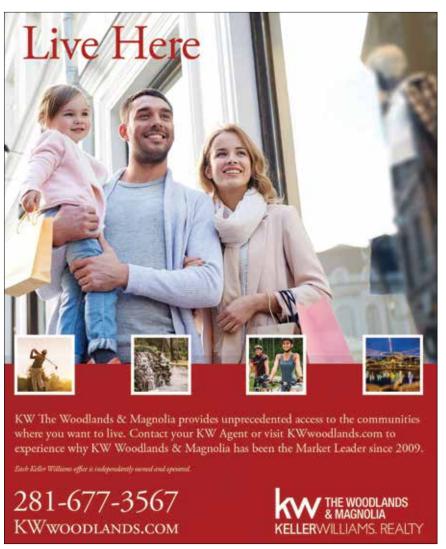
The development will bring more than 4,500 homes to the area in the next 10-15 years, said Heath Melton, vice president of master-planned communities for The Howard Hughes Corporation. Homebuilders will be announced in late December or early January, with the first single-family model homes debuting in April

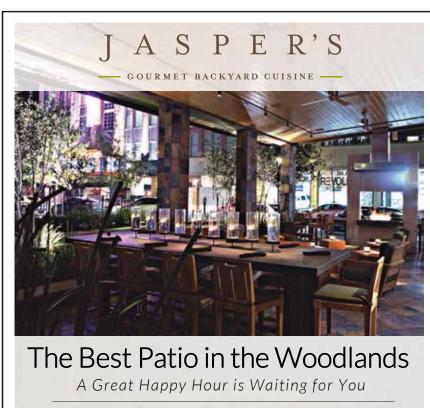
during a grand opening ceremony.

Homes in the development are expected to be built at or above the 500-year flood plain with engineering and drainage systems, according to Tim Welbes, co-president of The Woodlands Development Company.

"The Woodlands Hills will be designed and engineered to meet all regulatory requirements," Welbes said. "The land and topography appear to be mostly above the 500-year elevation, and we will be developing lots which will afford the builders the opportunity to design and build homes with first floor elevations which will be at or above the 500-year elevation."







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Bid to bring Amazon focuses on downtown

BY SHAWN ARRAJJ AND WENDY CAWTHON

The online retailer Amazon announced in September it is looking to make a \$5 billion capital investment to create 50,000 jobs across 8.1 million square feet of office space. The Seattle-based company has since accepted proposals from more than 230 cities and metro areas.

A proposal for Houston's downtown corridor to be the company's second headquarters was submitted ahead of the Oct. 19 deadline with help from the Greater Houston Partnership, an organization dedicated to promoting the Greater Houston area as a place to work, live and run businesses.

In addition to the University of Houston and the Texas Medical Center, several other institutions and landmarks fall within the area, including Rice University, Houston's Museum District and Hermann Park. GHP President Bob Harvey said he believes the Montrose and Midtown areas are also known for their quality-of-life perks, including an abundance of trendy restaurants and bars.

"There was a growing recognition that this area represents a very unique asset of Houston," Harvey said. "When you look at all the attributes and assets that fall within this relatively modest area, it had virtually, if not entirely, everything that Amazon was looking for."

However, even with the Greater Houston area stretching dozens of miles outward in each direction, suburban areas—including The Woodlands—were not included in Houston's bid.

"The way the [request for proposals] read,
Amazon preferred to receive only one submission
from a regional entity within metro areas," said
Gil Staley, CEO of The Woodlands Area Economic
Development Partnership. "That one submission
was done and organized by the GHP, and a committee within the GHP received all of the bids from
the entire Houston region and narrowed it down to
what their committee felt was the most competitive
in addressing all of the needs that Amazon pointed
out and there were not any suburban markets that



made that list."

Some of Amazon's key requirements for a city include close access to an airport, mass transit facilities and a metropolitan area with more than one million people.

Staley said while there may not be a physical location of Amazon in The Woodlands, its presence could still be a benefit to the area.

"Certainly we're disappointed in that decision, but it's one that we supported. The region will benefit no matter where it's selected—the entire Houston region will benefit from a project this size," he said. "Fifty thousand jobs would benefit everyone in the community and certainly those that are seeking employment would benefit from a job wherever that might be located."

Harvey said Houston's proposal included a letter signed by approximately 60 business leaders welcoming Amazon to the Houston area. He said he believes Amazon would benefit from having access to the local talent and expertise as well as the industries the city is known for, including energy, health care and even the space program, NASA.

"This was really to drive home the point to Amazon that Houston will welcome them and their disruptive thinking into our industries to make them more competitive and advance them," Harvey said. "Houston is the ideal city for that to occur. We've always tried to innovate in our core industries; we just need to marry that type of innovation with this new digital form."

"THE ENTIRE HOUSTON REGION WILL BENEFIT FROM A PROJECT THIS SIZE."

-GIL STALEY, CEO OF THE WOODLANDS AREA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Harvey said elected officials in the area are in favor of this type of economic growth in the city.

Amazon officials said the process of evaluating the more than 230 proposals they have received is expected to last through the spring of 2018.

Since the deadline to submit proposals was Oct. 19, Amazon has not provided any updates on what will happen next aside from that a decision will be made sometime in 2018.

Harvey said realistically there will be a point where Amazon narrows down its more than 230 proposals to a group of finalists, but there is no telling if or when that could happen.

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Cathedral Lakes to bring 150 acres of Mediterranean-style development east of I-45

BY HANNAH ZEDAKER

Construction on Cathedral Lakes, a 150-acre mixed-use development located at the northeast corner of I-45 and Spring Creek, is underway and slated for completion by 2022, Grace Woodlands Church officials said.

Grace Woodlands owns the majority of the developable land and is selling portions of the land to individual developers. Upon completion, the development will include single- and multifamily housing options, commercial development—including retail and restaurants—and a lake with waterways, all surrounding the church, officials said.

Revenue from land sales will also help pay for the church's planned renovations, which includes expanding the church auditorium to more than 4,000 seats and constructing a building which will resemble a cathedral, that will serve as both a church facility and a community landmark, Senior Pastor Steve Riggle said.

Grace Woodlands was constructed on the property in 2007, while construction on Cathedral Lakes began in 2012. The church has since sold approximately 25 percent of the land to tenants, including Northside Lexus, which will open in December 2018, Hotel Indigo, slated to open

in Spring 2019, and a medical resort, that is slated for completion in April 2018. Several others tenants are in contract negotiations, officials said.

The church had initially planned to sell the land for industrial purposes; however, after ExxonMobil and Springwoods Village opened nearby on the west side of I-45 in Spring, the development plans were re-evaluated, Riggle said.

Roughly 35-40 percent of the development will be reserved for residential use, two-thirds of which will be waterfront property. Riggle said residential options and commercial tenants will all be high-end.

Cathedral Lakes has not yet pursued any home developers, however plans to do so in the near future, Riggle said.

"We have certain criteria. So we have prohibited uses here, and we control all of the architecture—similar to The Woodlands but obviously on a much smaller scale," Riggle said.

The remaining third of the waterfront property will likely be reserved for restaurant use, similar to the design of Hughes Landing, Riggle said.

"We've been pretty picky [when selling]," he said. "We could have sold all of the land 10 times by now but we didn't because 15-20 years from now, we want the development to

still be high-end."

The development will also feature ample angled street parking and walking trails throughout. The main road through the development has already been constructed, which connects the I-45 frontage road to Rayford Road.

Although the development is located adjacent to Spring Creek, Riggle said he is not concerned about future flooding as the development will be built higher than Spring Creek's crest level.

"The only flooding we experienced [from Hurricane Harvey] was on parts of the site that hadn't been done yet because we will have a few months of fill work to do, so they haven't been built up to our standards," Riggle said.

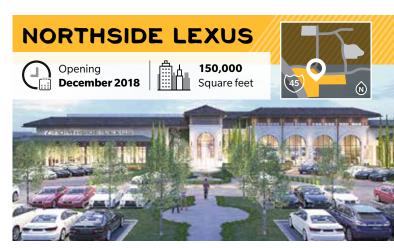
Riggle said that with most of the site's groundwork set for completion in the next six to eight months, he hopes the development will be substantially completed within the next five years.

"The advantage here is that you can be on I-45 or the Grand Parkway in 90 seconds, and you're just minutes from Exxon, Springwoods Village [and] The Woodlands," he said. "We want this to be a destination to shop and eat. Maybe we'll end up with something like Hughes Landing, only bigger."



A medical resort is slated to open in Cathedral Lakes next spring. Details about the tenant were not available as of press time.

SOURCE: GRACE WOOD! ANDS/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



Northside Lexus will feature a service and sales building, a collision center and a car wash.



This full-service hotel will feature four floors, 104 guest rooms and an on-site restaurant.







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Voters approve \$275M Tomball ISD bond referendum on Nov. 7

TOMBALL ISD Tomball ISD brought its \$275 million bond referendum before voters Nov. 7 to address anticipated enrollment growth on the south side of the district from 2018 to 2022.

According to voting results in Harris and Montgomery counties including Creekside Park Village in The Woodlands, 74 percent of voters—or 2,658 individuals—within TISD approved the bond referendum.

The bond referendum includes plans for two new schools in southern TISD to relieve Willow Wood Junior High School and Wildwood Elementary School as well as campus renovations, new facilities and additional technology and buses. The bond is not expected to increase the district's property tax rate, according to a statement from the district.

The district is also expected to spend \$15 million on a natatorium for students in the Tomball Memorial High School feeder pattern in the south side of the district and \$51.3 million on a new football stadium.

TISD expects to enroll an additional 4,500 students by 2022, which would yield a total enrollment of more than 19,000 students, according to a statement from the district.

"I'd like to express my appreciation to the voters for their support of our students and this bond referendum," TISD Superintendent Martha Salazar-Zamora said in a statement following the election. "Bond 2017 will enable us to build new facilities to accommodate growth in Tomball ISD. We are thankful for the passage of this bond."

WHAT IS IN THE \$275 MILLION BOND?

- Construction of a \$68.4 million junior high school in southern TISD
- Construction of a \$51.3 million districtwide football stadium
- A \$48.3 million expansion of Tomball Memorial High School
- Construction of a **\$31 million** elementary school in southern TISD
- Development of existing properties, totaling **\$22.7 million**
- A \$15 million natatorium at Tomball Memorial High School
- \$13.6 million for technology
- A \$7.1 million agriculture project barn at Tomball High School
- Land acquisition totaling **\$5 million**
- \$4.4 million for new turf on sport fields
- **\$3 million** for fine arts equipment storage and transportation
- \$2.5 million for new school buses
- A \$1.5 million redesign of the front of Tomball Intermediate School
- **\$1.1 million** in auditorium renovations at Tomball High School

SOURCE: TOMBALL ISD/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Lone Star College System announces plans to develop seventh campus

LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM To unite three existing satellite centers and one future facility, officials with the Lone Star College System announced Nov. 15 plans to create a new campus to cover LSC-Fairbanks Center, LSC-Greenspoint Center, LSC-Victory Center and a future center planned in east Aldine.

"The centers are all going to be combined to under one umbrella, so there will be—once East Aldine is developed—four locations for this campus," LSCS Media Relations Manager Bill Van Rysdam said. "They're combining resources from the centers and putting them under one umbrella."

Within the school system, there are six main campuses that have multiple buildings as well as eight smaller satellite programs, usually with one to two buildings each.

The creation of the campus will connect the centers and their resources to help students in these areas, which are characterized by lower household income and higher levels of poverty, according to LSCS. "While these challenges are found at every campus and center, we've been specifically reviewing our efforts inside Beltway 8," LSCS Chancellor Stephen Head said in a statement. "We envision a new campus that will focus on the kinds of educational and student support innovation that have been proven to be successful at other colleges. This would include smaller, more condensed classes and faculty members serving as mentors and advisers as part of their regular duties, along with more advisers and tutors."

Head said the system also plans to include counseling, child care, a food bank, a furniture bank and legal services within the campus.

The campus creation is subject to approval and accreditation from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, according to a LSCS release. The existing centers have about 5,800 students currently enrolled, with a projected enrollment of 8,200 students for the entire campus by 2021.

CISD begins work on 2018-19 academic calendar

CONROE ISD Students at Conroe ISD could see an early start date for the 2018-19 academic year, as shown by the district's first draft of the calendar presented during the board of trustees meeting Nov. 14. If approved, the 2018-19 calendar will be the second consecutive year of an early start date, as part of CISD's District of Innovation Plan.

While the board received negative feedback prior to the approval of the 2017-18 calendar, board President Melanie Bush said she has heard a lot of positive comments.

"I think last year [the early start] caught a lot of people off guard because they planned their vacations prior to us setting the calendar," Bush said.

The current draft for the 2018-19 calendar is similar to the 2017-18 academic calendar, said Curtis Null, CISD deputy superintendent of schools. The calendar draft includes options of an early start date of Aug. 15, an October holiday, a spring break of March 11-15 or March 18-22, and an end date of May 24 or May 30.

MEETINGS

Conroe ISD

The Conroe ISD board of trustees meets Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. in the district's administration building at 3205 W. David St., Conroe. www.conroeisd.net

Lone Star College System

The Lone Star College System board of trustees is not expected to meet in January. www.lonestar.edu







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Carol Stromatt sworn in as township director

THE WOODLANDS Following her Nov. 7 win in the race for Position 7 on The Woodlands Township board of directors, Carol Stromatt was sworn in to begin her term during the Nov. 29 board meeting.

Stromatt defeated incumbent Laura Fillaut—who was elected in 2016—in the election, winning by a margin of 480 votes in Harris and Montgomery counties, according to results compiled by the township. She has a background in commercial real estate and is a 20-year resident of The Woodlands; Stromatt has previously served on the Indian Springs Village Association board.

Stromatt said she hopes to be an advocate for residents in the area during her tenure on the board.

"I want to thank the supporters and all the volunteers of my campaign who made this possible. It's a privilege to serve on The Woodlands Township board, and I look forward to representing all residents with dignity and



Carol Stromatt

respect. Voters of The Woodlands have sent a strong message that we, the residents, want unity in our community and that we reject divisive politics. It's time to come together and work for this community we all love."

Board directors with the township serve a two-year term. Directors John McMullan and Ann Snyder were also up for re-election this year but ran unopposed. They were sworn in Nov. 29 as well.

Road plans continue in Oak Ridge North

OAK RIDGE NORTH City Council members approved a payment of \$14,874 to Brown And Gay Engineers for a master thoroughfare plan study at the Nov. 20 meeting.

The plan is expected to give the city more control of right of way for future projects, help discover needed thoroughfares and develop a plan for the Robinson Road reconfiguration at I-45.

"In order to dedicate future rights of way, you need a thoroughfare plan," City Manager Vicky Rudy said. "If not, you are at mercy of developers. This is critical."

Rudy said the plan would be funded by the city's Economic Development Corporation.

A completion date for the study has not yet been announced.

RESEARCH

FOREST DR.

QUOTE OF NOTE

"I'LL BE IN THE COMMUNITY BUT
NO LONGER WITH THE VILLAGE
ASSOCIATION, WHICH I WILL MISS. IT'S
BEEN MY HONOR AND PLEASURE."

— STEVE LEAKY, ALDEN BRIDGE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ON HIS RETIREMENT

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

growth in the county.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY On Nov. 28, Montgomery County commissioners agreed to create a comprehensive strategic plan to manage population

Montgomery County Judge Craig Doyal said the plan could look at items, such as financial management policies and capital improvement projects, as well as needs for law enforcement and mobility improvements.

HARRIS COUNTY During a State of the County speech Nov. 28, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett announced officials are taking preliminary steps toward calling for a bond referendum in 2018. Emmett and county commissioners favor a referendum that exceeds \$1 billion for regional flood mitigation projects after three 500-year floods occurred in two years, Emmett said.

Shenandoah to host two Stagg Bowls

SHENANDOAH Shenandoah City Council unanimously approved a contract to host the 2019 NCAA Division III football championship, known as the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, during its regular meeting Nov. 8.

The announcement comes after a contract approval to host the 2018 game. This will be the first time in 25 years the Stagg Bowl will be hosted by a city other than Salem, Virginia, according to city officials. Both games will take place in December.

For both events, the

city will assume financial responsibility for the Woodforest Stadium buyout, artificial turf field painting and cleaning, the Gagliardi Banquet, the Championship Banquet, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes breakfast, internet service, tailgating, hospitality, security, ticketing, promotional items and advertising, with a total financial liability capped at \$170,000 each year, according to the city.

The NCAA will be financially responsible for transportation and

SHENANDOAH STAGG BOWLS

When:

- December 2018
- December 2019

Where:

Woodforest Bank Stadium
19115 David Memorial Drive, Shenandoah

SOURCE: CITY OF SHENANDOAH/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

per diem reimbursement for participating teams; transportation, lodging and game fees for all officials; transportation, lodging and per diem for the NCAA sport committee; game balls; awards; hydration products and credentials. Each event is expected to have an economic boost of \$221,750 on the city, while filling approximately 700 hotel rooms, totaling an estimated \$7,301 in hotel occupancy tax for Shenandoah, according to city officials.

MEETINGS

The Woodlands Township will hold a special meeting Jan. 4 at 4 p.m. at 2801 Technology Forest Blvd., The Woodlands. www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov

Oak Ridge North City Council meets Jan. 8 and 22 at 7 p.m. at 27424 Robinson Road, Oak Ridge North. www.oakridgenorth.com

Shenandoah City Council, meets Dec.13 at 7 p.m. at 29955 I-45 N., Shenandoah. www.shenandoahtx.us



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Mrs. Claus' Gingerbread House Workshop Wed. Dec. 13th and Sat. Dec. 16th 10am-2pm

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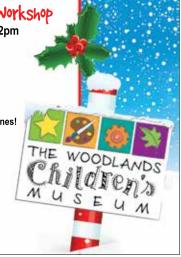
Sun. Dec. 31st 10am-Noon and 1-3pm
The New Year's Eve party designed for the little ones!
Pre-purchase of admission is advised.

Drop and Shop Workshop

Thurs. Dec. 21 and Fri. Dec. 22 9am-1pm Space is limited, Pre-registration is advised.

Winfer FUNCaTion Workshops

Wed. Jan. 3 and Thurs. Jan. 4 9am-Noon Post holiday hands-on winter themed activities.









1: Owners Jackie (right) and Christine Battle opened Philanthropy in Market Street in March. **2:** The boutique features a prayer wall where customers can submit prayer requests.

3: Philanthropy offers a range of women's shoes, along with clothing and jewelry.



GIVING BACK

Philanthropy sells t-shirts that support a variety of nonprofit groups, including:

- Interfaith of The Woodlands
- Canopy—A Cancer Survivorship Center
- The Will Herndon Research Fund
- Compassion United

Philanthropy

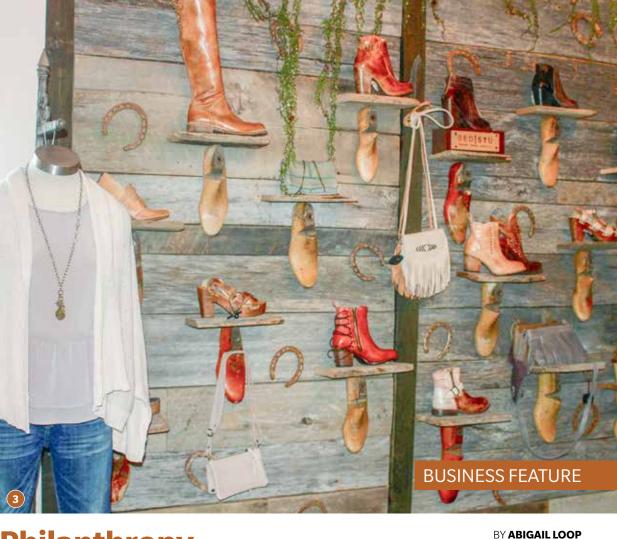
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Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.





Philanthropy

Market Street boutique owners give back to local community

ormer NFL running back Jackie Battle and his wife, Christine, opened Philanthropy in March to offer women's clothing as well as an outlet for charitable giving in The Woodlands.

After Battle from playing football three years ago, the couple decided to open the first franchise of Philanthropy in The Woodlands.

"I'm a retired NFL player, and my last two years I was with the Titans in Tennessee," he said. "My wife discovered the flagship store of Philanthropy there. We knew we wanted to open up our own business and incorporate our faith in it. My wife suggested Philanthropy, and I fell in love with the concept of combining business and ministry."

Although the boutique offers a variety of women's clothing, including dresses, tops, pants and shoes as well as accessories, jewelry and home decor, Battle said what makes the store unique is items that give back to the community, like bags that can be bought for individuals who are homeless.

Philanthropy sells \$20 black bags that say "Not Forgotten," which are for homeless people and filled with supplies and nonperishable goods. The bags also feature a letter saying the person who is receiving the bag is valued and loved, Battle said.

Besides offering bags for the homeless, Philanthropy also offers t-shirts for charities.

"We have all these T-shirts that represent charities that we work with, and 100 percent of the proceeds goes back to those charities," he said. "They are all here locally in Montgomery County.

We have T-shirts [to support] a homeless initiative, a natural disaster initiative, human trafficking and adoption."

During Hurricane Harvey in late August, Philanthropy raised \$20,000 in partnership with Interfaith of The Woodlands in an online campaign to help homeowners affected by the flooding get access to shelter, food and clothing.

Battle said the shop's prayer wall, located in the middle of the boutique, is popular with customers.

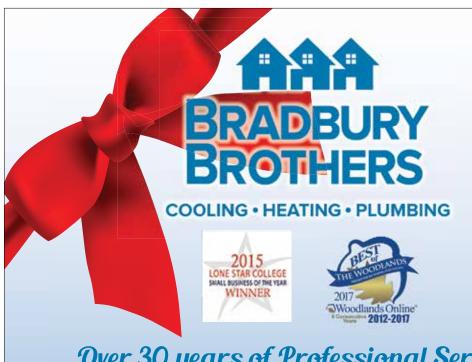
"We encourage anyone who needs prayer to write it out and put in the wall," Jackie said. "Me and my wife pray every morning over the wall. We encourage people to take the ones they want to pray for."

Battle said he believes the store is also a great place to find gifts for family and friends as the Market Street area gears up for the holidays, with items such as candles, coffee mugs and kitchenware available at the store.

"This is our first year here, so it'll be our first Christmas," he said. "We have something for everyone here. We have people here are 14 years old who come in, and we have people in their 80s who come in. We have all age ranges in here."

With the combination of retail and charity, Battle said Philanthropy has been successful so far in The Woodlands community.

"The community here has been phenomenal," he said. "One thing you learn pretty quickly about The Woodlands is that it is a community formed around philanthropic things. People were drawn to us."





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Snuggles & Hugs Active Dog Camp

Couple offers upscale pet boarding, day care

fter offering pet care services out of their home for 10 years, Darrel and Nancy Schuster's dream of owning their own dog boarding and day care facility came to fruition with the opening of Snuggles & Hugs Active Dog Camp in December 2016.

Located in Oak Ridge North, Snuggles & Hugs offers luxury boarding and upscale day care for dogs in a homelike setting.

"When I would go on vacation, I would have my mom or my sister who live three hours away to come take care of my dogs because I didn't trust anybody else to take care of my dogs the way that I would want them to be cared for," Nancy said. "So I started pet sitting because I wanted to be able to do this for other people so that they can have peace of mind when they go away."

The facility boasts four playrooms, a lounge and a 2,000-square-foot grassy outdoor area. Playgroups are organized by dog size, play style, activity preferences and energy level, with different days of the week for small and large dog camp days.

With a staff-to-dog ratio of 1-to-6, Darrel said the facility's capacity is 15 dogs, which allows the Schusters to provide individualized care.

"I would say the biggest thing that makes us unique is the one-on-one attention," Darrel said. "When your dog is here, it's as if they're still at home—that's the kind of quality service people get when they bring their dogs here. Big box places aren't equipped to do that because they have too many dogs and not enough staff."

The cageless facility has eight luxury boarding suites, each with a TV, as well as soft music and Kuranda premium

dog bedding. Boarders can choose from four different packages with prices ranging from \$67-\$95 per day.

Dog camp costs \$45 per day and is also available in 10-day, 15-day and 20-day packages, each at discounted daily rates. Camp activities include group play and one-on-one games such as tug of war, hide-and-seek and fetch.

To become a member at Snuggles & Hugs, for boarding or day care, all dogs must complete an interview and evaluation process, be up-to-date on vaccinations, be spayed or neutered if they are at least six months old, show no aggression and be socially appropriate with other dogs, Darrel said.

"Our primary goal is safety," he said. "During the evaluation process, we're looking for their communication skills with a pack of other dogs, their temperament and their interaction with us. We want to make sure that every dog here is happy and wants to be here."

To stay acclimated to the facility, members must board their dogs at Snuggles & Hugs at least once a month or attend camp twice a month.

Additionally, the Schusters also offer in-home pet sitting, dog walking, pet taxi services, obedience lessons and a puppy program.

The Schusters said, in the future, if they decide to expand their business they would build a second facility modeled after the first with the same 15-dog capacity, to ensure quality service.

"This has been my dream since I started pet sitting 11 years ago, and I'm just so happy that it's real now," Nancy said. "Getting to work with animals all the time and just love on them, while giving them direction—it's just a beautiful feeling."

Snuggles & Hugs Active Dog Camp

1: Darrel and Nancy Schuster opened Snuggles & Hugs Active Dog Camp in December 2016. 2: Playgroups are organized by dog size, play style and energy level 3: The facility has eight suites, each with TV, music and bedding.

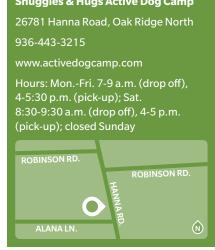




HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Snuggles & Hugs Active Dog Camp offers several options for dog boarding for different price points.

- Luxury suites (\$67) includes day camp, Kuranda premium dog bedding, television, comforting music, daily suite keeping and filtered water.
- The VIP package (\$87) includes a private one-on-one activity-nose work, agility or obedience refresher—and a choice of yogurt bone or peanut butter
- The elite package (\$92) includes a one-on-one activity, a choice of brush or massage, and a bedtime tuck-in.
- · The lap of luxury package (\$95) includes a one-on-one activity, a choice of brush or massage, a bedtime story/ tuck-in and a choice of yogurt bone or peanut butter bone.

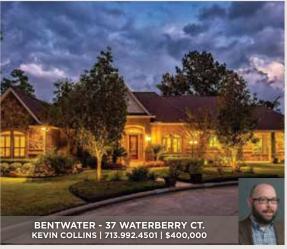






















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Crane's Dress Boutique

Oak Ridge North shop caters to social season

or women looking to prepare for the busy social calendar in The Woodlands area, there is a new option to help find a unique dress.

Owners Debbie and Jimmy Crane opened Crane's Dress Boutique in late October in Oak Ridge North. After working for several years as a dress buyer and merchandiser for department stores, Debbie Crane said she wanted a shop to call her own that caters specifically to the north Houston area.

"I've always been in this industry, but working in the corporate world, you kind of lose touch with reality," Crane said. "With all the mergers, buyers buy for hundreds, if not thousands of stores. There's no personal touch with the community."

Crane and her husband have lived in the area since 1991, raising three daughters. She said it was often a struggle to find stores nearby that carried formal dresses for each daughter's social events during the school year.

"The Woodlands has all the amenities that anybody could ever want—fine dining, Tiffany's, so many jewelers, so many sportswear boutiques—but if you want a dress, there's nowhere," Crane said. "Hopefully, we're really filling a void in that area."

The 3,200-square-foot store has been remodeled from floor to ceiling to feature a large showroom and dressing area. It specializes in formal and semiformal dresses for prom, homecoming, bridal showers, cocktail parties, holidays and date nights as well as dresses for mothers of brides and grooms.

Crane said while the store has a wide selection of sizes and brands, such as Jovani, Teri Jon, Alberto Makali and Blush, the shop can also place special orders for sizes with the store's vendors.

The average dress in the shop ranges in cost between \$300 and \$800; however, Crane said there are a number of lower-priced items for less formal

occasions. The shop also carries accessories to complete the outfit, such as shoes, handbags and jewelry.

BY WENDY CAWTHON

To ensure no two women show up in the same dress at the same event, Crane said staffers work to track where dresses will be worn after they are bought.

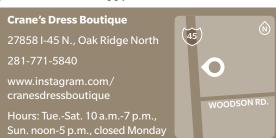
"There's a saying I love: 'A woman is never more beautiful than when she's wearing a dress,'" Crane said. "But to walk into that party and see your dress [on someone else]—all of a sudden, you're not beaming anymore."

The business has already started receiving dresses for prom season, and Crane said she encourages students and their parents to start looking now if they want to find a unique dress.

"People have already started coming in and looking for the best selection," she said. "I tell people, 'Shop early and often,' because we have new dresses coming in weekly, if not daily."

Crane said she looks forward to working with customers throughout the year and hopes to become a destination for women looking for the perfect dress.

"When you find someone that understands the dress business, they're pretty much there for life. They become what's called a dress maven—that's me," Crane said. "This has been a lifelong dream and is something that I see myself doing for 10 years. I love what I do, and pleasing the customer just makes me so happy."







1: Crane's Dress Boutique carries a variety of women's dresses for social occasions, including prom and other formal events. 2: The store offers special ordering for multiple sizes. 3: A selection of jewelry and accessories is also available. 4: Owner Debbie Crane opened the shop in October in Oak Ridge North.

MARK THE CALENDAR

There are a number of social events in The Woodlands area coming up in the next few months.

- The Woodlands College Park High School prom: April 20
- The Woodlands High School prom: April 27
- Oak Ridge High School prom: May 5

Event dates are subject to change



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BY KELLY SCHAFLER

THREE DISHES TO TRY

1 Goat Fry Biryani (\$15.99)

Goat meat is pan-fried with a special sauce and served on biryani rice with purple onion, cilantro and a lime wedge.

2 Chicken Tikka Masala (\$11.99)

A meat-based curry dish features chicken baked in a clay oven, spicy sauce, bell peppers and onions.

3 Naan (\$2.59-\$3.69)

A traditional white bread is baked in a clay oven—Naan can be topped with butter, garlic or cilantro.

Hyderabad House co-owner Chandra Mouli helped to open the eatery in late 2014.

Hyderabad House

The Woodlands eatery offers authentic Indian food

In November 2014, three south Indian transplants blended the distinct flavors of their cultures to open Nawabi Hyderabad House, an Indian restaurant in The Woodlands. Since its opening, The Woodlands franchise location has attracted patrons from across the Houston area with its particular medley of authentic Indian cuisine.

Hyderabad House was strategically located on Sawdust Road to provide the growing Indian population in The Woodlands with traditional cuisine, Hyderabad House co-owner Lokesh said. Three years later, Lokesh said he and his fellow co-owners, Chandra Mouli and Sree Bharat, were pleasantly surprised their authentic food transcended far beyond the Indian community.

"When we started, we thought we would target the Indian community here with authentic food, but we were surprised after we started our business to see Americans come in and ask for the spicy food," Bharat said. "Due to globalization and a lot of people traveling, people are very familiar with Indian food and they know exactly what they are ordering."

Hyderabad House's diverse menu was inspired by Mouli, Bharat and Lokesh's Indian cultures. Although they all grew up in India, the cuisine and dialect of their respective home cities are all different, as Bharat grew up in Hyderabad, Lokesh in Bangalore and Mouli in Chennai.

After meeting while playing on an intramural cricket team in The Woodlands seven years ago, Bharat said the co-owners' shared passion for cooking and eating Indian food quickly inspiring the friends to go into business.

Hyderabad House's menu is unique from the other franchised locations, Bharat said, using a blend of spices and traditional cooking techniques—like cooking specific meats in a clay oven—to create the signature flavor.

The menu features traditional south Indian dishes, including vegetarian and meat-based curries, tandoori dishes, a variety of dosas—or savory crepes made with various fillings—and the popular Hyderabadi dish, biryani, which is a mixed-rice dish topped with marinated meat or vegetables.

In the future, the three friends hope to open a Hyderabad House food truck as well as apply for an alcohol license to transform the eatery into a fine-dining experience, Lokesh said. Until Hyderabad House acquires a beer and wine license, the restaurant allows patrons to bring their own.

Bharat said the restaurant focuses on using fresh ingredients and

offering food prepared from scratch daily to remain authentic.

"Almost anyone can run a restaurant, but you have to put a lot of effort into it to keep up the good service and quality," Bharat said. "You have to sleep well every night and be satisfied that you're doing a good job."

The co-owners also strive to be part of the community, Mouli said. The restaurant frequently partners with the Hindu Temple of The Woodlands by catering food during public events, and the restaurant gave back to the community during Hurricane Harvey by delivering food to first responders and families in shelters, Mouli said.

"If I didn't have this business, if I hadn't met these people, we wouldn't have had the opportunity to provide those services to the community," Mouli said.

Bharat said that giving charity is a cornerstone of Indian culture.

"[In India] you donate money, you donate a fee for your education, you donate clothes, but food charity is something that people can say, 'I've had enough,'" Bharat said. "You can donate as much money as you want and people will continue to take it, but food is the only charity you can do that can satisfy another person completely."



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United Way of Greater Houston

FOOD

Frosted sugar cookies

Crave Cupcakes

hile Crave Cupcakes in The Woodlands is known for its cupcakes, it also offers a variety of baked goods for the holidays.

Supervisor Maggie Richard said the bakery is offering frosted sugar cookies and gingerbread cookies for the upcoming holidays.

Everything is made on-site and baked daily in small batches, Richard said. The cookies are sold for \$3.75 each and are also available in variety boxes with other seasonal treats, such as gingerbread loaf and peppermint bark.

BY ABIGAIL LOOP

"During the holidays, cookies are very popular," Richard said. "We have holiday gift box sets that sell very quickly."

Besides holiday cookies, customers can also buy oatmeal raisin cookies, chocolate chip cookies and gluten free vegan cookies.

Crave also offers croissants, lemon bars, scones, pound cake and brownies as well as fresh-brewed coffee.



Ginger-Lemon Cookie

BY **HANNAH ZEDAKER**

Sweet Revenge Bake Shoppe

he Ginger-Lemon Cookie at Sweet Revenge Bake Shoppe is the bakery's newest cookie creation available for the holiday season.

The unique cookie sandwich costs \$2.50 and is made with two soft ginger snap cookies separated with a layer of lemon cream filling. It will be available until January.

"It sounds exotic, but it's very good," manager Carolina Jara said. "Our treat baker, Danielle, came up with the idea, and we did some taste tests with it and

decided to put it out. We've had a very good response from our customers, so we're very excited about it."

Megan Teismann took ownership of Sweet Revenge Bake Shoppe in 2014. In addition to cookies, the bakery also offers cakes, pies, cupcakes, cake balls and dessert bars. The shop plans to add homemade cinnamon rolls to its menu in the near future.

The shop also offers custom orders, seasonal decorated sugar cookies and personalized cakes.



The Sparkler

Gringo's Mexican Kitchen

ringo's Mexican Kitchen opened in The Woodlands in late August and offers a wide variety of margaritas on its menu.

One of its most popular margaritas is The Sparkler. Customers can choose a frozen margarita flavor, such as strawberry, lime or sangria, and a Korbel Brut champagne split bottle is added to the \$15 beverage in a special holster.

"We have a wide range of flavors and tequila for our margaritas," General Manager Patrick Blanton said. "There is something for everyone to [drink] here, and we have a wide variety of choices."

Besides margaritas, Gringo's offers an expansive drink menu that includes handcrafted cocktails, imported and domestic beers, and wine options.

The restaurant also carries 10 different brands of tequila at the bar, Blanton said. The eatery has happy hour specials from 2-6 p.m. Monday through Friday, which features \$5 margaritas and house wines.



BY HANNAH ZEDAKER

BY ABIGAIL LOOP

Damn Goode Margarita

Goode Company Kitchen & Cantina

he Damn Goode Margarita at Goode Company Kitchen & Cantina in Shenandoah is by far the eatery's most popular cocktail, CEO Levi Goode said.

Available frozen or on the rocks and in three sizes ranging from \$9-\$24, the cantina's signature drink is made with Arette Blanco Tequila, fresh-squeezed limes, housemade orange liqueur and a dash of saltwater.

"Our goal is to strike a perfect balance between the acidity and the sourness of the fresh citrus with a little bit of sweetness and the earthiness of the tequila," Goode said.

The cocktail is then shaken or blended depending on preference, and it is then garnished with a rim of coarse ground sea salt and a fresh lime wedge.

Goode said some of the restaurant's other popular margarita flavors include the roasted poblano margarita and the strawberry habanero margarita. The cantina also boasts a variety of palomas, sangrias, wine and beer as well as tequila and mezcal flights.



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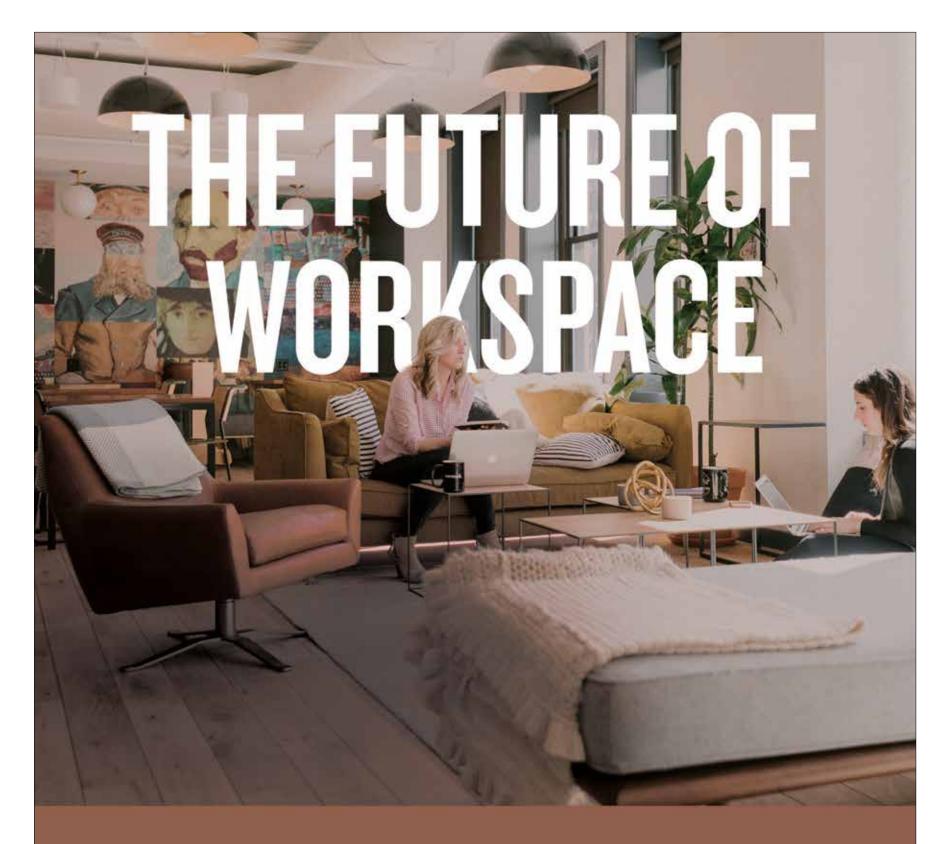


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RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Community updates

COMPILED BY WENDY CAWTHON

A number of community events took place in The Woodlands area during the month of November.

1 Executives with The Howard Hughes Corporation announced in late November the company has raised more than \$114,000 for the Montgomery County Light the Night Walk for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

2 Zookeeper and TV star Jack Hanna (center) performed Nov. 11-12 at the 22nd annual Children's Festival at The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion.

3 Carol Stromatt (left) was sworn in as a director for The Woodlands Township during the Nov. 29 board of directors meeting.

4 Runners participated in the annual Thanksgiving event Run Thru the Woods on Nov. 23. The 1-, 3- and 5-mile race is held each year by the YMCA of Greater Houston.

5 The city of Oak Ridge North held a ceremony for its annual Christmas tree lighting Nov. 26. The event featured a performance from the Silver Bells choir from the Oak Ridge Baptist Church.













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Let Him Handle It

Organization lightens financial burden for cancer patients

n 2015, The Woodlands resident Donna Smith underwent an annual mammogram and upon completing her appointment, she told the medical staff she would see them the following year. However, shortly after, on her 33rd wedding anniversary, Smith was told she had breast cancer.

"Needless to say, it broke our hearts," Smith said. "But the hardest part for me was telling my son, Derrick—that was the first time I shed a tear. He seemed to be holding up well, but I later found out that when he got home, my son was feeling so much anxiety, he decided to get on his knees and pray. He decided to let [God] handle it."

Two years later, after several biopsies, oncology visits and surgeries as well as 22 rounds of radiation, Smith said she is now cancer-free. Inspired by her son's faith, the two decided to find a way to use their family's experience to give back to the community.

"What we didn't realize was how big of a medical expense it was going to be," Smith said. "I have wonderful insurance, but what a lot of people don't know is that the doctors and lab workers behind the scenes aren't necessarily in-network. So while I was trying to heal, the anxiety from all these bills piling up was taking its toll—we ended up spending tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket."

To lighten this burden on other

cancer patients, Smith and her son founded Let Him Handle It in mid-2017. The organization raises funds to contribute toward medical bills for those in need.

"God put us in a position to be able to pay those medical bills, but what about the families that aren't able to?" Smith said. "What about the families who are making a choice to pay for their medication instead of a house payment or to get their mammogram instead of paying their car note? I know too many people who have had to go bankrupt trying to pay their medical bills."

Still relatively new, Let Him Handle It raises money through individual donations and corporate sponsorships, which can be one-time or monthly donations of any amount, Smith said. The nonprofit also sells T-shirts, frames and wall plaques online and every Saturday at The Woodlands Farmer's Market at Grogan's Mill.

Smith said she is working on new items to add to the organization's repertoire, including ornaments for the holiday season.

With a background in health care, Smith said she identifies individuals and families in Montgomery and North Harris counties who are eligible for assistance by confirming the patient's cancer diagnoses and assessing their financial needs.

"I know there's a lot of emphasis

put on breast cancer, and I'm so blessed that there is, but I don't want to say 'no' to anyone just because they have a different type of cancer," Smith said. "So we're open to all types of cancer. I don't discriminate at all, because I've been on the caregiver side and I've seen all shapes and sizes of cancer—cancer is a scary word."

BY HANNAH ZEDAKER

Smith said the organization has already identified two patients in the community to whom she hopes the organization can contribute funds in December.

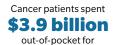
Looking to 2018, Smith said she hopes the organization will have at least five major corporate sponsors and will add 10 new sponsors each month in 2018. She is also already planning fundraising events for the nonprofit next year, including a Top-Golf event in Spring, which will take place next summer.

In addition to increasing the contributions Let Him Handle is able to make to each patient, Smith said she would also be open to expanding the organization's coverage area beyond Montgomery and North Harris counties.

"It's all about being there for those who need it the most, and that's what I'm doing," Smith said. "Some people get called to preach—I feel that this is my calling. God was able to put me in a situation where I could pay for my medical bills, [so] I need to pay it forward."

COST OF CANCER

The following figures are based on data collected nationwide from 2014-17 by the American Cancer Society.



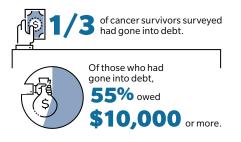
treatments.

\$87.8 billion was spent in the U.S. on Half of Americans reported being unable to pay a

was spent in the U.S. on emergency cancer-related health care. medical bill.

More than **15 million**Americans living today have

mericans living today have a cancer history.



SOURCES: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, CANCER ACTION NETWORK/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER





BY LESLEE BASSMAN AND WENDY CAWTHON

Visitors to The Woodlands and Shenandoah who use local lodging options will encounter hotel bills that include hotel occupancy tax charge based on local and state tax rates.

The Woodlands and Shenandoah charge 9 and 7 percent, respectively. While Oak Ridge North does not have any existing hotels, should any be built, the city would collect a 7 percent tax.

The state's 6 percent hotel tax rate funds projects intended to draw more visitors to Texas, while with local entities, such as The Woodlands and Shenandoah, revenue is used to fund operations for convention and visitor's bureaus to promote tourism.

To assist Hurricane Harvey victims with the cost of temporary shelter, Gov. Greg Abbott waived hotel taxes across the state in late August, September and October. As hotel revenue is collected each quarter, the economic effect of the tax waiver cannot be calculated until later this year.

Local hotels

Based on the number of hotels that have recently opened in the area, the industry is growing to accommodate the region's tourists.

O HOTEL IS ALREADY OPEN

O HOTEL IS YET TO OPEN





Home2 Suites By Hilton Rooms: 116

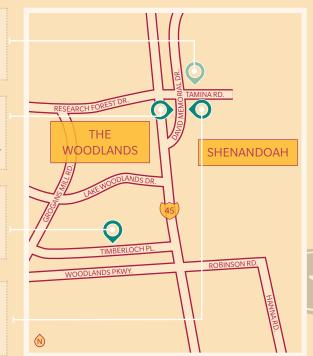
Opened: November 2017

The Westin Rooms: 302

Opened: February 2017

Holiday Inn & Suites Rooms: 153

Opened: May 2016



The Texas hotel tax two-step

Municipalities must pass two tests before using hotel occupancy tax revenue for a project. The hotel tax revenue is used to fund projects that promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry in the city as well as the state. Any use of the hotel tax money requires "yes" responses to these questions:



1

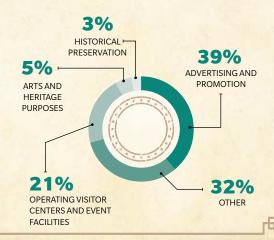
Does the project directly promote tourism and the convention/hotel industry? This means the proceeds should be spent on projects that allow visitors to stay overnight and generate more hotel tax funds.

Does the project fall into one of the following categories?

- Create a convention or visitor center
- Foster conventions
- Promote programs to bring in tourists
- Promote the arts
- Preserve history
- Promote historic sites
- Create signage for sights and attractions
- Support transportation systems that cater to tourists
- Promote sporting events, facilities and coliseums (in some cases)

How hotel tax is allocated across the state

In 2016 the Texas Comptroller's Office conducted a survey of 1,314 cities and 254 counties in Texas, with 358 cities and 57 counties responding, or 27.2 percent and 22.4 percent, respectively.



Examining local hotel occupancy tax funds

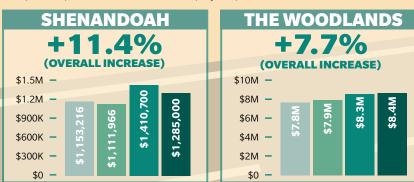
Local hotel revenue has fluctuated over the past few years, with an increase overall for Shenandoah and The Woodlands. However, during budget workshops earlier this year, the entities projected either a loss or modest increase in expected revenue.

FY 2014-15 hotel tax balance

FY 2015-16 hotel tax balance

FY 2016-17 hotel tax balance

FY 2017-18 hotel tax balance (PROJECTED)



SOURCES: THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP; CITY OF SHENANDOAH; TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS; TEXAS HOTEL PERFORMANCE RESEARCH REPORT PREPARED FOR THE TEXAS TOURISM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, MARCH 2017; TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, "THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TRAVEL ON TEXAS" PREPARED FOR THE TEXAS TOURISM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, JULY 2016/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Who pays and who does not pay hotel occupancy taxes for a Texas hotel room?

PAYING

 Visitors who book rooms costing at least \$15 nightly must pay a 6 percent state hotel tax.

 Visitors who book rooms costing at least \$2 nightly may pay a local hotel tax of up to 7 percent nightly, or up to 9 percent nightly in larger cities.

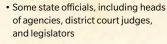
 Visitors may pay an additional 2 percent venue tax.

 Visitors may not be charged more than the state-mandated maximum total hotel tax of 17 percent.



NOT PAYING

 Employees of state agencies, boards and commissions on official business (exempt from state tax only)



Employees of federal government agencies



 Guests who use a hotel room for at least 30 consecutive days

 Religious, educational and charitable organizations on official business (exempt from state tax only)







THEATRICAL TRAINING

Class Act Productions offers a school of musical theater that includes dance, voice and acting classes for students ages 6 to 18 on Budde Road.



Voice

Ages 11-18



Acting

Ages 11-18
Intro to acting: ages 6-10



Musical theatre dance

Ages 11-18



Tap dance Ages 11-18



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Class Act Productions

Community theater offers classes, shows for students

eith Brumfield founded Class Act Productions 21 years ago in The Woodlands when he realized children in the area did not have a source for local theater.

"I was a teacher at Knox Junior High [School], and I had just retired from teaching," Brumfield said. "I had been involved with community theater, and I had directed shows at the Crighton Theatre. I realized students went elsewhere to do theater and I said, 'We need to have a theater here."

Since 1996, Class Act Productions has put on a variety of shows, including "The Wizard of Oz" and "Les Miserables." Brumfield said while the theater company mostly focuses on youth actors, adults are often cast in

productions as well. Children age 8 and older are encouraged to audition for shows throughout the year.

For students who are cast in shows, there is a fee to participate that is used to help cover costs for professional lighting, sound effects and an orchestra, Brumfield said.

"When I first set [the company] up, I wanted the students to be as close to a professional production as possible," he said. "Even if they don't pursue acting as a career, at least they will remember the experience they had here."

In addition to putting on four shows a year, Brumfield said classes for school-age students are available at the theater's location near I-45. Students can enroll in acting, voice

and dance classes as part of Class Act Production's school of musical theatre. The acting and voice classes are 12-week sessions while dance classes are held all year long.

BY ABIGAIL LOOP

While classes are held at the Budde Road location, shows presented by Class Act Productions are put on at the Nancy Bock Center for Performing Arts on South Panther Creek Drive.

"We don't own our own theater, but we're very fortunate to have our own space to practice," Brumfield said. "We look forward to the day when The Woodlands has a theater."

For the holiday season, Class Act Productions is set to perform "A Christmas Carol, The Musical," which runs Dec. 15, 16 and 17. Shows scheduled for 2018 so far include "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

Brumfield said he believes Class Act Productions remains a unique performance outlet for children in the community, which can be seen in the shows they produce.

"There are some great groups here, and we're glad to be a part of The Woodlands," he said. "I feel like our company raises the bar as far as the quality of the production. Our costumes, sets and budget of our shows display how much we raise the bar for the overall level of production."



Joseph Kraham

Local artist specializes in pointillism with Legos

A fter The Woodlands resident Joseph Kraham and his wife Christy experienced the death of their Great Dane in 2014, he decided to memorialize their pet—with Legos.

"It was just supposed to be that one piece, and then I'd be done," Kraham said. "But here I am, three years and 40 pieces later."

As an engineer for ExxonMobil by trade and a father of three, Kraham said he found a unique creative outlet for someone with no background in art.

Kraham said he specializes in pointillism—an art style in which small, distinct dots of color form an image. Although the style is practiced by artists around the world, Kraham said he believes he is the first the use hand-painted Lego pieces to craft his artwork—a process he is in the process of getting patented.

"I have no art talent outside of this specific style," Kraham said. "I can't draw, paint or shade, but I can look at something and figure out how to build it out of Legos."

The process begins with an image, which Kraham said has to be the right balance of contrast and resolution in order to work with. Then, through a computer program, he creates a sample reference that tells him approximately how many of what color Lego pieces he needs to create a piece.

"Lego officially only makes about 20 available colors with another 20 rare colors, so I hand paint about 300 different colors," he said. "On average, my pieces are about 15-20 square feet each, and one square foot is made up of 1,440 Lego pieces ... that's a lot of Legos."

Over the last three years, Kraham

said he has spent approximately 2,300 hours on his artwork and has completed 40 projects. Some pieces Kraham has commissioned at an individual's or a company's request, like Cartoon Network, and others are for charity. His subjects range from superheroes and cartoon characters to classic paintings like Van Gogh's "Starry Night."

Kraham said one of his most notable pieces was a 20,000-tile portrait of the Houston Texans player, JJ Watt, which was signed by Watt and donated to the JJ Watt Foundation for charity in May.

Kraham's latest project is a 44,000tile portrait of the Houston Astros second baseman, Jose Altuve, which Kraham said he hopes will one day be showcased in Minute Maid Park.

"The piece I'm working on now is my most ambitious one," Kraham said. "I started working on it before the Astros even made it to the World Series, and my biggest dream right now would be to get it in the stadium."

After he completes his portrait of Altuve, Kraham said he plans to dedicate more time to classic art. The next project he is considering is Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi," a portrait of Jesus Christ commissioned in 1490.

"Every project I've done this year has been to kind of one-up myself each time," Kraham said. "I think people like this style because it's Legos—they can relate to it. It just goes to show you that you don't have to have a background in art to be able to reach people."

Joseph Kraham

www.onebrickatatimelego.com Instagram: @onebrickatatimelego





1: Local artist Joseph Kraham works with Legos to create art pieces. 2: His works include popular culture icons as well as classic works. 3: Kraham's artistic style uses pointillism to create a large picture with small dots of color.

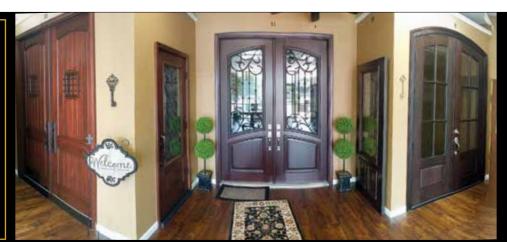


WHERE TO SEE HIS ARTWORK:

- South Woodlands Art Gallery 27562 Robinson Road, Oak Ridge North 832-791-1730
- Space Cadets Collection Collection 27326 Robinson Road, Ste. 117, Oak Ridge North 281-298-1111

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Sawdust Road

Spring-area band to build on local success

awdust Road, a five-person band from the northwest Houston area, emerged on the local music scene in 2012 and has found a niche performing songs to inspire listeners.

Featuring lead vocalist Mary Michelle Brown, bassist Bill Landrith, guitarist and vocalist John Lange, keyboardist and vocalist Henry Salomon and drummer Chris Coon, the group originated as a county band. However, the ensemble is made of talented musicians from a range of styles, Brown said.

"We held auditions and got the best of the best, as far as I'm concerned. We have talent from all over the place," Brown said.

Both Brown and Landrith were raised in the Spring area and performed in a worship band for nine years before forming Sawdust Road, Landrith said.

While the group is not categorized into the Christian music genre, Brown said being raised in a church and being consistently involved in local church projects heavily influenced her

songwriting for Sawdust Road. A solid foundation of hope, encouragement and love from their church has inspired Brown's song writing, she said.

"We want people to know they're worthy and they're loved and important and cared for and visible," Brown said.

The band's 2014 debut self-titled album had an assortment of 70s-style musical elements and influences, including country, classic rock, pop and soul. Sawdust Road's second album, which it is still recording, will remain true to its sound, Salomon said.

Sawdust Road has made its rounds across the Houston area and beyond. Most notably, the band performed at Austin's SXSW in 2015 and performed its song, "Not your Memory" during KHOU-TV Houston's Veteran's Day show in 2014.

"We've been given the mic, we've been given an opportunity, we've been given a platform, so we can either help or hurt," Brown said. "We've chosen to help by instilling hope."



1: Local band Sawdust Road was founded in 2012. 2: Lead singer Mary Michelle Brown got her start in a worship band for a Spring-area church. 3: The band is recording its second album.





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OCAL GIVING GUIDE

There are a number of ways to volunteer across The Woodlands and Montgomery County this holiday season and all year-round. Opportunities range from helping families in need to providing support for youths or serving as a mentor.

COMPILED BY WENDY CAWTHON, ABIGAIL LOOP AND HANNAH ZEDAKER

GIVE BACK TO

THE COMMUNITY

INTERFAITH OF THE WOODLANDS

The area nonprofit is in need of volunteers to help with senior services, including transportation, grocery delivery and activities. Other opportunities include helping to stock the food pantry and organize food donations, helping organize food drives and helping with the Hand Me Up Shop by sorting and picking up donations. The organization is also in need of donations for its annual Holiday Giving program to provide holiday gifts to families, children and seniors.

4242 Interfaith Way, The Woodlands 281-367-1230

www.woodlandsinterfaith.org

YMCA OF GREATER HOUSTON

Volunteer opportunities range from fundraising and youth coaching to event planning and community service. Prospective volunteers should contact nearby locations for specific volunteer options.

The Woodlands Family YMCA at Branch Crossing

8100 Ashlane Way, The Woodlands 281-367-9622 www.ymcahouston.org The Woodlands

Family YMCA at Shadowbend

6145 Shadowbend Place, The Woodlands 281-367-9622 www.ymcahouston.org MONTGOMERY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Teen volunteers are welcome to assist with day-to-day activities at the George and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library on a semester-basis. At the South Regional Library, teen volunteers can assist with yearly programming, while adult volunteers can assist with day-to-day activities.

South Regional Library

2101 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands 936-442-7727 www.countylibrary.org

George and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library

8125 Ashlane Way, The Woodlands 936-442-7728 www.countylibrary.org

GIVE BACK TO SENIORS

MEAL ON WHEELS **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Volunteers are needed to help deliver meals to seniors in need throughout the week as well as to assemble breakfast bags, which are nonperishable meals delivered twice a month. Volunteers for weekly meal delivery should be able to commit to one day a week.

1202 Candy Cane Lane, Conroe 936-756-5828 www.mowmc.org

SPECIAL ANGELS OF THE WOODLANDS

The area nonprofit works to enhance the lives of adults with intellectual disabilities. Volunteers help with buses, distribute supplies for crafting activities, plan lunches and teach classes. Donations are also needed to help cover operations costs.

281-292-2073 www.specialangelsofthe woodlands.org

HELP THOSE IN CRISIS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY **FOOD BANK**

To help prevent food insecurity for more than 35,000 people during the holidays and throughout the year, the food bank is in need of volunteers to help inspect food quality and sort donations. They include fresh produce, meat and nonperishable goods to be sent to families, children and seniors in need. The food bank also has volunteer opportunities for corporate team building and special events like the monthly Food Fair throughout the year. In addition to volunteers, the food bank is also in need of nonperishable foods, such as canned tuna, chicken or salmon, low-sodium canned vegetables, healthy snacks, low-sugar cereals and olive or canola oil.

1 Food for Life Way, Conroe 936-271-8800 www.mcfoodbank.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY **WOMEN'S CENTER**

The women's center offers a number of volunteer opportunities including helping with child care activities, organizing donation drives, answering the crisis hotline and staffing the center's resale store. Volunteers must be 18 years of age, complete an application process and undergo a background check.

1600 Lake Front Circle, Ste. 100, The Woodlands 936-441-4044 www.mcwctx.org

► HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity help to construct houses for families

in need, coordinate fundraisers for the nonprofit and work with families throughout the application and construction processes. Help is also needed with administrative work, such as filing, answering phones and inputting information. The nonprofit also operates The ReStore, which offers discounted home improvement supplies and is in need of volunteers to help with loading and unloading, displays and inventory.

The ReStore, 9407 Hwy. 242, Conroe 936-441-4663 www.habitatmctx.org









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GIVE BACK TO YOUTH

DLOVE FOSTERS HOPE

Volunteers are needed for the mentor program at Love Fosters Hope. Mentoring is available for youths ages 12 to 19 in foster care. Mentors offer support, counsel and friendship while setting a positive example.

832-823-1889 www.lovefostershope.com

CHILDREN'S SAFE HARBOR

Children's Safe Harbor is looking for volunteers for child watch, facility care and help with office support.

1519 Oddfellow St., Conroe 936-756-4644 www.childrenssafeharbor.org

CASA CHILD ADVOCATES OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CASA needs volunteer Advocates, which is a 12-month commitment where volunteers are assigned the case of a foster child. Volunteers must meet with a foster child monthly and advocate for him/her in court four times in the year.

412 W. Phillips St., Ste. 107, Conroe 936-441-5437 www.casaspeaks4kids.com

MY PERSON FOUNDATION

My Person Foundation is looking for mentor volunteers for students in the organization. Mentors must go through training with Conroe ISD and My Person Foundation. Subjects discussed during meetings can range from mental health to bullying.

www.mypersonfoundation.com

HELP THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

PANTHER CREEK INSPIRATION RANCH

The nonprofit uses equine therapy to work with children with disabilities and needs 150 volunteers on each week. Volunteers can help as horse leaders, in the PCIR office, serve on the gala committee or help with grant writing.

25902 Glen Loch Drive, Spring 281-719-9322 www.pciranch.org

NEW DANVILLE

The community for adults with special needs relies on volunteers every day for activities, such as sewing, art, gardening and cooking. Volunteers are also needed for special events and to work in the Jazzy Junque Resale Store. 10951 Shepard Hill Road, Willis 936-344-6200 www.newdanville.org

HELP THE

CHI ST. LUKE'S HEALTH-THE WOODLANDS HOSPITAL

Volunteers are needed to assist with administrative work, spiritual care, helping in the intensive care unit waiting room and other branches of the hospital. Retired nurses can also help as emergency room patient liaisons.

17200 St. Luke's Way, The Woodlands 936-266-2000 www.chstlukeshealth.org

MEMORIAL HERMANN THE WOODLANDS HOSPITAL

The hospital system has a number of volunteer opportunities at several area health care facilities, including the TIRR Memorial Hermann Rehabilitation Hospital and the Prevention and Recovery Center. Volunteer needs include clerical assistance, working in the gift shop, assisting with letter writing, greeting visitors and helping with the hospitals Caring Critters animal therapy program.

9250 Pinecroft Drive, The Woodlands 713-897-2300

www.memorialhermann.org/give-volunteer

TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Volunteers 18 years of age and older can volunteer to support families and patients through various tasks throughout the month. Volunteers must submit an application and are encouraged to volunteer at least one day a week for three hours. The hospital also needs donations, such as gift cards, clothing, arts supplies and toys in various age ranges for patients.

17600 I-45 S., Conroe 936-267-5000 www.texaschildrens.org

BREAST CANCER CHARITIES OF AMERICA

The organization, which puts on the annual Wine, Women and Shoes event, offers education outreach and programs including Feeling Beautiful Again, which focuses on empowering female cancer survivors. The organization seeks volunteers to assist with event planning, administration duties and stuffing Feeling Beautiful Again bags, which include scarves, lotions and nail polish. Those interested can also volunteer to host a

8505 Technology Forest Place, Ste. 604, The Woodlands 936-231-8460 www.thebreast cancercharities.org

beauty drive.



GIVE BACK TO

Volunteers are needed to help LSAWL with its annual holiday gift-wrapping fundraiser each weekend leading up to Christmas. The fundraisers are held from noon to 6 p.m. at Orvis, located in Market Street, 9595 Six Pines Drive, The Woodlands. Volunteers will also be needed Dec.16 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to help with a holiday photo event at Gillman Subaru North, located at 18010 I-45 N., The Woodlands.

www.lsawl.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

The animal shelter needs volunteers on a daily basis and offers opportunities to assist with dog bathing and walking, cat handling, on- and off-site adoptions, fostering and laundry. Volunteers can also serve as a marketing/communications team member, a phone receptionist, vet staffer or surgery assistant or as a photographer or photographer assistant. Volunteer orientation is held each Saturday from 10-11 a.m.

8535 Hwy. 242, Conroe 936-442-7738 www.mcaspets.org

OPERATION PETS ALIVE

With the goal of finding homes for stray animals and perpetuating the no-kill movement communitywide, OPA needs volunteers to help trap, neuter and return animals; foster animals in need; assist with administrative tasks; assist with the website; donate items on the organization's wish list; or sponsor a dog for the next flight for life, a program that allows a dog to be transported by plane to another state with better adoption opportunities.

www.operationpetsalive.org

This list is not comprehensive of all volunteer opportunities in The Woodlands area. For more on local nonprofits in the area, visit communityimpact.com

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Second Saturday Divorce Workshop provides unbiased information to help you understand your options and move forward with your life. We believe the more information and support you have as you move forward through this difficult process, the more informed decisions you can make.

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Kevin.Pinkley@secondsaturdaywoodlands.com www.SecondSaturdayWoodlands.com

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South county mobility projects progressing in The Woodlands area

BY ABIGAIL LOOP

Government officials throughout south Montgomery County are planning tens of millions of dollars worth of mobility projects across the region over the next few years.

Since voters approved a \$280 million road bond referendum in November 2015, a variety of projects have progressed throughout Montgomery County and are either under construction or nearing completion.

Montgomery County Judge Craig Doyal said he believes high-priority projects, such as the expansions of Rayford Road and FM 2978, will ease congestion for residents and make a difference for future travel times upon completion.

Doyal said while the county's population has already increased by 23 percent since 2010 to 560,000 residents, the number of residents is expected to keep increasing, spurring the need for mobility improvements in the area.

"THERE'S
A HUGE NEED FOR
MOBILITY COUNTYWIDE,
AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO
DOUBLE OUR POPULATION IN
THE NEXT 10-20 YEARS."

— CRAIG DOYAL,MONTGOMERYCOUNTY JUDGE

"We're just at the tip of the iceberg with [transportation projects]," Doyal said. "There's a huge need for mobility countywide, and we're supposed to double our population in the next 10-20 years. You can tell by the congestion that the county is continuing to grow."

PRECINCT 2 PROJECTS

Montgomery County precincts 2 and 3—which cover

The Woodlands, Oak Ridge North and Shenandoah—have several projects that are near completion, under construction or still in the engineering and design phase.

Precinct 2, which received \$64 million in total from the \$280 million bond package, has already completed half of its \$8 million Research Forest Drive expansion.

Don Dean, Montgomery County Precinct 2 operations manager, said the project will add two lanes in each direction from Alden Bridge Drive to Egypt Lane. The section between Egypt Lane and FM 2978 has already been completed. Construction on the remaining portion of the project is slated for completion in the first quarter of 2018.

Dean said another major project for Precinct 2 is the widening of FM 2978 from FM 1488 to Conroe-Hufsmith Road—including a new bridge over Dry Creek. The entire project will reach completion in 2020.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Charlie Riley said the project has been in the works for nearly three years and will have a significant effect in relieving con-

gestion in the FM 2978 and FM 1488 corridors.

The corridors have seen a rise congestion in part due to new residential and commercial properties in the area, including multifamily living complexes.

New complexes that have developed since 2016 include The Grand Estates in the Forest and The Mansions in The Woodlands on FM 1488. New residential communities include Del Webb The Woodlands, which opened in April 2016 on FM 1488 and Northgrove at Spring Creek, a new 600-acre master planned community on FM 2978.

According to a 2015 report compiled for The Woodlands Area Economic Development Partnership by Atkins , an engineering consultant, 24-hour traffic counts for FM 1488 west of FM 2978 increased 26 percent from 2010 to 2015 as a result of new development.

"There is nothing that points to traffic slowing down in the [future]," Riley said. "The FM 2978 and FM 1488 corridors are some of our busiest corridors, and nothing indicates that it is going to slow down in that area."

MAJOR THOROUGHFARES

Construction has also begun on one of Precinct 3's biggest projects: the \$60 million Rayford Road expansion.

Matt Beasley, Precinct 3 chief of staff, said the project will widen Rayford Road from four to six lanes between Lazy Lane and the Grand Parkway while adding a six-lane bridge over the railroad tracks. The project started in April and is on track to be completed in mid-2019, he said.

"Rayford Road is still progressing," Beasley said. "We are installing infrastructure for drainage and constructing the overpass at the railroad tracks."

County officials said they believe the project will greatly improve east-to-west traffic flow and safety along the Rayford Road corridor, which has seen a development boom in the past year due to new businesses and residences near the Grand Parkway area.

Birnham Woods Marketplace, located at the northeast corner of the Grand Parkway and Riley Fuzzel Road in Spring, is a major development the area has seen, with new stores such as a Kroger Marketplace, Sprint and Dentalopolis opening this year.

The population growth within a 3-mile radius of the intersection at the Grand Parkway and Birnham Woods Drive has been exponential since 2000, when 11,968 residents occupied the area, according to data by Capital Retail Properties. As of 2015, there were 46,863 residents living in the area. With the addition new of subdivisions in the area, such as Woodson's Reserve and Harmony, that number is expected to rise.

Jacqie Wilson, Rayford Road project team spokesperson, said the road currently handles more vehicle traffic than it was originally designed for., Wilson said the project will allow for safer travel for residents and businesses in the area.

"Once improvements are implemented, Rayford Road will be able to accommodate future traffic volumes more efficiently and safely," Wilson said. "Residents will also be able to access their subdivisions easier, and commercial businesses will have improved access as well, considering the addition of signals and signal synchronization."

While many of the road bond projects are located around the edges of The Woodlands, one that is expected to improve mobility in the township is the Woodlands Parkway expansion, which includes the addition of a westbound lane and an eastbound lane on Woodlands Parkway from I-45 to Grogans Mill Road.

John Powers, assistant general manager of community services for The Woodlands Township, said the Woodlands Parkway widening will help relieve congestion in the area.

"Woodlands Parkway is the heaviest traveled local road-way in the area," Powers said. "The widening project will help to relieve traffic congestion, reduce wait times and provide safer commuting."

Powers said the township will continue to work with precincts 2 and 3 to provide input on mobility improvement projects and suggestions to reduce traffic congestion for residents in The Woodlands.

"We estimate the current day-time population to be around 250,000," he said. "Alleviating congestion is a critical issue for the community and the township is committed to working with all the local, regional and state transportation authorities to find solutions to the issue."

SURROUNDING CITIES

Road bond projects are expected to cover most areas of south county, including Oak



1 RESEARCH FOREST DRIVE

Project details: This project will add two lanes in each direction from Alden Bridge Drive to Egypt Lane.

Status: The first section from Egypt Lane to FM 2978 has been completed, and construction on the remaining portion of the project—Egypt Lane to Alden Bridge Drive—is expected to be finished by early 2018

Timeline: May 17, 2017-first quarter 2018 **Cost:** \$8 million

2 GOSLING ROAD AT HWY. 242

Project details: This project adds an additional left-turn lane from Hwy. 242 westbound to southbound Gosling Road. There will be an additional left-turn lane going west on Hwy. 242 and an additional right-turn lane on Hwy. 242 eastbound to Academy Way.

Status: Final design has been completed, and construction will begin after a permit is received from the Texas Department of Transportation

Timeline: TBA
Cost: \$300,000

3 EGYPT LANE

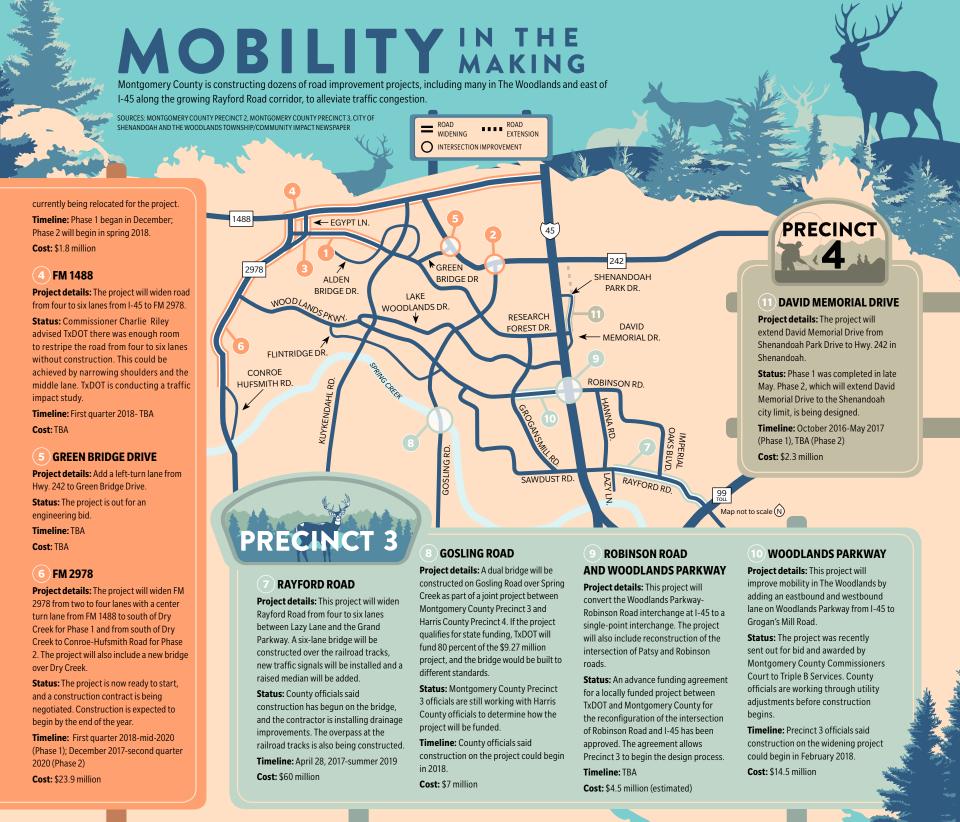
Project details: Phase 1 of this project includes widening Egypt Lane from two to five lanes from FM 1488 to Research Forest Drive. Phase 2 of this project includes adding shoulders to Egypt Lane from Research Forest Drive to FM 2978.

Status: Westwood Magnolia Parkway Improvement District signed a \$3.2 million contract to begin construction. Utilities are

Ridge North and Shenandoah, where population numbers have grown by 7 and 9 percent from 2010 to 2015, respectively.

Beasley said Precinct 3 is working with the city of Oak Ridge North to fund a portion of a project that will convert the Woodlands Parkway-Robinson Road interchange at I-45 to a diamond interchange, which is a road junction in which a freeway crosses a minor road. This junction has two traffic signals, one on each side of the freeway.

County officials said the



project is expected to increase mobility at the Woodlands Parkway and I-45 intersection. The major interesction has a 24-hour traffic count of 62,151 in 2015, higher than any other road or intersection in The Woodlands, according to the Atkins report.

The interchange will also include reconstruction on the Patsy Road and Robinson Road intersection, along with signalization upgrade.

Beasley said the Texas Department of Transportation recently signed an advancement funding agreement that allows Precinct 3 officials to begin the design phase of the project.

City Manager Vicky Rudy said Oak Ridge North officials were included in design discussions with county officials and requested a design that would allow access to the southeast corner of Robinson Road to ensure any development there would be accessible to and from The Woodlands and I-45.

"We expect the overpass

reconstruction to improve traffic through Oak Ridge North to a degree," Rudy said. "However, we anticipate the greatest impact will be on access to the feeder roads of I-45. The project should reduce the backup of traffic on the overpass as drivers enter the feeder system to enter and exit I-45."

Rudy said the additional project at the intersection of Pasty and Robinson roads will expedite right turns, and the upgraded signalization will help with the flow of traffic.

tive thoroughfare to I-45.

nect new Shenandoah developments-Centro and MetroPark Square-already under

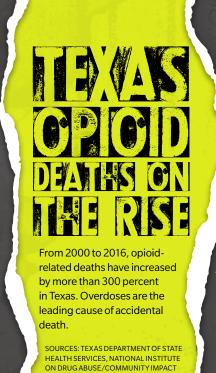
Another mobility project on the east side of I-45 is the David Memorial Drive extension in Shenandoah. The \$2 million project, funded by the Shenandoah Municipal Development District, is a joint venture between the city and Precinct 4. It will extend the road from Shenandoah Park Drive to Hwy. 242, providing an alterna-

The project will also con-

construction.

Interim City Administrator Kathie Reyer said Phase 1 of the project was completed in late May, and the design for Phase 2 of the project, which is in an unincorporated area of the county, is near completion. It is not yet known when construction will begin on Phase 2, Reyer said.





Methadone Heroin Other opioids 800 700 600 500 400 300 42 100 50 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2002 2004 2006 YFAR **METHADONE** OTHER OPIOIDS

- Low-cost medication prescribed for chronic pain
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- Can cause liver and kidney disease, lung issues, nausea, mental disorders
- Include codeine, hydrocodone and oxycodone, among others
- Can interact with opioid receptors on nerve cells in the body and brain

CONTINUED FROM 1

[opioid abuse]," said state Rep. Mark Keough, R-The Woodlands. "This is a huge concern for us—people are dying."

In response, local law enforcement and health care professionals are working together to make opioids harder to get, while making recovery resources more accessible.

ASSESSING THE PROBLEM

In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies began marketing prescription opioid pain relievers as drugs that were no longer as addictive as had been previously thought, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

As a result, these drugs, which had formerly only been prescribed to treat acute, short-term pain, became the prescription of choice to treat chronic, long-term pain.

Years later, physicians discovered the opioid pain relievers were not as safe as had been previously marketed, said Matt Fehery, CEO of the Memorial

Hermann Prevention and Recovery Center, a Houston-based facility that works to treat pain and addiction simultaneously.

"Medications can be good when used appropriately, but this particular class is very potent and the belief now is that they've been overused and overprescribed for far too many different conditions, where a less addictive medication could have worked," Fehery said.

Today, 1 in 12 people who are prescribed opioid pain relievers will become addicted to opioids, Fehery said. Additionally, 80 percent of opioid users transition to become first-time heroin users and are 40 times more likely to become addicted to heroin.

"There has been a shift from historically illicit drugs to the abuse of prescription pain medications," Conroe ISD Police Sgt. Matt Blakelock said. "Opioids seem to be appealing because of the easy access kids have by finding them in the medicine cabinets of family and friends. Opioid-based narcotics are not all that common [in CISD] but do show up from time to time in the form of prescription medications."

Fehery said that roughly 50 percent of those who use opioids inappropriately get them from a friend or family member who had been prescribed to use them by a doctor. However, Tamara Holland, Montgomery County assistant district attorney, said in some cases, physicians can also be at fault.

"Sometimes, the doctors are to blame," Holland said. "There are just some unscrupulous doctors who want to treat the pain itself rather than the underlying cause. I think those doctors are probably few, but the ones that are doing it are making a huge impact."

SEEKING A SOLUTION

In May, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission received \$27.4 million in federal funds to prevent and treat opioid dependence. The money will help 14,000 people over two years by expanding access to and capacity at treatment centers, increasing prescriber training and enhancing recovery services, HHSC officials said.

Opioids can be addictive, but

prevent abuse and addiction.

professionals offer strategies to

The state of Texas has also started to address the issue. In the 85th Texas Legislature, lawmakers passed Senate Bill 584, which called for the Texas Medical Board to develop guidelines for the prescription of opioid antagonists-drugs that block the effects of opioids.

Texas House Speaker Joe Straus formed the House Select Committee on Opioid and Substance Abuse in late October to study the issue before the next session kicks off in January 2019.

"THIS IS A HUGE CONCERN FOR **US—PEOPLE ARE DYING."**

With the results of Ren's study, Holland said the county is applying for grants to hire personnel to focus solely on identifying so-called pill millsdoctors, clinics or pharmacies that prescribe or dispense opioids inappropriately—as well as doctor shoppers, or patients who visit multiple physicians seeking opioid painkillers.

One initiative Fehery said has helped crack down on doctor shoppers is the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program, which allows physicians to view



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Friendswood Location 18980 Gulf Freeway, Friendswood 281-286-9911





Only take medication that has been prescribed.



Stop opioid use once pain diminishes.



Ask a loved one to monitor opioid intake.



Safely dispose of opioids when no longer needed.



Never give prescriptions to someone else or take them from anyone else.



Store prescriptions safely and out of others' reach.

SOURCE: NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

LCCAL TREATMENT BRINGS RECOVERY

The Woodlands area has few recovery centers for opioid addicts, but more are opening in the area as the problem grows.

SOURCES: VARIOUS RECOVERY CENTERS/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



MEMORIAL HERMANN PREVENTION AND RECOVER CENTERTHE WOODLANDS

1733 Woodstead Court, Ste. 201, The Woodlands 281-681-9101 www.parc.memorialhermann.org



REW DIMENSIONS DAY TREATMENT CENTER

111 Vision Park Blvd., Ste. 260, Shenandoah 800-685-9796 www.nddtreatment.com



SPRINTZ CENTER FOR PAIN & RECOVERY

9303 Pinecroft Drive, Ste. 320, The Woodlands 713-714-1399 www.sprintzcenter.com



THE WOODLANDS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

2700 Research Forest Drive, Ste. 130, The Woodlands 281-528-4226 www.addwoodlands.com

a patient's prescription history.

With the passage of HB 2561 on June 9, the 85th Texas Legislature made it mandatory for Texas-licensed pharmacies to report dispensed controlled substances records to the program by the next business day after the prescription is filled, effective Sept. 1, 2017. The requirement previously allowed for seven days to send information, according to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

Although pharmacists are required to view a patient's prescription history prior to dispensing certain drugs, Fehery said it is not mandatory for doctors to consult the program before prescribing opioid painkillers to a patient.

"I would like to see us hold those doctors accountable for checking on these patients' histories before prescribing them opioids," Holland said.

While prescription opioids are becoming more difficult to get, they are also becoming more expensive, making heroin the next choice for users, said Gary Hilliard, clinical director of New Dimensions Day Treatment Center's substance abuse program.

"In our clients, we've seen opioids trending down and heroin becoming more popular because of the cost," Hilliard said. "One prescription opioid pill, such as Vicodin, can cost \$9 and users can go through several in a day, whereas a gram of heroin can go for \$40 and last five days. It's a savings to them."

On the health care side, Fehery said he believes hospitals are becoming stricter on the prescription of opioid painkillers and are considering alternative pain management options.

"There are still situations where opioids are necessary, but everyone is having to look closer at the doses and the duration," Fehery said. "No hospital wants to perpetuate this or set someone up for dependency if they can help it."

Joseph Fioretti, Emergency Medical Services Information Technology specialist for the Montgomery County Hospital District, said first responders have recently started carrying overdose reversal medication on calls, which stabilizes patients until they can be treated.

"Any time we transport a patient where we suspect an opiate overdose, our clinical department and community paramedic team automatically receive a notification of the incident," Fioretti said. "This allows them to follow up with that patient after the event and attempt to provide resources for them to avoid reoccurring hospital stays, sometimes within 12-24 hours of the call."

Blakelock said CISD campuses have several student safety programs in addition to the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program and drug presentations offered by the CISD Police Department.

"Drug abuse is a serious public health issue that impacts nearly every community and family in some way," Blakelock said. "Through continued drug safety and awareness presentations, proactive responses and detection efforts, we work to maintain a safe learning environment for every student, every day."

RECOVERY WITHIN REACH

While officials address the epidemic, there are several local rehabilitation facilities working to help existing addicts recover.

Memorial Hermann's PaRC program has offered detox and residential treatment programs in Houston for 30 years. PaRC also had eight outpatient offices in the region, including one in The Woodlands, which opened in 2004.

"At PaRC, we treat chronic pain and addiction simultaneously," Fehery said. "We combine traditional behavioral

therapies while also introducing patients to alternative pain management techniques because continuing to use opioids is not an effective strategy."

Other local treatment options in The Woodlands include the Sprintz Center for Pain & Recovery and The Woodlands Behavioral Health & Wellness Center. Another substance abuse outpatient treatment option, Lakeview Health, will open in The Woodlands in January.

With more treatment options available and government and health care entities working to prevent addiction, officials are hoping to begin reversing the opioid epidemic trend in the area.

"Addiction is a disease—it doesn't mean you're a bad person, it just means that your brain is wired differently," Fehery said. "Dependency is a precursor and can lead to addiction, so it's always best to intervene early. If you think there might be a problem, talk to your physician about it. There's a lot of resources available out there—you don't have to do it alone."

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY VANESSA

HOLT AND DANICA SMITHWICK





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ENVIRONMENT

Mercer Botanic Gardens plans rebuilding

SPRING-KLEIN Mercer Botanic Gardens could reopen this winter after Hurricane Harvey-related flooding destroyed portions of the 385-acre park, but officials said long-term plans for the site include developing a plan to rebuild at a higher elevation.

The Mercer Society—the garden's nonprofit partner—hopes to raise \$2.5 million to purchase 24 adjacent acres for future expansion, Mercer Society President Maryanne Esser said.

The Mercer Botanic Gardens visitor center was inundated in late August with 5 feet of water, and a facility off nearby Treaschwig Road had up to 10 feet of water inside, Mercer Botanic



Gardens President Darrin Duling said.

"We are working with architects to come up with a scheme that would create new detention areas to mitigate and build up the garden high enough to be out of what might be a normal flood event," Duling said.

A partial reopening of the park is expected this winter, although the visitor center will not be open until summer 2018.

FULL STORY BY **CHRISTOPHER SHELTON AND VANESSA HOLT**

DINING FEATURE

Dosirak Korean Cafe



CONROE More than 30 years after Youn Kim moved to the U.S. from South Korea, she finally achieved her dream of opening an authentic Korean restaurant, Dosirak Korean Cafe, in Conroe.

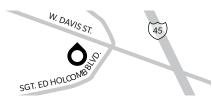
Growing up in Busan, South Korea, Youn said she was not interested in working in the restaurant industry. Instead, she earned a degree in education and taught at an all-boys high school for six years.

When the couple retired in 2016, they made plans to open a Korean restaurant that offered dishes Youn and Sung grew up eating. In May 2016, though, Sung died after a fire ravaged the couple's Conroe home four months before they were set to open Dosirak Korean Cafe.

"We came here for [the] American dream; I got this [restaurant], so I got the American dream now," Youn said. "This is Korean food, and that's my way. I'm happy, and I'm working hard."

The cafe offers authentic Korean dishes, such as bulgogi, spicy pork, tofu kimchi soup and dosirak, which refers to a lunch box-style Korean dish prepared with at least four side dishes. The restaurant also offers traditional Asian market items, including seaweed chips, ramen and chocolate treats.

FULL STORY BY **KELLY SCHAFLER**



Dosirak Korean Cafe

2105 W. Davis St., Conroe

936-494-2765

www.facebook.com/dosirakkoreancafe Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., closed Sundays GOVERNMENT

Harris County has lowest voter turnout in 20 years

SPRING -KLEIN According to election results from the Harris County Clerk's Office, the Nov. 7 election recorded the lowest voter turnout in the last 20 years. On Nov. 7, only 6.7 percent of registered voters in Harris County voted.

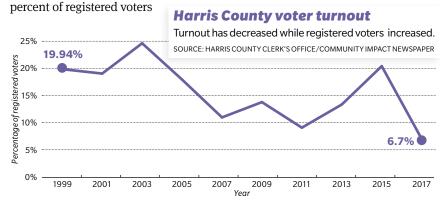
While voter turnout is typically low on odd years where there is no midterm or presidential election, voter turnout this year fell below the previous low point of 8.83 percent in 2011.

There was also no mayoral election in Houston, which typically increases voter turnout, like in 2015 when 20.51 in Harris County cast a vote.

However, there were seven state constitutional amendments and six propositions totaling more than \$1.5 billion in bonds for the city of Houston.

All of the constitutional amendments and propositions for the city of Houston were successful.

Meanwhile, between 1997 and 2017, the number of registered voters in Harris County has increased from 1,680,542 in 1997 to 2,233,533, in 2017, an increase of about 33 percent.
FULL STORY BY **ZAC EZZONE**



ENVIRONMENT

Harris County Precinct 4 presents drainage study options

CY-FAIR During the North Houston Association Environment Committee's meeting Nov. 2, Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle said his office is pursuing flood mitigation options, including investigating and evaluating the feasibility of a drainage reuse initiative, which would enhance floodwater mitigation.

The initiative would enable the county to capture, treat and store excess rainfall and/or drainage to use later as needed in a season of drought. This program would give retention ponds and lakes higher capacities to hold floodwaters and reuse drainage rather than waste it.

"Our population is going to double in the next 15-20 years. Why plan for what we needed yesterday when we really should be planning for what we're going to need 50 years from now?" Cagle said.

FULL STORY BY HANNAH ZEDAKER

REGIONAL IMPACTS

NOW OPEN

TOMBALL Officials with Goat Yoga Texas, which launched earlier this fall, announced Nov. 20 the business now has a permanent location at 20000 Bauer Hockley Road, Tomball. 281-732-7833. www.goatyogatx.com

spring Wise Guys Barber Social opened in August at 26436 Lexington Road, Spring. The barbershop uses traditional barber techniques, such as the hot towel, hot lather and a straight-razor shave. 832-299-6977. www.facebook.com/wiseguysbarbersocial

spring Tandoori Indian Cuisine opened in September at 5200 FM 2920, Ste. 120, Spring. The restaurant offers Indian dishes, including tandoori chicken, chicken tikka, vegetarian entrees and several varieties of biryani. 281-965-7548. www.tandooriindiancuisine.com

COMING SOON

NEW CANEY **Grand Texas** will hold a ground breaking ceremony for Big Rivers Waterpark on Dec. 14 at noon at the intersection of Hwy. 242 and Hwy. 59 in New Caney. www.grandtx.com

REAL ESTATE REPORT

Local real estate tips, neighborhood spotlight, residential and commercial listings, and commercial trends

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60 ASK A LANDSCAPER **Holiday lighting tips**



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Featured listings of active properties





REAL ESTATE ASK A LIGHTING PROFESSIONAL

COMPILED BY ABIGAIL LOOP

Local Realtors answer questions about trends and offer tips to home buyers and sellers decorating a home in or around The Woodlands.

Doug Corrigan

The Woodlands Nightscaping

What are some examples of lighting decorating trends this season?

There are more requests for garland and ribbons integrated with lights this year. Large, lighted wreaths for doorways that are fully decorated have become this year's hot item for homes as well.

What should homeowners know before installing holiday lighting?

Homeowners should have a budget in mind, [because costs] can add up fast. Also, check references when using a company to install holiday lights, and make sure they are reputable. There are many seasonal folks installing lights with no prior knowledge of the products' true use and [electrical] load capacity.

What safety tips do you have for homeowners who are installing their own lighting?

Homeowners should have secure and proper ladders. Do not climb on a roof [alone] or when it is damp. Also, never overload your circuits, and do not cut and splice wire with tape. Keep lighting and connections away from leaf build-ups and do not run wires inside gutters.

Where are the best places to display lighting on a home?

Displaying strands lights on the roof and ridge lines of the house are the most common. Wreaths and garland above and around the front door and main entrances are also particularly best-suited.

DIY LIGHTING

With the Christmas season approaching, homeowners can follow basic tips for putting up their own lighting decorations.



Ladder safety

Have a partner help keep the ladder steady when climbing on the roof.



Front door decor

Decorate the front door with a large wreath or garland attached with a hook or door hanger for better curb appeal.



Create a budget

Plan costs ahead before installing light decor on a home.



Make inspections

Check for frayed electrical cords to prevent fire hazards, and replace burnt-out bulbs promptly.



Storage

Tangled lights can lead to damaged cords and broken sockets. After the holidays, coil each string loosely around a stiff piece of cardboard and wrap the lights in paper to protect the bulbs.

SOURCE: HOUSELOGIC/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER





CLOSE-UP

The Woodlands Reserve

BY ABIGAIL LOOP

The Woodlands Reserve is a new gated community developed by The Woodlands Development Company and custom-built by Frankel Building Group in the Village of Indian Springs in The Woodlands. Located off Gosling Road and Woodlands Parkway, The Woodlands Reserve is in close proximity to The Woodlands Children's Museum and McCullough Junior High School. The neighborhood features 55 residential lots with wooded and water views.

1 The kitchen inside the model home features a large island and an open floor plan concept.

2 The model home for the community, located at 86 Simon Lake Lane, features a three-car garage and a lakeside view from the backyard.

3 Master bathrooms in the floor plans include a stand-alone tub, two sinks and a shower

4 The downstairs open-concept floor plan features a family room and kitchen, with stairs leading to the second floor from the entryway.

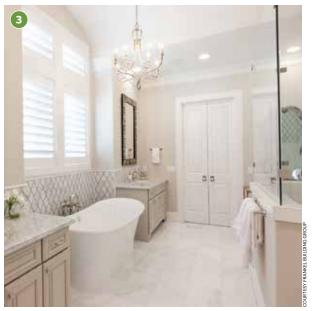
5 Homes in The Woodlands Reserve feature master bedroom suites with an attached master bathroom and closet.















REAL ESTATE UPDATES COMPILED BY ABIGAIL LOOP New home communities

South Montgomery County is home to several new residential real estate developments. These communities are new neighborhoods under construction with homes either for sale or soon to be available for purchase.



1 The Meadows at Imperial Oaks

713-260-4157

www.themeadowsatimperialoaks.com

Builders: Ashton Woods, Coventry Homes, J. Patrick Homes, Plantation Homes **Square footage:** 1,650-4,600 Home price: \$200,000-\$600,000 Amenities: recreation center, swimming pool, playground, walking trails School districts: Conroe ISD (Birnham Woods Elementary School, Cox Intermediate School, York Junior High School, Oak Ridge High School)

Falls at Imperial Oaks 832-813-7170

www.fallsatimperialoaks.com

Builders: CalAtlantic, David Weekley Homes, Lennar, Partners in Building, Village Builders

Square footage: 1,800-4,500 Home price: \$220,000-\$700,000+

Amenities: hiking trails, swimming pools, parks, nature trails, dog park

School districts: Conroe ISD (Birnham Woods Elementary School, Bradley Elementary School, Cox Intermediate School, York Junior High School, Oak Ridge

High School)

3 Harmony 936-447-2805

www.harmony-houston.com

Builders: Ashton Woods, CastleRock Communities, Darling Homes, Highland Homes, Perry Homes, Shea Homes, Taylor Morrison, Village Builders, Westin Homes

Square footage: 1,900-4,150 Home price: \$220,000-\$600,000+ Amenities: Spring Creek Greenway, parks and playgrounds, hiking trails, Barefoot Park, The Thicket Recreation Center School districts: Conroe ISD (Broadway Elementary School, Cox Intermediate School, York Junior High School, Grand Oaks High School)

4 Lakeside Cove 832-764-0006

www.gracepointhomes.com

Builder: Gracepoint Homes Square footage: 3,000+

Home price: \$670,000-\$1 million+ Amenities: parks, walking trails,

golf course

School districts: Conroe ISD (Hailey Elementary School, Knox Junior High School, Wilkerson Intermediate School, The Woodlands College Park High School)

5 Woodson's Reserve

281-353-2979

www.woodsonsreserve.com

Builders: Meritage Homes, Perry Homes, Taylor Morrison, Toll Brothers **Square footage:** 2,500-6,000

Home price: \$350,000-\$1 million Amenities: playgrounds, trail systems, community pond, dog park

School districts: Conroe ISD (Snyder Elementary School, Cox Intermediate School, York Junior High School, Grand Oaks High School)

6 Honeycomb Ridge-The Woodlands

713-632-2957

www.honeycombridge.com

Builder: First Stone Homes Square footage: 4,300+ Home price: \$900,000+

Amenities: shopping centers, nature trails School districts: Conroe ISD (Lamar Elementary School, Wilkerson Intermediate School, Knox Junior High School, The Woodlands College Park High School)

Bender's Landing Estates

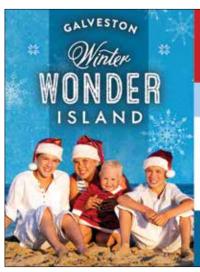
281-364-7440

High School)

www.benderslandingestates.com

Builders: Gallery Custom Homes, Lewis Custom Homes, Partners in Building **Square footage:** 2,967-6,338 Home price: \$500,000-\$1.5 million Amenities: parks, walking trails School districts: Conroe ISD (Broadway Elementary School, Cox Intermediate School, York Junior High School, Oak Ridge

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.



50 DAYS OF HOLIDAY EVENTS

NOVEMBER 11, 2017 - JANUARY 13, 2018

Galveston is the "Winter Wonder Island" of Texas. offering visitors a magical experience with more than 50 days of holiday events and activities!

STAY MID-WEEK & SAVE! 888.GAL.ISLE (425.4753) For more events, go to www.galveston.com/holidaymagic



8 Stillwater

936-273-9905 www.stillwatertx.com

Builders: Darling Homes, Gracepoint Homes, Jeff Paul Custom Homes, TD Cox Homes LLC, Tommy Bailey Homes Square footage: 2,221-5,350 Home price: \$370,000-\$1 million Amenities: walking trails, shopping and

dining options

School districts: Conroe ISD (Powell Elementary School, Mitchell Intermediate School, McCullough Junior High School, The Woodlands High School)

Wooded Overlook

281-516-0899 www.darlinghomes.com

Builders: Darling Homes, Toll Brothers **Square footage:** 3,000-4,500+ **Home price:** \$580,000-\$830,000 **Amenities:** parks, George Mitchell Nature

Preserve
School districts: Top

School districts: Tomball ISD (Creekside Elementary School, Tomball Intermediate School, Tomball Junior High School, Tomball High School)

10 Boulevard Green at Vision Park

www.pelicanbuilders.com

Builder: Pelican Builders
Square footage: 2,243-3,100
Home price: \$449,000-\$595,000
Amenities: parks, swimming pool
School districts: Conroe ISD (Lamar
Elementary School, Knox Junior High
School, College Park High School)

111 Grogan's Crest

281-978-2894

www.groganscrest.com

Builder: Connor Davis Homes
Square footage: 2,000-3,200
Home price: \$350,000-\$470,000
Amenities: swimming pool, nature trails
School districts: Conroe ISD (Lamar
Elementary High School, Wilkerson
Intermediate High School, Knox Junior High
School, The Woodlands College Park High
School)

12 The Woodlands Reserve

713-489-9217

www.frankelbuildinggroup.com

Builder: Frankel Building Group Square footage: 4,000-6,000 Home price: \$1 million-\$2.5 million Amenities: parks, walking trails Schools: Conroe ISD (Glen Loch Elementary School, Mitchell Intermediate School, McCullough Junior High School, The Woodlands High School)

13 Shadow Creek Estates Lago Woods

www.cannoncustomhomesinc.com/locations/lago-woods

Builders: Cannon Custom Homes, Tommy Bailey Homes, Jeff Paul Custom Homes, Matt Powers Custom Homes, TD Cox Homes LLC

Square footage: 4,500-6,000 Home price: \$998,000-\$1.5 million Amenities: Augusta Pines golf course Schools: Klein ISD (Metzler Elementary School, Hildebrandt Intermediate School, Klein Oak High School)

14 Bristol Lakes

832-823-4854

www.princetonclassichomes.com/communities/bristol-lakes

Builder: Princeton Classic Homes Square footage: 2,000-4,000 Home price: \$300,000-\$550,000 Amenities: playground, swimming pool Schools: Conroe ISD (Birnham Woods Elementary School, Cox Intermediate School, York Junior High School, Oak Ridge High School)

15 Malaga Forest

832-794-9792

www.malaga-homes.com

Builder: Malaga Homes
Square footage: 2,300-3,300
Home price: \$459,000-\$557,000
Amenities: parks, shopping center
Schools: Conroe ISD (Lamar Elementary
School, Wilkerson Intermediate School,
Knox Junior High School, College Park
High School)

16 Timarron Lakes

281-290-0002

Builders: Coventry Homes, Darling Homes **Square footage:** 2,300-3,300 **Home price:** \$380,000-\$450,000

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

CASSENA GROVE

Cassena Grove is located in the Village of Creekside Park near Burroughs Park and Kuykendahl Road. The neighborhood is home to hiking and biking trails, parks and is also close to the Lone Star College-Creekside Center. The neighborhood is part of the luxury patio living series by Darling Homes.

Home designs feature extended covered patios, expansive family rooms with a dining area, island kitchens with large counter space and master suites. Optional fireplaces can also be featured at the covered patio and courtyard.

Builder: Darling Homes

Home price: \$427,990-\$485,990

Square footage: 1,725-2,707

Schools: Tomball ISD (Creekview
Elementary School, Creekside Park Junior
High School, Tomball High School)

Anticipated completion: TBA







Amenities: lakes, clubhouse
Schools: Tomball ISD (Timber Creek
Elementary School, Creekside Park Junior
High, Tomball High School)

17 May Valley

281-209- 2204 www.beazer.com

Builder: Beazer Homes
Square footage: 1,725-2,707
Home price: \$278,990-\$375,273
Amenities: parks, shopping center
Schools: Magnolia ISD (Smith Elementary
School, Bear Branch Junior High School,
Magnolia High School)

18 Coronet Ridge

281-393-7070 www.tollbrothers.com **Builders:** Toll Brothers **Square footage:** 3,619-4,314 **Home price:** \$727-995-\$824,995

Amenities: walking trails, shopping center

Schools: Tomball ISD (Creekview Elementary School, Creekside Park Junior High School, Tomball High School)

19 McKenzie Park

281-516-0899 www.mihomes.com

Builders: M/I Homes Square footage: 3,670-4,070 Home price: 489,990-\$518,990 Amenities: swimming pool, greenbelt

trails

Schools: Klein ISD (Metzler Elementary School, Hildebrandt Intermediate School,

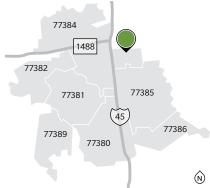
Klein Oak High School)





HARPER'S PRESERVE, 77384

Harper's Preserve is a gated community located off Hwy. 242 and is in proximity to I-45. The neighborhood includes private streets, a scenic lake and a recreation center with a swimming pool. The community will include 1,700 homes once it is fully developed.



Square footage: 1.843-4.603 Home values: \$299,990-\$749,000 Amenities: swimming pool, recreation

center, lakes, trail system

Schools: (Conroe ISD) Oak Ridge Elementary School, Irons Junior High School, Oak Ridge

North High School

Property taxes (in dollars):

Lone Star College	0.11
Montgomery County	0.47
Montgomery County Hospital District	0.07
Conroe ISD	1.28
Emergency Service District 4	0.08
Montgomery County MUD 15	0.94
Montgomery County MUD 95	1.30
Total (per \$100 valuation)	4.25

RECENT LISTINGS



4 Bedrooms / 3.5 Bath 3,452 sq. ft. \$364,990 Keller Williams Realty The Woodlands Jeremy Larkin 281-339-1800



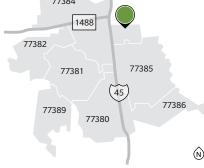
4 Bedrooms / 3.5 Bath 4,269 sq. ft. Keller Williams Realty Conroe/Lake Conroe Virginia Vogel 936-718-2892



5 Bedrooms / 3 Bath 4,094 sq. ft. \$410,000 Keller Williams Realty The Woodlands 281-339-1800 Jeremy Larkin



4 Bedrooms / 4 Bath 4,026 sq. ft. \$499,900 Blake Richards Realty 832-928-6337 Paul Cinciripini



Median home value \$351,930

Median annual

property taxes

\$11,620

Homes on the market*

41



Average days on the market'

Homes under

contract*





MARKET DATA

*As of 11/20/17

HOMES SOLD (NOVEMBER 2017)

	Number of homes sold/average days on the market							
Price range	77380	77381	77382	77384	77385	77386	77389	
\$149,999 or less	9/17	-	-	1/5	8/42	7/49	1/81	
\$150,000-\$199,999	16/76	8/19	-	-	20/56	42/64	12/78	
\$200,000-\$299,999	27/58	47/66	34/65	28/88	56/58	122/65	50/68	
\$300,000-\$399,999	14/87	36/79	30/75	40/99	35/71	85/85	75/82	
\$400,000-\$499,999	15/88	39/77	32/77	25/145	14/123	41/68	48/88	
\$500,000-\$599,999	10/58	15/68	18/110	30/102	10/110	21/69	38/113	
\$600,000-\$799,999	16/79	33/75	33/80	24/147	3/42	22/129	41/100	
\$800,000-\$999,999	14/118	6/121	21/83	2/28	1/96	11/109	18/90	
\$1 million +	30/193	14/105	41/117	2/176	-	4/50	47/173	

2016 VS. 2017 MEDIAN PRICE OF HOMES SOLD IN NOVEMBER Price 77382 77384 77385 77389 \$450.000 \$400,000 +16% -10.4% -30.3% \$350,000 -8.2% +28.4% \$300,000 +6.1% -13.4% \$250,000 \$200,000 \$150,000 \$100,000 \$50,000





CARLTON WOODS 11 Maroon Creek Ct. | \$1,380,000



STERLING RIDGE 7 Hawksbill Place | \$725,000



JACOBS RESERVE 134 Oak Estates | \$725,000



HALEY GARCIA | Broker Associate | 281.701.6174 | haley@haleygarcia.com heritagetexas.com

LOCAL AMENITIES



The West Village Recreation Center features a community swimming pool with an outdoor kitchen, a playground, walking trails, bowling and bocce ball greens, and horseshow pits.



River Plantation Country Club is located in Conroe and features 27 holes of golf that can be played in a variety of configurations. Each ninehole layout offers multiple tees on each hole. The club is also home to the River Plantation Grill, which offers continental, regional and seasonal specialties.

NEARBY DEVELOPMENT

242 SHOPPING CENTER

This shopping center features some of the following businesses at Hwy. 242 and I-45.

- · Batteries Plus Bulbs
- Mama Juanita's Mexican
- Mike's Cigar Room
- Nationwide Nails & Spa
- Pho An & Sushi Bar
- Wingstop





FEATURED APARTMENT COMPLEX

PINE CREEK RANCH APARTMENTS

Number of units: 332 Square footage: 580-1,386

Unit features*:

- · Wood-style flooring
- Full-size washers and dryers
- Granite countertops
- · Oval garden tubs
- Private patio/balcony
- · Cable ready

Office hours: Mon. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Wed. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Thu. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.

Listed one-bedroom starting price range**:

639 sq. ft.: \$865 671 sq. ft.: \$855 729 sq. ft.: \$1,003 756 sq. ft.: \$925 796 sq. ft.: \$920

Listed two-bedroom starting price range**:

1,040 sq.ft.: \$1,335 1,136 sq. ft.: \$1,440 1,215 sq. ft.: \$1,365

Listed three-bedroom starting price range**:

1,386 sq.ft.: \$1,630

*All features vary by unit

**Call for most up-to-date prices









COLDWELL BANKER



The Woodlands | 5/5.2 | \$3,999,000 Lisa Gregory 713.252.3188



The Woodlands | 5/4.1 | \$875,000 Beverly Berry 713.252.3704



Deanna Clark 713.304.0427



Spring | 5/4.2 | \$709,900 15 Spring Basket Trl Jeanne Eschenfelder 214,356,0579



The Woodlands | 4/4.1 | \$689,500 Susan Beirne 936.788.3043 Search 15098852 on cbhomes.com



The Woodlands | 4/3.1 | \$675,000 Marcia Hamby 225.229.7629 Search 84974919 on cbhomes.com



The Woodlands | 3/2.1 | \$630,000 Darby Middlebrooks 281.413.0830 Search 85948634 on cbhomes.com



Spring | 5/4 | \$398,500 24918 Auburn Bend Myrna Karlins 713.724.3822 Search 45630244 on cbhomes.com



The Woodlands | 4/3 | \$369,900 97 N Sunny Slope Chris Domangue 225,229,7629 Search 18107754 on cbhomes.com



Porter | 4/3 | \$289,999 22785 Whispering Timbers Leon Castro 225.229.7629 Search 78566534 on cbhomes.com



Spring | 4/2.1 | \$259,900 4822 Woodcrest Rhonda Smith 713.857.3651



The Woodlands | 4/2.1 | \$259,000 235 E Rainbow Ridge Nelly Antimo 956,279,6280



Spring | 3/2 | \$250,000 20010 Mayfair Park Kevin Schamel 225.229.7629 Search 3619482 on chhomes.com



Magnolia | 4/2.1 | \$209,000 9503 Hidden Cove Park DeAnn Morales 225.229.7629 Search 65707946 on chhomes.com



Conroe | 3/2.1 | \$207,500 32327 Golden Oak Park Mary Bowen 281.732.5937 Search 93765579 on chhomes.com



Spring | 3/2 | \$119,500 3203 Gary Michelle Moss 225.229.7629 Search 71899880 on chhomes.com

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Facebook.com/CBUTheWoodlands







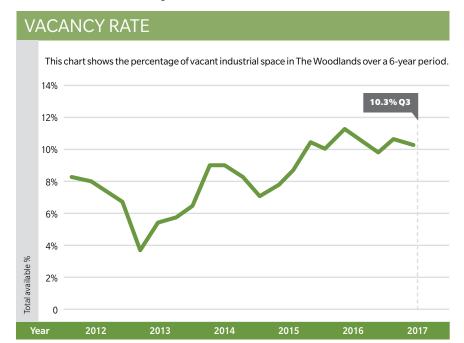
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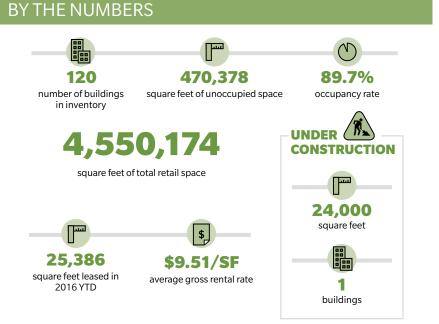


Vacancy rates, rental rates and the number of square feet leased for industrial space in The Woodlands area dipped slightly in the third quarter of 2017. Occupancy is at 89.7 percent, and one new industrial building is under construction in the area.

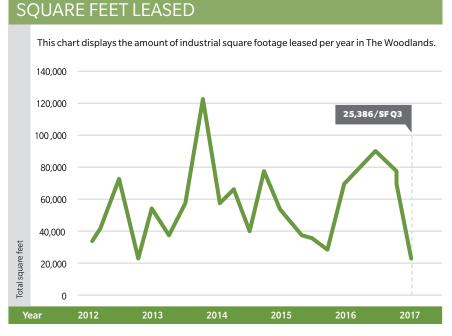
Market Data provided by Caldwell Companies • 7904 N. Sam Houston Parkway, fourth floor Houston, TX 77064 | College Station | Houston | The Woodlands







RENTAL RATE This chart shows the rental rate amounts per year for industrial space in The Woodlands. \$12/sf \$10/sf \$8/sf \$6/sf \$4/sf Rental rate *nnn \$2/sf 2014



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. *nnn denotes triple net. or rates that do not include operating costs for buildings

LEASING SERVICES THAT REALLY STACK UP

When looking for the right flex/warehouse space for your industrial needs, count on Caldwell to provide the local experience and expertise to get the most out of every transaction. Let us show you what Doing it right. Right now. is all about.

OFFICE ■ INDUSTRIAL ■ LAND ■ RETAIL



1400 Woodloch Forest Drive Suite 140 The Woodlands, TX 77380 281.664.6644 CaldwellCos.com



FEATURED PROPERTIES FOR LEASE

*nnn denotes triple net, or rates that do not include operating costs for buildings



6.000-12.553 sq. ft. Transwestern Katy Stewart Gragg \$12-\$14.50/sq. ft nnn*

26232 FM 2978 \$9-\$10.80/sq. ft nnn* 400-5.040 sq. ft.

MQ Texas Oil Supply Co.

Maria Cataldo

713-407-8709



25003 Pitkin Road

3,400 sq. ft. Tarantino Properties Inc.

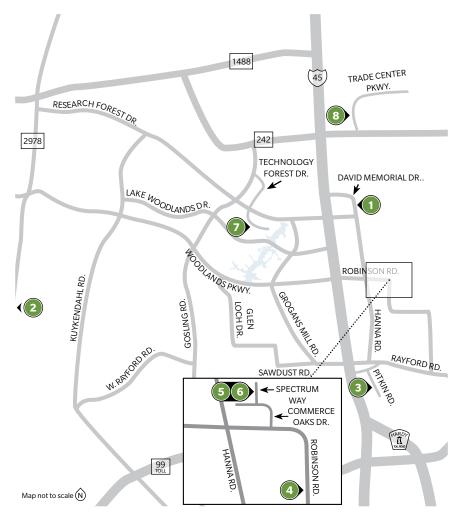
Peggy Rougeou

\$10.80/sq. ft nnn*

713-974-4292



\$10.20/sq. ft nnn* 5.500-11.875 sa. ft. **ABCO Industrial Properties** 832-879-3301 **Brad Able**





2,000-15,840 sq. ft. Pinecroft Realty LLC Rebecca Gardaphe

Withheld

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27351 Spectrum Way

10,000 sq. ft. Southwest Realty Advisors Marc Drumwright

Withheld 713-464-6045

281-404-4174

4001 Technology Forest Blvd.

1,000-74,901 sq. ft. Stream Data Centers Anthony Bolner

Withheld

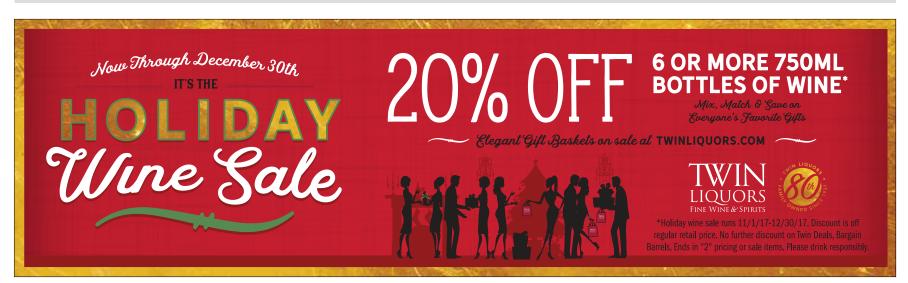
214-267-0495



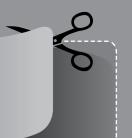
20,000 sq. ft. \$8.40/sq. ft nnn* Kantha and Prabhakara Reddy Kantha Reddy

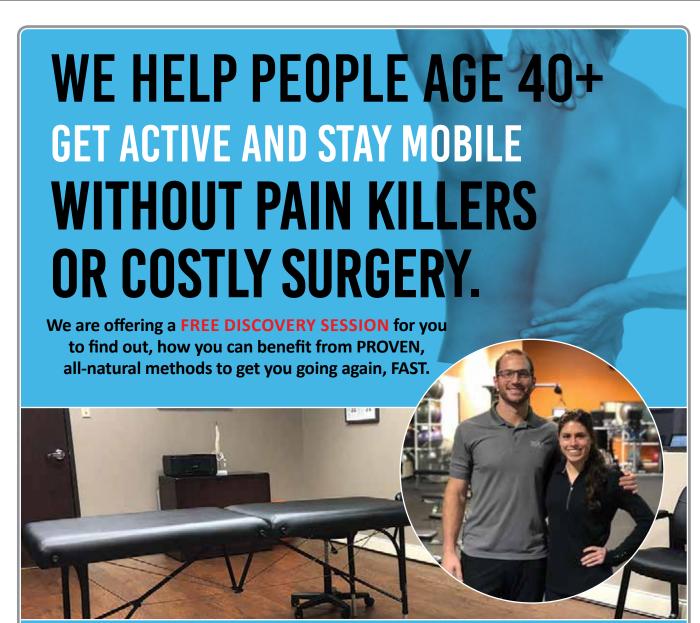
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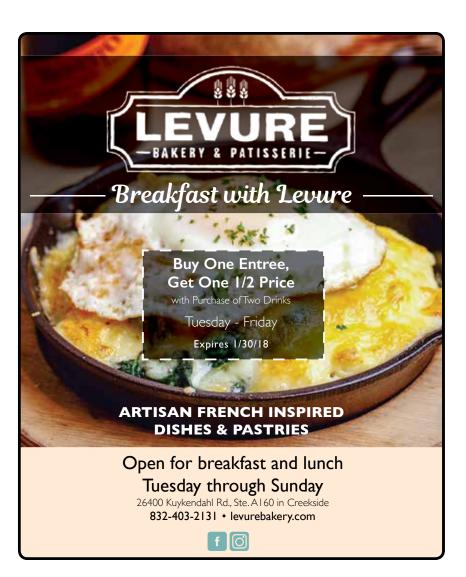
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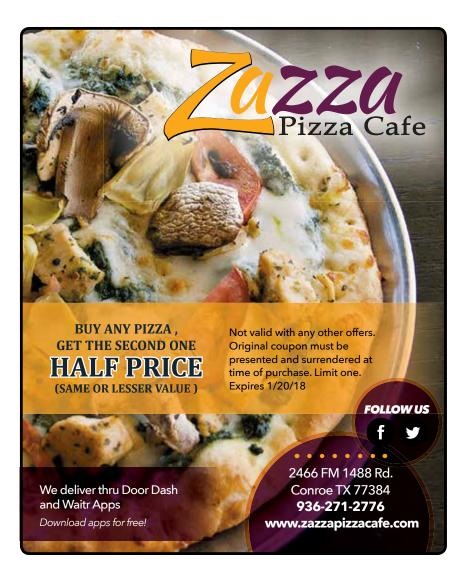


















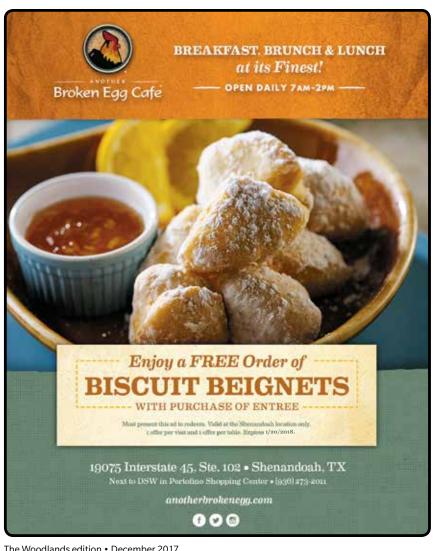






















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