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Changing Texas' property tax system is one of the Legislature's primary objectives in the 86th legislative session. While reforming this system, legislators also plan to address the state's home appraisal process and funding for public education.

PROPERTY TAX REFORM

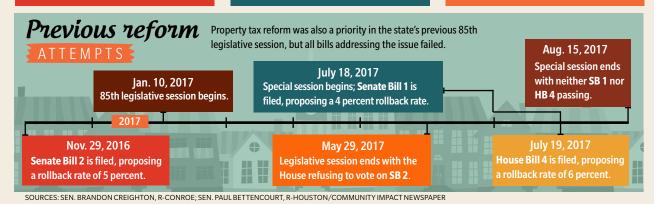
Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, authored Senate Bill 2, which proposes lowering the amount entities can raise their property tax revenue annually from 8 to 2.5 percent.

APPRAISAL CHANGES

Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, authored Senate Bill 657, which proposes lowering the appraisal value cap of a home from 10 percent to 3 or 5 percent annually.

FIXING SCHOOL FINANCE

Prior to the session, the Texas Commission on Public School Finance identified changes to the state's school finance system, including increasing the state's share of school funding.



Legislature eyes property tax, home appraisal reform

Humble, Harris County push back on bills filed capping the amount entities can raise revenue

BY ZAC EZZONE

Two years after the Texas Legislature failed to pass legislation reforming the state's property tax system, lawmakers have proposed similar bills in the 86th session that would lower the cap on how much cities and counties can

increase their revenue from property taxes from the previous year.

Under existing state law, cities and counties can receive an increase in property tax revenue of up to 8 percent from the prior year—which is called a rollback rate—without needing voter

approval. However, the new legislation—Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 2—would lower that cap to 2.5 percent.

State Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe—who was a joint author of SB 2—said in addition to addressing

CONTINUED ON 15

Water providers that serve the Lake Houston area continue to increase water rates per 1,000 gallons. 2015 2019 North Harris County Regional Water Authority \$3.35 \$4.30 West Harris County Regional Water Authority \$2.85 \$3.35 City of Houston* \$5.13 \$5.54 *THE CITY OF HOUSTON, SATES VARY DEPENDING ON WATER METER SIZE. SOURCES: CITY OF HOUSTON, NHCRWA, WHCRWA/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Water rates increasing as regional projects continue

BY ZAC EZZONE

Water rates continue to increase for residents in the Lake Houston area as the city of Houston and regional water authorities make progress on projects that will increase the Greater Houston area's use of surface water and decrease its use of groundwater.

This state-mandated shift from groundwater to surface water is an attempt to offset subsidence—which is the lowering of land elevation by withdrawing too much groundwater and can lead to flooding—in the Greater Houston area, said Mike Turco, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District general manager. The transition from groundwater to surface water is also necessary to keep pace with the water

LAKE HOUSTON HUMBLE KINGWOOD EDITION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 11 | MARCH 4-30, 2019

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CONTINUED ON 17



The Upside of Downsizing

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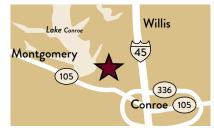














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John and Jennifer Garrett began Community Impact Newspaper in 2005 in Pflugerville, Texas. The company's mission is to build communities of informed citizens and thriving businesses through the collaboration of a passionate team.

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Welcoming spring, the legislative session

Spring is in the air! As we move into March, the weather will begin heating up, and we will gain an extra hour of daylight to enjoy the outdoors.

As spring begins, so to does the 86th Legislative session. In our first cover story, we look at the major pieces of legislation lawmakers have filed during this legislative session pertaining to property tax reform. This was a key topic during the last session in 2017, but legislators failed to agree on a bill to send to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk.

While explaining the bills related to property tax reform, we also look at bills the Legislature has filed relating to home appraisals and school finance.

In our second cover story, we offer an update on the massive water infrastructure

projects taking place in our area.

Officials are carrying out these projects to help the Houston area decrease its groundwater usage and increase its surface water usage. This transition is necessary to offset subsidence, which is the lowering of land elevation by withdrawing groundwater.

One major project taking place in the Lake Houston area is the expansion of the Northeast Water Purification Plant, which is located near Beltway 8. This \$1.76 million expansion will increase the number of gallons the plant can treat per day from 80 million to 400 million.

We hope you and your family will get outside, enjoy the extra hour in your day and check out everything our energetic community has to offer.



Emily Heineman

GENERAL MANAGER eheineman@communityimpact.com

ASK THE EDITOR



July y pare

Zac Ezzone
EDITOR

zezzone@communityimpact.com

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

Why does the governor select emergency items for the legislative session?

In his State of the State address Feb. 5, Gov. Greg Abbott named five emergency items he wants the Legislature to focus on during the 86th legislative session, which began Jan. 8.

The items include property tax reform, changes to the public education system—including increasing teacher pay and reforming school finance—disaster preparedness and recovery, increasing school safety, and funding mental health programs.

By identifying these emergency items, Abbott allowed the Legislature to vote on and pass bills related to these topics earlier in the session, while lawmakers must wait to pass any other legislation.

According to state law, during the first 30 days of a legislative session, legislators can only file bills and resolutions. During the following 30 days, committees can begin holding hearings to consider bills filed.

During the remainder of the 140-day legislative session—which ends May 27 this year—the Legislature can pass any bills or resolutions filed.

FEATURED STORIES

- **4** IMPACTS Now Open, Coming Soon & more
- **6** TO-DO LIST Local events and things to know
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- **8** CITY & COUNTY News from Harris County
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- 19 IMPACT DEALS



News or questions about Lake Houston, Humble or Kingwood? Email us at Ihknews@communityimpact.com.

checking and savings accounts as well as personal, mortgage and auto loans. 800-734-4667. www.regionsbank.com

5 Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers opened in Kingwood at 4519 Kingwood Drive in February. The 3,615-square-foot location seats 96 guests inside with additional seating available on the patio. The Kansas-based chain has more than 300 restaurants across 31 states and is known for its steak burgers, fries and frozen custard. 346-242-9674. www.freddysusa.com

COMING SOON

Yummy Tummy Pastries will open in Valley Ranch Town Center at the intersection of Hwy. 59 and the Grand Parkway in March. Yummy Tummy Pastries specializes in custom cakes and cookies for events such as birthday parties and weddings. Cake flavors include coconut cream, red velvet, Italian cream and German chocolate, among other options. This will be the pastry shop's second location in addition to its original location in Humble on FM 1960. 281-446-0450.

8 Vessel Pilates plans to open at 21 N. Main St., Kingwood, in late March or early April. The Pilates and wellness studio offers classes and individual sessions to help individuals strengthen their core and increase their flexibility. The studio also

provides unique fitness plans for custom-

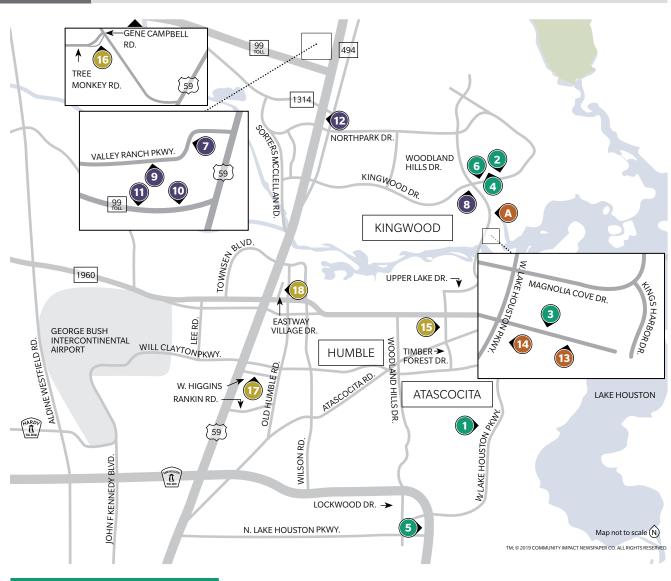
www.yummytummypastries.com

www.vesselpilates.com

ers. 281-380-3779.

9 Kung Fu Tea is opening a location in Valley Ranch Town Center at the intersection of Hwy. 59 and the Grand Parkway in July. The franchise tea shop offers numerous flavors of bubble tea and slushies made from a variety of ingredients. Menu items include passionfruit green tea, honey lemonade and fig jelly ice tea. 855-538-9888. www.kungfutea.com

10 Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers is opening a location in Valley Ranch Town Center, 12007 N.



NOW OPEN

1 F45 Training opened in Summerwood at 14609 W. Lake Houston Parkway in February. The studio offers physical fitness and training classes including high-intensity interval training, team fitness and cardio. 713-936-5245. www.f45training.com/summerwood

2 Tiff's Treats opened in Kingwood at 4529 Kingwood Drive, Ste. 160, in January. The store sells and delivers a variety of cookies, including chocolate chip,

snickerdoodle and peanut butter, as well as other treats. The website also offers online orders. 832-995-1600. www.cookiedelivery.com

3 Wine & Design opened in Kings Harbor at 1660 W. Lake Houston Parkway, Ste. 107, Kingwood, in February. The studio offers public and private classes in which an artist guides a group of customers through a painting session. Customers can bring their own food, wine, beer or other drinks to the painting classes. 832-445-6700. www.wineanddesign.com

4 Jimmy John's opened in Kingwood at 4521 Kingwood Drive, Ste. 260. The national counter-serve chain offers a variety of sandwiches with different toppings, such as roast beef, turkey, ham, lettuce and tomato. Customers can order online and have their orders delivered or pick them up at the store. 281-623-5973. www.jimmyjohns.com

5 Regions Bank opened a new location at 14125 E. Sam Houston Parkway N., Houston, in February. The company offers a variety of banking services, including



New Homes priced from the \$220s in Woodridge Forest



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Grand Parkway E., New Caney, in March. The 3,158-square-foot restaurant will seat 86 guests inside with additional seating available on the patio. The restaurant is known for its steak burgers, fries and frozen custard. www.freddysusa.com

open Valley Ranch Town Center at the intersection of Hwy. 59 and the Grand Parkway in May. The math-only learning center has specially trained math instructors to assist students in first to twelfth grades, who are either struggling in math or advanced in math. www.mathnasium.com

Parbor Freight Tools is opening a location in Porter at 23611 Hwy. 59. The tool and equipment retailer offers products at discounted rates and also sells products through its website.

www.harborfreight.com

RENOVATIONS

Sharky's will reopen this year after being purchased by new owners. Sharky's is the last of the restaurants at Kings Habor—located in Kingwood at 1660 W. Lake Houston Parkway—to reopen after the flooding caused during Hurricane Harvey. Before closing, the restaurant served a variety of burgers, salads and seafood, among other options.

Zammaitti's Italian Ristorante reopened in Kings Harbor at 1660 W. Lake Houston Parkway, Ste. 101, Kingwood, in February. Prior to opening, the restaurant was rebuilding after sustaining flood damage during Hurricane Harvey. The restaurant specializes in Italian fare, such as chicken picatta, lasagna, ravioli and other pasta. www.zammittis.com

www.sharkyswaterfrontgrill.com

IN THE NEWS

Timber Forest Drive, Humble, launched a new program for young adults 16 and older in January. The Ready for Life Program focuses on expanding participants' independent living, leisure and social skills through guided instruction. The program features different classes

throughout the week, such as the Apps and Snacks class, which focuses on technology and social relationships. Including Kids is a nonprofit organization that helps children, young adults and families who are affected by autism and other development delays. 281-852-0501. www.includingkids.org

16 Motivation Education and Training, located at 22551 Tree Monkey Road, New Caney, was selected to participate in a program run by the National Council for Behavioral Health in February. Motivation Education and Training is one of five nonprofits across the country that will participate in the Connected program, which is a two-year initiative designed to reduce anxiety, depression and suicide among individuals between the ages of 10-24 years. Motivation Education and Training offers a variety of programs dedicated to promoting the well-being of children and families throughout the area. 281-689-5544. www.metinc.org

The period for candidates to file in the May 4 **Humble City Council** election closed Feb. 15. Arliss Bentley is running for mayor against incumbent Merle Aaron. Incumbent Charles Curry is running unopposed for Humble City Council Position 1, and Glenn Redmon is running unopposed for Humble City Council Position 2. Longtime Humble City Council Member Ray Calfee did not seek re-election for Position 2. Residents who wish to vote in the election must register to do so by April 4. Residents can register to vote at www.votetexas.gov.

The period for candidates to file in the May 4 **Humble ISD board of trustees** election closed Feb. 15. There are three board positions up for election with four candidates running for Position 2, none of whom is an incumbent. Two candidates are running for Position 6, including the incumbent Colin Carney. Incumbent Nancy Morrison is running unopposed for Position 7. Residents who wish to vote in the election must register to do so by April 4. Residents can register to vote at www.votetexas.gov.

FEATURED IMPACT — RENOVATION



Lake Houston Family YMCA is reopening March 18 at 2420 W. Lake Houston Parkway, Kingwood. The facility has been partially reopen since June 2018 but will fully reopen for the first time since sustaining flood damage during Hurricane Harvey. 281-360-2500. www.ymcahouston.org













Your local guide for events, business openings, meetings and more in the months of March and April

MARCH 15-16

Attend a plant sale

Mercer Botanic Gardens hosts a plant sale, where it will offer a large selection of plants as well as experts from local organizations to provide gardening ideas and information. Free. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. March 16 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble. 713-274-4160. www.hcp4.net

MARCH 28

Celebrate the beginning of the spring season

The East Montgomery County Improvement District hosts its annual Spring Extravaganza, which will feature rides, games, crafts and candy. 5-8 p.m. Free. East Montgomery County Improvement District, 21575 Hwy. 59, Ste. 200, New Caney. 281-354-4419. www.emctx.com

WARCH 20

MARCH 16

Worth the trip

Attend Houston's St. Patrick's Day parade

The Houston St. Patrick's Parade Commission hosts the 60th annual Houston St. Patrick's Parade. A final parade route was not announced before press time. Free. Noon. Downtown Houston. 832-998-4192. www.hsppc.org

Violinist Rob Landes performs at the Charles Bender Performing Arts Center, where he will play a variety of different arrangements of popular music. 7 p.m. \$15. Charles Bender Performing Arts Center, 611 Higgins St., Humble.

performance in Humble

281-446-4140. www.humblepac.com

APRIL 4

MARCH 30

Watch a violin

Register to vote

Residents who plan to vote in the May 4 election must register to vote by April 4. There are three city of Humble positions up for election, including the mayor's seat and two council positions. There are three Humble ISD board of trustee positions up for election. Information on how to register can be found at www.votetexas.gov.

APRIL 6

Attend an annual festival

The city of Humble hosts its annual festival Good Oil Days, which celebrates the city's history in the oil industry. Residents who attend the festival can peruse booths set up by local businesses. Free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Main Street, Humble. 281-446-4140. www.goodoildays.com

CITY OF HUMBUE / COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAP

Find more or submit events at **communityimpact.com/lhk-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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See a list of full events at community impact.com/events.





the Final Sections of this Master-Planned Community!

- Humble ISD Schools, including Kingwood Park High School
- Recreation Center with Clubhouse
- Junior Olympic, Competition Swimming Pool
- Playground and nature reserves
- Five miles of trails tying into the Kingwood trail system
- New Patio Section Now Open featuring Trendmaker and Village Builders

New Homes from the \$300s - \$600s

ASHTON WOODS.

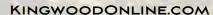
PERRY HOMES





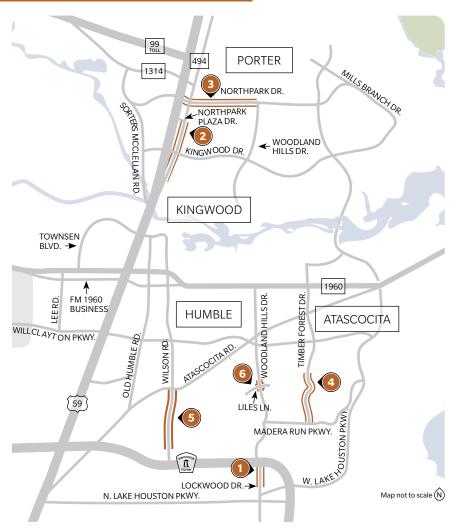


HOMES









RECENT UPDATES

1 Lockwood Drive expansion

McCord Development is designing the expansion of Lockwood Drive to four lanes between Beltway 8 and Union Pacific Railroad Corp. tracks. The project includes drainage and railroad crossing improvements. The expansion is a joint project between Harris County Precinct 4 and McCord Development. The county sent the project out to bid in late 2018.

Timeline: TBD **Cost:** \$1.8 million

Funding sources: Harris County Precinct 4, McCord Development

2 Loop 494 widening

The Texas Department of Transportation is expanding Loop 494 from two to four lanes between Sorters McClellan Road and Northpark Plaza Drive. Construction plans also include building sidewalks along the new roadway. The agency plans to send the project out for bid this year.

Timeline: TBD

Cost: \$14.4 million

Funding source: TxDOT

Northpark Drive expansion

The Lake Houston Redevelopment Authority is expanding Northpark Drive between Hwy. 59 to Woodland Hills Drive from four

to six lanes. The project will also create an overpass at the railroad tracks and will be completed in two phases. Construction of Phase 1 is scheduled for 2020 and includes the stretch of road from Hwy. 59 to Russell Palmer Road. Construction of Phase 2 is scheduled for 2023 and includes the stretch of road from Russell Palmer Road to Woodland Hills Drive.

Timeline: 2020-TBD (Phase 1), 2023-TBD (Phase 2)

Cost: \$86.2 million

Funding sources: city of Houston, federal

grants, LHRA

4 Timber Forest Drive widening

In November, Harris County Precinct 2 began widening Timber Forest Drive from two lanes to four lanes between Eagle Springs and Madera Run parkways. Construction is scheduled to conclude in the second quarter of 2019.

Timeline: November 2018-second quarter 2019

Cost: \$2.7 million

Funding source: Harris County Precinct 2

5 Wilson Road expansion

SER Construction Partners began work on the expansion of Wilson Road in January 2018. The road is expanding to four lanes between just north of Beltway 8 and Atascocita Road. The planned construction will also include the installation of a sidewalk extension between Park Lakes Elementary School and Viscaro Lane.

Timeline: January 2018-October 2019

Cost: \$9.9 million

Funding source: Harris County

Precinct 4

6 Woodland Hills Drive traffic signal

Harris County Precinct 4 is installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Woodland Hills Drive and Liles Lane. The project is in the design phase, and the county plans to begin construction in 2019.

Timeline: 2019-TBD

Cost: TBD

Funding source: Harris County

Precinct 4



HOW IT WORKS

Drivers must move over or slow down to pass emergency vehicles

The Texas Department of Public Safety helps enforce the Move Over/Slow Down law to protect certain vehicles stopped on the side of the road.

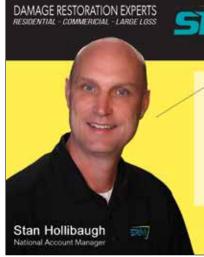
The law passed in 2003 requires drivers to either move over a lane or slow down for vehicles stopped on the side of the road with activated emergency lights. Those include police, fire, emergency medical services, DPS troopers and tow trucks, according to the law.

If the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction, drivers must vacate the lane closest to stopped vehicles. If drivers do not have an opportunity to change lanes, they must slow down to 20 mph below the speed limit when passing stopped vehicles, the law states.

Last year, more than 41,000 warnings and citations were issued for violations of the law, according to DPS.

Violations can result in a fine of up to \$200, or \$500 with property damage. The law includes more severe penalties, including jail time, if someone gets hurt.

All information on this page was updated as of 2/15/19. News or questions about these or other local transportation projects?
Email us at Ihknews@communityimpact.com.



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Harris County receives grant funding for San Jacinto Watershed study

HARRIS COUNTY Harris County commissioners authorized the county to accept grant funding for a \$2.7 million regional study that will examine more than 500 miles of streams that flow into the San Jacinto River in February.

The two-year study—which will be led by the Harris County Flood Control District—will examine 13 different major channels and tributaries that flow into the river between I-10 in Houston and Hwy. 30 near Huntsville.

In an interview with Community Impact Newspaper in August, Dena Green, HCFCD feasibility studies department manager, said one of the goals of the study—the Upper San Jacinto River Regional Watershed Flood Mitigation Plan—is to develop projects that could be implemented to reduce flooding in the study area.

Green said it is important to take a broad, regional approach to this study

STUDY BREAKDOWN

The Upper San Jacinto River Regional Watershed Flood Mitigation Plan identifies numerous projects that could be implemented to reduce flooding in the study area:

- Development a communications plan for the numerous agencies in the study area to follow during a flood.
- Identify locations for additional gauges outside of Harris County that relay information to the county's flood warning system.
- Development a list of projects that could prevent flooding.

SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT/

because of the amount of water these channels carry into the river.

The study has numerous objectives, one of which is to develop a comprehensive list of future flood prevention projects, such as improving channel conveyance or building a regional detention basin, Green said.

Projects identified in the study will be funded by Harris County's \$2.5 billion bond program, which voters approved Aug. 25.

Harris County submits application for countywide polling location program; could be in place by May

HARRIS COUNTY After several hours of listening to public opinions of both support and concern regarding the implementation of a countywide polling place program, Harris County Commissioners Court opted to proceed with the application process to participate in the program Feb. 12.

Participation in the program would allow county residents to vote at any of the 700 polling locations across the county. While Harris County voters can currently vote at any polling location during the early voting period, on election day, voters are restricted to their assigned polling location based on the voting precinct in which they live.

County Clerk Diane Trautman said the countywide polling place program is used in 52 counties across Texas.

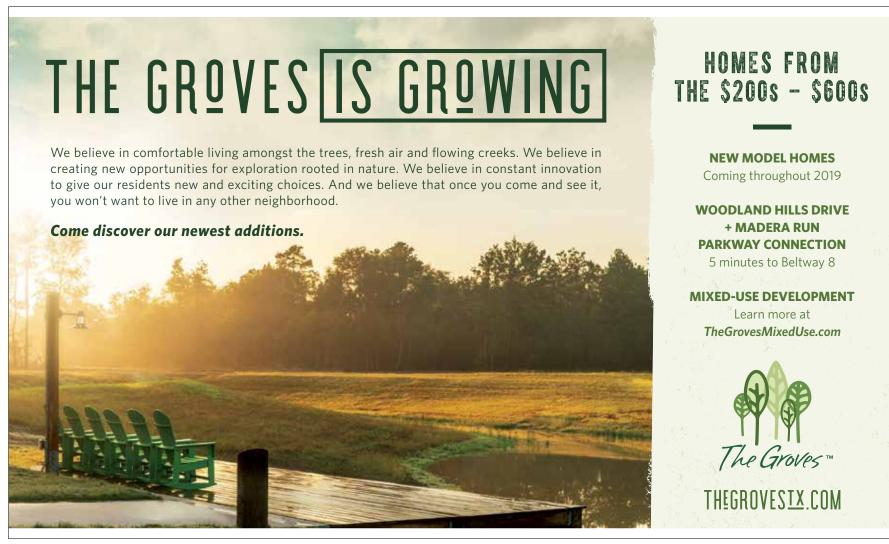
The item was previously discussed at the Jan. 8 Commissioners Court meeting, at which roughly 30 residents and representatives from community groups signed up to speak on the proposed program during the public hearing portion of the meeting. The public hearing was recessed and reopened Feb. 12.

On Feb. 12, supporters of the program touted anticipated increased voter participation across the county, stating the program could eliminate confusion over assigned polling locations while making it more convenient for residents to vote.

Opponents of the program shared concerns over the potential relocation or closure of existing polling locations, as they said they believe it could hurt voter turnout for residents who are accustomed to voting at their preferred location.

Following the public hearing, commissioners unanimously authorized Trautman to submit an application to the Texas secretary of state.

During a community meeting Feb. 5, Trautman said the program could be implemented for May elections.



Harris County commissioners deny funding for more prosecutors, opt for criminal justice study instead

HARRIS COUNTY Instead of allocating \$20.6 million to fund 102 additional prosecutor positions as requested by Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg, Harris County Commissioners Court opted for a \$5.8 million budget increase for the office and asked for a comprehensive study of Harris County's criminal justice system at its Feb. 12 meeting.

According to Ogg's budget proposal, presented during the county's fiscal year 2019-20 budget hearings in January, the main goal of the additional funding was to ease prosecutors' caseloads.

After much discussion during the public hearing, County Judge Lina Hidalgo suggested offering the DA's office a 7 percent budget increase of \$5.8 million and requested the budget management department seek outside consultants to aid with a comprehensive study of the county's criminal justice system.

"What I'm hearing is ... additional

REQUEST REJECTED



\$20.6 million

Harris County Commissioners Court

rejected a Harris County District Attorney request to add \$20.6 million to the office's budget to fund 102 additional prosecutor positions.

108,773 cases

In 2018 the Harris County DA's ← office filed 108,773 criminal cases, while staffing 255 prosecutors.

prosecutors are not the only way and certainly not the most cost-effective way to decrease prosecutor caseloads," Hidalgo said.

In a 4-1 vote, the court directed the Harris County Budget Management Department to put together a request for a comprehensive study of Harris County's criminal justice system looking at strategies to reduce caseload backlog.

Federal funds awarded for tunnel feasibility study

HARRIS COUNTY The Harris County Flood Control District was awarded funding for a feasibility study on building a flood tunnel in February.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration awarded 2018 Disaster Supplemental funding of \$320,000 to the district to conduct the study, according to a Feb. 7 press release.

Large deep-diameter tunnels can move large volumes of stormwater in the case of a major storm event, **HCFCD Chief Operations Officer Matt** Zeve told Community Impact Newspaper in August. These tunnels cost billions of dollars and take years to build but could help with drainage throughout the Houston region.

The grant will fund the four- to five-monthlong feasibility study that will determine whether it is possible to build a flood tunnel in Harris County based on local geological conditions, such as fault lines and soil. Zeve said.

"If this is an idea that can work and that can really help with major drainage and flooding issues in Harris County, we want to vet that out fully so that we know if we can add the concept of the idea of a deep tunnel ... to our tool box," he said.

If the study concludes a flood tunnel can be supported by Harris County's geology, then the district will proceed to two additional studies to map out specific tunnel routes and the scope of the project, Zeve said. These additional studies will determine the cost of building a flood tunnel and the amount of water the tunnels can move, among other details.

These additional studies will cost about \$2.5 million, and the district has already secured funds through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Zeve said. The Texas General Land Office allocated \$1.1 billion in funds to Harris County for Hurricane Harvey recovery through this federal grant program, he said.

Harris County homeowners hit by Harvey can apply for funds, reimbursements

HARRIS COUNTY A portion of the \$2.3 billion set aside by U.S. Congress for disaster recovery in 2018 has made its way to Harris County.

Harris County Commissioners Court accepted more than \$909 million in federal funds at a Jan. 29 meeting to help homeowners repair and rebuild homes that were damaged during Hurricane Harvey in August 2017 and to reimburse homeowners who made repairs out

of pocket.

The funds were made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and will be distributed over the coming months, according to a statement released by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

As of Jan. 29, homeowners can apply for consideration for funding online at www.harrisrecovery.org. Funding will be distributed across six housing programs, including a program to assist with home repairs and rebuilds for homes damaged during Harvey and a home buyout program for low-income homeowners.

Daphne Lemelle, the executive director of the Harris County Community Services Department, said a resource department is also on hand to connect homeowners who do not qualify for funding to nonprofits and charitable organizations.

MEETINGS

Humble City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. March 14 and 28 at 114 W. Higgins St., Humble. 281-446-3061. www.cityofhumble.com

Harris County Commissioners Court meets at 10 a.m. March 12 and 26 at 1001 Preston St., Ste. 934, Houston. www.harriscountytx.gov

Montgomery County Commissioners Court meets at 9:30 a.m. March 12 and 26 at 501 N. Thompson St., Conroe. www.mctx.org



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- Depression
- · Grief and Loss
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- Medication Management

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Waffle creations

The cafe offers a variety of signature waffles with different toppings for \$12.

- · Falafel waffle is made with chickpeas and served with chicken and tzatziki sauce.
- · S'mores consists of a cinnabun waffle covered in chocolate sauce and topped with toasted marshmallows.
- Pizzaria consists of a traditional waffle topped with marinara and alfredo sauces as well as mozzarella cheese and pepperoni.

1: Nectar Cafe specializes in coffee, waffles and ice cream. 2: Nikki and William Loyd opened the cafe in Humble in 2017.





Nectar Cafe 7560 FM 1960, Humble 281-570-6555

www.nitronectar.cafe

Hours: Mon.-Tue. 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed.-Thu. 7 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m.-8 p.m.



Nectar Cafe

Humble eatery specializes in coffee, waffles and ice cream

ikki Loyd picked Humble as a place to grow roots with her husband, artist William Loyd, because of a house they fell in love with. They moved to Humble five years ago from Houston's Montrose neighborhood, where they owned The Starving Artist Art Gallery, which is now permanently closed.

The Loyds opened Nectar - A Nitro Cafe, or Nectar Cafe for short, in a space that used to house The Honey Baked Ham Co. on Nov. 16, 2017.

In spite of various differences between the customers who visit the shop, Nectar Cafe's customers can bond with one another over the food and coffee served at the cafe, Nikki said.

"What's nice is that we have so many regulars who probably don't vote the same way as each other or go to the same church or synagogue," Nikki said. "But it really is a place where community becomes unified over coffee and food. Bringing unity to the community is very important to us as a family and as individuals."

The dairy-free hot coffee drink called the Nutrino is one of Nikki's signature drinks. The Kopi Luwak is a \$40 cup of coffee; the coffee grounds, which are ordered online, are wild-harvested by the Indonesian civet cat, Nikki said. The rich, smooth coffee is prepared in a French press and served in a copper pot.

"I didn't want to be just another coffee shop. I wanted to create an experience," Nikki said. "We serve really good food quickly."

In addition to the owners, seven people work at the cafe preparing coffee, waffles, nitrogen-fused ice cream, and treats such as the Dragon's Breath, which is made with corn puffs.

Nectar Cafe hosts an artist meet-and-greet event called The Artist Sojourn during the evening on one Friday of the month. The walls display a rotation of an artist's work, providing the artist an opportunity to be seen and to sell.

"I see us as a place where we are helping people design a different lifestyle, whether in their house or in their stomach," Nikki said.



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Raffa's Waterfront Grill

Kingwood restaurant recovers, thrives after Hurricane Harvey

affa's Waterfront Grill—a restaurant in the Kings Harbor business hub in Kingwood that serves contemporary American cuisine—was one of the many businesses in the Lake Houston area that flooded during Hurricane Harvey. But restaurant owner Tony Raffa did not let the setback stop him from rebuilding the beloved neighborhood restaurant.

Raffa and his wife, Leslie, opened Raffa's Waterfront Grill in 2007, after Raffa spent years working at various restaurants in the Houston area.

"I first worked in Galveston making pizzas, then I worked at two restaurants in Houston," Raffa said. "I looked at The Woodlands to open a restaurant and finally picked a spot on Loop 494 in Kingwood for [Amedeo's Italian Restaurant, which] opened in 1985."

Amedeo's specializes in made-from-scratch Italian cuisine and live jazz music. But Raffa's Waterfront Grill, which opened in 2007, features 6,000 square feet of space and floor-to-ceiling windows that frame scenic views of the San Jacinto River. The growing success of Raffa's ground to a halt Aug. 28, 2017, when 5 feet of water flooded the restaurant during Hurricane Harvey.

When the restaurant reopened in October 2018, it had a new look and menu. Raffa said he hired Executive Chef Martin Reczek, who had been at Amedeo's, and infused a lot of Asian-inspired flavors and dishes into the menu. Dishes such as seared elk, beech mushrooms and branzino—a type of bass—punctuate the fresh take on Cajun-influenced dinner plates, Raffa said.

The now-larger wine room at Raffa's also got a makeover and was fitted with a wall-mounted monitor for business presentations. The bar was also expanded to accommodate more seats.

Hard work and perseverance are keys to operating a business successfully, Raffa said.

"I'm really grateful to the people in the Lake Houston community for their strong support," he said.



THREE DISHES TO TRY

Beet salad (\$12-\$14) This salad is served with watermelon radishes, blue cheese, pecans, watercress, baby arugula and brown sugar sherry vinaigrette.



Bulgogi flat iron steak (\$22)

This steak is served with Korean barbecue sauce, kimchi risotto and housemade pickled vegetables.

Pesto chicken pasta (\$14)

This dish consists of grilled chicken, pasta, sundried tomatoes, mushrooms, roasted peppers and pesto.



Raffa's Waterfront Grill

1660 W. Lake Houston Parkway, Ste. 103, Kingwood

281-360-1436

www.raffas.net

Hours: Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.













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A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Lone Star College Open House set for April 2

Deciding where go to college can be hard. There are so many things to think about, making it feel overwhelming. That's why Lone Star College is hosting Open Houses including April 13 at LSC-Kingwood to help answer your questions.

"Lone Star College cares about my success, education and well-being," said Johnesia David, LSC student. "Lone Star College provides students with all type of resources from tutoring, to counseling, scholarships and more."

LSC representatives will be on hand to answer questions about degree and certificate options. Financial aid information will also be available to help students learn about options to help pay for college.

"Attending an open house is a wonderful way to learn more about Lone Star College in



LSC is hosting Open Houses at its campuses for students and parents to learn about the many programs offered.

an informal and friendly setting," said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor.

Check it out at LoneStar.edu/OpenHouse.

LSC Fall registration begins April 4

Don't wait or hesitate!

Spring may be in the air, but it's not too early to get a jump on fall classes at Lone Star

Registration for the upcoming fall semester kicks off April 4. More than 99,000 credit and non-credit students made the smart choice last fall, getting an affordable education close to home.

You'll find lots of choices, from Fast Track certificate programs and two-year associate degrees, to the 2+2 academic transfer program - two years at LSC and transfer for two years at a four-year university.

> LSC workforce options are designed with students in mind. Get ready to work in the hottest industries like computer technology, cybersecurity, health care, logistics, welding, auto repair, HVAC-R and more!

Like to save money? Students and their parents enjoy taking advantage of low tuition -- about \$800 for a 12-credit-hour semester of classes and lots of great clubs and student organizations along with intramural and club

Don't wait, don't hesitate! Register at LoneStar.edu/start to Start Close and Go Far at Lone Star

Want to get trained for a new career? College.

You're invited! LONE STAR COLLEGE April 13 • 10a.m.-2p.m. 20000 Kingwood Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339-3801

LoneStar.edu/OpenHouse

Building a skilled workforce

The opportunities to find a great job in the energy, manufacturing and construction industries has never been better. LSC can help you get trained and get hired with the skills employers are looking for to land a great paying career with lots of potential. The more you learn, the more you earn. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/Workforce to find a career that is right for you!

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Higher education enrollment is anticipated to continue climbing through 2030 in the Lake Houston area, state data shows. Additionally, the percent of local high school students enrolled in career and technical education programs has grown since 2013, according to the Texas Education Agency, while the number of residents age 25 and older with a bachelor's degree has also grown from 2011-17 in most ZIP codes in the Lake Houston area, according to U.S. Census Bureau data for the seven area ZIP codes.

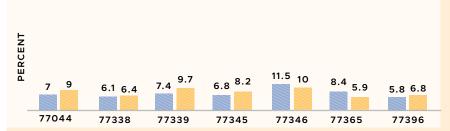
2011 2017



POPULATION WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREE

AGE 25 AND OLDER

Data shows how the percent of residents with associate degrees changed from 2011-17.



POPULATION WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

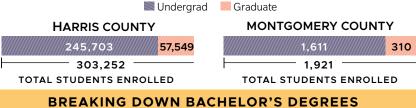
AGE 25 AND OLDER

The percent of residents with a bachelor's degree grew from 2011-17 in most ZIP codes.

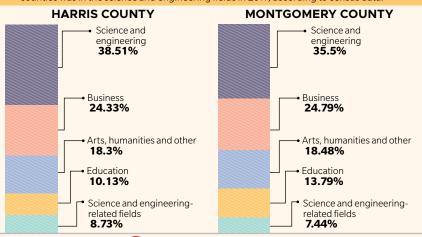


NUMBER OF RESIDENTS ENROLLED IN 2017

About 84 percent and 81 percent, respectively, of higher education enrollment in Montgomery and Harris counties was in undergraduate studies in 2017.

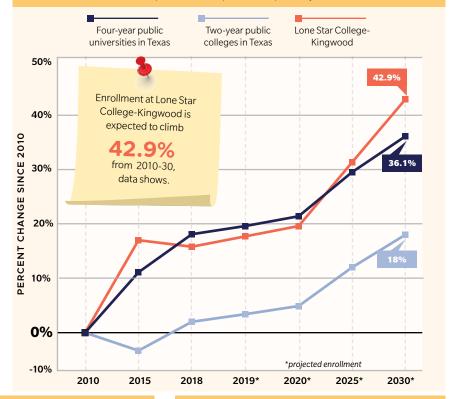


The largest percentage of residents' first bachelor's degrees in Harris and Montgomery counties was in the science and engineering fields in 2017, according to census data.



FORECASTING CHANGING ENROLLMENT FROM 2010-30

By 2030, four-year and two-year institutions statewide are projected to increase enrollment 36 percent and 18 percent, respectively, from 2010.



The majority of students residing within Humble and New Caney ISDs enrolled in the Lone Star College System attend the Kingwood campus.

In spring 2019, students within Humble and New Caney ISD boundaries make up

40% AND 10.8%, respectively, of enrollment at the Kingwood campus.

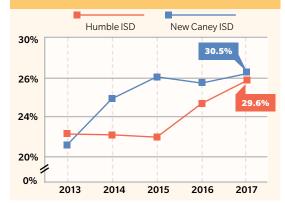
LOCAL GRADUATES ENROLLED AT LONE STAR COLLEGE

A percentage of spring 2016 graduates from high schools in Humble and New Caney ISDs attended LSCS campuses in fall 2016.

ATASCOCITA HIGH SCHOOL	18.5%
HUMBLE HIGH SCHOOL	22.3%
KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL	15.3%
KINGWOOD PARK HIGH SCHOOL	20.5%
SUMMER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL	22.7%
NEW CANEY HIGH SCHOOL	23.4%
PORTER HIGH SCHOOL	25.8%

A LOOK AT CAREER & **TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Enrollment in CTE programs has increased from 2013-17.





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property tax reform, the Legislature is also focused on making changes to the home appraisal process and how the state funds public education. He said all three of these topics are related and need to be solved to decrease how much homeowners pay in property taxes.

However, officials from cities and counties in the Lake Houston area have pushed back on the idea that the state needs to reduce the rollback rate to fix school funding.

"They blame all the cities for the property tax increases, but the state has failed to fund education, and really that's the big problem right there," Humble Mayor Merle Aaron said.

PROPERTY TAX, APPRAISAL REFORM

Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houstonwho was also a joint author of SB 2-said the bill is necessary because residents have seen their home appraisal values increase steadily in recent years, which leads to homeowners paying more in property taxes even if a city or county's property tax rate has not changed.

According to data from the Harris County Appraisal District, homes within the Atascocita area from Beltway 8 to near Kingwood have increased in value by 8 percent from 2015-18.

Bettencourt said the amount of property tax revenue being generated by these appraisal increases is not necessary for cities to operate. According to Texas comptroller data, the amount of property tax revenue collected by Harris County increased about 40 percent between 2013-17.

Additionally, Bettencourt said any revenue generated from new properties in a city's or county's fiscal year are exempt from this 2.5 percent cap. Instead, only existing properties from the previous year will be taken into account.

"[Taxing entities] get new growth in the current tax year, and a few other exemptions," Bettencourt said.

In addition to being a joint author on SB 2, Creighton said he has filed one bill and is considering another that would make significant changes to the home appraisal process.

SB 657 proposes to lower the limit of how much a home's appraisal value can increase each year. Under existing state law, the appraisal value of a home can increase up to 10 percent each year, but under SB 657, the cap would be lowered to 3 or 5 percent, depending on the value of the home.

Additionally, Creighton said he plans to file legislation that would require appraisal review board members to be elected to their positions by the public,

rather than appointed by taxing authorities such as cities and counties.

"Right now, the appointed appraisal review board member just represents the taxing entity that sent them there, and we need some more accountability to the public," Creighton said.

CITIES, COUNTIES PUSH BACK

Officials from the city of Humble and Harris County say lowering the rollback rate from 8 percent to 2.5 percent would make it difficult to keep pace with the constantly increasing costs of operating a city or county. Also, both entities have cited specific situations in which the cap reduction could affect them.

Humble City Manager Jason Stuebe said over the past few years, the city has received an increase in property tax revenue of almost the full 8 percent rollback rate as the city steadily increases its property tax rate.

In 2014-15, the city's tax rate was \$0.20 per \$100 valuation but increased to \$0.25 in September. Stuebe said he is concerned that if SB 2 goes into effect, it will take the city decades to reach its desired tax rate of about \$0.35 per \$100

Stuebe said the city is increasing its tax rate because its previous rate was unsustainable.

"We were at \$0.20 [per \$100 valuation] ... and we weren't keeping pace with the cost of doing business ... and we recognized that," Stuebe said.

At a Feb. 6 Senate Committee on Property Tax hearing, Bill Jackson, Harris County chief budget officer, said the cap reduction would make it difficult for the county to provide services to the growing population in unincorporated Harris County, such as the Atascocita area.

"In the last seven years, 700,000 people have moved to Harris County, and of that, 70 percent have moved to the unincorporated area," Jackson said.

To fund services for this growing population, the county has to rely on property tax revenue because it does not receive sales tax revenue like cities and the state do, Jackson said.

Later in the hearing, when pressed by Bettencourt to provide a rollback rate that would be sufficient, Jackson said the county could handle a rollback rate of 5 percent but not 2.5 percent.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

Although major legislation addressing the state's public school finance system has not been filed as of press time, Creighton said changing the formula is also a key part of property tax reform.

Over the past few years, the state's share of public school funding has

Tax changes Cities and counties in the Lake Houston area have experienced increases in their property tax revenue in most years without significant changes to their tax rates. HARRIS COUNTY MONTGOMERY COUNTY HUMBLE REVENUE INCREASES **47.5% INCREASE** 40% 30% 39.9% INCREASE FROM 2013 20% **24.8% INCREASE**

TAX RATE CHANGES 0.30

2014

2015

2017



SOURCE: TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

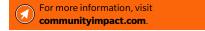
Average market value changes IN LAKE HOUSTON AREA The average market value for homes within different parts of the Lake Houston area have increased steadily over the past few years, with the exception 1314 of a dip in Kingwood following Hurricane Harvey.* Atascocita area 2015: \$221,118 2018: \$240,328 **Humble area** 2015: \$130,744 2018: \$147,984 Kingwood area 2015: \$250,405 2018: \$243,581

*INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE FOR PORTIONS OF THE LAKE HOUSTON AREA IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

decreased in many school districtsincluding Humble ISD-while the local share, which consists of property taxes, has increased. This change has occurred despite HISD not increasing its tax rate.

For example, in 2013-14, local revenue made up 51.1 percent of HISD's total revenue, while state revenue made up 46.66 percent. In 2018-19, local revenue made up 55.93 percent of the district's total revenue, with the state covered

"[School finance] is an important and integral part of the discussion," Bettencourt said. "Tax rates for the [school districts] must come down too. The only way you can do that is through school finance reform where the state picks up a bigger share."



Map not to scale (N)

The Woman's Hospital of Texas

Texas Orthopedic Hospital

HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake

HCA Houston Healthcare Conroe

HCA Houston Healthcare Cypress Fairbanks

HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood

HCA Houston Healthcare Mainland

HCA Houston Healthcare Medical Center

HCA Houston Healthcare North Cypress

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GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWAL CHANGES

The amount of water withdrawn from the ground in north Harris County has fluctuated over the last five years as the Greater Houston area transitions from groundwater to surface water.

Million gallons of groundwater used per day



SOURCE: HARRIS-GALVESTON SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

CONTINUED FROM 1

needs of the Greater Houston area's growing population, he said.

The HGSD is the state entity that regulates the groundwater usage of the water authorities in the region. Turco said the subsidence district tasked entities in north Harris County with ensuring that by 2035, surface water will supply 80 percent of the water used in north Harris County, with groundwater comprising the remaining 20 percent.

Today, most entities in north Harris County pump 70 percent of their water from the ground and 30 percent of their water from the surface. Before reaching the 2035 goal, entities must transition to pumping 60 percent of their water from the surface and 40 percent from the ground by 2025.

"[Subsidence] is definitely something you want to solve because any subsidence that occurs is subsidence that will be there forever," Turco said.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

One of the major projects that will increase the amount of surface water available to residents is the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project, which is being completed by the Coastal Water Authority. This project will transport water from the Trinity River in Liberty County to Lake Houston—which serves as a major source of surface water for the Greater Houston area, CWA Executive Director Don Ripley said.

The estimated \$380 million project involves building a pump station on the Trinity River, along with pipelines and

channels to transport the water to Lake Houston. Construction on the project started in 2016 and is scheduled to finish in 2020, Ripley said.

Surface water pulled from Lake Houston is treated at the Northeast Water Purification Plant, which is undergoing a \$1.76 billion expansion, Project Manager Ravi Kaleyatodi said. This expansion will increase the number of gallons the plant can pump from 80 million to 400 million per day. This expansion, like the Luce Bayou Project, is necessary for the Houston area to transition from groundwater to surface water, he said.

The water purification plant expansion started in 2017 and will be completed in two phases. The first phase will increase the number of gallons the plant can pump per day to 160 million by 2022. The expansion to 400 million gallons per day will be completed by 2024, Kaleyatodi said.

In addition to expanding the plant—which is located near Beltway 8—the project includes the construction of a new intake station on Lake Houston that will pump water to the expanded plant. Water pumped from this station will travel through an underground pipeline—which is still under construction—that will travel under West Lake Houston Parkway near the Summerwood and Summer Lake Ranch neighborhoods, Kaleyatodi said.

The Texas Water Development Board is loaning local entities with the funds to complete these projects, but all affected entities will pay the state back.

SURFACE WATER CONVERSION O Surface water O Groundwater The Harris-Galveston Subsidence District tasked entities throughout Harris County with converting groundwater use to surface water use in an attempt to offset subsidence, which is the lowering of ground elevation. 2019 2025 SOURCE: HARRIS-GALVESTON SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER The expansion of the Northeast Water **WATER PLANT EXPANSION** Purification Plant will help the Houston area's transition to increased surface water usage. **Purification plant** Intake station The **\$1.76 billion** expansion The new intake pump station will will increase the number of pump water from Lake Houston to gallons the plant can pump the expanded purification plant. from 80 million to 400 million. **WOODLAND HILLS** TI TOTAL TOTAL Pipeline: W. LAKE HOUS' SOURCE: CITY OF HOUSTON/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

INCREASED WATER RATES

As entities work on these projects, the monthly water pumping fees and rates customers pay are increasing to help pay for the projects, said Jun Chang, deputy general manager of the North Harris County Regional Water Authority—which contracts with municipal utility districts in the Lake Houston area.

The NHCRWA increased its ground-water pumping fee from \$2 per 1,000 gallons in 2015 to \$3.85 per 1,000 gallons, effective April 1. In that same time, the NHCRWA's surface water pumping fee has increased from \$2.45 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.30 per 1,000 gallons.

Similarly, the city of Houston, which provides water to MUDs and cities—including Humble—has increased its water rates to fund these projects, said Chang—who was the city of Houston's deputy director of Public Works before joining the NHCRWA in 2016.

According to Houston Public Works data, the monthly rate for a household in the city of Houston using 7,000 gallons per month in 2010 was \$24.89. Meanwhile, the monthly rate for the same household in 2018 was \$39.78.

When water providers, such as the city of Houston and water authorities, increase their rates, local entities, like the city of Humble, then pass the increases on to residents, Humble City Manager Jason Stuebe said.

"Our rates have steadily been

increasing, and the only rate they have been increasing at is the rate of which Houston is increasing," Stuebe said.

SUBSIDENCE, WATER DEMANDS

The Greater Houston area's transition from groundwater to surface water will not reverse subsidence that has already occurred, but it should prevent it from getting worse, Turco said. Addressing subsidence is necessary because decreases in land elevation can increase an area's chance of flooding.

"[Flooding] is the big reason you want to solve the subsidence," Turco said. "There are other things that contribute to flooding, but this is one we can solve."

According to HGSD data, subsidence is occurring near Kingwood. From 2013-18, an area near Sorters McCllellan Road, west of Hwy. 59 and north of Kingwood Drive, has subsided an average of 1.07 centimeters per year.

In addition to mitigating subsidence, the projects being completed throughout the Greater Houston area will increase the amount of water available for the growing number of residents in places such as the Lake Houston area.

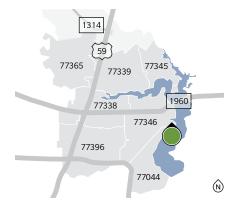
"[The Houston] area is growing at 1 million people per decade," Kaleyatodi said. "So, in the next two decades population is projected to grow by 2 million."



REAL ESTATE FEATURED NEIGHBORHOOD

WALDEN ON LAKE HOUSTON, 77346

In addition to the views offered by its location on Lake Houston, this neighborhood also offers residents access to a golf course and tennis courts. The neighborhood is also located near West Lake Houston Parkway, providing residents with easy access to different parts of the Lake Houston area.



Build-out year: 1981-2018 Median square footage: 3,459 Median home value: \$230,000 HOA dues (estimated): \$550-\$1,044

Amenities: country club, pool, golf course,

location on Lake Houston Property taxes (in dollars):

1.52
0.45
0.42
0.17
0.11
0.10
0.03
0.01
0.01
\$2.82

MARKET DATA

HOMES SOLD (JANUARY 2019)

Number of homes sold/Average days on the market							
Price range	77044	77345	77346	77365	77338	77339	77396
\$149,999 or less	4/16	-	1/34	4/14	13/38	5/19	2/31
\$150,000-\$199,999	7/50	-	16/46	11/89	14/42	13/44	17/44
\$200,000-\$299,999	10/107	9/119	36/106	19/101	6/170	10/76	12/97
\$300,000-\$399,999	5/96	6/121	9/92	4/180	-	2/94	2/20
\$400,000-\$499,999	1/51	3/192	2/193	1/81	-	1/171	1/213
\$500,000-\$599,999	-	-	1/0	2/117	-	-	-
\$600,000-\$799,999	-	1/201	-	-	-	-	-
\$800,000-\$999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1 million +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEDIAN PRICE OF HOMES SOLD IN JANUARY ≥2018 VS. ≥2019 77346 77365 77396



Median home value \$275,000

Median annual

property taxes

\$5,319





\$88







105



*As of 2/17/19

Neighborhood data provided by Deborah Rose Miller Rose Realty • 281-380-0332 • www.facebook.com/roserealtydeborahrosemiller



IMPACTDEALS



EXCITING NEWS

The long-awaited reopening of the Lake Houston Family YMCA is right around the corner.

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- New group fitness studios offering over 90 classes per week
- New family activities and programs
- **Exciting** new features to our already fabulous pool

We CAN'T WAIT for you to see your new home away from home—the Lake Houston Family YMCA!

ymcahouston.org/LH-2018-1

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Join the Lake Houston Family YMCA by March 31 and pay \$0 Join Fee! YMCA members SAVE BIG on spring and summer youth programs.

LAKE HOUSTON FAMILY YMCA | 2420 W. Lake Houston Pkwy, Kingwood, TX 77339 | 281-360-2500



YMCA Mission: To put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Everyone is welcome.

DEALS THIS MONTH

Amazing Lash Studio - Summerwood 21

	HTY	О ГІ	
1 - 4			

F45 Training - Summerwood	23
DINING	
Amedeo's	21
Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers -	
Kingwood	21
J Christophers Pizza and Pasta	23
Kingwood Bagel	22
ENTERTAINMENT National Youth Theater	21
HOME & GARDEN	
Boxwood Home and Gifts	22

MEDICAL

et Well Health Clinic	2
ngwood Perfect Smiles	2

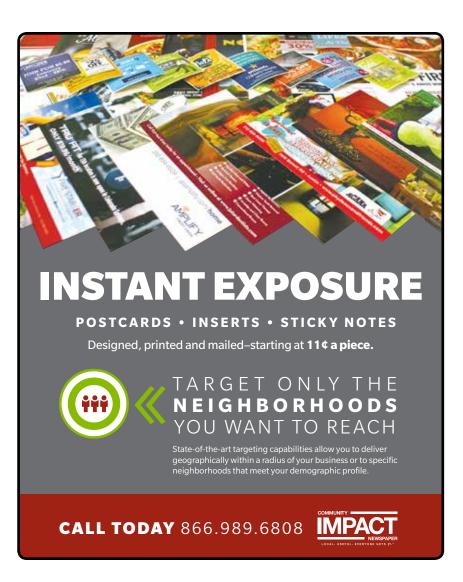
Moore Supply Co. - Humble......20

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Goode Air Conditioning & Heating Inc 23

RETAIL

Designer Shoe Source - Kingwood	. 2
Picture Perfect Interiors & Gifts	2







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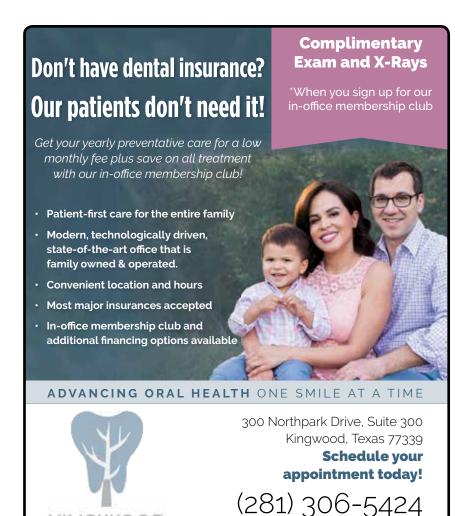
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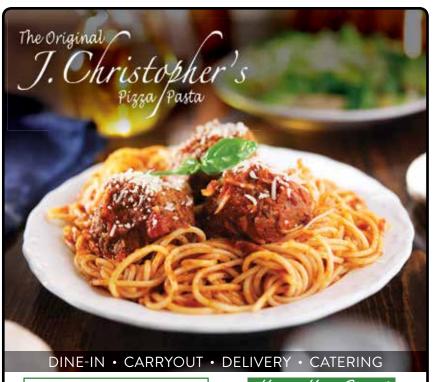


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