

**Percentage of structures damaged in Harris County watersheds**



**2019 Local VOTER GUIDE**

**12-15** Q&A'S WITH LOCAL CANDIDATES IN PEARLAND, FRIENDSWOOD

**Friendswood City Council race**  
**Pearland City Council races**  
**Alvin ISD races**  
**Pearland ISD races**



# Drainage projects to cost Friendswood \$32 million

Committee presents findings after months of research, projects to take years to complete

BY **HALEY MORRISON**

The city-appointed drainage committee's recommendations presented would take 15 years to get started, with Friendswood contributing roughly \$32 million, an amount the city does not have in its general fund.

The committee gathered data, observations and

recommendations on how to solve the city's drainage problems. The committee presented the information at the April 1 city council meeting.

"It's a complex issue, and I think that will be the hardest part about selling this. It's making sure that everyone

CONTINUED ON **18**

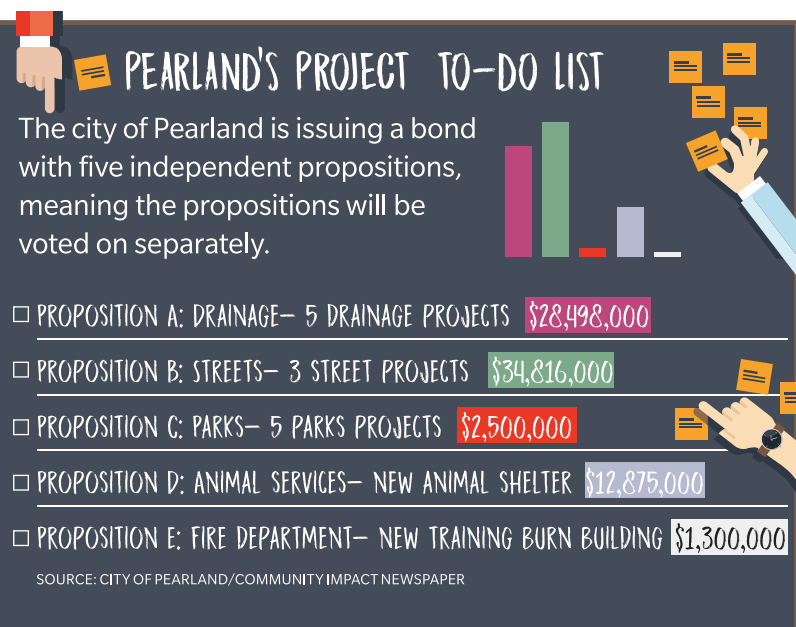
## Pearland needs met in \$80 million bond

Bond tackles infrastructure

BY **HALEY MORRISON**

On May 4, Pearland residents will vote on a bond with five propositions focused on drainage, roads, parks, a new animal shelter and a new fire training burn building. Together, the five propositions come out to an \$80 million bond. However, the propositions will be voted on separately.

CONTINUED ON **20**



# Come Celebrate Easter at Houston's First

## EASTER WEEKEND

**SAT, APR 20 @ 5p**

**SUN, APR 21 @ 8a • 9:30a • 11a**

Text **SIENNA** to **41411** for more about the Sienna Campus' plans to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and His victory over death — and what that means for all of us.

## HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

The Bible says to "pray constantly" and that prayers should "be made for everyone." At Houston's First, it's our joy and honor to pray for those in our community! So, how can we pray for you?

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Visit us on **Sundays at 8:30a, 9:45a or 11:15a**

## SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING?

Besides colorful candy-filled eggs, what are you searching for this Easter? Whether it's community, purpose, hope, or something else, we invite you to visit the Sienna Campus of Houston's First Baptist Church on Easter weekend or any Sunday. We don't have all the answers, but God does and we would love to introduce you.

Speaking of searching, here's a puzzle to enjoy! Can you find them all?

BASKET  
BUNNY  
BURIAL  
BUTTERFLY  
CANDY  
CELEBRATION  
CHOCOLATE  
CROSS  
CRUCIFIXION  
DYED  
EASTER

EGG HUNT  
EGGS  
EMPTY TOMB  
FAMILY  
FIND  
FORGIVE  
FRIENDS  
GOSPEL  
JELLY BEANS  
JESUS  
LAMB

LILIES  
MIRACLE  
NEW LIFE  
PALM LEAVES  
PEEPS  
PRAYER  
RESURRECTION  
SAVIOR  
SPRING  
SUNDAY

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Easter

at Houston's First

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A R Y H D I E L U T Z A P  
L I L I E S L E A N P S V Y N  
D T F P X L Y H T D C W G Z E  
N Q I R C A N D Y E A O N F G W R  
D C F E V J L E X X Y I C O U L M  
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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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## Look to *Community Impact Newspaper* for unbiased local election coverage

Our mission at *Community Impact Newspaper* is to help build communities of informed citizens and thriving businesses through the collaboration of our passionate team. This month embodies that mission as we bring you our trusty Voter Guide for the upcoming local elections for Pearland and Friendswood. Both cities have several important seats up for election, and Pearland has a bond that needs voter approval. You can count on us to give you just the facts with unbiased and neutral reporting of your elections. The guide on Page 12 will help you navigate the May 4 elections.

We didn't stop with the Voter Guide this

month, though. One of our lead stories covers the \$80 million bond Pearland residents within the city limits will find on their ballots starting later this month. We dive deeper into what the bond entails and what it means for you as a resident of Pearland.

For our other cover story, we update our Friendswood readers on the extensive drainage update, which will require decades of work and funding from taxpayers, as well as regional, state and national sources.

We hope you find this and every edition of *Community Impact Newspaper* helpful and full of resources for you.



*Papar Faircloth*

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**GENERAL MANAGER**  
pfaircloth@communityimpact.com

## ASK THE EDITOR



*Haley Morrison*

Haley Morrison  
**EDITOR**  
hmorrison@communityimpact.com

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

## Where can political candidates post campaign signs in city limits?

During election season, voters will see campaign signs all over Pearland and Friendswood. To place a sign in a person's yard, the candidate must have the property owner's consent. This also applies to private property that runs along a major roadway.

The Texas Department of Transportation has regulations on where a campaign sign can be placed in a public area. Signs cannot be placed in a right of way, which includes posting signs on trees, telephone poles and traffic signs. If a sign is in the right of way or poses a potential traffic hazard, TxDOT has the right to remove it, according to TxDOT's website.

Both Pearland and Friendswood have additional regulations cited in the code of ordinances for both cities. Notably, signs cannot exceed 36 square feet nor can signs be more than 8 feet from the ground. Also, in Friendswood, signs must be removed within 24 hours of the election date.

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La Escondida

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# EXPERIENCE MATTERS



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## NOW OPEN

- 1 Above and Beyond Veterinary Hospital** is expected to open April 15 at 11625 W. Broadway St., Ste. 165, Pearland. The locally owned, full-service veterinary hospital will offer internal medicine, physical exams, vaccinations, surgery, dentistry, microchipping, radiology, lab services, eye care, nutrition counseling and an in-house pharmacy. <https://abvethospital.com>
- 2 Workforce Solutions** held its grand opening for its Pearland office April 3. The business compiles and analyzes regional economic data to determine industry trends and how to allocate regional funds. Located at 5730 W. Broadway St., Ste. 122, the business opened its career office in mid-January. 832-409-0049. [www.wrksolutions.com](http://www.wrksolutions.com)
- 3** Family-owned **Kirby Smiles** expects to

open April 8. The dentist office, located at 3695 Kirby Drive, Ste. 129, Pearland, offers general, family, periodontal and cosmetic services, and sedation with spa-dental care. Services include teeth whitening, tooth extractions and dental implants in addition to routine exams, X-rays and cleaning. 281-941-5488. <https://kirbysmiles.com/>

- 4 Good Ranchers** opened March 14 at 11200 Broadway St., Ste. 630, Pearland. The farm-to-market company sells flash-frozen, individually packaged chicken and steak. A portion of the proceeds go to the Houston Food Bank. This is the first brick-and-mortar location for the business. [www.goodranchers.com](http://www.goodranchers.com)
- 5 Rollies Frozen Custard** opened in Pearland on Feb. 23. Located at 3695 Kirby Drive, Ste. 123, Pearland, the creamery serves chocolate and vanilla custard, as

well as a rotating flavor of the day and mix-ins. Custard can be served as a scoop, malt, shake, sundae or blast. The business will also offer old-fashioned sodas, frozen Italian ice and slushies. [www.rolliesfrozencustard.com](http://www.rolliesfrozencustard.com)

- 6 Em's Seafood** opened in Manvel in mid-February. Located at 2632 CR 59, Ste. A, the business sells seafood as well as po' boys, crawfish and fried rice. 281-829-8173. [www.esktx.com](http://www.esktx.com)
- 7 That Vinyl Store** opened Feb. 12 at 208 S. Friendswood Drive, Ste. D. That Vinyl Store sells vinyl supplies, including heat transfer and adhesive vinyls as well as blanks to apply vinyls to, including cups, glasses, doormats and T-shirts for those who want to do their own vinyl work. 713-499-9887. <https://www.facebook.com/ThatVinylStore/>

## COMING SOON

- 8 Energy Rental Solutions** broke ground on a facility April 4 at 4300 Rice Drier Road, Pearland. The 40,000-square-foot facility will be located on a 10-acre site with the business park. 281-997-3000. [www.pearlandedc.com](http://www.pearlandedc.com)
- 9 Horizon Montessori School** is scheduled to open in the fall at 2319 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland. The school is a public charter school for pre-K to eighth grade and plans to teach science, technology, engineering and math curriculum through Montessori programs. The school's primary goal is to help students reach their fullest academic potential by providing the necessary resources to excel in a safe and positive environment. The school is currently enrolling. This is the first Pearland campus for the school. 1-800-777-8205.



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**10** Pearland's **Fire Station 1** is scheduled for completion April 12 and for move-in May 12. In June 2018, the city broke ground on the new 10,300-square-foot fire station at 1571 Old Alvin Road. The station will house a four-person engine crew and a two-person ambulance crew and will be built with a future expansion. This will replace the 48-year-old station located at 2020 Old Alvin Road. [www.pearlandtx.gov](http://www.pearlandtx.gov)

## RELOCATIONS

**11** **Legacy Home Staging** opened its new location March 9 at 1715 N. Main St., Pearland. The business sells home decor, furniture, gifts and salvage pieces in the new 4,000-square-foot space. The old storefront, located at 1631 N. Main St., Pearland, will become an outlet center open on Saturdays and will sell discounted, discontinued and damaged items. [www.legacyhomestaging.com](http://www.legacyhomestaging.com)

**12** Local pet salon **Beverly's Touch of Class** will be moving to 3905 Second St., Pearland, this spring, with the grand opening scheduled for May 1. The business will offer the same services it offered at its 2401 S. Grand Blvd. location, which includes grooming and boarding. 281-412-5959. [www.beverlysgrooming.com](http://www.beverlysgrooming.com)

## NEW OWNERSHIP

**13** The **Meineke Car Care Center** at 2339 N. Austin St., Pearland, is under new ownership as of late 2018. The business will continue to offer the same automotive services but with renovated equipment. 281-810-9602. [www.meineke.com/locations/tx/pearland-593](http://www.meineke.com/locations/tx/pearland-593)

## ANNIVERSARIES

**14** **Aisha's Salon and Spa** celebrated 10 years in Pearland in February. Located at 2810 Business Center Drive, Ste. 130, Pearland, the salon offers hair care, makeup, facials and threading. 713-436-6617. [www.aishassalonandspa.com](http://www.aishassalonandspa.com)

**15** The **Charleston Tea Room** is celebrating 25 years in Friendswood this year. Located at 154 S. Friendswood Drive, the business sells traditional tea room fare, including soups, salads, sandwiches, quiche and des-

serts, such as the Charleston Delight, made up of strawberries, bananas, pineapple, cream cheese and cool whip. 281-992-8327. <https://charlestontearoom.weebly.com/>

**16** **CrossPoint Church** is celebrating 20 years in Pearland in May. Located at 1134 Old Alvin Road, the church has grown to a four-building campus during its time in Pearland. The building is home to Next Generation Academy preschool and is the local home base for Hurricane Harvey rebuilding efforts by Samaritan's Purse. 281-485-1848. [www.crosspointchurch.tv](http://www.crosspointchurch.tv)

## RENOVATIONS

**17** The **McDonald's** at 2815 Business Center Drive in Pearland reopened after renovations in mid-February. The fast-food restaurant now features touch screen, self-order kiosks and tableside service from staff. 713-436-9095. [www.mcdonalds.com](http://www.mcdonalds.com)

## CLOSINGS

**Payless ShoeSource** will close all of its North American stores in the spring, including facilities at **18A** 3101 Silverlake Village Drive, Pearland; **18B** 11200 Broadway St., Ste. 945, Pearland; **18C** 2650 Pearland Parkway, Ste. 120, Pearland, and at **18D** 1805 Bay Area Blvd., Webster. The business sold discounted shoes and accessories.

## IN THE NEWS

**19** **Killen's TMX**, located at 9330 W. Broadway St., Ste. 200, Pearland, began serving lunch starting March 16 and brunch starting March 17, according to a press release. This is be the first of chef Ronnie Killen's restaurants to offer brunch. The brunch menu will consist of both Tex-Mex and American dishes that will change seasonally. The lunch menu will include enchiladas, tacos and combination plates, while the dinner menu will transition to moles and regional Mexican dishes. 832-664-8696. [www.killenstmx.com](http://www.killenstmx.com)

## FEATURED IMPACT—COMMUNITY SERVICE



**Chara Christian Dance Academy**, located at 101 Hunters Lane, Friendswood, hosted its third annual Cash for Class grants program. The winners, which included teachers from Alvin, Friendswood and Pearland ISDs received the grant money in early March. 832-569-4065. [www.charadance.com](http://www.charadance.com)



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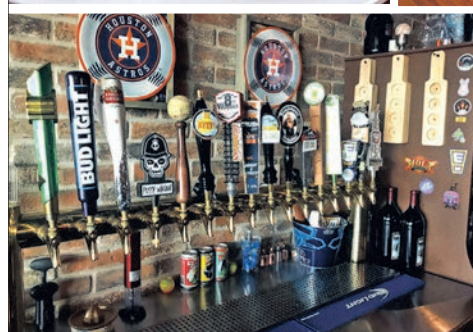
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## TO-DO LIST APRIL-MAY



**MAY 11**

### CAST A LINE AT YOUTH FISHING DERBY IN FRIENDSWOOD

Fishers can try their luck with more than 600 pounds of catfish to be stocked in Centennial Park Pond. No fishing license or preregistration is required. Whataburger will supply breakfast. Awards will be presented for all ages. 8:30-11 a.m. Free. 2200 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood. 281-996-3220. [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us)

## APRIL

### 18 LEARN ABOUT A REAL CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

Pearland Westside Library is hosting "Chat with a Crime Scene Investigator" as an opportunity for patrons to learn about the work of Brazoria County Sheriff's Office investigators. Attendees will be able to view props, tools and photos, as well as ask questions about crime scene investigators' work. Open to teens and adults. Free. 6:30 p.m. 2803 Business Center Drive, Ste. 101, Pearland. 713-436-0995. <https://bcls.lib.tx.us/branches/pws/pearlandwest.asp>

### 18 HEAR UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE'S PRESIDENT SPEAK

Dr. Ira Blake, president of University of Houston-Clear Lake, will discuss the State of the University at the monthly membership luncheon of the Pearland Chamber of Commerce at the Hilton Garden Inn. Blake became the fifth president of UHCL in August 2017 after a nationwide search. RSVP required. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$30-\$35. 12101 Shadow Creek Parkway, Pearland. 281-485-3634.

### 20 SUPPORT POLICE CHARITIES THROUGH CONCERT

Pearland Police Officers Association Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 119 is throwing its second annual "Party with the Police" concert featuring The Spazmatics at Billy's Hall. Bring lawn chairs. Food available from gourmet food trucks. The event will not serve alcohol, but patrons are welcome to bring their own alcohol. 8-11 p.m. \$12.50-\$25. 4070 Wells Drive, Pearland. [www.pearlandpoa.com](http://www.pearlandpoa.com)

### 23 RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Friendswood Public Library is offering a live webinar on using U.S. Census Bureau data to explore family history. "Census-es Around the World: What You Need to Know About Census Collections and Genealogy" will demonstrate how to use the library's MyHeritage database. 1-2:30 p.m. Free. 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood. 281-482-7135. [www.friendswood.lib.tx.us](http://www.friendswood.lib.tx.us)

### 25 TAKE THE KIDS TO PLAY IN A BASEBALL COMPETITION

The city of Friendswood is hosting the Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run for boys and girls ages 7-14 at Field 3 in Renwick Park. Participants can compete in the baseball or softball division and can advance through four levels including Locals, Sectionals, Team Championships and National Finals during MLB All-Star Week. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 205 Stadium Lane, Friendswood. 281-996-3220. [www.ci.friendswood.tx.us](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us)

### 27 HEAR GRAND OLE OPRY-STYLE MUSIC IN PEARLAND

Pearland Opry on the Square will feature national, regional and local acts performing Western Swing, traditional and contemporary country music covers and originals. Bring lawn chairs, coolers and refreshments for a family-friendly outdoor show under the pavilion at the Pearland Town Center. 7-9 p.m. Free. 11200 Broadway St. 281-925-3662. [www.visitpearland.com/pearlandopry](http://www.visitpearland.com/pearlandopry)

### 27 CELEBRATE EARTH DAY IN PEARLAND

The city of Pearland is partnering with Keep Pearland Beautiful to host Pearland's 23rd annual Earth Day Celebration at



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





COURTESY QWASHAE BOUTIQUE

## MAY 02 SHOPPING TRIP IN PEARLAND

Girls Night Out at Pearland Town Center will be an evening of fashion events, snacks and giveaways. The first 250 ladies will receive a swag bag. Free. 11200 W. Broadway St., Pearland. 5-8 p.m. 281-925-3662.



COURTESY EMILY SCOTT ROBINSON

## APRIL 14 LIVE MUSIC IN PEARLAND

Pearland House Concerts will feature Emily Scott Robinson singing from her album, "Traveling Mercies." 5-8 p.m. \$25-\$100. 2845 Westchester Circle, Pearland. 281-725-1223. [www.pearlandhouseconcerts.com](http://www.pearlandhouseconcerts.com)

Southdown Park. This year's celebration offers live performances, educational booths, family games, inflatables and food vendors. The outreach program for all ages aims to educate the community about environmental responsibility. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 2150 Countryplace Parkway, Pearland. 281-412-8900. [www.pearlandtx.gov](http://www.pearlandtx.gov)

## MAY

### 02 ATTEND A BUSINESS MIXER

Party on the Patio is a networking event sponsored by the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the city of Friendswood. The event is open to the public. 5-7 p.m. Free. 1100 S. Friendswood, Ste. A, Friendswood. 281-482-3329.

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

### 03 LISTEN TO LIVE MUSIC OUT-DOORS IN FRIENDSWOOD

The city of Friendswood is hosting 2019 Concerts in the Park every Friday in May and June. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, refreshments, dinner and snacks to this event with family-friendly bands at the Stevenson Park Gazebo. Raffle prizes are awarded during intermission. 7-9 p.m. Free. 1100 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood. 281-996-3220.

[www.ci.friendswood.tx.us/concerts](http://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us/concerts)

### 03 RELAX WITH MUSIC IN THE PARK IN PEARLAND

Concerts in the Park will offer a live band every Friday night in May and June at Southdown Park. Vendors will sell food and kids can enjoy the Splash Pad and playground. Bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets for an evening of family entertainment. Pets are welcome but must be on leashes. Free. 7-9 p.m. 2150

Countryplace Parkway, Pearland. 281-412-8900. [www.pearlandtx.gov/departments/parks-recreation/special-events/concerts-in-the-park](http://www.pearlandtx.gov/departments/parks-recreation/special-events/concerts-in-the-park)

## 04 COME TO A COUNTRY MUSIC CELEBRATION

The 12th annual Tony Booth Day in Brazoria County will feature a collection of country music artists at Billy's Hall, reminiscent of a Texas dance hall. The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame inductee will perform, and the event will also feature Marty Haggard, Glenda Hundl, Texas Express Band, Dana Rowan, Rhonda Walters and Ed Gary. 7:30 p.m.-midnight. \$25-\$35. 4070 Wells Drive, Pearland. 713-252-9773.

[www.visitpearland.com/tonyboothday](http://www.visitpearland.com/tonyboothday)

## 16 GET THE LOW DOWN ON FLOOD CONTROL

Gary Zika, Harris County Flood Control District federal projects department manager, will speak about the Clear Creek Federal Project at a Pearland Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon at the Golfcrest Country Club. Reservations are due by noon May 15. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$30-\$35. 2509 Country Club Drive, Pearland. 281-485-3634.

[www.pearlandtexaschamber.us/events](http://www.pearlandtexaschamber.us/events)

## 18 SEE CLASSIC RIDES IN A CAR SHOW IN FRIENDSWOOD

The 15th Annual Friendswood Classic Car & Bike Show will put more than 150 classic cars and motorcycles on display in Stevenson Park. Food will be available at the event for the whole family. It is sponsored by the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce and Stevenson Park. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. 1000 S. Friendswood, Friendswood. 281-482-3329. [www.friendswoodchamberofcommerce.com](http://www.friendswoodchamberofcommerce.com)



# paws ON THE PARKWAY

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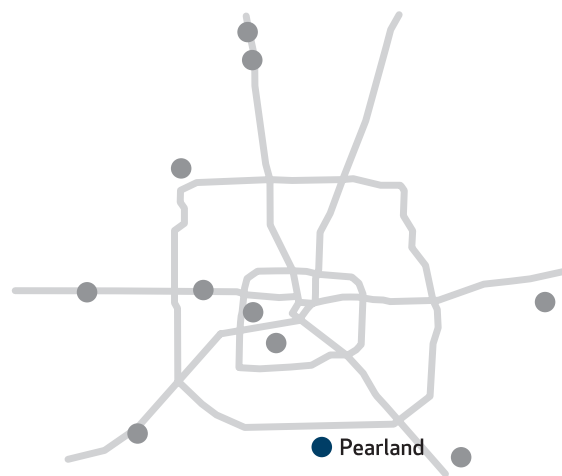


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## ONGOING PROJECTS

**1 Hughes Ranch Road expansion**

Triple B received notice to proceed on the Hughes Ranch Road project on March 27, beginning the construction process. The road will be converted from a two- to four-lane road with a median and curbs from Smith Ranch Road to Cullen Boulevard.

**Timeline:** March 2019-February 2021

**Cost:** \$20.5 million

**Funding source:** city of Pearland

**2 Blackhawk Boulevard reconstruction**

The end of construction on Blackhawk has been pushed back to the fall due to rain. The project includes improvements from Friendswood Link Road to Edenvale Street. Improvements include replacement of over 6,000 feet of concrete paving, replacement of curb and gutter and evaluation of existing utilities.

**Timeline:** June 2018-October 2019

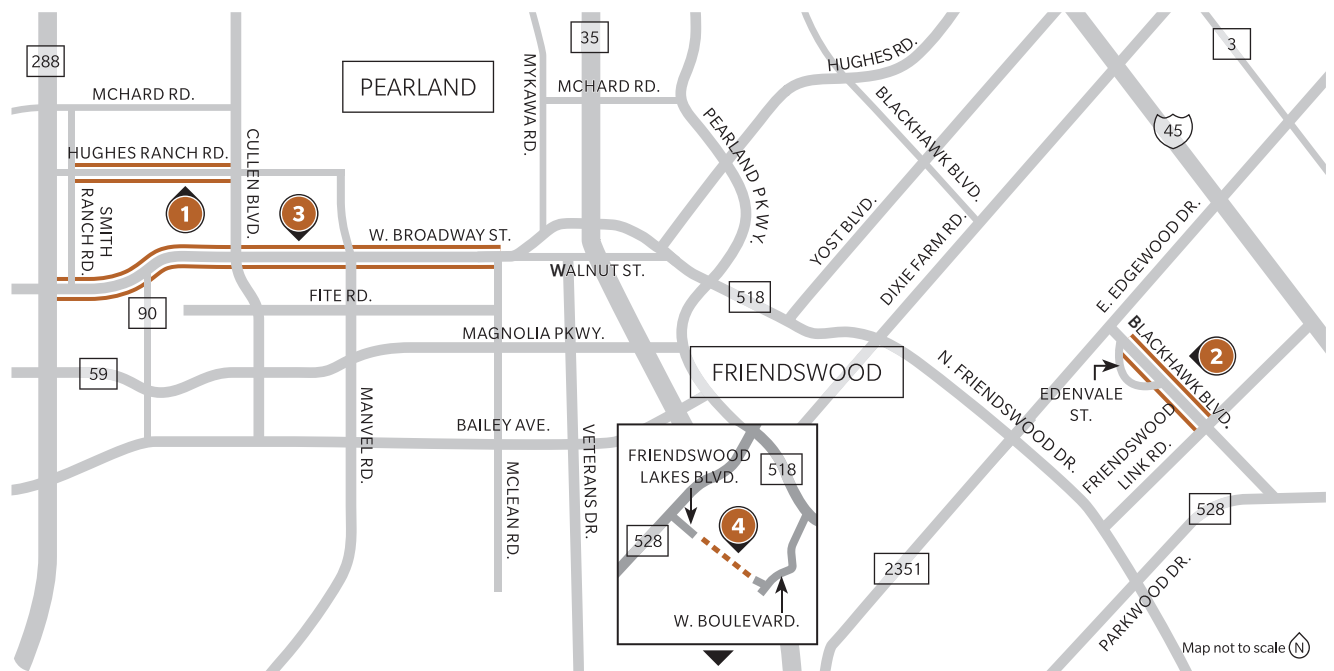
**Cost:** \$4.58 million

**Funding sources:** 2013 Friendswood bond

## FUTURE PROJECTS

**3 Broadway Street widening**

The Texas Department of Transportation hosted a public hearing on the Broadway



Street widening project on March 26. The project, which will widen Broadway Street from Hwy. 288 to McLean Road, will consist of widening the road from four to six lanes, constructing an 18 foot raised median and 5-foot-wide sidewalks, converting open ditches to curbs and gutters. Once funded, construction will take three years.

**Timeline:** TBD

**Cost:** \$57 million

**Funding sources:** TBD

**4 Friendswood Lakes Boulevard construction**

The city and Galveston County are in the design phase of the Friendswood Lakes Boulevard project. The project is in the design phase from where Friendswood Lakes Boulevard converts from four to two lanes to just before West Boulevard in

League City.

**Timeline:** Early 2020-TBD

**Cost:** \$5.5 million

**Funding sources:** city of Friendswood, developers, Galveston County

All information on this page was updated as of 3/29/19. News or questions about these or other local transportation projects? Email us at [plfnews@communityimpact.com](mailto:plfnews@communityimpact.com).

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**FRIENDSWOOD CITY COUNCIL POSITION NO. 6**

**PEARLAND CITY COUNCIL POSITION NO. 1**

\*Incumbent

**BRENT ERENWERT**



Occupation: chief executive officer of Brothers Produce  
281-830-6323  
www.brenterenwert.com

**CARL GUSTAFSON\***



Occupation: engineer/project manager  
281-744-6711

**JIMI AMOS**



Occupation: process improvement manager  
281-691-4112  
www.vote4jimi.com

**DERRELL ISENBERG**



Occupation: retired, former vice president at Digco Utility  
281-845-9876  
www.vote4derrell.com

**LUKE ORLANDO**



Occupation: management consultant  
832-428-2229  
www.votelukeyorlando.com

**What makes you qualified to run for the position?**

I am running for this position not because I see issues, but because I bring several qualities that can help us build on the success and direction our city leaders have guided us on. I feel they have done a great job setting the stage for many great things to come, and I can help lead us into the future.

I have served on City Council for six years. During this time, my education, engineering capabilities, and project-management experience have been a tremendous asset and will continue to be as we tackle the engineering and infrastructure challenges moving forward.

**Why did you choose to run for the position?**

I believe I can make a difference in our city by solving the challenges around traffic flow, air pollution, infrastructure and technology needs that lie ahead. I believe it's our duty to serve and better the environment and communities where we live.

Pearland welcomed my family nearly 20 years ago, and my children live here with their families. I have been involved with planning and zoning for six years and have participated in numerous organizations and charities. Now I want to serve Pearland as a council member.

My life has been molded by two passions: public service and Pearland. Growing up here instilled the importance of a close community. The council is losing a financial perspective as we face a budget challenge; my financial experience makes me the best candidate for the job.

Only contested races are listed. Read the full Q&A's with the candidates on our website, [communityimpact.com](http://communityimpact.com). Full election coverage will be online May 4.



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## PEARLAND CITY COUNCIL POSITION NO. 6

### J. DAVID LITTLE\*



Occupation: board-certified estate planning and probate attorney  
281-705-5433  
[www.facebook.com/davidlittleforpearland](http://www.facebook.com/davidlittleforpearland)

### SHEILA POPE



Occupation: chief executive officer and founder of Pope's Resource Center LLC  
832-226-7801  
[www.drpope4pearlandcitycouncil.org](http://www.drpope4pearlandcitycouncil.org)

### If elected, what will your priorities in office be?

I will work to keep the city's portion of the tax bill reasonable. I will work with staff to maintain sustainable infrastructure growth to keep pace with the population growth. Maintaining a safe city is paramount. In order to do this we need to hire and retain professional police, fire and EMT personnel. We also need to upgrade our existing parks and recreation facilities.

I want to be a visible representation of the City Council. I want to have monthly or quarterly community conversations to hear what residents around the city need. I want to make sure residents in 'Old Pearland' are able to maintain their love [for] the city. I also want to promote growth in Pearland, to ensure our schools keep their excellent ratings, to find innovative ways to generate revenue, to keep taxes moderate, and to determine ways businesses in Pearland are able to stay in operation and to gain more funding resources.

## PEARLAND ISD POSITION NO. 5

### REBECCA DECKER\*



Occupation: chief operating officer for Communities in Schools-Texas Joint Venture  
832-715-1917  
[www.facebook.com/rebeccadeckerforpisd](http://www.facebook.com/rebeccadeckerforpisd)

### DONA KIM MURPHEY



Occupation: physician scientist  
512-710-4737  
[www.donamurphey.com](http://www.donamurphey.com)

### What makes you qualified to run for the position?

I am qualified to serve on the school board because I currently serve as president of the board and have been a board member for the last nine years. As the chief operating officer of Communities in Schools, I work with site coordinators and school districts to serve economically disadvantaged students and families. I have taught pre-service teachers as an adjunct professor at the University of Clear Lake. I was an assistant principal and taught seventh and eighth grade. I am also a mother of three daughters enrolled in Pearland ISD.

I have decades of experience in youth civic engagement; youth mentorship; early college awareness for first-generation, low-income students; interviewing for college admissions; and supporting professional development opportunities for public school educators through the Harvard Club of Houston. As a parent, community advocate and neurologist in Pearland ISD, I am also committed to educating students holistically and creating inclusive schools and communities to protect and grow intellectual curiosity as well as social and emotional learning.

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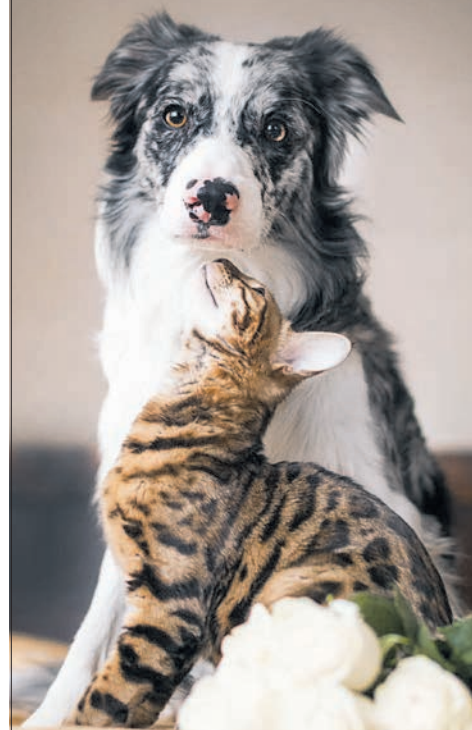
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PEARLAND ISD POSITION NO. 6

PEARLAND ISD POSITION NO. 7

\*Incumbent

LANCE BOTKIN\*



Occupation: consultant and entrepreneur  
281-993-5308  
www.facebook.com/botkin4pisd

JOSEPH SAY



Occupation: premier field engineer with Microsoft  
832-630-8517  
www.josephsay.com

JEFF BARRY\*



Occupation: insurance sales  
281-352-3525  
www.votejeffbarry.com

AL LLOYD



Occupation: high school principal  
713-269-8844  
www.votelloydpearland.com

CARMINE PETRILLO



Why did you choose to run for the position?

As a former educator with master's degree and four children I am passionate about education, the teaching profession and the welfare of our children. I want a community where kids/families are proud of where they came from and want come back home to build their own family.

I decided to run because of the large discrepancy in technological resources for students. Pearland ISD does not have a program to provide these resources to economically disadvantaged families, even though the district requires homework to be done digitally.

Why did you choose to run for the position?

I believe that a well-rounded education is the fundamental building block of our youth. If we do an outstanding job at educating the children of our community today, we will have outstanding leaders of tomorrow.

There is a great need for elected officials to represent all citizens and use resources that promote the will of the people. It is the will of all people that I produce results for all of Pearland.

Candidate did not respond to requests for commentary.

Only contested races are listed. Read the full Q&A's with the candidates on our website, [communityimpact.com](http://communityimpact.com). Full election coverage will be online May 4.

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## ALVIN ISD POSITION NO. 4

### PAUL NEEDHAM



Occupation: husband,  
father of two  
children, manager of  
professional learning  
[www.paulforalvin.com](http://www.paulforalvin.com)

### TIFFANY WENNERSTROM\*



Occupation: retired  
teacher  
281-650-7151  
[www.facebook.com/  
tiffany-wennerstrom-  
for-alvin-isd-school-  
board](https://www.facebook.com/tiffany-wennerstrom-for-alvin-isd-school-board)

#### If elected, what will your priorities in office be?

If elected I will work to ensure that all the district's decisions are rooted in student outcomes, that all of our students are safe and cared for in our schools, that campus administrators have the autonomy to do what they know to be best for their students and school and to be responsible with our community's financial resources.

Increasing opportunities and choices for our students has always been a priority for me. I am proud to have testified before the House Education Committee to expand our high school diploma choices for our students which lead to an increase in career and technical education options. Making sure our students have numerous opportunities for fine arts as well as sports and other extracurricular activities is also important to secure their success in life. I have also worked and will continue to support our efforts to increase our SAT/ACT and advanced placement scores.

## ALVIN ISD POSITION NO. 5

### ARNETTA MURRAY



Occupation: special  
education teacher  
281-650-4998  
[www.votearnetta-  
murray.com](http://www.votearnetta-murray.com)

### NICOLE TONINI\*



Occupation: mom,  
homemaker  
713-436-4475  
[www.facebook.com/  
nicole-tonini-for-aisd-  
school-board](https://www.facebook.com/nicole-tonini-for-aisd-school-board)

#### If elected, what will your priorities in office be?

If elected, I will focus on teacher engagement, higher student achievement, and promote extreme school safety because we want Alvin students and parents to never have to worry if their kids are coming home or not.

My priorities are to help in creating a smooth transition with a new superintendent, to help provide a positive environment for the administration, and to uphold and promote the values and beliefs that Alvin ISD has to create an excellent learning environment for our students. I will continue to help with the balanced approach that Alvin ISD utilizes as we manage both fast growth and aging facilities. I will continue to strengthen the district's financial position and continue to leverage opportunities between the community and district and seek for synergies between them.

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# Allegro Pearland Academy of Music

School brings gift of music to residents

BY **HALEY MORRISON**

**F**or Heather Scharbor, a place for people to learn music is vital to any community.

“I think we are wired for music, and I think it is such a special gift. ... It makes our lives happy,” Scharbor said. “It’s good for us in every way possible.”

Scharbor brings music to the Pearland community with her business, Allegro Pearland Academy of Music. The conservatory offers lessons for children and adults. The students perform in recitals, at Pearland’s Fusion of the Arts and at local nursing homes, which is one of Scharbor’s favorite events.

“It’s this beautiful experience for the resident and the child because the child gets to see what an impact their music can have on others,” she said. “They all have these stories and they say, ‘Keep playing,’ and they encourage the students.”

Scharbor started the business in 2011 and moved to a permanent space in February 2018. After eight years of operation, the business teaches 11 instruments—including piano, violin, guitar, and Scottish bagpipes—and boasts over 400 students and 30

teachers, or “music mentors,” as they are called at Allegro. The music mentor and student are matched based on the personality, learning style and goals, Scharbor said.

“You have to have the heart for the mission of the school,” she said.

For Scharbor, the music mentors teach students music but also aid students’ overall well-being.

“That’s why I say it’s a music mentor. Because you don’t know how much one-on-one time the child is getting where someone is looking them in the eye, completely focused on them, and cares about them and their progress,” Scharbor said.

Allegro continues to grow its programs. The school added orchestra in fall 2018 and is in the process of adding a program called Pizzicato, geared toward early childhood development. The business will add two classrooms to the facility later this year.

As the school grows, the mission remains the same: to help students become healthier and happier people through music, Scharbor said.

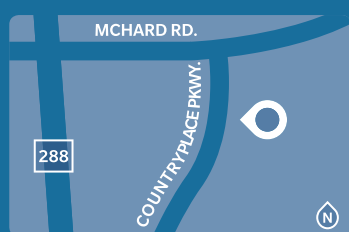
“I wanted to impact the community through exceptional music education that we provide,” she said.

## Allegro Pearland Academy of Music

1801 Country Place Parkway, Ste. 107, Pearland  
713-452-9402

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

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.



### WHAT IS A MUSIC MENTOR?

Allegro Academy matches students with teachers based on personalities and goals. This helps the students actually meet the goals they set, Scharbor said.



1. Scharbor’s 9-year-old daughter, Gabrielle, takes lessons at Allegro. She has been playing the piano since she was five. 2. Heather Scharbor’s passion for sharing music led her to open Allegro in Pearland.

### BY THE NUMBERS

  
Allegro has operated in Pearland for **8 years**

The business has had its storefront for **1 year**



**11** Allegro offers lessons in different instruments, including piano, violin and the Scottish bagpipes.

The school employs **30** instructors, who teach over **400** students.



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# La Escondida Mexican Grill

Eatery offers traditional Mexican, Tex-Mex dishes

**W**hen Sergio Espinosa opened La Escondida Mexican Grill, he wanted guests to feel as if they were stepping into Mexico with its culture of genuine Hispanic hospitality, he said.

“The best vacation in the world is always Mexico because the people there, they just want to serve you ... and love you,” Espinosa said.

Both the Friendswood and Missouri City locations offer a full menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner. La Escondida features everything—from authentic Mexican fare to street tacos to Tex-Mex favorites, all made from scratch. Espinosa’s roots reach both to Mexico City, where he was born, and Houston, where he spent most of his teens. He also spent the bulk of his childhood in Louisiana and refers to himself as a “Cajun Mexican.”

Assistant Manager Gabriel Rodriguez said fajitas are the most-popular dish. However, General Manager Larry Baca prefers the tequila barbecue carnitas tacos, part of the Taco Tuesday menu.

“Tequila barbecue carnitas tacos are the best because they have fresh homemade corn tortillas, the fresh carnitas. I love the barbecue sauce, and we make our own recipe,” Baca said. “We add some tequila, some jalapeno and some onions.”

Small pieces of pork, red cabbage salad mix, barbecue sauce and cotija, a white Mexican cheese, go into a corn tortilla to create the dish.

The first La Escondida opened in 1999 in Stafford after Sergio and wife, Lisha, did some soul searching and praying. The restaurant moved to Missouri City in 2006. In 2016, Espinosa opened the Friendswood restaurant in light of his son Daniel’s interest in the restaurant business. His son’s interest has prompted the restaurant owner’s interest in expansion, Espinosa said.

“Now that our son wants to get involved in it, we better start growing the company,” Sergio said.



1

**1.** Sizzling fajitas (\$17.50) are a popular dish at La Escondida. **2.** Owner Sergio Espinosa, left, and Friendswood General Manager Larry Baca, right, are part of the La Escondida team. Gabriel Rodriguez, not pictured, is the Friendswood assistant manager. **3.** Tequila barbecue carnita tacos (\$4 each) feature a house-made barbecue sauce with tequila, jalapenos and onions.



3



PHOTOS BY TRISH CHOATE / COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

## What is the difference between Mexican and Tex-Mex food?

La Escondida serves both Tex-Mex and Mexican food. According to owner Sergio Espinosa, here are the differences between the two cuisines.



**CHEESE:** Genuine Mexican cooking does not use the yellow cheese. Instead, white cheese adorns dishes from south of the border.

**CRISPY TACOS:** “The crispy taco was never a thing in Mexico. It is now because the United States has influenced Mexico,” Espinosa said. Likewise, nachos are another American invention.



SOURCE: LA ESCONDIDA / COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

## La Escondida Mexican Grill

400 W. Parkwood Ave., Ste. 124, Friendswood

832-569-5785

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

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## Easter Services

April 21, 2019

Sanctuary  
6:00 a.m.  
8:00 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.

Family Life Center  
10:30 a.m.



# MOVING WATER OUT

The city of Friendswood needs to find out how to move out the water that comes in. While the city cannot control the water that comes in, it has created plans to expedite the rate the water moves out and to increase Clear Creek's storage capacity.

SOURCE: CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

**"OUR CALCULATIONS ARE THAT WHEN HARVEY HAPPENED, ONLY 7 PERCENT ACTUALLY FELL ON FRIENDSWOOD, AND 93 PERCENT FELL SOMEWHERE ELSE AND CAME TOWARDS US."**

—STEVE ROCKEY, FRIENDSWOOD CITY COUNCIL AND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE MEMBER

CONTINUED FROM 1

is going to vote for it," said James Stahl, a Friendswood resident and a drainage committee member who presented the committee's findings at the April 1 meeting. If some of the proposed changes had been in place during Hurricane Harvey, 850 homes would have flooded as opposed to the 2,830 that did flood, said Lee Coggins, a Friendswood resident and drainage committee member who presented the committee's findings alongside Stahl.

The funding will be included in the city's bond, which will likely be on the November ballot. Council Member John Scott said he is not worried about citizens voting for the drainage resolutions on the November bond.

"I am all for taking it to the citizens advisory committee and having the citizens vote on the bond to approve funding," Scott said.

The overall cost of projects will be roughly \$173 million. Because of this, the projects will require regional help as well as a lot of time, city officials said.

"Friendswood can't go at it alone. Projects will benefit all parties, everyone in the watershed, but the dollar amount that we are talking about far exceeds the city's operations budget, and it far exceeds our obligations as a city," City Manager Morad Kabiri said. "That being said, we realize it is important and are happy to lead the charge. We are going to need partners."

## A HISTORY OF FLOODING

The drainage committee took an approach which included observations, data gathering, analysis over a nine-month period. The data ranged from what kind of storms hit and hurt the city as well as a list of projects that could mitigate flooding, Council

Member and drainage committee member Steve Rockey said.

"One of the things we found when we studied other places is it takes a long time, and there is not an easy fix," Rockey said.

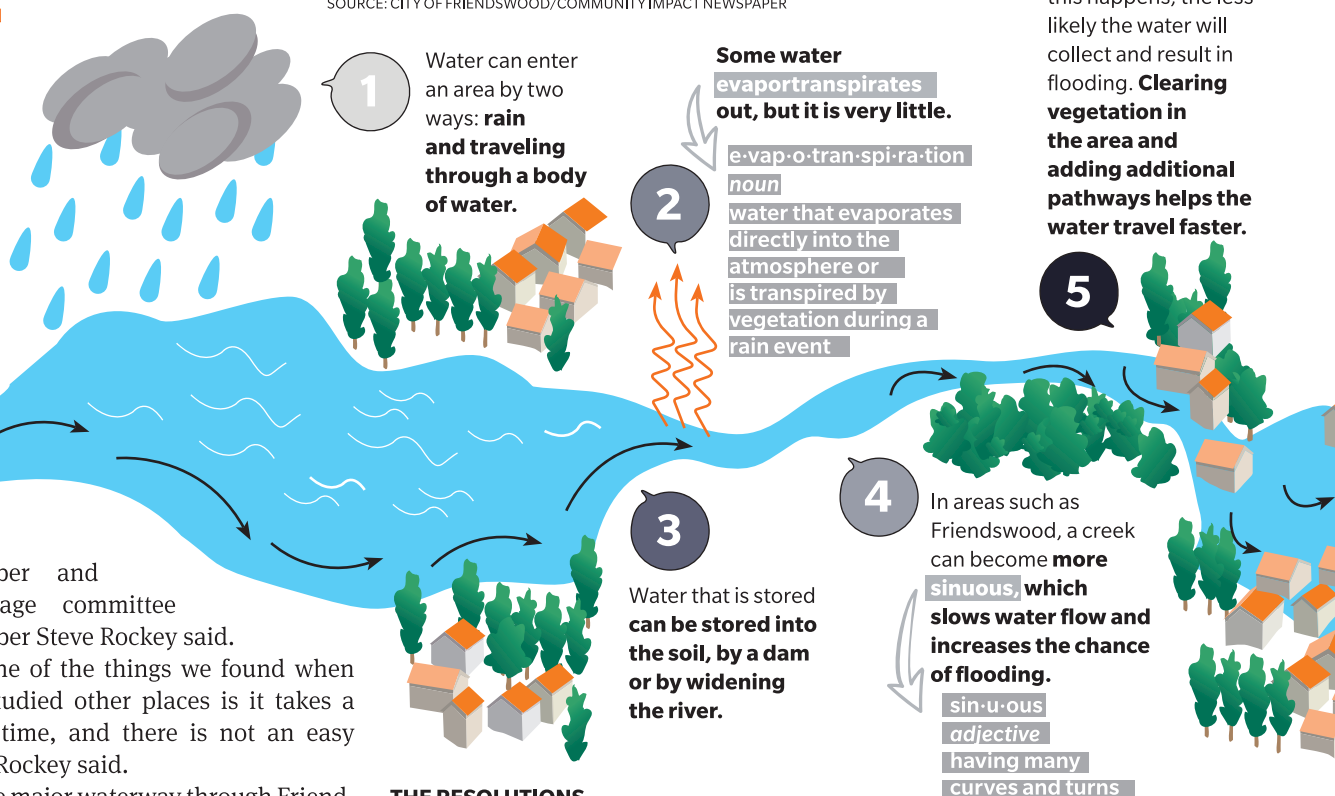
The major waterway through Friendswood is Clear Creek, which originates northwest of the city and flows through, meaning Friendswood takes in water from the downstream flow as well as rainwater.

"Clear Creek starts in Fort Bend [County] and meanders its way to us. The water that hits Friendswood is only about 40 percent of water we get in Friendswood," Rockey said. "Friendswood happens to be where seven creeks meet. Our calculations are that when Harvey happened, only 7 percent actually fell on Friendswood, and 93 percent fell somewhere else and came towards us."

Because of this, one of the biggest things the drainage committee had to consider is the city is dealing with the effects of storms as that trickles down to Friendswood.

The committee determined flooding is essentially caused by an inability to drain water as fast as it is coming in. While the committee cannot control the water that drains into Friendswood either from the creek or a storm, the city can control the rate the water leaves the city as well as the amount of water the creek can store to an extent which would be done by de-snagging and terracing, Stahl said.

"The Army Corps of Engineers stated in June 2016 that if we [de-snagged] 20 feet up to the water line, we could reduce damages by 30 percent. We could do that in a matter of months," Galveston County Commissioner Ken Clark said.



## THE RESOLUTIONS

The committee presented five resolutions, ranging from asking council to approve the work the committee has done to presenting options on how to clear the creek. The committee worked with Rice University professor Philip Bedient to determine the best possible combination to decrease flooding in the area and lessen the effects of flooding downstream from the city.

While the committee has presented potential resolutions, this does not mean any will take effect immediately. In May, council will vote on a resolution to approve the work the committee has done so far and end the existing committee's work, leaving the remaining work in the hands of city staff.

The citizens advisory committee for the bond will put together individual drainage propositions based on the recommendations the committee gave. The bond committee will be in charge of deciding the drainage projects included in the bond as well as the cost. De-snagging the creek, terracing the creek and raising the bridge at FM 2351 would lessen the effects of flooding at the creek for Friendswood without affecting downstream cities, including League City, Coggins said.

Coggins reported this combination would have decreased flooding during Harvey by 3.5 feet.

"We saw that there was no negative effect for residents downstream," Coggins said. "That is very important to realize."

De-snagging the creek consists of

removing the vegetation around the creek. Terracing cutting a notch out on either side of the creek at the top, effectively creating a channel. This leaves more room for the water to travel or be stored.

"That appears to be the low-hanging fruit that really seems to really get some things done, from Bay Area Boulevard to 528 bridge or at least to Whispering Pines bridge," Council Member Robert Griffon said.

Before any of this is accomplished, the city will have to buy out property along Clear Creek.

"Without the properties, none of these projects are feasible," Kabiri said.

The city will conduct buyouts as the grant money comes available, as it did for Frenchman's Creek, Kabiri said.

## POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

While the drainage committee has presented the resolutions, there are still things that need to be done for the projects to be completed successfully, with funding being one of the biggest hurdles to jump, Kabiri said.

"We need to know that [residents] are committed to funding this. Long-term challenges are going to be that of a constancy of purpose," Kabiri said.

Even if the bond is passed in November to partially fund drainage projects, the projects will be far from completed, he said.

"I know immediately after Harvey,



## HOW CAN FRIENDSWOOD

### CLEAR THE CREEK?

De-snagging the creek  
**\$3M**

1 Raising the FM 2351 bridge  
**\$20M**

2 Raising the FM 528 bridge  
**\$20M**

**\$90M** of terracing projects from Dixie Farm Road to FM 528.



Buyouts  
**\$30M**

Engineering and environmental impact studies  
**\$10M**

COST OF ALL PROJECTS:

**\$173M**

THE CITY'S PORTION:

**\$31.8M**

SOURCE: CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD/  
COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

there was a desire to fix everything quickly," Kabiri said. "Obviously the nature of this problem far exceeds a quick solution, and we're grateful to come to the point where we are right now, but our work is not done by any stretch of the imagination."

The city needs to have a constancy of purpose or a knowledge of why the city is doing a project for the duration of it, Rockey said. The projects that have been the most successful in surrounding regions have been ones with this, he said.

"These undertakings are those that last from anywhere from 10-20 years,

and those depend on outside agencies such as the state and federal government participating with us," Kabiri said. "Due to the regional impact, we will have to go at this for quite a number of years and continue to pursue and maintain the same level of intensity throughout the entire process."

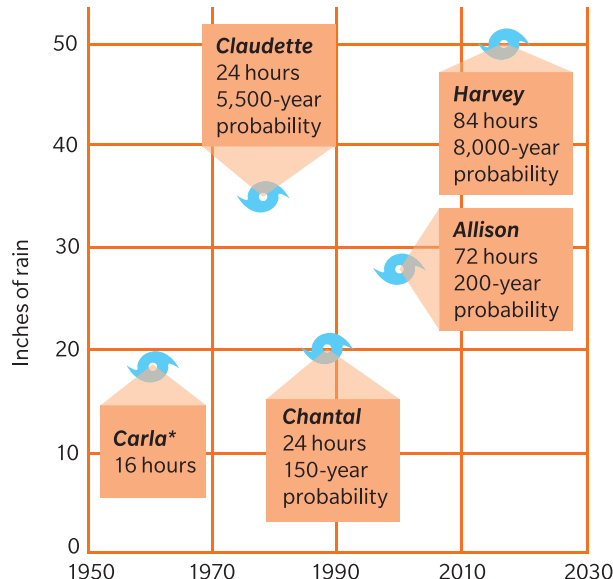
The committee proposed the city hire someone to manage draining and related projects long-term. This will ensure the committee's contributions become a living, breathing document, Kabiri said.

Even with a bond, the city would be unable to entirely fund the whole number of projects. Because of this, both the construction and the expense of larger projects could be shared by different cities and counties, Clark said.

"This is going to take regional cooperation because the last thing we want to do is move the flooding from one community to another community," Clark said. "We need to come up with

## STORMY WITH A CHANCE OF FLOODING

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has calculated how much rain the city of Friendswood would have to take on for a storm to classify as a 100-year storm, or a storm with a 1 percent chance of occurring each year. In the past 40 years, Friendswood has suffered four storms with greater than 100-year probability.



### WHAT IS STORM PROBABILITY?

A storm's probability is determined by the inches of rain that fall over a specific area in a certain amount of time. For example, during Hurricane Harvey, Friendswood received 50 inches of rain in 84 hours, making it an 8,000-year storm in Friendswood

SOURCES: CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD,  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION/  
COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

an approach to solve the flooding, which is going to take all communities."

National funding is also a possibility, but the number of stipulations attached to the money makes it harder to use, Clark said.

After a 60-year study, the Army Corps of Engineers allocated money dedicated to fixing Clear Creek, as *Community Impact Newspaper* previously reported. However, the Army Corps and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development both require that areas using money meet certain low-to-moderate income thresholds, which Friendswood does not necessarily meet.

"One type of challenge is that any type of drainage costs money to do, so we are going to have to come up with the money for that," Clark said. "Coming up with solutions is a good first

step, but we are going to have to come up a funding mechanism as well as ways to address this problem."

Shared funding will be mandatory for the larger projects, Rockey said.

"The reality is that to enact the projects we think are important is \$180 million worth of projects. We do not have that money. But we do need to put up some of our own money to entice the state, regional or national sources," Rockey said.

The long-term projects could take decades once funded. However, the result could be less flooding for more residents in and out of Friendswood.

"In terms of order of magnitude, this would be one of the most impactful undertakings Friendswood has ever done in its history," Kabiri said.



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# PREPPING PEARLAND

Bond projects are scattered throughout the city and include improvements to drainage, parks and roads, as well as a new animal shelter and burn building.

## PARKS:

- new equipment at city parks
- includes water, playground and dog park equipment

## ANIMAL SHELTER:

- capacity for 134 cats and dogs, plus quarantine space
- includes adoption center, exercise units for animals, HVAC
- location has not yet been determined

## BURN BUILDING:

- a two-story training building
- includes stairs, multiple rooms and a sloped roof

## DRAINAGE:

- 1 will replace driveway culverts, widen ditches, and re-lay asphalt
- 2 will replace driveway culverts, widen ditches, and re-lay asphalt

- 3 will finish building the storm water lift station, plus construction of back slope swales and drains and hydro-mulching.

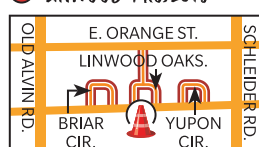
- 4 will replace curb inlets, the storm sewer system and storm drain lines.

- 5 will replace driveways, driveway culverts and storm sewer systems, widen ditches, and re-lay asphalt

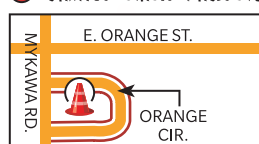
## ROAD PROJECTS

The bond will pay for the improvements on Bailey Road and Pearland Parkway, as well as reconstruction on smaller city streets which the city has grouped into four individual projects:

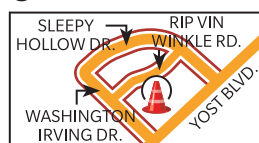
### 1 LINWOOD PROJECTS



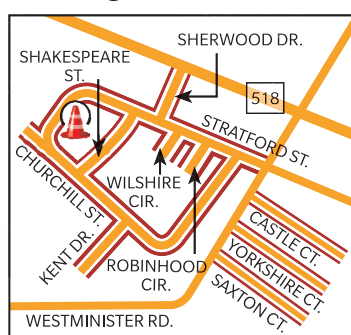
### 2 ORANGE CIRCLE PROJECTS



### 3 SLEEPY HOLLOW PROJECTS



### 4 SHERWOOD PROJECTS



2007 projects are in the design or construction phase. This, combined with the city's population and property valuation growth, has made this the perfect time for a bond, City Manager Clay Pearson said.

"Bonds are just one way we finance projects," Pearson said. "This is not the only funding source or the end of the [capital improvement plan]."

## PROJECT DETAILS

One of the most expensive projects on the bond is drainage improvements—totaling \$15.9 million—in the Willowcrest subdivision, where Harold Isidori lives. Isidori has been a Pearland resident for more than 40 years and will likely at least be voting for the drainage improvements and the animal shelter, he said.

"I saw the drainage item on the bond, and I'm probably going to vote for it and the animal shelter, too, because I trust the city has done its research," Isidori said.

The city's research includes prioritizing projects based on need, time and expense. Each of the items is something that was originally on a five-year capital improvement plan and needed substantial funding and time rather than just maintenance work, Pearson said.

"There is always more projects that everyone would like to do; we make choices and recommendations, and the process goes back and forth," Pearson said.

The projects are also determined by department heads and are narrowed down depending on the funding needed and the time the project would take to get up and running, Director of Engineering Robert Upton said. But ultimately, the decision is made by council, he said.

"City Council had us look at what it would be for a \$70 million bond, a \$90 million bond and a \$120 million bond," Upton said. "Our goal is to get the projects started and nearly completed within the first five years."

The three projects with the biggest price tags are the drainage in the Willowcrest subdivision, the Bailey Road

## WHAT DOES A BOND COVER?

Cities issue bonds to pay major projects over time through the interest and sinking tax rate. Bond money cannot cover any day-to-day operations, such as staff needs.

SOURCE: CITY OF PEARLAND/ COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

The most expensive item on the bond is the Bailey Road improvements, coming in at **\$19.5M**

CONTINUED FROM 1

"There will be five propositions, each considered on their own merits. We will have a pot of money for the projects. ... There is an option to spend less. That's typically what happens in the real world," Pearson said.

The proposed increase to the interest and sinking rate is \$0.0375.

The last bond Pearland passed was in 2007. The \$162 million bond helped build the Pearland Recreation Center and Natatorium, extend Pearland Parkway and widen Cullen Road. The



expansion and the animal shelter, coming in at \$15.9 million, \$19 million and \$13 million, respectively.

The city completed Bailey Road reconstruction in 2017, but there is more work to be done.

In the past, the city received outside funding from the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Transportation Improvement Program.

While it is a possibility the city may receive money from H-GAC for these projects to help offset funding, the bond money prepares the city to pay for these road projects as a whole, Pearson said.

The project would widen Bailey Road from a two- to four-lane roadway from Hwy. 35 to Veterans Drive, and add a second bridge, arguably making Bailey another major horizontal thoroughfare for the city.

Another facility included in the bond is the new fire training burn building, which would provide a training space for the city's firefighters, according to the city's bond proposal. The new burn building would include stairs, rooms and a sloped roof.

The bond also dedicates \$2.5 million to the park equipment replacement program.

#### RESTORING AND REPAIRING DRAINAGE

The Willowcrest drainage project will include replacement of curb inlets and a storm system, as will other drainage projects on the list, according to the bond proposition presented in December.

The bond also includes drainage projects on Piper Road in the Mimosa Acres and West Lea subdivisions and Phase 2 of the Hickory Slough detention pond.

"After [Hurricane] Harvey, the engineering staff went through and saw all of the areas that were inundated with Harvey. We also looked not just in light of Harvey, but areas that have still repeatedly flooded," Upton said.

While the city looked at areas that flooded after Harvey, the bond projects will address 10- and 25-year storms, or storms that have a 10 percent chance and a 4 percent chance of happening each year, respectively. There is no way the city could ward off the flooding the older areas saw during Harvey, longtime Pearland resident Robert Wagoner said.

"It's a difficult subject, and everybody wants something done about it, but unfortunately, I don't think there's anything they can do about it," Wagoner said.

The drainage improvements will restore the road side ditches to the original design capacity and will look for ways to provide improved capacity in those areas, Upton said. Undersized storm sewer systems will be replaced with a system that meets city standards, Upton said.

"We can't fix everything, but we want to return the drainage facilities in these areas to their original standard, or if we can improve them, we will then do those improvements," Upton said.

#### ANIMAL SHELTER WOES

One of the most expensive and contentious items on the bond is the new animal shelter, rounding in at over \$13 million. While the city needs a new animal shelter, the \$13 million price is too steep, Council Member David Little said.

"I would say we're at \$13 million; I would think we need something in the \$9 million range," he said.

While Little said the price is high, the animal shelter is a necessity, he said.

The new animal shelter will include heating, ventilation and air conditioning, sound control, and proper drainage, as well as natural light in the animal cells and exercise areas for its \$13 million price tag. The location of the

new shelter has not been determined.

The new shelter, as well as a new location, are essential, Pearland resident and veterinary technician Rachel Alder said.

"I actually live on the street that the current animal shelter is on. It's very hidden; a lot of people don't know it's there," Alder said.

The shelter, located on Old Alvin Road, is at capacity most days, according to the city's bond proposal.

"The animal shelter is antiquated and undersized for the city of Pearland," Pearson said. "We want to provide a safe and clean environment not only for the animals but for the people that work there as well."

The current shelter holds 83 animals and typically houses 63. Because of this, the shelter has had to turn away strays to avoid euthanasia, Alder said. The new shelter will hold 220 animals, catering to the city's needs now and in the future, according to the city's bond proposal.

"I don't know how big they are trying to make it, but Pearland is huge. For such a large area, this one is really small," Alder said.



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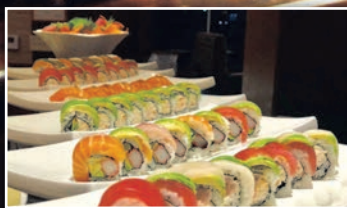
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\*18 GMC CANYON SLE: MSRP \$41,995  
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\*19 GMC ACADIA DENALI: MSRP \$51,135  
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