



The Insider

Board Approves Study to Determine Splash Pad Feasibility

Directors approved a contract with Leisure Development Partners LLP at the February 17 meeting to perform a market study to determine ideal locations for splash pad projects in East Montgomery County.

“We’ll look at a variety of sites and study population and demographics for those areas and the level of competition from any nearby swimming facilities,” said Yael Coifman, LDP founding partner. “We’ll determine whether a splash pad park would have a positive impact for surrounding businesses and, of course, for residents.”

EMCID President/CEO Frank McCrady added, “The study will take in to account all kinds of information. Once this splash pad is up and running kids will want to be out there having a blast four to five months out of the year.”

The study will also provide suggestions for the size and scope of the project. Ms. Coifman will initially meet with the Board this month and then report her findings this summer.

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Inside the East Montgomery County Improvement District



Brenda Webb
Chairman of the Board

A Message from our Chairman of the Board

Thank you for the honor and privilege of allowing the Board of Directors of the East Montgomery County Improvement District to serve you.

It is such a blessing to be a part of an organization that is able to do things such as provide a \$1,000 scholarship for every graduating senior in East Montgomery County, provide funding for the Boy Scouts to buy new tents, for the library to buy new books, and to assist Heaven's Army in its fight to help battered and abused women and children. EMCID is also proud to help provide new equipment for the Porter, New Caney and Splendora Fire Departments and provide funding to the Precinct 4 Constable's Office for extra police protection for you, our citizens, during this past Christmas shopping season.

This quarterly newsletter will keep you informed of all the exciting things that EMCID is doing in your community, but I would also encourage you to visit our website and attend our monthly Board meetings as well. Your suggestions and ideas are encouraged and welcomed, as we work together for an improved way of life for our children and grandchildren.



What We Do

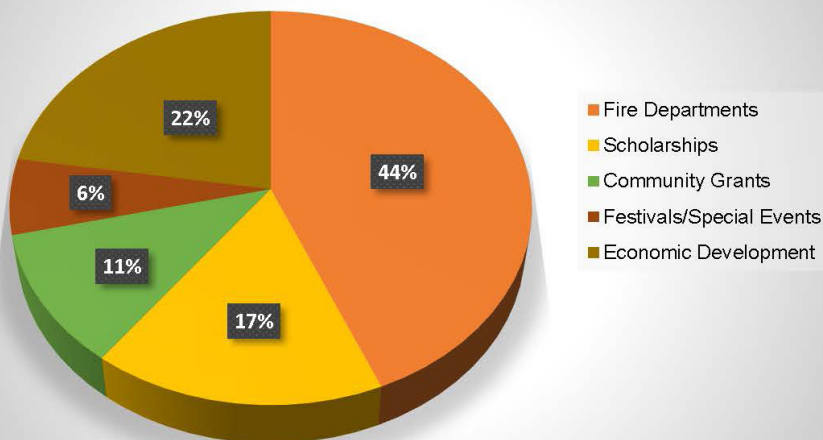
The East Montgomery County Improvement District (EMCID), which encompasses 158 square miles, collects a \$.01 - \$.015 sales tax on all purchases within its borders. EMCID collected \$6,702,858 in sales taxes during the 2013-2014 fiscal year. These monies are reinvested in East Montgomery County each year in the form of economic, community and educational development.

The East Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (EMCEDC), a subsidiary of EMCID and governed by the Board, provides cash, land, infrastructure and other forms of incentives to businesses in return for jobs being created in the District. Although EMCID doesn't construct facilities or manage projects, our incentives accelerate development and provide opportunities for projects to come to our area that otherwise would not.

Our community development program provides funding for emergency services, like fire and police protection, local non-profit organizations, and festivals and special events to enhance the quality of life for residents. Most funds in this program are usually presented in the form of grants to those who submit applications.

Finally, the East Montgomery County Scholarship Foundation (EMCSF), also governed by the Board, provides money to every graduating high school or homeschooled student and GED recipient within the District. Additional scholarships are available to a select pool of current college students who demonstrate merit and financial need.

2014/2015 Budget



Inside the East Montgomery County Improvement District

New and Improved Website

EMCID's new website is full of information! Launched October 27, 2014, the colorful website wowed the Board and community members. The site, which remains www.emctx.com, features some of the most sought after information, such as applications for scholarships and community development grants, meeting agendas and minutes, facility rental information, financials, development and community news, festivals, photo galleries, a calendar of events, and board and staff bios. Check it out today!



Economy

Valley Ranch Town Center to Break Ground

A groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the future Valley Ranch Town Center is expected to be held sometime this spring. Located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 59 and the Grand Parkway, this Signorelli Company development will include about 1.5 million square feet of retail, dining and entertainment options with walking paths, park space and tons of charm.

Stay tuned for more announcements about East Montgomery County's newest shopping, dining and entertainment destination!



Grand Parkway Update

It's been gone for more than a year. Now, what once was the Community Drive overpass is expected to reopen to drivers in late May/early summer. Linda Merritt, public information officer for Zachry-Odebrecht Parkway Builders, updated the community at the Greater East Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's "The Loop" on Wednesday, February 25. "We understand the community is ready to have their overpass back," said Merritt. "We also expect to reopen the southbound FM 1314 exit ramp on 59 around the same time period."

Like every other outdoor construction project in the Houston area, progress of the Grand Parkway segment in East Montgomery County has been delayed by wet weather. "It's been a little more than a challenge," said Merritt. The completion and opening date is scheduled for late this year.

Economy



BreWingZ Sports Bar & Grill Open for Business

BreWingZ Sports Bar & Grill held a ribbon cutting Wednesday, February 25 and opened for business. The restaurant, which features buffalo-style wings with 26 signature flavors and many other appetite pleasing foods, is located in the Kroger Marketplace Shopping Center at U.S. Highway 59 and Northpark Drive in Porter.

"We're excited," said Jeremy Horne, BreWingZ Director of Operations. "This is a great location, and we expect to be very busy."

The company's first stand-alone facility has about 45 televisions, and Horne says you'll be able to watch everything sports related.

But this sports bar isn't just for game enthusiasts who want to throw back a few brews. "We're not just a bar. We want you to bring your kids," said Horne. BreWingZ is known for its family-friendly atmosphere. It has a separate dining room away from the bar.

Board-approved incentives to BreWingZ include an annual half-cent cash rebate for six years provided that 40 percent of employees live in East Montgomery County. BreWingZ currently employs 75 staff members, 60 - 70 percent of which are from the New Caney, Porter, and Kingwood areas.



Community



EMCID President & CEO Frank McCrady was a guest speaker at the Greater East Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's "The Loop" Wednesday, February 25. He spoke about current developments and their effect on sales tax collection, which increases EMCID's ability to provide better benefits to the community.

Coming to Your Neighborhood

The Board of Directors wants to keep you informed about projects in East Montgomery County and programs available through EMCID. Community meetings are scheduled for the following locations and times:

March 17, 7 p.m.

*Lone Star College - Kingwood
Student Conference Center
20000 Kingwood Drive, Kingwood, TX*

April 13, 7 p.m.

*Cumberland Community Association
Pool House
21740 Deep Pines Drive, Porter TX*

Please visit www.emctx.com for a complete and up-to-date schedule.

Community

Get Ready to Hop into Spring at EMCID's Spring Extravaganza Thursday, March 26

The birds are chirping. The grass is ready to green up. The tulips are in full bloom. Can you feel it? Spring is coming! Join EMCID for its annual Spring Extravaganza, a free event open to the public, Thursday, March 26 from 5 - 8 p.m. at the EMCID Complex. Enjoy rides, a petting zoo, and face painting.

We need volunteers to help make the event a success! Sign up at www.emctx.com/festivals.

Thank You Law Enforcement

EMCID held its annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner Monday, February 23. Officers from area departments were recognized for their service to the community. Maurice "Termite" Watkins was this year's guest speaker.

Officers of the Year

(Top row l-r): Det. Craig Favorat, Montgomery County Sheriff's Dept.; Off. Eric Pitts, Woodbranch Police Dept.; Investigator Josh Bergland, Montgomery County Constable's Office, Precinct 4.

(2nd row): Trooper Josh Benson, Texas Dept. of Public Safety; Cpl. Andrew Morgan, Roman Forest Police Dept.; Lt. John F. Mays, Splendora ISD Police Dept.

(3rd row): Off. William A. Farquhar, Lone Star College System Police Dept.; Det. Wendy Villarreal, Patton Village Police Dept.; Off. Alex Maldonado, Splendora Police Dept.

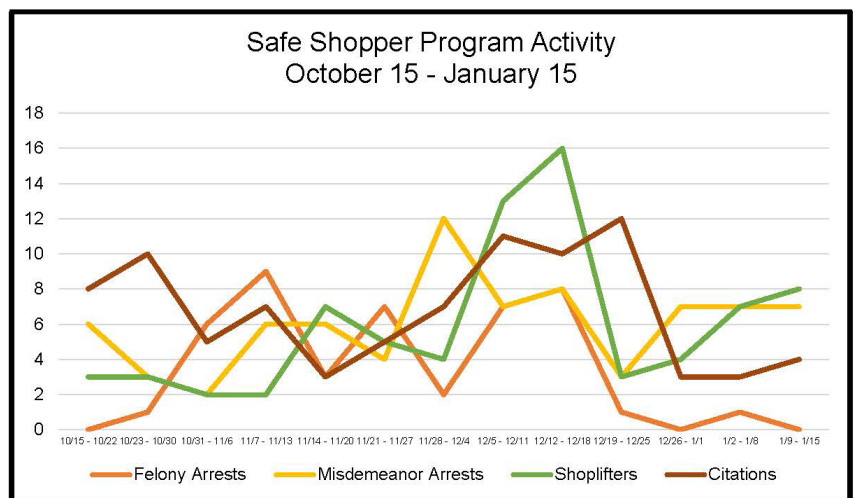
(Bottom row): Dep. Broderick O'Connor, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department; Sgt. Carolyn Prickett, Patton Village Police Dept.



Safe Shopper Program Yields 123 Arrests

The Montgomery County Precinct 4 Constable's Office made 45 felony arrests and 78 misdemeanor arrests between October 15, 2014 and January 15, 2015. The effort, called the Safe Shopper Program, aimed at reducing shoplifting in several high-traffic areas during the Christmas holiday shopping season. EMCID paid the Constable's Office \$38,400 for extra patrols. The height of activity came between Thanksgiving and Christmas. However, one of the biggest arrests came November 6, when deputies patrolling the Wal-mart area caught and arrested two people suspected of setting several mobile home fires.

Constable Rowdy Hayden said shoplifting and crime noticeably decreased during the patrol period and that the Sheriff's Office was able to focus its attention on more urgent criminal matters.



Community

Grants

The East Montgomery County Improvement District has provided about \$3.5 million in funding since 1998 through Community Development Grants to assist local organizations with the cost of development or improvements. The Board of Directors approved grants totalling \$323,951 during the December 11, 2014, January 8 and February 17, 2015 board meetings.



BSA Troop 1011, \$1,668.13

Grant funds will purchase 10 tents, 10 vestibules for the tents and six Trail Chef Aluminum Cook Sets. The equipment will replace existing equipment that has reached its lifetime usefulness.



City of Splendora, \$25,594

Grant funds will go toward the start of Phase III of the city's new park. This phase consists of a 30' x 40' pavilion, picnic table pads, picnic tables and trash receptacles.



EMC Fair Association, \$42,716.52

Grant funds will purchase four 20' fans that will be installed in the EMC County Fairgrounds Show Barn at Bull Salas Park. These fans will help keep the livestock as well as exhibitors cooler during selection and show time.



Friends of the R.B. Tullis Library, \$5,000

Grant funds will purchase books, e-books, books on CD and DVD movies.



Greater East Montgomery Co. Chamber, \$80,000

Grants funds are a part of a three-year agreement that provide for annual support of the Chamber's business initiatives.



Heaven's Army of Resources, \$53,000

Grant funds will provide operating expenses for the organization's services to low income residents in EMC. This will allow Heaven's Army to use other resources to expand its current facility by 2,500 square feet.



Montgomery Co. Pct. 4 Constable's Office, \$19,225.10

Grant funds will pay for wearable video cameras for its 24 deputies. The cameras will increase the safety of the officers as well as defendants and provide additional evidence for prosecutors.



NCISD Education Foundation, \$25,000

Grant funds will provide teachers with money for various innovative and creative projects in the classroom.

Community

Community Development Grant applications are accepted each March and September. The deadline for grant requests for the spring term is Monday, March 30 at 5 p.m.



Roman Forest Police Dept., \$1,160

Grant funds will purchase a DWI and Distracted Driver Simulation Program which will be used at community events.



Splendora High School Theatre Arts, \$5,477.25

Grants funds will pay for Performance Royalties, rental box truck, driver and bus, travel expenses for 20 students and a variety of materials, supplies and equipment for their stage productions.



Splendora Softball Association, \$55,110

Grant funds will go toward the construction of five softball fields, including installation of Turface, sprinkler systems, dirt, bases, home plate, bleachers, fencing and dugout.



Twin Cities Lions Club, \$10,000

Grant funds will provide eye exams and eyeglasses for students in New Caney ISD who are unable to get these needs taken care of. The students are recommended to the Lions Club by the school nurses.

Board Supports Merger Proposal for ESDs #7 and #11

In a show of unanimous support, EMCID's Board of Directors passed a resolution at its February 17 meeting in favor of the proposed merger of the New Caney (ESD #7) and Splendora (ESD #11) Fire Departments. The issue will be on the ballot for the May 9 election. The neighboring fire districts say merging will allow them to combine resources and increase the efficiency and fire protection of the departments.

EMCID contributes more than \$1.5 million in financial support to ESDs #6, #7 and #11 each year.



EMCID presented a check to ESD #7 at the February 17 board meeting in the amount of \$42,816.06 to help expand its scope of services to East Montgomery County.



ESD #11 accepted EMCID's annual contribution check at the December 11, 2014 board meeting in the amount of \$100,000. Funds help the department provide greater services in East Montgomery County.

61%

of the funds allotted for
community, economic and
educational development
goes to community
development.



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emctx.com
facebook.com/EMCID
twitter.com/EMCIDTX

East Montgomery County Improvement District 21575 U.S. Highway 59, Ste. 200, New Caney, TX 77357 281.354.4419

Education

New Merit-based Scholarship

The East Montgomery County Scholarship Foundation established a new \$500 scholarship for college students with at least 48 college credits who plan to continue their education. The scholarship will be available each year to 20 students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership and service, and financial need. This scholarship is separate from the regular \$1,000 scholarship available to all high school graduates who reside in East Montgomery County. The deadline for application submission is March 1 each year.

For more information, go to www.emctx.com/scholarships.

Important Dates

March - May

March 17 - Community Meeting @ LSC Kingwood
*March 19 - EMCID Board of Directors Meeting
March 26 - Spring Extravaganza
March 30 - Deadline to submit Community Development Grant Application
April 3 - Good Friday Holiday/EMCID Closed
April 5 - Easter Sunday
*April 9 - EMCID Board of Directors Meeting
April 13 - Community Meeting @ Cumberland
May 10 - Mothers Day
*May 14 - EMCID Board of Directors Meeting
May 25 - Memorial Day Holiday/EMCID Closed

*Dates subject to change

\$1,000 FOR SCHOOL

GRADUATE or GET YOUR GED & IT'S YOURS!

Use the EMCID scholarship at any college, trade school or university.

Apply at www.emctx.com/scholarships.

An educational development initiative of the East Montgomery County Improvement District
& the East Montgomery County Scholarship Foundation.

