



# The Insider



*A Holiday to Remember*  
at the Valley Ranch Town Center

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# A Year of Opportunities

I hope your Thanksgiving turkey served you well and now you're full of holiday spirit and energy, ready to tackle shopping this Christmas! This is one of my favorite times of year. I think about all of the things I'm thankful for and look forward to all of the new experiences in 2019.

This year has been a busy one. The Valley Ranch Town Center is bustling with people. Customers are appreciative there are new shopping options closer to home and the stores and restaurants are fresh, clean and welcoming.

We've seen the addition of Gringo's Mexican Kitchen, RC's Pizza, TJ Maxx, Ulta, and several others. Much more is planned for 2019, including Olive Garden and a James Avery store.

Sweden-based YMER Technology opened its first facility in the U.S. — in New Caney. We're so proud of that fact. The company, which produces cooling systems for wind turbines, started off as a warehouse in a 10,000 sq. ft. facility in our industrial park off of Gene Campbell Blvd. It's currently adding another 55,000 sq. ft. so it can manufacture and assemble its products. The company will also expand from 7 employees to 30. You'll see many more companies moving out to our industrial park.

underway. When completed, the highway will offer even more travel flexibility and open up opportunities for more retail development.

While all of this is exciting to us — because there are more options for dining and shopping and additional job opportunities closer to home — remember our community reaps many more benefits. The sales taxes we collect are put right back in to East Montgomery County. That revenue is used to entice good companies to move here.

It's also used to support the Porter and East Montgomery County fire departments, our local law enforcement, cities, and non-profit organizations. It also means that we can do cool things for the area, like October's East Texas Fire & Ice Festival or the upcoming A Holiday to Remember at the Valley Ranch Town Center. Would you have believed a few years ago that we'd have actual ice skating opportunities here? It's coming. And so much more. What you see now is just the tip of the iceberg.

Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful, prosperous New Year! I hope you spend it with family and those you love.



*Frank McCrady  
President & CEO*

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Frank McCrady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "McCrady" clearly legible.



# A Holiday to Remember



Ah, the holidays! Thoughts of a wintry morning with snow-topped trees and the family huddled around a fireplace drinking hot cocoa come to mind. Whoa! Only in our dreams! This does not happen in southeast Texas — unless you're in East Montgomery County where an ice skating rink awaits you! It's not the synthetic rink we introduced you to at the East Texas Fire & Ice Festival in October. This month, we're putting up a **real ice rink** at the Valley Ranch Town Center! This one requires ice and a lot of refrigeration.

Open beginning December 29, the rink can accommodate up to several dozen people at a time. 90-minute ice skating sessions are \$5 per person. The rink will be open every day from 12 - 8 p.m. through Sunday, January 6. Parking is at New Caney ISD's Texan Drive Stadium. Make this a true holiday to remember! Questions? Go to [www.emctx.com/holiday-to-remember](http://www.emctx.com/holiday-to-remember).

## Gringo's Opens



Gringo's October 16 grand opening was just as anticipated — with plenty of enthusiastic fans of the famous Tex-Mex food that Houstonians have come to love. The restaurant, located at 21576 US Hwy 59 in the Valley Ranch Town Center went up quickly to the delight of those in East Montgomery County and surrounding areas.

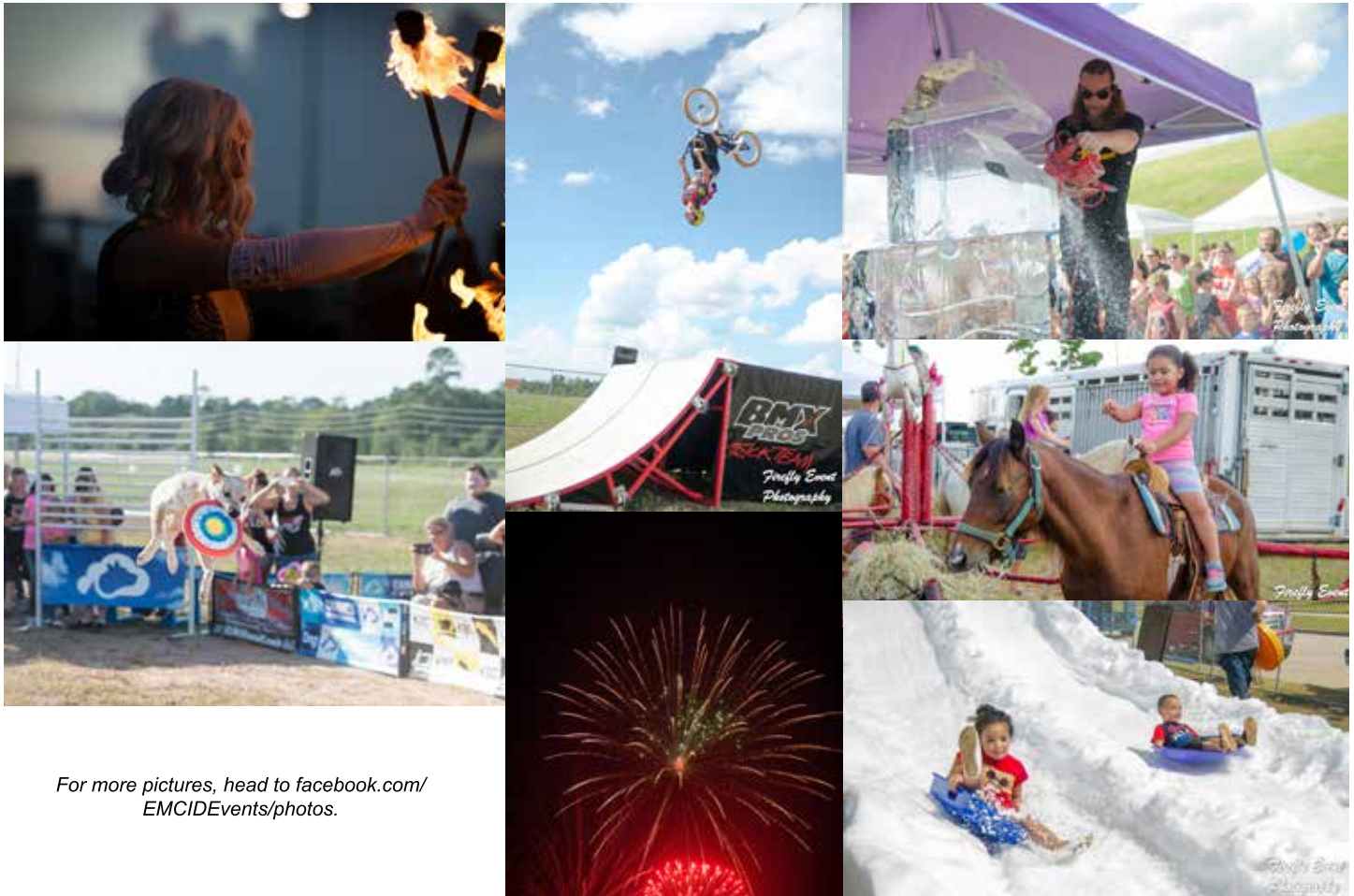
Other places that opened this summer/fall or are on the way to East Montgomery County:

Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, June 25  
RC's NYC Pizza & Pasta, August 20  
Verizon, August 21  
Rusty Buckle BBQ, October 20  
Yummy Tummy Pastries, October  
Airi Poke & Ramen, November  
J&R's Ace Hardware, November  
Sub Zero Ice Cream, November  
Buffalo Wild Wings, December 17  
Hallmark, December  
Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, Jan. 2019  
James Avery Jewelry, February 2019  
DaVita Dialysis, 2019  
Olive Garden, 2019  
Regions Bank, 2019  
Valvoline Oil Change, 2019

*\*Dates are accurate prior to printing of publication. Dates may change.*



# East Texas Fire & Ice Festival



For more pictures, head to [facebook.com/EMCIDEvents/photos](https://facebook.com/EMCIDEvents/photos).

## Hancock Named “Outstanding Citizen”

Guy Hancock, a pillar in East Montgomery County, received the Outstanding Citizen Award from the EMCID Board of Directors at the East Texas Fire & Ice Festival, held October 6.

“I had no idea I would receive this award,” said Hancock, “This is a great honor. It’s been such a great opportunity for me to unite others in our community and serve.”

When Hancock isn’t busy with Guy’s AC & Heating in New Caney, he’s installing cooling and heating systems for local churches that can’t afford it or opening up Faith Ranch, a game ranch in the hill country, to first responders and organizations who raise money for critical needs children.

“Serving my community is something that I feel God has pushed me to do,” said Hancock.

He has served on numerous boards over the years as well, including ESD #7 and New Caney MUD.





# EMCID Dumps 27,000 Lbs. of Electronics



TVs not seen since childhood when you were your parents' remote control. Computers that should be in museums. Keyboards, phones, and printers. All of these things are now out of homes in East Montgomery County and are being recycled. EMCID teamed up with CompuCycle Houston to hold a free event September 8 for the community to dump those old electronics.

"It was a wild success," said Frank McCrady, President & CEO. "People have been holding on to a lot of stuff for a very long time. We're glad to help them by offering this free event."

This was the first electronics recycling event the district has offered. It comes on the heels of the district's very popular Shred It EMC, a free document shredding day, held the past three years in the spring.

"We knew what kind of crowds we've had for shred day, but we really didn't know what to expect with our first electronics recycling event," said Kelley Mattlage, Chief Communications Officer. "We're glad we reserved an extra trailer to haul off the 27,000 pounds of electronics!"

The district is currently looking at early May for scheduling Shred It EMC, and is planning to hold another recycling event in the fall.



# EMCID Adds On 10% at EMCFA Auction



For many years EMCID has supported the youth who showed animals, demonstrated their artistic talents or made prized cakes for the East Montgomery County Fair by adding on five percent to the price the item received at the Buyers' Auction. In 2017, EMCID raised that to 10 percent as a way to help students and families in the area who were directly or indirectly affected by Hurricane Harvey. The Board decided to once again add on 10 percent this year, which helps cover the students' commission to the fair association. EMCID is always happy to support the youth of East Montgomery County!

*The Insider* is expanding! Our quarterly newsletter is now growing to bi-monthly; that means the newsletter you've loved seeing in your mailboxes every three months will show up every other month, starting in January. We'll stuff it full of news about businesses coming to the area, grant opportunities and events for the community, and scholarships for our youth.

# Scholarship Foundation Thanks Donors

Businesses and the community came together to celebrate the success of the East Montgomery County Scholarship Foundation's (EMCSF) work to provide every high school graduate in East Montgomery County a scholarship. A gala, featuring guest speaker Dr. Katherine Persson, Lone Star College – Kingwood president, was held at the EMCID Complex September 20. The EMCSF, which is a non-profit charitable organization, has paid out nearly \$3 million in scholarships since its inception.

The EMCSF gives \$1,600 scholarships to all graduating seniors from New Caney and Splendora ISDs, along with those who graduate from private school, home-school programs or get a GED.

In addition the EMCSF offers a paid internship to high school seniors and a merit-based scholarship to college students.

Special thanks to our sponsors:

Doctorate:

Plains State Bank  
The Signorelli Company

Master:

J.A. Costanza & Associates Engineering, Inc.  
Marks Richardson Attorneys at Law

Bachelor:

City of Splendora  
Lone Star College – Kingwood  
McDonald's of Porter and New Caney  
Moonwalks and More

Patrons:

Buster Brown Propane  
Criss Cross Commercial Group  
Municipal Accounts & Consulting  
Speedsportz Racing Park



For more pictures of the event, head to [facebook.com/EMCID/photos](https://facebook.com/EMCID/photos).



# Inside the Improvement District

There are plenty of new faces in our offices, and we're very excited to have welcomed these talented employees. Please say hello when you get a chance!



**Brandon Nash** joined EMCID September 10 as a multimedia/graphic designer. He's raising the bar when it comes to creating visual concepts for the district by utilizing various computer applications to communicate ideas to inspire, inform and captivate our community, clients and potential business recruits through video, infographics, social media and print, to name a few. Preceding his position with EMCID, Brandon functioned as the e-form coordinator and graphic designer for Stage Stores in Houston and, most recently,

as marketing and graphic specialist for Republic Harley-Davidson in Stafford, managing all photography, video editing, social media, branding, signage and all forms of graphics. A member of the AIGA (the professional association for design) Houston Chapter, Brandon has actively been designing for over 13 years.

A 2003 graduate from the Art Institute of Houston in Graphic Design and Visual Communications, he took on additional coursework with Florida Tech in 2009 and is continuing his education with University of the People. From business cards to billboards, there is not much that Brandon has not created graphically.

Aside from treasured family time Brandon enjoys photography, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu training, creating music on his guitars, recording voiceovers for online stories, and short story writing.



**Joe O'Connell** joined the team September 19 as Chief Financial Officer. While working in law enforcement as a police officer and county jail guard for 15 years, Joe took accounting classes at night as an additional skill for when he decided to retire from police work, not knowing that he had discovered a new passion.

Joe made the decision for a career change since accounting would be a new challenge for him. To date, Joe currently has 17 years of accounting and finance experience starting

as a staff accountant and progressing to the role of Chief Financial Officer. This experience also includes three years of finance experience with Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs).

As the CFO for the East Montgomery County Improvement District, Joe, who is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA,) plans to bring a deeper financial analysis to the district to help make EMCID more competitive when it comes to bringing businesses into East Montgomery County and increasing the East Montgomery County Scholarship Fund.

In addition to his passion for finances and accounting, Joe volunteers his time at his kids' activities and enjoys exercising.

Joe is married with four kids – two, who are in college as a freshman at the University of Houston and a junior at Princeton University, and two, who have since graduated.

On becoming a part of the EMCID team, Joe added, "I greatly enjoy helping people and I am excited to be part of an organization that's mission is to help the people of East Montgomery County."

**Jennifer Summer Green** came aboard

September 26 as a communications specialist. Jennifer assists with creative messaging for the community and marketing materials distributed across the nation. Most people know Jennifer as a



reporter and editor for the *Observer*. A native of the Kingwood area, Jennifer has always had a passion for community involvement and writing. We're excited that she's now using those talents to spread the word about development in our community.

A graduate of Kingwood High School, Jennifer went on to attend Louisiana State University where she majored in Communications and Journalism. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, she returned to the Kingwood area where she was hired on as a full-time reporter for the *Observer Newspapers*.

For the past 11 years, Jennifer has worked for both the *Observer* and the *Courier of Montgomery County* newspapers where she has written about everything from new businesses to education, court cases, breaking news and crime. She has also worked as a freelance writer for the *Tribune* and in Sales/Marketing for Minuteman Press of Humble.

With all of these experiences and networking opportunities, Jennifer is excited to be back in the community she loves and will be closer to home, friends and family.

In addition to writing and working, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her husband, cat, friends and family members, who also live in the East Montgomery County area, dining at a few of her favorite restaurants and attending festivals.



\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

Local  
Postal Customer

PRST STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM Retail

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



## Important Dates

December 2018 - February 2019

EMCID's Christmas Open House	December 3	11 - 7 pm	EMCID Complex Atrium
Greater EMC Chamber Luncheon	December 5	11:30 am	EMCID Complex Atrium
EMC Scholarship Foundation Meeting	*December 6	12 pm	EMCID Complex Conference Rm.
EMC Economic Development Corporation Meeting	*December 6	1:30 pm	EMCID Complex Conference Rm.
EMCID Regular Meeting	*December 6	5:30 pm	EMCID Complex Board Room
Christmas/New Year's Holidays	Dec. 24 - Jan. 1		
<i>A Holiday to Remember Ice Rink</i>	Dec. 29 - Jan. 6	12 - 8 pm	Valley Ranch Town Center
EMCID Regular Meeting	*January 10	5:30 pm	EMCID Complex Board Rm.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Complex Closed)	January 21		
Greater EMC Chamber Luncheon	February 6	11:30 - 1 pm	EMCID Complex Atrium
EMCID Regular Meeting	*February 14	5:30 pm	EMCID Complex Board Rm.
Presidents Day (Complex Closed)	February 18		
EMCID's Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner	February 21	7 pm	EMCID Complex Atrium

*\*Dates subject to change*

Please visit [www.emctx.com/calendar](http://www.emctx.com/calendar) for an up-to-date listing of events.

The Insider is a quarterly newsletter produced by the East Montgomery County Improvement District. Please direct questions or comments to: Kelley Mattlage, Chief Communications Officer, [kmattlage@emctx.com](mailto:kmattlage@emctx.com).