

# **Developing Park Space**



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# Welcome to July!

It's a month in which we celebrate America, independence and freedom! At EMCID, we're also anticipating the addition this month of two new board members, Crystal Moore and Liz Mullane, new ideas, a continued commitment to exciting and smart business development and increasing the quality of life for residents in East Montgomery County.

25 years ago, you, the residents, voted for the creation of the improvement district. You voted to increase the local sales tax in the area to help realize the full potential of the area through business recruitment, the creation of jobs, additional shopping and dining options, and amenities, like parks, that make raising a family here more enjoyable. You voted to give your families all the opportunities that families in The Woodlands, Sugar Land, or Pearland have all had for many years.

Earlier this year, we announced the addition of Target and HomeGoods to the Valley Ranch Town Center. We also announced last month that Saltgrass Steak House will open a restaurant in

Valley Ranch Town Center, next to Sherwin-Williams, and look forward to more announcements from The Signorelli Company soon. Additionally, we expect to begin construction late this year on our 200,000-square-foot conference center, and we're looking forward to the development of a 64-acre park along Caney Creek. Meanwhile, our industrial park continues to expand and attract companies from around the US and the world that will provide jobs for our residents. All of the changes that **seem** to have taken place overnight are 25 years in the making. The conversations. The relationships. Education. Marketing. Increased transportation routes. Commitment from developers. And, of course, unwavering cooperation between various leaders within Montgomery County, organizations, individuals, and residents who have all had a hand in making East Montgomery County a growing success story. These things don't happen overnight, and they don't happen without a shared vision. We thank you for your help.

When you truly care about your community, who represents it, and how it develops, you educate yourself. You stay involved. And you go to the direct source for information when you have questions. If you ever have questions about how EMCID operates, about our projects, or have heard something you want to confirm or find out more about, much of the information, like agendas, budgets, financials, incentives, new businesses, etc. is on our website. But you're always welcome to give us a call – ask for Kelley Mattlage, our Chief Communications Officer – or contact us by email through our website! We are more than happy to answer questions.



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# EMCID to Develop 64-Acre Green Space

The East Montgomery County Improvement District is moving forward with plans to develop a 64-acre tract of land in New Caney that will become a haven for nature lovers, hike and bike enthusiasts, and dog owners and their furry friends.

The heavily wooded area with frontage on both Dry Creek and Caney Creek is located on FM 1485 at Gene Campbell Blvd.

"We've heard from residents for years how they'd like for park space to be added into the East Montgomery landscape, and we believe this former crushed concrete site can be transformed into a beautiful green space," said Frank McCrady, EMCID President & CEO.

The project will be completed in phases, the first phase consisting of planning and development. The remaining phases will include building a dog park and walking trails. The desire is to create a park that attracts people and nature, including gardens that bring butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. EMCID plans to apply for grants to help keep costs down.



# MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

LIZ

**Fast Fact:** New board members and those re-elected will be sworn into office on July 14.

Making a difference in the East Montgomery County community that she has called home for more than 50 years, and its surrounding areas fueled Liz Mullane to run for position 7 on the EMCID Board of Directors.

After retiring from Continental Airlines, Liz became interested in volunteering which led to the position of City Administrator at the City of Roman Forest.

"I worked at the city for the last nine years and retired again," said Liz. "It has become enjoyable to make a difference in the community where I live, and I would like to serve the residents of a bigger footprint than our little city. My favorite thing about the East Montgomery County area is the long-term residents that have made a difference by serving our community. The leadership in the community consists of individuals who are striving to ensure we grow in a positive direction."

# CRYSTAL Moore

As a lifelong resident and small business owner in EMC, Crystal Moore ran for position 5 on the EMCID Board of Directors to become more involved in her community and highlight small businesses.

"I have lived in this community all of my life and couldn't think of a better place to raise my own family," said Crystal. "As small business owners, my husband and I understand the struggles. I will advocate for small businesses and promote networking to establish and maintain connections among the business owners. I have served this community in various capacities for many years. This is our home, and I want to see it prosper. I have built relationships with our elected officials and county government which will be a huge asset in this position."

# CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Stephen Carlisle

\* He is married to Laura, and

Army Private Cody Carlisle.

the proud father of U.S.

\* Lives in Roman Forest.

\* Stephen is an avid

Star Wars fan.



## Brenda Webb

- \* Lives in New Caney.
- \* Brenda owns and operates Gold Rush Tax Office.
- \* Brenda and Ronny have been married for more than 30 years, have three children, and six grandchildren.

### **Fred Wetz**

- \* Lives in Porter.
- \* Fred is one of the original EMCID board members from its inception in 1997.
- \* Married for more than 50 years to his wife Sherry, and have two children, and four grandchildren.



## **Katherine Persson**

- \* Lives in Splendora.
- \* Katherine recently retired as the President of Lone Star College-Kingwood.
- \* Married to Andrew, they live in Splendora and have three grown children and two grandchildren.



## Leonard Rogers

- \* Lives in Splendora.
- \* Leonard opened Let's Mechanical, AC/ Heating business in 1982, and it is sitll thriving.
- \* He has been married to Elizabeth for more than 55 years, they have two children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



### **Ron Willingham**

- \* Lives in Porter.
- \* He currently serves as a Patrol/Civil Sergeant with Montgomery County Constable's Office, Precinct 4, and has served EMC for 24 years.
- \* Ron has been married to Cheryl since 1975 and they have two sons and three grandchildren.



## Let Us Know:

The East Montgomery County Improvement District wants to know where you receive your information regarding EMCID, whether it is news about our organization, upcoming events, spotlights on local businesses, or important news about your community.



Please scan the QR code to participate in our survey so we can determine better ways to communicate with our community. We look forward to hearing from you!



### Be the first to know about breaking news on businesses, events, and other community news with EMCID's newest eNewsletter, *InSights*!

Before it's online or on social media, *InSights* will hit your inbox, so make sure you sign up to receive the newsletter.

*InSights* is also a great way to share important news and events with our community between *The Insider* editions.

Scan the QR code to sign up for EMCID's newest communication tool — *InSights* — an eNewsletter you can read any time of the day.





We wanted to take a moment and thank Warren Mather for his 14-year tenure at the East Montgomery County Improvement District. Warren officially retired at the end of March. Congratulations on your retirement!



## **BUSINESS BRIEFS & HAPPENINGS>>**



#### Saltgrass Steak House To Open in Valley Ranch

Saltgrass Steak House is joining the strong restaurant line-up in Valley Ranch Town Center. The new restaurant will be located next to Sherwin-Williams. The building permits were filed with the state in May to begin construction later this year.

#### Husteel To Open Manufacturing Plant in Splendora

Soon to be one of the largest taxpayers in Splendora ISD, Husteel will open a steel manufacturing plant in Splendora off Midline Road. Husteel is the second-largest steel manufacturer in South Korea for all kinds of products from the steel pipe for oil wells to those used for infrastructure. The \$122 million project will bring 100 jobs to the area.

#### The Grand Parkway/99 Opens

The Grand Parkway/99 corridor from Hwy. 59 in New Caney to SH 146 in Baytown opened in May after several years of construction. These newest segments from New Caney to Baytown represent 52.8 miles of the 184-mile loop.

The Grand Parkway is the longest highway loop in the entire United States. It is the third circumferential highway around the Greater Houston Area – the others being the 610 Loop and Beltway 8.

#### Shaka Brew Coffee Trailer Opens in Porter

Start your day with a coffee, freshly squeezed lemonade, or shaved ice at the new Shaka Brew Coffee trailer located at 21595 Valley Ranch Bend in Porter. Located at the Valley Ranch Pool and across the street from Valley Ranch Academy, they also have muffins to accompany your espressos, cold brew coffee, or other refreshments.

#### **Krafty Shack Provides Crafty Outlet**

Krafty Shack located at 22043 E. Hammond Dr. in Porter celebrated its grand opening and welcomes the community to flex their creative spirit at their shop.

The Krafty Shack provides a place where children can develop their artistic and creative qualities in the great company of new friends.

They offer crafts, drawing and painting classes, and more.



HUSTEEL







Local Postal Customer



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The Insider is a bi-monthly newsletter produced by the East Montgomery County Improvement District. Please direct questions or comments to: Kelley Mattlage, Chief Communications Officer, kmattlage@emctx.com.