



# The Insider

**Kelsey-Seybold breaks ground on new location in Porter.**







As I put some thoughts together at the end of this past January, many can agree the political climate in the federal government has never been in such disrepair. The continual backbiting and outright meanness that persists is not the process our forefathers envisioned.

One aspect to the longest government shutdown in history we can take away is the resiliency of the Texas economy and how federal actions have a much smaller impact on our economy in East Montgomery County than in other areas of the country. Being a Texan and being proud of our independent nature sometimes is demonstrated in unusual ways.

I was in New York for a meeting about two weeks after the shutdown began and was casually visiting with the cab driver and listening to him explain how he is currently making 20 percent of his normal revenue each day due to there being no federal workers or contractors or federal agencies open in New York. Later on as I called to make a normally required reservation at a restaurant, the hostess instead said none was needed and to just come on down. As I walked in that evening during prime dining hours there were people sitting at four tables — with about 35 tables available. Quite an eye opener. I am sure the environment in Washington, D.C. was even worse, where Uncle Sam is the largest single employer in the region. In fact, Marriott hotels announced a significant decrease in earnings due to minimal activity at their Washington properties.

However, upon returning from my meeting I looked at our area and saw the one hour wait at Gringo's and how the businesses at Valley Ranch and other retail developments in East Montgomery County were continuing to generate visitors and it made me proud. As a community, this

demonstrates we are not dependent on the federal government for the success of our area's development and new amenities. Secondly, in Texas, local control and self-determination without federal oversight and regulation are some of the cornerstones of this great state.

Please understand we do have some federal workers who live in our community. I have friends who are TSA agents, IRS employees, Economic Development Administration employees and Department of the Army civilians, and they were very much impacted. But it has been really heartwarming to see our neighbors helping each other in a time of need. This demonstrates how we take care of our own community's needs.

I have heard people in the area proclaim "East Montgomery County Proud" before. Seeing our area's economic resiliency to the federal government shutdown makes me proud to live here, raise our children here, and teach them that we strive to be self-sufficient. I do hope the shutdown provides valuable lessons to the next generation; I also hope it teaches them to not rely on government, as we are Texans and as such we should determine our own destiny.



*Frank McCrady  
President & CEO*

*Frank McCrady*

# Kelsey-Seybold Breaks Ground in Porter

More than a dozen shovels broke into the ground where the newest Kelsey-Seybold clinic will call home in Porter on U.S. Highway 59 northbound at Memorial Drive.

EMCID board chairman Brenda Webb and representatives from Kelsey-Seybold and Gamma Construction celebrated the official groundbreaking of the clinic on Wednesday, Jan. 9. It's expected to open in 2020.

"As an elected board representing the interests of East Montgomery County, we couldn't be more pleased that Kelsey-Seybold chose our community for their newest clinic," said Webb. "Access to quality health care is one of our top priorities."

The clinic replaces the facility on West Lake Houston in Kingwood that flooded during Hurricane Harvey. The facility will increase from 20,000 square-feet to nearly 55,000 square feet.

Patients will have access to expanded services in primary care including internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology. Additional services are planned for the future.

The new clinic will also add 18 employees when it opens and, in the future, plans are to hire an additional 45 employees.

"These kinds of skilled jobs for our area are also critical for the overall diversification of our workforce," said Frank McCrady, EMCID President and CEO.

It was a project that almost didn't happen because of deed restrictions levied on the 5.5 acre tract of land.

EMCID's board and McCrady walked door-to-door to obtain the necessary signatures from residents in the area adjacent to the property to petition changing those restrictions.



# New Business Openings in EMC



With the new year comes new businesses. The following businesses have either opened or will open this year:

Airi Poke & Ramen, December  
Buffalo Wild Wings, December  
Hallmark, December  
James Avery Jewelry, January  
J&R's Ace Hardware, January  
Tune Up - A Manly Salon, January  
Sub Zero Ice Cream, February  
Yummy Tummy Pastries, February  
Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, February  
DaVita Dialysis, 2019  
Olive Garden, 2019  
Regions Bank, 2019  
Valvoline Oil Change, 2019

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



# Boy Scout Troop 1011 Takes on Projects

In true Boy Scout fashion, Troop 1011 member Jackson Swallows continues to give back to his community by taking on a project proposed by EMCID Director Martin Zepeda.

Zepeda met with troop members to show them a potential project and they decided to clean up the “Welcome to New Caney FFA” sign located near the intersection of Loop 494 and FM 1485.

According to Boy Scout Master Dean Barnhill, they went out to inspect the sign, noticed it was covered with brush and debris and took on the project, “to give back to the community.”

The next Troop 1011 project includes working on a cemetery that is in need of cleaning and mowing in the New Caney area which is inline with their continued dedication to improve their community and participate in clean up projects.



# EMC Scholarship Foundation Makes Changes

To incorporate more community input, the East Montgomery County Scholarship Foundation (EMCSF) appointed new board members as it works toward becoming a nonprofit organization independent of EMCID.

The EMCSF appointed new members Cassandra Rincones, a Lone Star College-Kingwood academic dean; Dan Muirhead, a Splendora ISD board member and Isidor Ybarra, a longtime community member to the board. This past summer, the five-member board adopted new bylaws establishing a nine-member board in which most members are not EMCID directors. The move helps support the foundation’s request to change its IRS designation from “supported” to “independent,” which would give the organization better investment choices that would yield higher returns.

“As our area continues to grow, we felt now was the time to make these changes and include a cross-section of the community who hold higher education close to their hearts,” said Foundation Chair Brenda Webb. “Our mission when we started was to help ensure that our kids have the opportunity to take classes beyond high school that could help them earn a certification or degree. Today, with a \$1,600 scholarship, graduates can use that to get a real estate license, for example, or go to Lone Star College or even an out-of-state college or university.”

The EMCSF was originally established by EMCID in 2004. Currently, the foundation provides a \$1,600 scholarship to all graduates within the boundaries of EMCID, a \$500 merit-based scholarship for college students and paid internship opportunities for high school seniors.

EMCSF board members from left, Dale Martin, Dan Muirhead, Fred Wetz, Ybarra, EMCID Executive Director Frank McCrady, Webb, Cassandra Rincones and Dr. Katherine Persson.





# Speedsportz Offers Team Building Challenges

The feeling of wind blowing across the faces of drivers as they make their way around the track at New Caney's Speedsportz Racing Park may be enough to incite the competitive spirit in many especially if they are co-workers.

In the two years since it opened, Speedsportz Racing Park has grown in popularity with businesses seeking to use the park for corporate events, guests racing go-karts for social parties such as a bachelor or bachelorette party and the public satisfying their need for speed.

"This is something totally unique that corporations and businesses can't do at many places," said Alan Rudolph, owner of Speedsportz Racing Park. "Business owners are always looking for something different and that is what we provide. Our guests can expect to have fun and leave the racing park with a smile on their faces. If you want to get your sales staff pumped up about selling, bring them here and their competitive spirit comes alive."

According to Rudolph, the businesses will use their meeting spaces, eat a meal, race on the track and follow it up with a dinner or cocktail reception.

"Our go-kart racing can be a team building experience," said Rudolph. "One of our favorite activities to do during our corporate events is the relay race style of competition."

"One of the most fun groups we have had to drive the go-karts was a group of ladies, who had a great time, driving around the track and racing," Rudolph added. "We can also host charity nights for nonprofit organizations where they will receive a portion of the proceeds. We want our community to know that Speedsportz Racing Park is open to the public and come to check us out."

Speedsportz Racing Park offers multiple services simultaneously such as a rental kart track that is open to the public, a professional racing track, club memberships with 36-member garages that are currently all rented and a retail area selling karts, equipment and parts.



## Spring Extravaganza to be held on March 28



As the warmer weather approaches, the annual EMCID Spring Extravaganza will welcome the new season with an egg hunt and activities for the whole family.

The community is invited to join in the fun on Thursday, March 28 from 5-8 p.m. at the EMCID Complex Building.

The annual Spring Extravaganza will kick off with an Easter Egg Hunt where children will have the chance to collect as many eggs as they can which are filled with candy and prizes.

Guests can also enjoy rides, bounce houses, make-and-take items, face painting and a petting zoo.





# Annual Shred It EMC returns on May 4

EMCID will host Shred It EMC, a free document shredding event, on Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the parking lot, located at 21575 U.S. Highway 59 North in New Caney.

Vehicles should enter through Eagle Drive by the R.B. Tullis Library and drive straight back to the EMCID Complex. Vehicles will exit right onto the U.S. Highway 59 frontage road. All shredded documents accepted during this event are recycled.

**Acceptable to shred:** any office paper, file folders, thin cardboard and there is no need to remove staples, paper clips, rubber bands or small binders

**Not accepted:** thick cardboard, common trash, hazardous materials, lastics or metals or CDs and DVDs.



## Fall Community Development Grant Winners

EMCID Directors approved and awarded Community Development Grant money to 14 nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies this past fall.

The 2018 Fall Community Development Grants were awarded to the following organizations:

Boy Scout Troop 1011, Catholic Daughters of America, Cub Scout Pack 39, East Montgomery County Sports Association, East Montgomery County Swim Team, Friends of R.B. Tullis Library, The Heartworm Foundation, Mission Northeast, Montgomery County Precinct 4 Constable's Office, Montgomery County Youth Services, New Caney High School Spirit Band Club, New Caney New Horizons, Splendora High School Project Graduation and VFW Post 4816.

For those organizations interested in submitted an application for a Spring Community Development Grant, the deadline is fast approaching.

Twice a year, EMCID accepts Community Development Grant requests from nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies seeking funding for projects located within East Montgomery County.

The deadline to submit applications for the EMCID Spring Community Development Grant is March 25. Governmental entities or nonprofit organizations can apply for grants up to \$30,000.

Tacing entities will be required to have a 50 percent match while all others will be required to have a 33 percent match. A second option is to apply for a mini-grant of up to \$5,000. Matching funds are not required.



Above: The 2018 Fall Community Development Grant recipients were honored during EMCID's December meeting. The following were awarded grants Boy Scout Troop 1011, Catholic Daughters of America, Cub Scout Pack 39, East Montgomery County Sports Association, East Montgomery County Swim Team, Friends of R.B. Tullis Library, The Heartworm Foundation, Mission Northeast, Montgomery Vounty Precinct 4 Constable's Office, Montgomery County Youth Services, New Caney High School Spirit Band Club, New Caney New Horizons, Splendora High School Project Graduation and VFW Post 4816.



# EMCID hosts 'A Holiday to Remember' Ice Rink

A first for the East Montgomery County community, approximately 5,750 ice skaters, as well as family members, friends and other onlookers, enjoyed the weeklong "A Holiday to Remember" ice skating rink in New Caney provided by EMCID.

The rink, located within Valley Ranch Town Center near the future amphitheater, officially opened to the community Dec. 29 and remained open through Sunday, Jan. 6.

Throughout the week, skaters - beginner and a few non-beginners - were observed hitting the ice and having fun with their friends and family members.

For \$5, skaters had the chance to lace up their skates and hit the ice during 90-minute sessions then enjoy sweet treats, burgers and pizza from the food truck vendors parked on-site.





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## Important Dates

### March - April 2019

Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 10		
Greater EMC Chamber Luncheon	March 6	12 pm	EMCID Complex Atrium
EMC Scholarship Foundation Meeting	March 14	12 pm	EMCID Board Room
EMC Economic Development Committee	March 14	1:30 pm	EMCID Board Room
EMCID Regular Meeting	March 14	5 pm	EMCID Board Room
Good Friday (Complex Closed)	March 19		
Spring Community Development Grants Due	March 25		
Spring Extravaganza	March 28	5-8 pm	EMCID Complex Atrium
Greater EMC Chamber Luncheon	April 3	12 pm	EMCID Complex Atrium
Project Connections	April 19		
Free Children's Immunizations	April 23		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).