



# The Insider

**Here comes  
graduation!**

**We've got \$1,600 for your child's future.**





# A Call to Our Community

Encourage  
Graduates to  
Utilize \$1,600  
Scholarship

# 2019



It is interesting as a parent looking back and examining the “I should have” moments. My wife and I have three children, and each one is totally different in their own way. One graduating from law school, one aspiring chef, and one vacillating between becoming a nurse and a theater aficionado on her way to college. There are so many discussions about their career paths I wish we would have had.

Our community has produced professional athletes, astronauts, musicians, real estate professionals, teachers, metal workers and welders. One point I want all of us parents to agree on is that we are all in this together. Our community plays a vital role in the educational development of our children. I have witnessed my kids and many others intently and closely listening to a teacher, a coach, a best friend's parent, a local business owner, and family friend for advice on what to do career-wise and which educational opportunities to explore.

One vital aspect I see across our community is positive reinforcement for our next generation of leaders. A positive comment or positive encouragement is something we need more of for our younger generation today. With so much passionate hatred on differences in the world, a positive comment can make such an impact on our easily influenced youth.

I watched a young man about 10 years old listen to family members complain about having to be at the hospital for a relative. A veteran wearing a military campaign hat saw the child and offered him a package of gummy bears he had bought at the hospital cafeteria. He explained how he served others by fighting for his country and how we are on the earth to serve the Lord and others regardless of the time it takes out of our lives. The little boy lit up and understood even as his adult family members kept bickering. One positive person **can** make a difference.

Be that positive influence in a student's life. It might encourage that B or C student who's thinking about taking a college course to see what it's all about and maybe find their true passion that can turn into a career.

Finances should never be a barrier to a student's future. That's why the East Montgomery County Scholarship Foundation provides a \$1,600 scholarship to all students who graduate within EMCID boundaries. It's given, not applied for. Students may use it to attend any college or trade school of their choice. However, about 85 percent of EMC students who choose to continue education past high school will attend Lone Star College. The scholarship program allows for our students to go directly to campus and tell the financial aid office they would like to use the EMCID/EMCSF scholarship to pay for their tuition, and the school will bill us directly, up to \$1,600.

Not going to Lone Star? No problem. The Scholarship Foundation will reimburse tuition costs of up to \$1,600. That means students who pursue welding, HVAC, plumbing, art school, a real estate license or those who go out of town (or the state) to learn can utilize the funds. Please utilize our tuition program. Not doing so is like throwing \$1,600 away.

For detailed instructions on how to receive the scholarship, visit [www.emctx.com/scholarships/applications](http://www.emctx.com/scholarships/applications).

Community leaders, ministers, elected officials, local business owners, first responders, grandparents and parents, this is my charge to you: please have an impact on our community and encourage our students to expand their thinking and opportunities by utilizing our funds to better themselves today and get a jump start on their future. You may be that one person who truly makes a difference in a child's life decision.



*Frank McCrady*  
President & CEO

# Megaton Brewery Opens on Russell Palmer Dr.

After more than a year of anticipation, Megaton Brewery officially opened their doors to the public on Saturday, March 30. The new brewery is located at 808 Russell Palmer Road, next to the Nathaniel Center on the left before the entrance into the Kings Mill subdivision.

Megaton Brewery is the brainchild of Jered Montgomery and part-owner Chris Sarvadi, who also is responsible for sales and is a brewer apprentice, who bonded over a love for the process of homebrewing and homebrew beer.

"Our spouses are friends," said Jered. To add on to Jered's sentiments, Chris added, "We first started talking about our shared passion for homebrew beer near the Nathaniel Center, just steps away from where we would eventually open Megaton Brewery today."

From there, Jered and Chris partnered with an investor, Victoria Sarvadi, and business partner, JP Barkley, who also handles Megaton's marketing.

Although they had to jump through a few hurdles regarding permitting and securing their location, Megaton Brewery was born. Megaton Brewery is designed like a steampunk/fallout shelter reminiscent of the video game, "Fallout."

They have two bars – a large bar inside that boasts a poured concrete with epoxy resin counter where guests can order from taps created by Jered and play air hockey, chess or pool, and an outdoor bar close to tables where customers can play life-size Jenga or cornhole.



Arcade games are set up along an interior wall and they also have a Raspberry Pi gaming rig that features almost every "old-school" video game imaginable et up on an adjacent TV.

A unique feature added to Megaton Brewery is the Business Bench located inside of the brewery.

"We want to encourage commerce and small businesses right here in our community," said Jered. "For example, if a real estate agent brings a potential homeowner by Megaton Brewery to sign the contract on a house at our Business Bench, this encourages both businesses and we could provide a discount on beverages."

Jered added, "We want Megaton Brewery to be a place the whole family can enjoy."

## New Business Openings in EMC



A variety of different businesses have recently decided to call the EMC community home. The following businesses have either opened or will open this year:

Yummy Gelato, February 27  
J&R's Ace Hardware, March 8  
Snowflake Donuts, March 9  
Harbor Freight, March 28  
Megaton Brewery, March 30  
Freddy's Steakburgers and Custard, April 9  
SubZero Ice Cream, April 12  
Regions Bank, April 29  
Yummy Tummy Pastries, April  
My EyeLab, June 1  
Olive Garden, June 1  
Mathnasium, June 15  
Kung Fu Tea, July  
DaVita Dialysis, September  
Valvoline Oil Change, September

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



# J&R's Ace Hardware Opens on FM 1314

A store the community has been abuzz about for a little over a year, J&R's Ace Hardware, officially opened its doors to the public in March.

As a locally owned and operated business, J&R's carries items traditionally found in hardware stores such as paint, tools and equipment but features more unique items such as grills, fishing equipment, gift items, a garden center and even toys and treats for pets.

With retail experience and residing in the area for the past 28 years, owner/manager Jeff Petersen wanted to create a one-stop-shop for customers.

Toward the front of the store, customers can find a gift shop, Canterbury Lane Gifts, featuring jewelry, handbags, artisan dips and marinades and dishes and glassware from designers such as Mudpie, Spartina and Simply Southern T-shirts to name a few vendors.

In regards to the name, Jeff added that it was a combination of his name and his dog Rusty's name, who is a frequent visitor at the store, often greeting customers and finding his way toward the pet toy aisle to check out the latest items.

J&R's Ace Hardware is located at 23678 FM 1314 in Porter.



# Shred It EMC Rolls Into EMCID 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 its parking lot, located at 21575 U.S. Highway 59 North in New Caney.

"People respond very positively to this event," said Frank McCrady, President/CEO. "You don't have to do a thing. Drive up and we'll take your boxes or bags of documents, empty them into the shredding bin and they will go into a massive shredder."

More than 25,000 pounds of shredded material have been collected the past three years. All shredded documents are recycled.

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.

**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, plastics or metals or CDs and DVDs.

# Community Development Grants to be Approved in May

The board reviewed grant applications submitted by 15 nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies and will vote to approve the grants during their May 9 regular monthly meeting.

Grants up to \$30,000 are funded twice a year to governmental entities, nonprofit corporations and other organizations for projects that improve the quality of life for residents in East Montgomery County and must be located within the EMCID boundaries.

The following applications were submitted:

American Legion Holbrook Post 615 - \$5,000

City of Splendora - \$21,712

East Montgomery County Fair Association - \$5,000

Friends of Splendora Ag - \$5,000

Heaven's Army of Resources - \$5,000

Humble Area Assistance Ministries - \$ 26,733

Knights of Columbus Council 13166 - \$5,000

Lone Star Animal Welfare League - \$5,000

Mia's Hope Pregnancy Center - \$5,000

Northeast Hospital Foundation - \$5,000

Roman Forest Police Department - \$24,336

Society of St. Stephen - \$10,000

Splendora Area Softball Association - \$30,000

Splendora Athletic Booster Club - \$5,000

Splendora FFA Alumni Association - \$5,000

For more information, call our office at 281-354-4419.

## EMCSF Provides Scholarships for Students

Education continues to be one of the main tenets of the East Montgomery County Scholarship Foundation (EMCSF,) a subsidiary of EMCID, as they work to provide scholarships for all graduating high school seniors and students currently attending college.

Every year, EMCSF selects merit-based scholarship winners from those who submit applications by the deadline, meet the qualifications and is a past recipient of the EMCID/EMCSF funding.

The following are the 2019 Merit Scholarship winners:

Harris Ahmed  
Jesus Baca  
Shelby Brown  
Edgardo Correa  
Morgan Dacus  
Megan Davis\*  
Mollee Dockens  
Tate Funkhouser\*  
Ashley Green  
Dillon Harrell\*

Lizett Arazia  
Kassandra Barron  
Jesus Castro  
Dawson Culberth  
Brandon Davis  
Gloribel Villegas Diaz  
Zoey Elrod  
Chase Garcia\*  
Jacob Hall  
Hayley Lewis

Jessica Lewis  
Sulma Machado\*  
Zachary Mills  
Samantha Padgett  
Imran Qureshi\*  
Lesley Ramirez  
Kaylee Sarton  
Brandon Shipley  
Kali Simpson  
Jessica Snider  
Kasey Yount

Madison Lynch  
Paige Manzella  
Kylee Milton\*  
Jamie Pizano\*  
Daisy Ramirez  
Jeanette Romero  
Nakhim Seng  
Christin Silos\*  
Dwayne Snider  
Erica Von Gonten



For those interested in applying for a scholarship, they will need to fill out an application at [www.emctx.com](http://www.emctx.com) and submit it to the EMCID office at 21575 U.S. Highway 59, Suite 200 in New Caney. Merit-based scholarships are awarded once a year. The next availability is in 2020. Applications will be due by March 1, 2020.

\*Denotes multi-year recipient of the merit-based scholarship.



# EMC Law Enforcement Officers Honored

EMCID recognized law enforcement officers for their hard work and dedication to the citizens of East Montgomery County at their 15th annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 21.

Every year, an officer or deputy from their specific law enforcement agency serving EMC is selected by their superiors to be honored during the dinner. The officers were recognized during the event with a goodie bag full of donated items from local businesses and a trophy bearing their name.

This year's guest speaker was Russell Ybarra, the founder of Gringo's Mexican Kitchen. The focus of his speech to guests in the room was hard work, the dedication it takes to start up a successful restaurant chain.

Growing up in the restaurant industry through his father's company, El Toro Mexican Restaurants, Ybarra started his career in the kitchen, washing dishes and learning firsthand all facets of the restaurant industry. He caught the entrepreneurial spirit early and started El Matador Foods in 1986, a tortilla factory in Baytown, Texas. Gringo's Mexican Kitchen came to life in 1993 when Ybarra had the opportunity to branch out on his own.



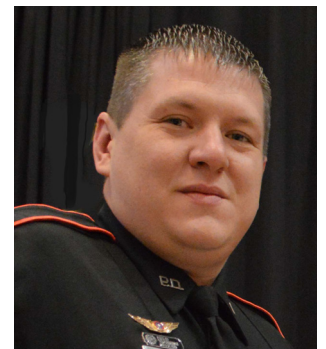
Det. Brandon Bartoskewitz  
Sheriff's Office



Dep. Nicholas Cooke  
Sheriff's Office



Off. Del Fayard  
Lone Star College



Off. Marlon Hardin  
Splendora



Off. Henri Mestizo  
Patton Village



Trooper Bruno Miauro  
DPS



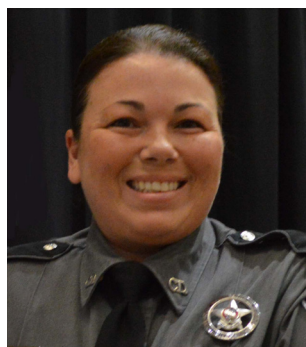
Sgt. Stacy Sherlock  
Splendora ISD



Trooper John Silvia  
DPS



Off. Brian Smith  
Roman Forest



Dep. Carmen Smith  
Constable's Office, Pct. 4





# Fun Blossoms at 2019 Spring Extravaganza



## A Holiday to Remember Returns



Prepare to lace up those ice skates this December as A Holiday to Remember Ice Skating Event will provide a fun outing for the whole family in the Valley Ranch Town Center area from Dec. 21-Jan. 5.

The ice skating rink will be open for a longer period of time this year and there will be new activities and opportunities available for the community.

More details will be revealed soon. See you at the rink!



\*\*\*\*\*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

**GET A FREE \*YEAR OF TUITION!**

**RECEIVE A CREDIT OR TUITION REIMBURSEMENT OF UP TO**

**\$1600**

\*Based on the 2018-2019  
Tuition & Fees Schedule for  
Lone Star College System.

[www.emctx.com/scholarships/applications](http://www.emctx.com/scholarships/applications)



**EAST MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

## Important Dates

May - June 2019

|  |          |                |                          |
|--|----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Fourth Annual Shred It EMC             | May 4    | 8-2 p.m.       | EMCID parking lot        |
| EMCID Regular Board Meeting            | *May 9   | 5:30 p.m.      | EMCID Complex, Suite 103 |
| Mother's Day                           | May 12   |                |                          |
| Memorial Day (EMCID Complex closed)    | May 27   |                |                          |
| EMC Scholarship Foundation Meeting     | *June 13 | 12 p.m.        | EMCID Complex, Suite 200 |
| EMC Economic Development Corp. Meeting | *June 13 | 1:30 p.m.      | EMCID Complex, Suite 200 |
| EMCID Regular Board Meeting            | *June 13 | 5:30 p.m.      | EMCID Complex, Suite 103 |
| Father's Day                           | June 16  |                |                          |
| Free Children's Immunizations          | June 25  | 9:30-1:30 p.m. | 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 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](mailto:kmattlage@emctx.com).