

The Insider Winter 2021









Ice Skating, Train Rides, The Holiday Market, A Visit with Santa, Bumper Cars, Snow Slides, Great Food, and much more!











I hinking about this time of year and all the challenges we have faced over the last year, I wanted to bring up the thought of compassion. I think we all know someone who has lost a loved one over the past year. I personally lost a very, very special aunt who had a tremendous impact on my life. She was always thinking of others and being compassionate when trying to make others' lives better and never thinking about her own situation. Her loss, though not directly affected by COVID, was indirectly affected by the pandemic. When reflecting on this, it seems my sense of loss is selfish and actually I should be thinking about others who were affected, such as her children, friends, acquaintances, fellow co-workers, and many others. We all know families and others who in the past year have had some sort of loss due to this virus, directly or indirectly.

Compassion is about helping others who are suffering. I would like to ask this year that we attempt to reach out to individuals and families who are less fortunate or struggling and provide some type of assistance. You know, every story has three sides; one of those sides is what really happened. Many times the story we hear of how an individual ended up in a situation is not always what actually happened.

I sometimes feel children are the greatest teachers. Watching a child being compassionate and understanding the needs of another classmate and then sharing a small hug or sharing their food with a friend who they know does not have a great home life is such a joy. That is pure human compassion for our fellow man. No biases or prejudices involved, just pure caring for the well-being of someone else. I would like to challenge our entire community this holiday season to make one effort to show a random act of kindness to another, whether young or old, male or female, married or single, white, black, brown, or yellow. Let's make our community a place where we help one another. That is what a community is all about, and it truly is the building block of an amazing community.

I feel also this is an outstanding teaching opportunity for our children and the next generation. I hope your compassion this year brings you great joy and likewise joy to those you compassionately assist.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Business Briefs

Smoke Stack Bar-B-Q opens in Centre at Northpark

Smoke Stack Bar-B-Q opened a new location in the Centre at Northpark located at 1414 Northpark Dr., Suite F. Focused on brisket, ribs, sausage, turkey, pulled pork, and chicken along with all the sides and sweet tea;



owners Mike and Lucia Cortez are excited for the new restaurant after popups and catering opportunities the past several years.

Feathered Arrows Boutique Serves Fashion

Feathered Arrows Boutique opened featuring children's and women's clothing along with accessories like hats, bows, and jewelry. Located at 1714 Roman Forest Blvd. in New Caney, the boutique is open Tuesday-Friday, 9-6 p.m., and Saturdays 9-2 p.m.



La Marketa de Porter Begins Development

EMCID approved an incentive agreement with American Realty Group to bring La Marketa de Porter to the area. Located on the Hwy. 59, the 36,500 sq. ft. retail



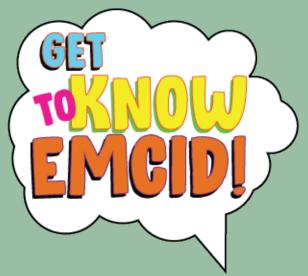
center will include Ostioneria Michoacan, Pollo Bravo Houston, rated as one of the best restaurants in Houston by *The Chronicle* and Supermercados Teloloapan.

Honey Bee Coffee Caffeinates EMC

Everything from energy drink spritzers to lattes, macchiatos, mochas, muffins and scones; Honey Bee Coffee has something for everyone looking to get a jump start on their day. The new coffee trailer



is located at 16365 1st St. in Splendora, across from the EMC Community Development Center.



Q: I appreciate all of the new restaurants and places to shop in the area, but how about focusing more on helping our nonprofits and community organizations? ~Annette

A: EMCID's legislation stipulates that we develop and encourage economic as well as community development. We've provided millions of dollars in funding to our local fire departments, law enforcement, and nonprofit organizations since 1998.

We've provided equipment for the Cub Scouts and various sports associations, as well as freezers for Mission Northeast and a new van for New Horizons through grants. We realize the importance of these organizations – large and small – and the impact they can have on EMC residents. Twice a year – in March and September – we accept applications for grants from non-profits and governmental entities. This fall, we received 10 applications for grants which will be voted on by the Board of Directors in November, and those approved will receive funding in December.

Aside from grants, EMCID has taken on large community projects like the splash pad parks in Roman Forest and Splendora, and we've converted the tennis courts at Bull Sallas Park into basketball courts through a partnership with Montgomery County. We are currently looking to add badly needed park space to East Montgomery County for families, dog lovers, and hikers to enjoy. Projects like these benefit everyone and improve our community's quality of life.

The community is always our top priority. So whether we're recruiting businesses, creating jobs, taking on community projects, or holding events, our community is always at the heart of what we do. We're here because of our community, and it is you we serve proudly.

Do you have a question for us? Scan the QR code and submit your question to be answered in a future *Insider.*





Enjoy an extra weekend of family fun and excitement!

	Event Ho	ours	
DATE	HOURS	SANTA TIME	APPRECIATION DAYS
12/10/21	5PM - 10PM	5PM - 10PM	
12/11/21	11AM - 10PM	2PM - 7PM	
12/12/21	11AM - 8PM	2PM - 7PM	
12/13/21			
12/14/21			
12/15/21			
12/17/21	11AM - 10PM	2PM - 7PM	
12/18/21			
			First Responders
~~~~~~~			
			Military
			ivinitar y
			Health Care
			Teachers/Retail/Restaurants/Gr
1/2/22	11AM - 8PM		
	12/10/21 12/11/21 12/12/21 12/13/21 12/13/21 12/14/21 12/15/21 12/16/21 12/17/21 12/18/21 12/19/21 12/20/21 12/22/21 12/23/21 12/25/21 12/26/21 12/27/21 12/28/21 12/28/21 12/29/21 12/30/21 12/31/21 1/1/22	DATEHOURS12/10/215PM - 10PM12/11/2111AM - 10PM12/12/2111AM - 8PM12/13/2112/14/2112/15/2112/16/2112/17/2111AM - 10PM12/19/2111AM - 10PM12/20/212PM - 8PM12/22/212PM - 8PM12/22/212PM - 8PM12/23/212PM - 8PM12/25/214PM - 8PM12/25/2111AM - 4PM12/26/2111AM - 8PM12/26/2111AM - 8PM12/27/212PM - 8PM12/28/212PM - 8PM12/28/212PM - 8PM12/29/212PM - 8PM12/29/212PM - 8PM12/29/212PM - 8PM12/29/212PM - 8PM12/30/212PM - 8PM12/31/2111AM - 4PM12/31/2111AM - 4PM12/31/2111AM - 4PM12/31/2111AM - 4PM12/31/2111AM - 4PM12/31/2111AM - 4PM12/31/2111AM - 4PM11/2211AM - 10PM	12/10/21       5PM - 10PM       5PM - 10PM         12/11/21       11AM - 10PM       2PM - 7PM         12/12/21       11AM - 8PM       2PM - 7PM         12/13/21

### Pricing

For \$20, guests can participate in ice skating, snow slides, bumper cars, train rides, and additional exciting events! Tickets are only \$5 for children under 42"! For FREE, guests can walk through the Market Days and Classic Car Show as well as visit with Santa.

# The Holiday Market is Back!

A Holiday to Remember Market Days is the place to find that perfect gift for your loved ones or for yourself. More than 30 vendors will be on hand during the six-day Market Days December 10-12 and 17-19. Come shop until you drop!

### 'Tis the Season for Holiday Shopping in EMC

The air is crisper, and leaves are falling from trees which means the holiday shopping season is right around the corner. There are many places to shop here in East Montgomery County with different gift options whether you are shopping for clothes, jewelry, home décor, or plants.

#### The Beehive Boutique & Garden

The Beehive Boutique & Garden, located at 20334 Hwy. 59 in New Caney, is a one-stop shop for all kinds of gifts whether it is clothing, jewelry, accessories, or plants for the green thumbs in your life. The Beehive owner partners with local businesses to

bring unique items to the store and rotate new products into the store frequently. The store also has a plantyour-own succulent bar that would a great be interactive where gift



the recipient can pick out their container and succulent and learn how to plant them properly.

#### J&R's Ace Hardware

Inside J&R's Ace Hardware, located at 23678 FM 1314 in Porter. sits Lane Canterbury Gifts which has different gift items such as clothing, jewelry, specialty food products, children's items. home décor, and grills. Featuring



companies like The Round Top Collection, Mudpie Company, and Mignon Faget jewelry to name a few; J&R's brings unique gift options for the holidays.

#### The Nest

Featuring faithbased wooden signs, jewelry, clothing, local artisans. and children's clothing; The Nest of Kingwood, located at 1599 B Northpark Drive, focuses on providing one-of-akind gifts not found many places in around EMC.



### The Honeysuckle House



High school spirit shirts. earrings, hats, Dixie Belle Paint, Tyler Candles, and more are available at The Honeysuckle House located 26050 at A 2090 FM in Splendora. Located near

Splendora City Hall, the Honeysuckle House has a little bit of something for everyone this gift-giving season. They also make custom T-shirts and jewelry to match for personalized gift options.

#### Valley Ranch Town Center

Whether you are shopping for your parents. children, or other relatives; there is something everyone for at the shops in Valley Ranch Town Center. Stop by James Avery Jewelry to pick out charms for a bracelet and pair them with matching



earrings. For the sports or outdoors person on your shopping list, Academy Sports + Outdoors has camping, fishing, and bicycles that are great for gifts. For the fashionista, TJ Maxx, Ross, and Burlington are notable places to shop.

## **EMCID** Honors Local Law Enforcement



To show support for the men and women in East Montgomery County law enforcement agencies, EMCID hosts the Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner (LEAD) every year to say "thank you" to officers and recognize their hard work.

Special guest, Marcus Luttrell, spoke about his experiences serving as a Navy Seal and participated in a meet-and-greet with guests. After the special presentation, EMC officers were treated to a special award presentation by EMCID. The following officers were recognized for the continued dedication to East Montgomery County:

Lone Star College-Kingwood: Officer Brian Wayne Leyba Montgomery County Pct. 4 Constable's: Detective Eric Prado Montgomery County Sheriff's Office: Detective Karen Rosario Montgomery County Sheriff's Office: Detective Ricardo Uresti III New Caney ISD Police Department: K-9 Officer Brad Kervin Patton Village Police Department: Patrolman Christopher Bush Roman Forest Police Department: Sergeant Robert Bymaster Splendora ISD Police Department: Officer Dariel Mosley Texas DPS Troopers: Jeffery Laurendine and John Silvia Splendora Police Department: K-9 Officer Daniel Santiago Woodbranch Village PD: Officer Christopher Fowler









Local Postal Customer



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



## **Important Dates**

### November-December 2021

EMCID Regular Board Meeting Thanksgiving Holidays (EMCID Closed) The Atrium Center Opens Greater EMC Chamber Luncheon EMC Scholarship Foundation Meeting EMC Economic Development Corp. Meeting EMCID Regular Board Meeting A Holiday to Remember Christmas/New Year's Holidays (EMCID Closed)

Nov. 4* Nov. 25-26 Dec. 1 Dec, 1 Dec. 9* Dec. 9* Dec. 9* Dec. 9* Dec. 10-12,Dec. 17-Jan. 2 Dec. 23 – January 2

5:30 p.m.	The Atrium Center, Suite 200A

11:30 a.m. The Atrium Center
12 p.m. The Atrium Center, Suite 200A
1:30 p.m. The Atrium Center, Suite 200A
5:30 p.m. The Atrium Center, Suite 200A
22296 Market Place Dr., New Caney

#### *Dates subject to change

Please visit www.emctx.com/community/festivals 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.