

THE INSIDER

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EAST MONTGOMERY COUNTY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

2024

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS, AGAIN

**A New Start
for a Local Restaurant**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT
APPRECIATION**

**GIVING THANKS TO THE MEN & WOMEN
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**



Lending a helping hand

It was Thanksgiving Day, 2023, and New Caney business owner Allen Rhoden, owner of The Rusty Buckle BBQ, was dropping off turkey orders to patrons and was about to make a special



Allen Rhoden, owner of The Rusty Buckle BBQ Company

delivery to the Porter Fire Department when he received word that his beloved restaurant was on fire. Porter firefighters were on the scene at the Community Drive establishment, dousing the flames amid propane bottles exploding.

The fire destroyed the smokehouse and prep kitchen and damaged the back of the

restaurant, which opened five years ago.

Two days later, Rhoden announced via a Facebook post that the restaurant was closed indefinitely but added, “We are determined to rise from these temporary ashes and restore our business and our routine to one that is bigger and better, something this community deserves.”

Within that time, Rhoden also reached out to the improvement district for help. On December 14, with unanimous approval from the EMCID board and the Economic Development Corporation, the board presented Rhoden with a check for \$80,000.

“Allen is known for good barbecue and service to this community,” said Frank McCrady, EMCID President/CEO. “The Board felt this was a way we, the community, could give back to him in his time of need, to keep his employees paid and bills paid while he gets back on his feet.”

While EMCID’s mission is economic development — and most associate that with business recruitment — responsible development also includes providing loans and other help, like free marketing, to the businesses that have been a part of the community for years.

Rhoden is thankful for that kind of help, especially in his time of need.

“I am almost speechless at what God, through EMCID, has provided,” he said. “EMCID receives a portion of every dollar spent within the New Caney and Splendora area, and they use it to help businesses — new and established. This is just one of the reasons it pays to shop locally. Yesterday it was me and my business, tomorrow it might be yours. I’m thankful that we, as a community, have a resource to keep our local businesses in business.”



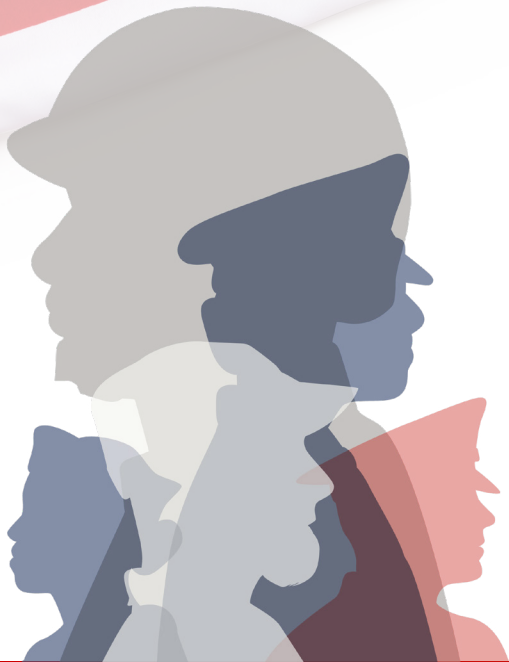
The EMCID board, presenting Allen Rhoden with a check for \$80,000. (L-R) Leonard Rogers, Stephen Carlisle, Fred Wetz, Allen Rhoden, Frank McCrady, Brenda Webb, Ron Willingham, Crystal Moore, Katherine Persson,

We agree. Shopping locally helps local business owners like Rhoden. It’s also helped many others. More than 50 local businesses currently have low-interest loans through our Economic Development Corporation. And more than 60 businesses were provided funding to help during COVID closures.



Call us if your business is interested in growth, improvements, or expansion. 281.354.4419

The Military Banner Program



This past Veteran's Day, banners bearing the names and photos of military service members lined FM 2090 in Splendora as a part of a program that came to fruition with the help of the East Montgomery County Improvement District (EMCID,) Splendora residents Ana and Carlos Hernandez and the city of Splendora.

The banners were hung along FM 2090 a couple of weeks before Veterans Day to honor those who lost their lives while serving in the military, those currently serving, and veterans from within EMCID's boundaries. "It is both an honor and privilege to establish the Military Banner Program, honoring 42 local men and women who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country," said Brenda Webb, EMCID Chairwoman. "Partnering with

the city of Splendora, EMCID humbly recognizes these brave heroes as a small token of gratitude to them and their families for their service and sacrifice."

Ana and Carlos first received approval for this project from the city of Splendora and reached out to EMCID for their support for the banners. The banners will be hung each year through Veterans Day.



Saltgrass Steak House opened its doors at its 94th location in November, featuring steaks, chicken, seafood and more!

As Valley Ranch Town Center has developed, there were many requests for a sit-down steak restaurant and Saltgrass aims to fill that void. **The new restaurant is located at 21284 Hwy. 59, in New Caney.**



OFFICERS *of the* YEAR



Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner

*East Montgomery County law enforcement officers work day-and-night to protect the citizens of this community and it is the East Montgomery County Improvement District's honor to recognize the local Officers of the Year at the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner on **Monday, Feb. 26, 2024.***

*The dinner will be held at **the Nathaniel Center** located at 804 Russell Palmer Rd. and will also feature keynote speaker, **Johnny Quinn.***



The ultimate story of perseverance, Johnny Quinn was cut three times, lost \$2.6 million in NFL contracts, and blew out his knee. Then, he became an Olympian for the United States of America. Johnny served as an American bobsledder with the U.S. National Bobsled Team and competed in the 2014 Winter Olympics where he also gained notoriety when he had to break out of a locked bathroom. From an NFL failure to an Olympian, Johnny's "what's next" attitude led him to success he never imagined and share how he kept on going despite challenges with guests at EMCID's Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner as the keynote speaker.



Looking FOR VENDORS!

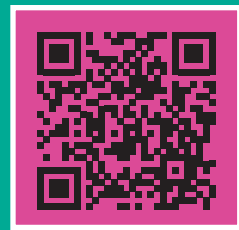


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The Frozen
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EGGCELLENT EVENT

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Saturday, March 23 at Don Ford Stadium

- ◆ Weddings
- ◆ Conferences
- ◆ Quinceaneras
- ◆ Meetings
- ◆ Galas
- ◆ Luncheons

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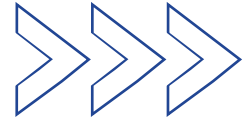


EAST MONTGOMERY COUNTY
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION



FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK

Precinct 4's Progress Report



STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!



936-597-4444

contactp4@mctx.org

www.mctxpct4.org

23628 Roberts Rd
New Caney, 77357



Commissioner Matt Gray

As Commissioner Gray and the Precinct 4 team take a running start into the new year, it is important to reflect on the changes and accomplishments that were made in Commissioner Gray's first year in office.

Over \$8 million has been acquired through grant funding and partnerships to date to help with major flood resiliency projects. Precinct 4 is committed to working with our local, state, and federal leaders on funding to go towards drainage solutions to protect our community from flooding. Significant progress was made by the Precinct 4 crews by digging over 210,000 feet of ditches last year, and look forward to building upon the great work that was done in 2023.

A large project that finally came to fruition in 2023 was Segment 1 of the Sorters Road Expansion Project, scheduled for completion in the second quarter of the new year. Road improvement projects were done on roadways with high traffic volumes. Managing the growth of Montgomery County is a never-ending battle as Commissioner Gray strives to be proactive instead of reactive when it comes to growth and traffic demands.

Starting the Inmate Litter Abatement Program back up was a huge accomplishment in 2023, bringing roadside cleanup back to our community. Commissioner Gray has also created a crew to remove illegal bandit signs from the county right-of-way. Since May, an estimated 300-400 signs are picked up a week. Precinct 4 held two heavy trash day events, taking in over 133 tons of heavy trash and almost 18 tons of tires at the fall heavy trash day. Precinct 4 was recently awarded a grant for a new park on Owens Road in New Caney. The goal of this location is to create a larger recycling facility, allowing the Precinct to accept more items at operational hours that are more convenient for public use.

While many accomplishments and improvements were made in 2023, there is still so much to be done in East Montgomery County. Commissioner Gray is continuing to streamline county processes and increase efficiency while collaborating with local leaders to improve our East Montgomery County community. "I am proud of the work that we have accomplished over the last 12 months. We've brought a lot of dollars back to the Precinct through operational cost savings, partnerships, and federal funding. I look forward to another year of working to make East Montgomery County a great place to live, work, and play."





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EMCID's Shred-it!

Paper shredding event

**Saturday
April 13
8am-2pm**

