

EAST MONTGOMERY COUNTY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

THE



INSIDER



EMCTX.COM

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CONVENTION CENTER
Topping Out Ceremony

EMCID POSITION MOVES
What's the latest?

EGGCELLENT EVENT
Coming this March!

UPDATES ON THE

CONVENTION CENTER CONSTRUCTION

with Kelley

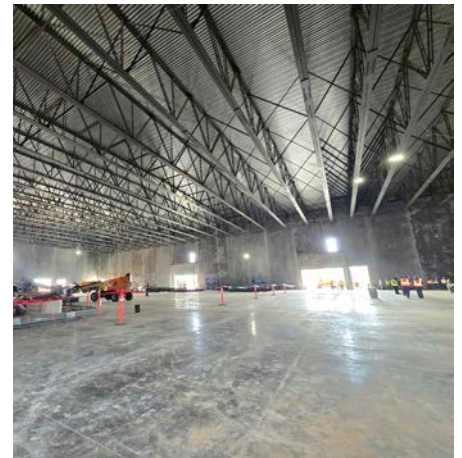


Chief Operating Officer

Topping Out Ceremony



EMCID, SpawGlass, and dozens of others involved in the creation and construction of the district's 210,070-square-foot convention center participated in a Topping Out Ceremony November 20, 2025.



Read more about the convention center:



This commemorates a major construction milestone of completing the structural frame and celebrates progress toward finishing the building. For the ceremony, a steel beam was painted so that the project team, construction crews, and EMCID board and staff could sign the beam. The beam was then hoisted into place, completing the frame of the building.



East Montgomery County BUSINESS Happenings



CASA JULIA CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

EMCID staff visited the owners of Casa Julia Tex Mex, to check on progress and learn more about their vision! With two patios, a private party room, bar, and open seating, Casa Julia specializes in fresh, made-from-scratch meals such as shrimp brochette, pork tamales, carne guisada, and more. They will also have brunch on Saturdays and Sundays. Casa Julia is expected to open in the first quarter of 2026. The restaurant is located at 23706 Speed St., New Caney.



WEEKARE TO OPEN IN EMC

WeeKare Pediatrics prepares to open its newest location in New Caney! Founded in 2003 by Dr. Angel Munoz and Missy Munoz, the need for continued medical care for newborns after hospital discharge prompted them to open locations in Humble, Houston, and New Caney. “Our mission is to provide professional services of the highest quality for our patients. We are ready to continue to serve the community.” The new location is in the Caney Crossing Shopping Center at 20470 FM 1485, Ste. B, in New Caney.



HAVERTYS OPENS IN NEW CANEY

Havertys Furniture opened its doors in Valley Ranch Town Center, and the EMCID Board was proud to join in the grand opening festivities to welcome them to the community. Explore a wide selection of quality furniture and stylish décor for your living room, bedroom, and dining room. The new store is located at 22296 Market Place Dr., Ste. 180, New Caney.



EMCID'S BUSINESS CONNECT

Small business owners may see Hank Vat, owner/operator of Studio One Three and the host of Hank's Think Tank podcast, knocking on their door. EMCID and Vat have teamed up to educate, inspire, and connect businesses to EMCID's services.

“I knew very little about what EMCID did for businesses right here in the community until I reached out, and today I have a beautiful production studio with their help,” said Vat. He said business owners may not know how their own sales tax dollars fuel local development, and this program aims to inform them.

Mattlage Promoted to

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

EMCID is pleased to announce the promotion of Kelley Mattlage to Chief Operating Officer (COO), effective January 1. She will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administrative and operational functions of the organization, ensuring internal efficiency and alignment with EMCID's growth objectives. Along with maintaining her role in overall marketing strategies, Kelley will add human resources and event and office management to her duties, as well as serve as liaison with the convention center, set to open late this year.

Mattlage, who joined EMCID in 2014 and most recently served as Chief Communications Officer, brings a unique perspective to the role, having successfully implemented branding and marketing campaigns that strengthened community relations and attracted businesses seeking to expand globally.



During her tenure, she introduced The Insider to 51,000 households in East Montgomery County, increased EMCID's social media followers by more than 1,000%, and spearheaded

EMCID's largest and most successful A Holiday to Remember ice skating event in 2020, which drew 34,911 attendees. Outside of communications, she was involved in recruiting numerous domestic and international companies to the industrial park and worked in conjunction with the architects of the

convention center to provide the best user experience for future visitors.

"Promoting Kelley to Chief Operating Officer was a natural decision, rooted in her expertise, dedication, and deep understanding of the intricacies of our unique organization, needs of the community, and strategic vision," said Frank McCrady, President and CEO. "The Board and I value her judgment and business acumen. She has a common-sense approach, and I have often looked to her to handle tough jobs or provide her perspective on issues. Her proven leadership over the last 11-plus years has prepared her to take on the broader operational responsibilities that are critical for our next phase of growth."

"I am truly excited about the opportunities this role provides, and I'm well-equipped to handle the challenges that come along with it." ~ Kelley Mattlage

"Whether I was a young kid, an inquisitive reporter, or managing a communications team, I have always asked "how" and "why," she said. "Those questions just come naturally to me, and they're important questions. I'm always looking for a better way to do things, a more efficient way of realizing goals, and putting forth a company image that employees can get behind and the community can support. I look forward to working with our team in this new capacity to help lead EMCID into an exciting path into the future."



THE NATHANIEL CENTER | 804 RUSSELL PALMER RD.
KINGWOOD, TEXAS 77339



EMCID'S OFFICERS OF THE YEAR *Ceremony*

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY
23
6PM-9PM

Performing the most difficult tasks in unthinkable circumstances, former Navy SEAL Will Chesney and his dog, Cairo, faced hundreds of missions together, including the mission to capture or kill Osama Bin Laden.

Chesney's powerful story — his service as a Navy SEAL, his partnership with Cairo, and his journey through injury and transition to civilian life — will inspire guests as the featured speaker at EMCID's Officers of the Year Ceremony.

This year's event will be held **on Monday, Feb. 23**, at The Nathaniel Center, 804 Russell Palmer Rd., Kingwood, starting at 6 p.m.

A Texas native, Chesney was a member of the elite United States Naval Special Warfare Development Group (DEVGRU), also known as SEAL Team Six, serving as both an operator and a handler of military working dogs.

A grenade explosion in 2012 ultimately led to Chesney's medical retirement after 13 years, and he received several commendations, including a Purple Heart. Now, he shares his experiences and helps fellow veterans.

In keeping with the theme of service, EMCID will also honor local law enforcement officers for their unwavering dedication to keeping EMC safe. They are the ones who run toward danger when others run away—and their service to our community does not go unnoticed.

Join us in welcoming Will Chesney and celebrating our local law enforcement officers on Feb. 23. **Purchase tickets through this link.**



GUEST SPEAKER

will
CHESNEY

FAMILY FUN!



EMCID's
Eggcellent
Event & Mini-Market

**80,000
eggs!**



SCAN QR CODE FOR DATE & LOCATION!





FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK

Happy New Year!

As we head into 2026, I want to take a look back at just a few of the many accomplishments we had in 2025.

With the passing of the 2025 Road Bond, major road projects were able to get off the ground such as Ford Road, Sorters Road and Fostoria Road. We hope to kick off additional projects like the widening of Old Houston Road and the David Memorial Expansion in the new year.

I have heavily invested in our county parks. The installation of artificial turf fields was completed at Ed Rinehart Park 2 new properties were purchased for future park and green spaces for our community to enjoy. We showcased the new football fields and additional parking at A.V. Bull Salas Park by hosting our first movie night of family fun. Additionally, new LED lighting will be installed at Ipes Park in time for spring baseball season.

As we continue to fight to clean-up our community, I rolled out the Adopt-A-County Mile Program in Precinct 4. This litter abatement program offers our community the opportunity to become active in reducing the tax dollars spent to clean county roadways.

Here's to another great year in Precinct 4,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Gray".

Commissioner Matt Gray



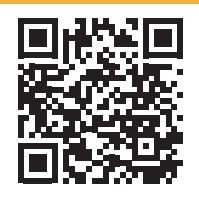


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EAST MONTGOMERY COUNTY
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Some homes outside the boundaries of the East Montgomery County Improvement District may receive this newsletter as a result of postal routes crossing over boundary lines. To save money, we must mail to an entire postal carrier route. The Insider is a quarterly newsletter produced by the East Montgomery County Improvement District. Please direct questions or comments to: Kelley Mattlage, Chief Operating Officer, kmattlage@emctx.com