Welcome to

Fort Bend

Sugar Land Missouri City, Richmond, Rosenberg, Stafford & Fort Bend County

2020 OFFICIAL NEWCOMERS GUIDE

GET IN THE GAME

• Hospitals
• Churches
• Schools
• Libraries
• Museums / Parks
• Restaurants
• Important Phone Numbers
• Much more ...
First Colony
Community Services Association

Where Family & Community Come First

Celebrating over 40 years of serving Fort Bend County families.

A true master-planned community in Southwest Houston, First Colony has unsurpassed amenities and conveniences With a sense of family & community.

Offering a variety of camps and classes for children and adults.

281-634-9500 www.firstcolony.org
4350 Austin Parkway • Sugar Land, TX 77479
Explore the community

How’s it going, y’all?

We’re happy you’re here.

I can relate to being new to Fort Bend County, because I started working here last year after spending a few years away. The people here made me feel welcome in a part of the Houston area that was familiar yet foreign. I was new, and they helped me acclimate.

That’s exactly what we’d like to do here. So if you’re new to the area as I was nearly a year ago, welcome. It’s a joy to have you and I can’t wait to see what the area has in store for you, much of which we have highlighted in this publication.

As you look around, one thing hits you so hard and fast you barely even realize it’s happening—this melting pot is truly one of a kind. We have so many different creeds, faiths, cultures, ethnicities and personality types in this place—the most diverse county in Texas—yet the world continues to spin and we make it work.

Why? Here in Fort Bend, we take pride in our history—because you can’t know where you’re going unless you know where you’ve been and how collaboration paves the way for progress. It’s an innate part of us.

Just last month, we detailed Missouri City’s Black History Month celebrations. Last July, we had the honor of reporting on County Judge KP George bringing the county its first dedicated cricket field, giving the international sport a home in Fort Bend. In November, we chronicled the origins of the county’s All Faiths Thanksgiving service that has been going since 2014.

And that’s not all.

Our many parks are still vast and beautiful, offering the perfect balance between exercise and the freeing nature of, well, nature. At Cullinan Park and Brazos Bend State Park, there are hike and bike trails for those avid training gurus. There are also monkey bars for the kiddos and park benches for those of us adults who want to do nothing more than take in the scenery.

However, we’ve got some cool new toys, too. In Sugar Land, there’s now that field dedicated to cricket. Down the road in Meadows Place stands a new all-inclusive playground so youngsters of all ages can simply be kids and not worry about a thing.

On the professional sports scene, Sugar Land is home to the baseball-playing Skeeters, who have become consistent Atlantic League contenders since their inception. And Constellation Field isn’t a bad place to take in a ballgame, either.

We’re also growing in efforts to become a destination county. With the opening of The Grid in Stafford last November, a whole new world of retail and cuisine is becoming available to residents.

So as you can see, Fort Bend has a lot going for it. And we’re excited that you get to be a part of the next chapter in this burgeoning area’s story.

Hold on tight.
County medical facilities span healthcare spectrum

By Landan Kuhlmann
LKUHLMANN@FORTBENDSTAR.COM

Sometimes, those aches and pains may be minor annoyances. They also can be symptoms of an ailment in need of medical treatment.

Whatever the case may be, and whatever type of care is needed, there are places for Fort Bend County residents to find exactly what they need to get well and get on with their lives. From hospitals and pediatric centers for physical wellness to mental health centers, options abound.

One of the more well-known names in the region is Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital, located at 16655 Southwest Fwy. Among other services, the hospital and its more than 950 doctors are most widely known for stroke and cancer care.

Houston Methodist Sugar Land is an accredited cancer center by the American College of Surgeon Commission on Cancer and has previously received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite.

Memorial Hermann Medical Group also has a County medical facilities span healthcare spectrum.
Our board-certified OB-GYNs with Houston Methodist Obstetrics & Gynecology Associates in Sugar Land provide the full range of care, including:

- Adolescent and adult gynecology
- Low- and high-risk obstetric care
- Minimally invasive gynecologic surgery
- Well-woman exams

Backed by the advanced technology of Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, both doctors are committed to providing comprehensive care to women of all ages so they can live full and healthy lives.
practice in Rosenberg at 2520 B.F. Terry Blvd. that offers a broad spectrum of general care, including family medicine, internal medicine, gastroenterology, general surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, podiatry and addiction medicine. It also offers athletic physicals and well-woman examinations along with pediatric vaccinations.

For families needing specialized pediatric care, Texas Children’s Hospital’s Sugar Land campus offers the same treatment as its other Texas facilities and is known as one of the best pediatric heart centers in the country. Texas Children’s is an Accredited Pediatric Heart Failure Institute and was ranked the top pediatric care center for cardiology and heart surgery and pulmonology by the U.S. News and World Report. It is one of only 10 children’s hospitals to achieve Honor Roll designation.

The area also has several options available for citizens seeking mental wellness.

Westpark Springs Mental Health at 6902 S. Peek Rd. in Richmond specializes in behavioral health services for depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, drug and alcohol addiction and more. It offers inpatient treatment and rehabilitation for those age 18 and up as well as partial hospitalization and outpatient programs for kids age 5-17, according to its website.

In Sugar Land, Taylor Recovery Center at 11352 Sugar Park Ln. is another option for mental wellness. The center offers individualized care for addiction treatment, tailoring its programs to each person who walks through the door. In efforts to create a more holistic approach to recovery, Taylor Recovery Center offers yoga, cross-fit, writing groups, art therapy, nutrition, weekend beach and surfing trips and other activities.

So whatever medical need may arise, Fort Bend County residents can rest assured that care is within reach.
Whether your pain is from arthritis, bad sitting posture or an old injury, you need to find a way to get your pain under control. What’s the best approach to do that?

The first step is scheduling an appointment with our doctor for a full, thorough consultation and examination to determine the cause of your pain. Once we have discovered the source of your pain, we can work to build an effective treatment plan to get the relief you need.

Dr. Surya Raghuthu
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* FORT BENEDICTED SUGAR GUIDE AND VISITORS DIRECTORY 2020
Fort Bend schools preparing area kids for future

By Theresa D. McClellan

When it comes to educating students, schools in Fort Bend County are bringing the wow factor.

Fort Settlement Middle School in Sugar Land was designated a 2020 Texas School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, which looks at year-over-year test scores, attendance records and more. Just six months prior, the school achieved the area’s high water mark in Texas-based Children at Risk’s rankings, coming in sixth among Houston-area middle schools and 19th in the state.

And though it was the cream of the crop, Fort Settlement wasn’t the only Fort Bend ISD school to pass with flying colors. At the high school level, Clements led area campuses with an A-plus mark, while Austin and Ridge Point also received A grades. Among middle schools, Bowie, First Colony, Garcia and Sartartia all received As along with Fort Settlement. At the elementary level, six FBISD schools received an A-plus rating.

FBISD also is focusing on students’ future with the $60 million James Reese Career and Technical Center, which opened in the 2019-20 school year and provides students with challenging career pathways by utilizing real-world experiences and evolving skill sets, attitudes and beliefs. Students from all 11 FBISD high schools have access to advanced career and technical education programming in multiple pathways, including Agriculture and Natural Resources, Architecture and Construction, Arts and Audio/Video Technologies and Communications, Culinary Arts, Human Services, Education and Training, Information Technology, Law and Public Safety, Manufacturing, and Transportation and Logistics.

Students also have the opportunity to earn industry certifications and dual credit in areas like cosmetology, medical assistant, computer maintenance and welding.

The new center at 12300 University Blvd., while providing a promising future, is not without a controversial past. In February 2018, while starting construction on the building, FBISD discovered 95 sets of human remains at an abandoned and unmarked cemetery on its property.

Known as the “Sugar Land 95,” the deceased are believed to have been imprisoned African-Americans leased to a local plantation through the state-sanctioned convict leasing program in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

During a 2019 memorial service that included protestors as well as a candlelight walk and a bell tolling 95 times, FBISD superintendent Charles Dupre said, “The community we love, and the freedoms we enjoy, have come at a cost. That cost was a harsh reality that people were hurt, violated and put in bondage before they were buried on this site. Over the past two years, there has been controversy, heated conversations had, decisions made and then revisited. These things were a part of this journey, but so was learning, the engagement, the partnerships and the oppor-
LEARN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

tunity to shed light on the past.”

STEM in Stafford
Another area school district also has big plans for its future. Stafford Municipal School District has plans for a STEM magnet for grades 3-8 that will be the first of its kind in Fort Bend County when it opens in August 2021.

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and math. Stafford’s innovative program will include STEM and more.

“We will encompass all the arts, English, math, life science, and technology. We call it the Stafford STEM Magnet Academy,” said LaKenya Perry-Allen, the Innovation STEM Magnet Officer for Stafford ISD.

This comprehensive program, which focuses on problem-solving as a way of learning, will have robotic labs, a medical lab, coding labs, periodicals room and a gaming room. And not only will students be able to work with Rice University professors through school partnerships, students will get hands-on experiences with experts in their fields such as doctors, scientists, engineers and pharmacists.

Seating is limited for the 300-student public school academy. Since it is a magnet school, anyone in Fort Bend can apply for the program touted as a public school with a private-school ambiance.

“Superintendent Robert Bostic felt this was a way to revolutionize opportunity for our students,” said Marva Rasberry, the district’s chief operations innovation officer who is heading up the magnet team.

The application process, which is open to anyone living in Fort Bend County, is rigorous and includes a one-time $25 application fee and a $125 exam fee.

Entry is based on a combination of factors, including the results from the Independent Student Entrance Exam (ISEE), current grades, letters of recommendation from math and reading teachers, a written essay, family interview and state exam or equivalent state exam scores.

The magnet school is part of the $62 million bond voters approved in 2017.

“We are teaching the next world leaders,” Perry-Allen said. “We don’t just want a program to get them college-ready, but we want them to be critical thinkers, productive citizens.

“And the feedback I got from the parents is that they want to make sure it touches everything about the child. They want a program that has critical thinking but also helps with social skills, community services and teaching them to be team players in culturally diverse environments.”

**FRESNO**

**Burton Elementary**
1625 Hunter Green Ln.
Phone: 281-634-5080

**Goodman Elementary**
1100 W. Sycamore
Phone: 281-634-5985

**HOUSTON**

**Blue Ridge Elementary**
6241 McHard Rd.
Phone: 281-634-4520

**Fleming Elementary**
14850 Bissonnet St.
Phone: 281-634-4600

**Hodges Bend Middle School**
16510 Bissonnet St.
Phone: 281-634-3000

**Holley Elementary**
16655 Bissonnet St.
Phone: 281-634-3850

**McAuliffe Middle School**
16650 South Post Oak Rd.
Phone: 281-634-3360

**Mission Bend Elementary**
16200 Beechnut St.
Phone: 281-634-4240

**Mission Glen Elementary**
16053 Mission Glen Rd.
Phone: 281-634-4280

**Mission West Elementary**
7325 Clodine-Reddick Rd.
Phone: 281-634-4320

**Willowridge High School**
16301 Chimney Rock Rd.
Phone: 281-634-2450

**MEADOWS PLACE**

**Meadows Elementary**
12037 Pender Ln.
Phone: 281-634-4720

**MISSOURI CITY**

**Armstrong Elementary**
3440 Independence Blvd.
Phone: 281-634-941

**Baines Middle School**
9000 Sienna Ranch Rd.
Phone: 281-634-6870

**Briargate Elementary**
15817 Blue Ridge Rd.
Phone: 281-634-4560

**Divine Savior Academy**
770 Waters Lake Blvd.
Phone: 281-778-3003

**E.A. Jones Elementary**
302 Martin Ln.
Phone: 281-634-4960

**Elkins High School**
7007 Knights Ct.
Phone: 281-634-2600

**Excel Adventist Academy**
7950 W. Fuqua St.
Phone: 281-835-0770

**Glover Elementary**
1510 Columbia Blue Dr.
Phone: 281-634-4920

**Hightower High School**
3333 Hurricane Ln.
Phone: 281-634-5240

**Hunters Glen Elementary**
695 Independence Blvd.
Phone: 281-634-4640

**International Preparatory School**
1717 Dulles Ave.
Phone: 281-208-1403

**Lake Olympia Middle School**
3100 Lake Olympia Pkwy.
Phone: 281-634-3520

**Lantern Lane Elementary**
3323 Mission Valley Rd.
Phone: 281-634-5080

**Lantern Lane Elementary**
3323 Mission Valley Dr.
Phone: 281-634-5080

**Leonetti Elementary**
1757 Waters Lake Blvd.
Phone: 281-327-3190

**Lexington Creek Elementary**
2335 Dulles Ave.
Phone: 281-634-5000

**Marshall High School**
1220 Buffalo Run
Phone: 281-634-6630

**Missouri City Middle School**
202 Martin Ln.
Phone: 281-634-3440

**Palmer Elementary**
4208 Crow Valley Dr.
Phone: 281-634-4760

**Quail Valley Elementary**
3500 Quail Village Dr.
Phone: 281-634-5040

**Quail Valley Middle School**
3019 FM 1092
Phone: 281-634-3600

**Ridge Point High School**
500 Waters Lake Blvd.
Phone: 281-327-5200

**Scanlan Oaks Elementary**
9000 Camp Sienna Trail
Phone: 281-634-3950

**Schiff Elementary**
7400 Discovery Ln.
Phone: 281-634-9450

**Sienna Crossing Elementary**
10011 Steep Bank Trace
Phone: 281-634-3680

**Thornton Middle School**
1909 Waters Lake Blvd.
Phone: 281-327-3870

**WIDE School**
2777 Dulles Ave.
Phone: 281-208-9545

**RICHMOND**

**Adolphus Elementary**
7910 Winston Ranch Pkwy.
Phone: 832-223-4700

**Arredondo Elementary**
6110 August Green Dr.
Sugar Land Mortuary

**Chapel**

We are independently owned and locally operated—an alternative to large chain or corporate-owned funeral homes.

We welcome and serve people of all faiths, denominations, nationalities, and cultures.

We are honored to offer an in-house Crematory, your loved ones do not have to go to an outside facility for cremation.

Sugar Land Mortuary
1818 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land, Texas
(281) 277-1818
www.slmortuary.com

Sugar Land Mortuary

**Lobby**

We are experts at international shipping and repatriation to native countries all around the world.

We offer the finest options for personalizing and creating a lasting impression of our funeral, cremation, or memorial services.

We want the families we serve to make choices that will satisfy them today and in years to come.
George Memorial Library, the main library in the system, has the largest collection of materials in the Fort Bend County Libraries system—approximately 700,000. It has a particular focus on large-print books, parenting, Spanish-language books, teen materials, literacy materials, and textbooks from LCISD and FBISD.

The library also houses the Genealogy and Local History Department on the second floor of the building; the department’s resources focus on the southeastern United States and includes materials relating to the history of the South, federal censuses, genealogy, and the Civil War. The Joe Grillo Science Center is located in the Children’s Department on the first floor.

**WiFi Access**
George Memorial Library provides free WiFi access to the public throughout the building. Contact the Adult Reference Department at George Memorial for more information and connection instructions to use your personal laptop at the library.

**Computer Lab**
George Memorial Library houses a new computer lab with 18 computers and an instructor’s computer, as well as a large screen to show computer/Internet screens, video tapes and satellite downlinks. When the lab is not being used for training purposes, it is open to the public. Patrons may reserve some of the computers at this branch.

This facility is scheduled for renovation providing more space as the administrative offices will be moved to a new building. The new building will be an adjacent parcel of land recently acquired from the Fort Bend Country Club.

Contact the Adult Reference Department at George Memorial for more information and connection instructions to use your personal laptop at the library.

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Missouri City Branch Library
1530 Texas Parkway
Missouri City, TX 77489
281-238-2100
281-261-5829 FAX

SUGAR LAND BRANCH LIBRARY
550 Eldridge
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-238-2900
281-277-8945 FAX

SUGAR LAND BRANCH LIBRARY
14010 University Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479-4295
281-633-5100
281-313-4928 FAX

UNIVERSITY BRANCH LIBRARY
8411 Sienna Springs Blvd.
Missouri City, TX 77459-7113
281-238-2900
281-261-5829 FAX

MISSION BEND BRANCH LIBRARY
8421 Addicks Clodine Rd
Houston, TX 77083
832-471-5900

Hours of Operation
Mon. 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Tues. 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Wed. 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Thurs. 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Fri. 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sat. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sun. CLOSED

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Jordan Elementary
17800 West Oaks Village Dr.
Phone: 281-634-2800

Long Elementary
907 Main St.
Phone: 832-223-1900

Madden Elementary
17727 Abermore Ln.
Phone: 281-327-2740

Malala Elementary
11770 W. Aliana Trace
281-327-5700

McNeil Elementary
7300 S. Mason Rd.
Phone: 832-223-2800

Meyer Elementary
1930 J. Meyer Rd.
Phone: 832-223-2000

Pink Elementary
1001 Collins Rd.
Phone: 832-223-2100

Neil Elementary
3830 Harvest Corner Dr.
Phone: 281-327-3760

Oakland Elementary
4455 Waterside Estates Dr.
Phone: 281-634-3730

Reading Junior High
8101 FM 762
Phone: 832-223-4400

Ryon Middle School
7901 FM 762
Phone: 832-223-4500

Seguin Elementary
7817 Grand Mission Blvd.
Phone: 281-634-9850

Smith Elementary
2014 Lamar Dr.
Phone: 832-223-2300

Thomas Elementary
6822 Irby Cobb Dr.
Phone: 832-223-4600

Travis High School

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2700 Ave. K
832-223-2500

Wortheimer Middle School
4240 FM 723
Phone: 832-223-4100

Wessendorf Middle School
5201 Mustang Ave.
Phone: 832-223-3300

ROSHARON
Heritage Rose Elementary
636 Glendale Lakes Ln.
Phone: 281-327-5400

STAFFORD
Everest Academy
610 Brand Ln.
Phone: 281-261-3030

Stafford Intermediate School
1350 Constitution Ave.
Phone: 281-208-6100

Stafford High School
1625 Staffordshire Rd.
Phone: 281-261-9239

SUGAR LAND
Austin High School
3434 Pheasant Creek Dr.
Phone: 281-634-2000

Austin Parkway Elementary
4400 Austin Pkwy.
Phone: 281-634-4001

Barrington Place Elementary
2100 Squire Dobbins Ln.
Phone: 281-634-4040

Cambridge Montessori School
6380 Highway 90A
Phone: 281-491-2223

Campbell Elementary
1000 Shadow Bend Drive
Phone: 832-223-1300

Clements High School
4200 Elkins Rd.
Phone: 281-634-2150

Colony Bend Elementary
2720 Planters St.
281-634-4080

Colony Meadows Elementary
4510 Sweetwater Blvd.
281-634-4120

Commonwealth Elementary
4909 Commonwealth Blvd.
281-634-5120

Cornerstone Elementary
1800 Chatham Ave.
Phone: 281-634-6400

Cornerstone Christian Academy
2140 First Colony Blvd.
Phone: 281-980-0842

Dickinson Elementary
7110 Greatwood Pkwy.
Phone: 832-223-1400

Drabek Elementary
11325 Lake Woodbridge Dr.
Phone: 281-634-6570

Dulles Elementary
630 Dulles Ave.
Phone: 281-634-5830

Dulles High School
550 Dulles Ave.
Phone: 281-634-5600

Dulles Middle School
500 Dulles Ave.
Phone: 281-634-5750

Fellowship Christian Academy
16355 Old Richmond Rd./Dora Ln.
Phone: 281-495-1814

First Colony Middle School
3225 Austin Pkwy.
Phone: 281-634-3240

Fort Bend Christian Academy
1250 7th St.
Phone: 281-263-9175

Fort Settlement Middle School
5440 Elkins Rd.
Phone: 281-634-6440

Garcia Middle School
18550 Old Richmond Rd.
Phone: 281-634-3160

Germantown Elementary
9900 Squire Dobbins Ln.
Phone: 281-634-6523

Honor Roll School
4111 Sweetwater Blvd.
Phone: 281-265-7888

Kempner High School
14777 Voss Rd.
Phone: 281-634-2300

Lakeview Elementary
314 Lakeview Dr.
Phone: 281-634-4200

Logos Preparatory Academy
13303 Southwest Fwy.
281-565-6467

Oyster Creek Elementary
16425 Mellow Oaks Ln.
Phone: 281-634-5910

Riverbend Montessori School
4225 Elkins Rd.
Phone: 281-980-4123

Sartartia Middle School
8125 Homeward Way
Phone: 281-634-6310

Settlers Way Elementary
3015 Settlers Way Blvd.
Phone: 281-634-4360

St. Laurence Catholic School
2630 Austin Pkwy.
Phone: 281-980-0500

St. Theresa Catholic School
705B St. Theresa Blvd.
Phone: 281-494-1157

Sugar Creek Montessori School
615 Dulles Ave.
Phone: 281-261-1000

Sugar Land Middle School
321 7th St.
Phone: 281-634-3080

Sugar Mill Elementary
13707 Jess Pirtle Blvd.
Phone: 281-634-4440

Sullivan Elementary
17828 Winding Waters Ln.
Phone: 281-237-2860

Townnewest Elementary
3000 Homeward Way Blvd.
Phone: 281-634-4490

Walker Station Elementary
2400 Homeward Way Blvd.
Phone: 281-634-4400

Walden School
16013 Lexington Blvd.
Phone: 281-980-0022

Fort Settlement Middle School teacher Ken Lee (center) helps Harper Houston (left) and Hannah Figueredo work on an assignment. (Photo by Landan Kuhlmann)
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Does Chiropractic Work?

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“I had herniated discs from a car accident. Dr. Harris helped my dad get out of a wheelchair and he gave me my life back!” - Zahra Kamdar

“I had shoulder and back pain that was affecting my golf game. Now I’m back to competing and feeling good before and after.” - Jimmie Hermes

“I have rheumatoid arthritis and my Neurologist recommended Dr. Harris. I now have pain relief and I downsized on my medication.” - Joni Glenn

“I had to be wheeled into the treatment room because of my sciatica. Now I’m walking unassisted!” - Richard Hawkins

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281-980-1050
www.sugarlandhealthcenter.com

Margaret M. Connolly, PLLC
Family Law & Estate Planning
346-309-4236 • mmconnollylaw@gmail.com • 4610 Sweetwater Blvd. Suite 200 Sugar Land, TX 77479
The continued growth of Fort Bend County has come with an influx of varying cultures and philosophies, making the area one of the most ethnically diverse counties in the United States. According to a 2018 Kinder Institute survey for the Houston area, Fort Bend is 34 percent white, 24 percent Latino, 22 percent African American and 20 percent Asian.

Fort Bend’s cornucopia of citizens practice a wide range of religions. Churches, temples, mosques and synagogues can be found all over the area.

Part of the reason the county continues to thrive is that its people appear to have figured out how to coexist in harmony, realizing that each culture has something unique and valuable to bring to the table. A few specific annual events have helped to promote that harmony and demonstrate why the dynamic works for the area and its residents.

One of those events is the Interfaith Thanksgiving service hosted each year by the Fort Bend County Interfaith Council at various faith institutions throughout the area. Leaders and clergy members from different faiths around the county gather to showcase their faiths’ expressions of Thanksgiving through readings from the Bible, the Quran and the Book of Mormon as well as songs of prayer and praise.

FBIC’s event has previously featured more than 30 institutions from the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Christian faiths, among others, and saw more than 1,000 attendees at last year’s event.

Then in January, the community again saw its diverse faiths in action when more than 100 youngsters united under a common cause – the betterment of the community. Kids from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities, among others, took part in service activities spearheaded by different congregations during the annual Youth Day of Service at the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Center in Sugar Land. From making headboards to donate to Big Brothers, Big Sisters to packing lunches for those in need, it didn’t matter their creed. All that mattered was living out their prayers and faiths through service.

What has driven Fort Bend County’s burgeoning growth is exactly what will keep it going for years to come. No matter what religion they practice, the area’s citizens believe in making a difference in the lives of those around them.

By Landan Kuhlmann
LKUHLMANN@FORTBENDSTAR.COM

The Ismaili Muslim Choir sings worship music during the 2018 Interfaith Thanksgiving service hosted by the Fort Bend Interfaith Council. (Photo by Ejazali Karmali)
Complete your bachelor’s, earn your master’s or obtain a certification locally. The University of Houston System at Sugar Land (UHSSL) located just northeast of the Brazos River offers the combined UH System resources—University of Houston, UH-Clear Lake, and UH-Victoria and through these programs, the institutions offer junior, senior, and graduate courses for more than 20 bachelor’s and master’s degrees in applied arts and sciences, biology, business administration, computer science, criminal justice, and education.

The UHSSL is part of the four UH universities in the system that includes a public broadcast educational television station and the largest university distance learning program in Texas.

Each degree at UHSSL is sponsored by one of three universities.

The UHSSL also partners with Houston Community College, Wharton County Junior College, and other area community colleges. For more information, call 281-275-3300.

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) has four campuses in Wharton, Sugar Land, Richmond and Bay City, and at other off-site locations. Students will be able to access learning 24/7 in a virtual campus to complete certificate and degree programs online. WCJC offers an associate in arts degree for transfers to a four-year institution, associate of arts in teaching degree, associate in applied science degrees, and certificate programs. Web-based and interactive television distance education courses are also available.

For more information about programs or registration, call 800-561-9252 or 979-532-4560 for the Wharton campus, 281-243-8447 for the Sugar Land campus, or 281-239-1500 for the WCJC Fort Bend Technical Center. The college also offers classes at the Bay City campus.

In partnership with Wharton County Junior College, Texas State Technical College (TSTC) provides the technical instruction and WCJC provides academic instruction.

With tremendous support from the local community leaders, to help fill the skills gaps and train local workers for job opportunities in the Greater Houston area, TSTC offers programs in Fort Bend County including industrial maintenance technology, cyber security, telecommunications convergence technology and welding technology. The new technologies are offered via Competency Based Education.

Texas State Technical College in Fort Bend County sits on 80 acres on the north side of Hwy. 59 between FM Road 2218 and Hwy. 36, approximately 1.5 miles east of Hwy. 36.

Construction began on Building 1 in June 2015. The new campus is located at 26706 Southwest Freeway, Rosenberg.

Construction for Building 2 is underway with a projected opening time of fall 2017.

Houston Community College (HCC) System has many college campuses and is the fourth largest community college system in the United States. HCC Southwest has college campuses in Stafford at 10041 Cash Road and opened doors last summer less than five miles away at their newest campus across from Missouri City Hall at 1600 Texas Parkway. The new $21 million, 9,340 square foot campus is home to the HCC Center for Entrepreneurship, Technology, and Health. HCC offers academic courses for associates degrees, and for transfers to four-year institutions in the core curriculum in more than 70 fields of work, also in continuing education, for non-degree options and corporate training.

For more information visit their website at www.hccs.edu or call about their programs and locations at 713-718-2000 local or 877-422-6111 outside Houston area.
Everyone needs to play at some point. Whether it’s a game of catch, swaying on the swings at a local park or just resting and taking in nature, many can relate to needing a stress reliever.

It’s good news for Fort Bend County residents, then, that the area is bursting with options both new and old, standard and unique, in order to let go of that pent up energy from working the daily 9-to-5 office job.

**Catch the Skeeters’ bug**

One of the most popular attractions in the area is the Sugar Land Skeeters, the independent professional baseball team that plays home games at Constellation Field during the spring and summer. Since their first season in 2012, the Skeeters have won two Atlantic League championships and kept fans entertained with occasional postgame concerts and fireworks displays along with hosting offseason community events at the ballpark.

And kids can play at the park while their parents watch a ballgame. There is a swimming pool, basketball court and playground beyond the outfield fence.

**First county cricket field caters to diversity**

Cricket is another athletic option in a culturally diverse county, and kids now have a good place to hone their skills. In July, Fort Bend County Judge KP George and Precinct 4 Commissioner Ken DeMerchant inaugurated the county’s first public cricket field at the Four Corners Community Center in Sugar Land.

Proponents have said that cricket in America is where soccer was in the 1970s in the sense it’s usually played by people of a particular heritage — in this case, those of South Asian heritage. Area residents of South Asian descent have brought the game to Fort Bend County, where it can be enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

**Meadows Place playground open to all**

There are also some newer options in the area catering to the playing needs of children.
needs of Fort Bend County kids of varying physical ability levels. In the small town of Meadows Place, the community ushered in the HELFMAN Playground for All Abilities in November of last year.

The park includes artificial turf specially installed by H & H Landscaping and specialized equipment such as swing sets and seesaws, with a wheelchair-accessible carousel and more.

**Area parks offer reliable fun**

Just because there are shiny new toys to play with doesn’t mean old reliable has gone out of style, and Fort Bend offers a plethora of parks and open greenspace for residents to enjoy nature.

In Missouri City, you can check out Kitty Hollow Park at 9555 Hwy 6. The park offers something for those of all interests, including athletic fields, multiple playgrounds, a fishing lake, a dog park and picnic shelters. And with a rating of 4.5 (out of 5) stars among more than 800 Google reviews, it seems as though the community has enjoyed its amenities.

Of course, there’s also one of the crown jewels of Fort Bend County – Brazos Bend State Park in Needville at 21901 FM 762. With an on-site observatory, hike and bike trails and fishing lakes, among other amenities, this classic 4,900 square foot park has provided residents a breath of fresh air close to home since 1984.

Back over in Sugar Land, Oyster Creek Park at 4033 Hwy 6 is another hot spot, offering a 3-mile hike and bike trail, pond, rose garden and outdoor amphitheater. Cullinan Park at 12414 Hwy 6 is another nature preserve in the area, featuring lakes, bird-watching, trails and picnic areas on 750 acres of prairie and woods.

So whatever their fancy, whether it’s all action like a ballgame or contemplating nature in the woods, Fort Bend residents have their pick of places to unwind.
It’s no secret that Fort Bend County’s cultural diversity is something to behold. As such, it shouldn’t be a surprise that the area’s food and cuisine scene reflects its melting pot of cultures. Whether you’re craving a traditional American favorite like a bacon cheeseburger at Live Oak Grill in Sugar Land, a steaming bowl of pho, tandoori chicken or a plate of enchiladas, there’s plenty of options to satisfy your hunger.

There are not just chains, either. Though “The Grid” in Stafford may have the outside allure with places like In-N-Out Burger and Whiskey Cake Kitchen & Bar, there are plenty of community restaurants that are staples in Fort Bend. Take for example Hunan Gardens in Rosenberg, which has served up traditional Chinese fare for decades. The restaurant was a Star Reader’s Choice Award winner in 2017 and was named one of 11 favorite American-style Chinese Restaurants by Eater Houston.

Out in Richmond, family-owned Swinging Door BBQ has a long-standing tradition in the Fort Bend community of high-quality pork, brisket, ribs and more. In Sugar Land, you can stop by Lupita’s Mexican restaurant for your fix there.

You can also try out more niche cultural spots like Dervish Table Top Grill in Stafford – which serves up Indo-Pak and a fusion of Indian, Arabian and Middle Eastern cuisine. There is also Azuma on the Lake, which features sushi and Japanese meals, or Café Goo Goo Yen in Sugar Land.

So whatever your fancy, there’s likely a taste nearby to satisfy your cravings.

Below is a listing of the top five rated restaurants in the area, categorized by type of cuisine, according to Google reviews.

**AMERICAN**

Brandani’s Restaurant and Wine Bar
3340 FM 1092 Rd. #160, Missouri City, TX 77459
832-987-1313

Ramble Creek Grill
7930 W Grand Pkwy S #100, Richmond, TX 77406
832-222-9371

Ol’ Railroad Café
819 2nd St., Rosenberg, TX 77471
832-595-0995

Live Oak Grill
12935 Dairy Ashford Rd., Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-491-5253

Tornado Burger
505 Murphy Rd., Stafford, TX 77477
281-403-3278

**ASIAN**

Bellyful Café
4502 Hwy 6 S, Suite B, Sugar Land,

Buy one entree at regular price and receive
$6 OFF
off second entree (with coupon)

Las Haciendas
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17 years family owned and operated

Catering & Party Room available 281.240.3060

LasHaciendasGrill.com

Shown here is a sampling of what residents will find at Corelli’s Italian Restaurant. (Photo from Facebook)
Bamboo Spice
8817 Hwy 6, Missouri City, TX 77459
(281) 915-5265

JApaneiro’s
2168 Texas Dr., Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-242-1121

BAKERIES
Cillie’s Cakes of Houston
867 Dulles Ave. A, Stafford, TX 77477
281-530-1666

Sugar Rush Too Missouri City
1731 Texas Pkwy., Missouri City, TX 77489
832-539-6698

Yong’s Bakery
14583 S Main St., Houston, TX 77035
713-726-9655

San Juan Huetamo Bakery
10822 W. Bellfort Ave., Houston, TX 77099
281-933-8565

Jambeto’s Bakery and Café
609 Dulles Ave. #750, Stafford, TX 77477
281-201-2477

Azuma on the Lake has various sushi offerings.
(Photo from Facebook)
832-539-6698

Dervish Table Top Grill in Stafford provides, among
other flavors, middle eastern cuisine.
77477
281-201-2477

BARBECUE
Witt Pitt BBQ
2516 1st St., Rosenberg, TX 77471
832-759-5182

Rudy’s Country Store and BBQ
20500 Southwest Fwy, Richmond, TX 77469
281-499-8904

INDIAN
Aga’s Restaurant and Catering
11842 Wilcrest Dr., Houston, TX 77031
281-776-9292

Dervish Table Top Grill
12203 Murphy Rd., Stafford, TX 77477
281-372-6001

Tru India Restaurant
11720 W. Airport Blvd., Meadows Place, TX 77477
713-999-1000

The Swinging Door
3818 FM 359, Richmond, TX 77406
281-342-4758

Old Hickory Inn BBQ
3334 FM 1092 Rd. #400, Missouri City, TX 77459
281-342-4758
### FORT BEND COUNTY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

#### 2-1-1 TEXAS/UNITED WAY HELPLINE
Information and referral service with a free confidential helpline operated by the United Way of Greater Houston 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Trained helpline specialists connect those in need with critical social services. United Way of Greater Houston-Fort Bend has a trained specialist on site 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2-1-1 or 281-207-2300

#### ACHIEVE FORT BEND COUNTY
ACHIEVE Fort Bend County is a diverse group of business, community and education leaders throughout the county whose focus is to provide an interconnected system of resources to reduce dropout rates and provide opportunities for those citizens without high school diplomas.
314 S. Belknap
Sugar Land, TX 77487
281-243-4804
www.achievefortbendcounty.org

#### ABUSE
Provides free information on the legal system, safety planning, protective orders, custody and other services to all victims of domestic violence in Fort Bend and Harris County.
713-224-9911
avda-tx.org/

#### ARC OF FORT BEND COUNTY
Advocacy and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
123 Brooks Street
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-494-5960
info@arcoffortbend.org
arcoffortbend.org

#### ATTACK POVERTY
Empower people to attack poverty in their life and community by strengthening under-resourced communities through spiritual growth, education, revitalization and basic needs.
3727 Greenbriar Drive, #100
Stafford TX, 77477
832-847-4379
attackpoverty.org

#### BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
Provides meaningful monitored matches between adult volunteers and youth to develop positive relationships. Outings focus on development of academic and social skills through exposure to a variety of enrichment opportunities.
281-207-2330
www.bbstmtx.org

#### CAREER AND RECOVERY RESOURCES
Helps overcome barriers to employment. Supportive services for veterans and families including assistance with security and utility deposits, rent, moving expenses, financial literacy and housing counseling.
281-207-2300
www.careerandrecovery.org

#### CHILD ADVOCATES OF FORT BEND
Serving victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect.
5403 Ave. N. Rosenberg, TX 77471
www.cafb.org

#### FORT BEND CARES
Giving disadvantaged children in Fort Bend County access to a better quality of life.
P.O. Box 17748
Sugar Land, TX 77496
281-819-2005
www.fortbendcares.org

#### FORT BEND COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES
Providing love and care and attention to more than 3,500 animals.
1210 Blume Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-342-1512
www.fortbendcounty.org/animal-services

#### FORT BEND SENIOR MEAL ON WHEELS
Helping seniors maintain independence through service and resources.
1330 Band Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-633-7049
fortbendseniors.org

#### FORT BEND WOMEN’S CENTER
Bringing healing and hope to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1980.
501 E Hwy 90 A
Richmond, TX 77406
281-344-5750
www.fbwc.org

#### HOPE FOR THREE
Advocacy group providing awareness, outreach, education, resources and financial support to families living with autism spectrum disorder.
12808 W. Airport Blvd. Suite 375
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-245-0640
www.hopeforthree.org

#### LITERACY COUNCIL OF FORT BEND COUNTY
Improve family, community and professional lives through literacy.
12530 Emily Court
Sugar Land, TX 77478
www.fbcliteracy.org

#### LUNCHES OF LOVE
Helping end childhood hunger in Fort Bend County by providing a free nutritious sack lunch during extended school holidays and weekends.
P.O. Box 1161
Rosenberg, TX 77471
832-586-6995
lunchesoflove.net

#### SECOND MILE MISSION CENTER
Second Mile exists to love our neighbors by meeting physical needs and equipping them to lead a responsible life in Christ.
1135 Highway 90A, Missouri City, TX 77489
281-261-9199
volunteer@secondmile.org
www.secondmile.org

#### UNITED WAY OF GREATER HOUSTON
Transforming individual lives, bringing lasting systemic change to touch issues like family instability and academic success.
12300 Parc Crest Drive
Stafford, TX 77477
281-207-2300
www.unitedwayhouston.org

#### YMCA OF GREATER HOUSTON
Provides programs that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Includes after school programs, swim lessons, teen leadership, summer day camps and activities for older adults.
281-499-8622
www.ymcahouston.org

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**Hope For Three**


Hope For Three is a local nonprofit and autism advocacy group. The organization provides resources and support to families living with autism spectrum disorder and creates awareness through outreach, education and events.

To learn more, visit hopeforthree.org or call 281.245.0640.

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW**

**FORT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
281-491-0800
www.fortbendchamber.com
Contact the Chamber of Commerce for a Re-location Package. Includes a magazine with information on area housing, schools, churches, retail, restaurants and more.
The Chamber also sells Fort Bend County street maps for $2. 445 Commerce Green Blvd.

**FORT BEND ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS**
281-543-9300
Contact the Fort Bend Association of Realtors for information on a Realtor in the Fort Bend County area. You also may want to request a copy of the association's annual publication. Fort Bend County Houston's Finest Address A Guide to Homes, Neighborhoods and Lifestyles.

**FORT BEND ISD**
16431 Lexington Blvd.
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
www.fortbendisd.com
281-634-1000

**FORT BEND COUNTY COURTHOUSE**
309 South Fourth Street
Richmond, Texas 77469
(Mailing Address)
301 Jackson
281-342-3411
Richmond, Texas 77479
Court Coordinator Fax Number
281-341-4426
www.fortbendcountytx.gov

**FORT BEND CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT**
2801 B.F. Terry Blvd.
Rosenberg, Texas 77471
281-344-8623
www.fcad.org

**TEXAS DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY**
(Driver's License)
28000 Southwest Freeway
Rosenberg, Texas 77471
281-517-1630
www.dps.texas.gov

**COMCAST-XFINITY STORE**
16111 Kensington Drive
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
800-934-6489

**U.S. POST OFFICE**
SUGAR LAND MAIN POST OFFICE
225 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, Texas 77478-3273
281-494-0013

**FIRST COLONY BRANCH**
3130 Grants Lake Blvd.
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
800-275-8777

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY**
800-275-8777
www.centerpointenergy.com

**RELIANT ENERGY**
All Service Requests Handled via phone
713-207-7777
www.powertochoose.org
(this is where you can choose your electric provider)

**CITY OF SUGAR LAND**
TREASURY MANAGEMENT
2700 Town Center Blvd. North
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
281-275-2750

**WINDSTREAM COMMUNICATIONS**
866-455-908
www.windstream.com

**AT&T**
800-288-2020

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**
10703 Stancliff
Houston, Texas 77099
800-772-1213
www.ssa.gov

**FORT BEND COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR**
12550 Emily Court
Sugar Land Substation
281-242-4311

**FORT BEND AUTO REGISTRATION**
1317 Eugene Heimann Circle
Richmond, Texas 77469
281-341-3709

**FORT BEND COUNTY REGISTRATION & TITLING**
Mailing Address:
(FB Co Tax Office)
1317 Eugene Heimann Circle
Richmond, Texas 77469
281-341-3709
5855 sienna springs way
Missouri City, Tx 77459
832-471-4140

**DMV PHONE NUMBER**
281-341-3710
fax 281-238-3265
fbauto@co.fort-bend.tx.us
www.co.fort-bend.tx.us
Also, online auto registration renewal; visit TxDMV - Vehicle Registration Renewal for eligibility requirements.

**VOTER REGISTRATION**
Ask for a voter registration card at Sugar Land City Hall, a U.S. Post Office or a county office. Return the form to the Voter Registrar. Questions should be addressed to the Elections/Voter Registration Office at 281-341-8670.

**FORT BEND COUNTY RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**
1200 Blume Road,
Rosenberg, Texas 77471
281-633-7591
281-633-47527
(Recording)

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**
**CONTACT INFO**

**FORT BEND COUNTY JUDGE KP GEORGE**
401 Jackson St.,
281-341-8608
Richmond, TX 77469
FBC.Judge@fortbendcountytx.gov

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**VINCENT MORALES, PRECINCT 1**
1517 Eugene Heimann Circle,
Richmond, TX 77469
281-344-9400
commpct1@fortbendcountytx.gov

**GRADY PRESTAGE, PRECINCT 2**
303 Texas Parkway, Ste. 213,
Missouri City, TX 77489
281-403-8000
commpct2@fortbendcountytx.gov

**ANDY MEYERS, PRECINCT 3**
2233 Grand Circle Dr., Katy, TX 77494
281-238-1400
Andy.Meyers@fortbendcountytx.gov

**KEN DEMERCHANT, PRECINCT 4**
12919 Dairy Ashford Road, Ste. 200,
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-980-2235
commpct4@fortbendcountytx.gov

**U.S. CONGRESS, TEXAS DISTRICT 22 – PETE OLSON**
Address: 2277 Plaza Dr., Sugar Land TX 77479
281-494-2690

**TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 26 – RICK MILLER**
Address: 130 Industrial Blvd., Suite 126, Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-980-0117 (district office);
512-463-0710 (Austin office)

**TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 27 – RON REYNOLDS**
Address: 2440 Texas Parkway, Suite 102, Missouri City, Texas 77489
281-208-3574 (district office);
512-463-0494 (Austin)

**TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 28 – GARY GATES**
Address: Room CAP GW.11, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768
512-463-0657 (Austin)

**TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 85 – PHIL STEPHENSON**
834 Third St., Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-232-7900 (district office);
512-463-0604 (Austin)

**SUGAR LAND MAYOR J OE ZIMMERMAN**
2700 Town Center Blvd. North,
Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-275-2313
jzimmerman@sugarlandtx.gov

**MISSOURI CITY MAYOR YOLANDA FORD**
1522 Texas Pkwy.,
Missouri City, TX 77489
281-403-8500

**STAFFORD MAYOR LEONARD SCARCELLA**
2610 South Main St., Stafford, TX 77477
281-261-3901
mayor@staffordtx.gov

**MEADOWS PLACE MAYOR CHARLES JESSUP**
One Troyan Dr.,
Meadows Place, TX 77477
281-983-2950
Email: mayor@cityofmeadowsplace.org

**RICHMOND MAYOR EVALYN MOORE**
402 Morton St., Richmond, TX 77469
281-342-5456

**ROSENBERG MAYOR WILLIAM BENTON**
2110 Fourth St., Rosenberg, TX 77471
832-595-3300
William.benton@rosenbergtx.gov
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ColonialOaks.com
13825 Lexington Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Lic. #O3O191

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Bombay Delight
3344 Hwy 6, Suite A, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-302-5070

Tony’s Chaat House
10021 S. Texas 6, Sugar Land, TX 77498
832-847-2077

ITALIAN
Lomonte’s Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria
815 Plantation Dr. #180, Richmond, TX
77406
281-232-8290

Russo’s New York Pizzeria
403 Hwy 6, Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-494-1114

Corelli’s Italian Café
3229 Hwy 6, Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-491-8900

Brooklyn Pizzeria
4717 Hwy 6, Missouri City, TX 77459
281-499-0044

Piada Italian Street Food
1930 Hwy 6, Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-491-0603

MEXICAN
Gringo’s Mexican Kitchen
19940 Southwest Fwy #33, Sugar Land, TX 77479
832-449-3920

Chismosa’s Taco House
5715 Reading Rd., Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-344-9585

Pappasito’s Cantina
13750 Southwest Fwy, Sugar Land, TX 77478
281-565-9797

Guanajuato
3907 Avenue H, Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-633-9042

Larry’s Original Mexican Restaurant
116 E Hwy 90 Alt #3720, Richmond, TX 77406
281-342-2881

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Increased mobility, flood mitigation take center stage

By Landan Kuhlmann
LKUHLMANN@FORTBENDSTAR.COM

As leaders for one of the fastest-growing counties in the nation, Fort Bend County officials are constantly searching for ways to cater to that growth and keep its 760,000 residents moving along. They’re also looking for avenues to lessen the impact of major storm events like Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and Tropical Storm Imelda in 2019.

In light of such goals, there are several construction projects – that are underway or on the horizon – to keep an eye on as the county strives to continue being a rising star in the Greater Houston area.

One major mobility improvement is a construction project on Highway 59, which began in 2014 and is nearing completion. A major portion of the project, which the Texas Department of Transportation said will double the traffic capacity of the major thoroughfare, was completed in November 2019.

In addition to increasing capacity to four lanes in both directions, adding high-occupancy vehicle lanes each direction past Reading Road in Rosenberg and continuous frontage roads, additional widening from Reading Road up to the Wharton County line is planned for completion in September of this year.

Following Hurricane Harvey and the effects from Tropical Storm Imelda, the calls for improved flood control and infrastructure reared its head once again.

Those calls are being heeded as there were several measures aimed at mitigating future effects that will soon impact the area moving forward.

In November, Sugar Land voters passed Proposition A, related to drainage improvements, with nearly 70 percent in support. The

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IMPROVE CONTINUES ON PAGE 30

Shown here is a home flooded in Richmond during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. (Staff File Photo)
Weekends should be spent relaxing not tackling home maintenance but who can you trust to call? Finding a good quality handyman who is reliable, friendly and knowledgably may seem as rare as free flowing traffic on 45 at rush hour.

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BUILD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

Also in May 2019, developers broke ground on the Marcel District, a mixed-use development with 68,785 square feet of combined office and retail space located adjacent to Johnson Development’s Riverstone master-planned community in Sugar Land. Developers have tentatively scheduled project completion for this spring.

Last September, construction began on the first phase of the Grand at Aliana, a planned 400,000 square foot mixed-use development located at the northeast corner of West Grand Parkway South and Airport Boulevard in Richmond. Anchors for the project — situated between the Aliana and Harvest Green subdivisions — will include 24 Hour Fitness and Burlington Coat Factory along with Five Below and Ulta Beauty. Restaurants such as Jason’s Deli and Freddy’s Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, as well as service centers such as Timewise and Express Oil, also are among confirmed tenants.

Josh Friedlander with NewQuest Properties said the hope is to deliver the first tenants by the second quarter of 2020, while full completion is tentatively scheduled for early 2022.
Tap into your artistic side with exhibits, fairs and shows

By Theresa D. McClellan

When it comes to art in Fort Bend County, any day of the week you will find a way to express your creativity and kick up your heels in dance, lay down a stroke of color in paints, explore classes for all your interests and marvel in the area’s cultural diversity.

One of the biggest local attractions is the Stafford Centre at 10505 Cash Rd. in Stafford. Home to entertainment such as international dance, symphony and other musical performances such as the upcoming Alan Parsons Live Project on March 19, there’s no shortage of satisfaction for the artistically inclined.

In that same vein, the Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land provides a bevy of events for the Fort Bend community. The state-of-the-art indoor performance venue at Highway 59 and University Boulevard is home to unique acts such as Marc Anthony’s upcoming performance March 6 and the Dancing with The Stars live tour the next day.

Book your tickets now, because they’ll be scooped up quickly.

In historic downtown Rosenberg at 2012 Avenue G, the Art League of Fort Bend (AFLB) attracts painters, sculptors, glassmakers and many other creatives.

The artists not only get together to create or sell their works, but they also teach, said Sue Zelko, board secretary of AFLB.

Membership is $45 yearly and you get monthly meetings with an artist demonstration and access to mini-workshops.

“This is a one-of-a-kind facility,” Zelko said. “We have lots of teachers, classes, and activities.”

For more information, visit www.artleaguefortbend.org.

Or check out the Imperial Art Alliance, a nonprofit devoted to promoting the visual arts in Sugar Land and surrounding areas. It provides various art shows, competitions, workshops and demonstrations.

General meetings are typically held on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. September through

CREATE CONTINUES ON PAGE 31
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proposition has set aside nearly $48 million dedicated to future improvement projects, while Proposition C has designated about $10 million in funds for future street improvement projects. The two measures were part of a nearly $91 million bond Sugar Land placed on the ballot for infrastructure improvement.

Also passing with about 69 percent of the vote was a countywide measure. In August, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court unanimously approved a motion by Precinct 4 Commissioner Ken DeMerchant and Precinct 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales to place a flood mitigation bond on the November ballot.

DeMerchant said the bond will allow Fort Bend County to leverage $233 million in federal dollars for projects that have been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or are in the process of being approved in response to damage from Hurricane Harvey, such as drainage projects in Big Creek, the Brazos River, Stafford Run and more.
June at the Imperial Park Recreation Center, 234 Matlage Way. Find more information at https://www.imperialartalliance.org/.

Dance academies and studios abound in Fort Bend. To keep you on your toes you can learn ballet, ballroom, fusion, hip hop, Indian folk, jazz and western, to name a few.

If you want to just explore, Fort Bend County is home to a plethora of fairs and festivals. One favorite is the annual International Art and Kite Festival held March 28 at Crown Festival Park, 18355 Southwest Fwy in Sugar Land.

The festival that celebrates creativity and culture from around the globe is one of the largest spring art festivals in Fort Bend County featuring the diversity of cultures around the world. Here you will find professional and homemade kites and cultural food and entertainment from the most ethnically diverse county in the region. It’s a chance to show off your creative skills or just enjoy the view.

For more information about this and other festivals, visit https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/your-county/arts-entertainment.

Marc Anthony is scheduled to perform March 6 at the Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land.

(Photo from Smart Financial Centre Facebook page)
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