

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Crime prevention in North Channel Communities

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – October 2, 2018 National Night Out – Sue Blackburn a resident of Houston's Wood Shadows I and Warren Lewis, President of Wood Shadows II Civic Club went door to door, block by block handing out flyers inviting their neighbors to come to their house party for a meet and greet.

Block by block, house by house citizens gathered in their neighborhoods in a concerted effort to discuss ways they can help each other prevent falling victim to crimes.

The event has been held annually since 1984, simply with neighbors turning



Wood Shadows II President Warren Lewis served chili hotdogs to his neighborhood crime fighters as they gathered at his home for an evening of mixing and mingling to discuss how to make their neighborhood safer. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

on their porch lights and sitting in front of their homes. The annual event focuses on the community and raising awareness in the United States and to promote police-community partnerships and

See National Night Out, Page 3

Ponder resigns in Galena Park

City government in Galena Park finds itself in a state of change once again, as a leading City Commissioner has resigned from the board, with no reason given.

Barry Ponder, a leader of a group known as "Citizens for A Better Galena Park" and a Commissioner since elected in 2017, sent a letter to the city secretary with his resignation. Although missing from all commission meetings since the date of his letter, August 22, the commission has made no public announcement of this resignation or acknowledged his absence. City Attorney Robert Collins told the North Channel Star that the city has up to 120 days, by state law, to appoint a replacement. This replacement would be voted on by the Commission. After 120 days, if no action is taken, the city must hold a special election to replace Ponder.



BARRY PONDER See Letter, page 6

COMMISSIONER RODNEY CHERSKY A number of citizens have questioned whether another Commissioner, Rodney Chersky, is qualified to hold his seat on the board because he no longer resides in the city.

See GALENA PARK, page 6

Mustangs stampede over the Bulldogs 55 - 0

By Allan Jamail

La Porte, TX. – September 28, 2018 the visiting Galena Park North Shore Mustangs recorded its second shutout of the season with a 55-0 win over the La Porte Bulldogs.

With a half-time score of 42 to 0 the game quickly became a no-contest for the Mustangs, so Coach Jon Kay once again pulled out his starters early to give the non-starters experience and to prevent injuries to the starters. That's smart coaching to say the least.

The Mustangs offense gathered 469 total yards, passing for 222 yards and rushing for 247 yards. Starting quarterback Demetrius Davis completed 11 of 20 passes for 199 yards and 2 touchdowns (TD). Backup quarterback Roger Hagan completed 2 of 4 passes for 23 yards. Extra point kicker John Villalobos continued to be consistent.



Photo by Allan Jamail

North Shore junior running back John Gentry after taking a handoff from quarterback Demetrius Davis out runs defenders for a 15 yard score, one of his 4 touchdowns.

Receivers Ajani Carter caught 2 for 58 yards, Shadrach Banks 3 for 54 yards, Eyan Means 3 for 37 yards, Dorian Manuel 2 for 36 yards, Zorhan Rideaux 1 for 23 yards and Chance Pillar 2 for 14 yards.

Rushers, John Gentry 13 for 128 yards and 4

touchdowns, Roger Hagan 4 for 67 yards, Dorian Manuel 9 for 31 yards and 1 TD, Zach Evans 2 for 19 yards and 1 TD, Ismael Villafuerte 2 for 5 yards, Demetrius Davis 1 for 1 yard, Jarvis Anderson 1 for 0 yards

and Lawrence Delmar 3 for 4 yards.

Defensive players continue to dominate teams, with 2 shutout games and another near shutout with only a 3 point field goal made as the clock ran out to end the game.

Leaders host Town Hall on new Legislation



Photo by Allan Jamail

Congressman James E. Clyburn, Assistant Democratic Leader, at the Town Hall with State Senator Sylvia Garcia, middle, and Congressman Gene Green, right.

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. - At the North Shore Community Fellowship of Faith Church, Senator Sylvia Garcia, Congressional leaders Gene Green, Sheila Jackson Lee and U.S. House Assistant Democratic Leader James

E. Clyburn (SC) informed citizens and civic clubs in attendance of recent legislation passed and signed by President Trump that's having a negative impact on income taxes, health care benefits and afford-

See New Legislation, page 8

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Fighting Falcons dominate Deer Park Deer 36-27

By Allan Jamail

Channelview, TX. - September 28, 2018 in the first 21-6A District game for both the Channelview Falcons and the Deer Park Deer, the visiting Deer lost to the Falcons 36 to 27.

Leading the Falcons offensive passing attack was junior quarterback Mack Perry completing 8 of 17 passes for 157 yards and two touchdowns (TD). Highlighting the passing game was a 62 yard TD pass play when Perry connected to Trevon Chandler over-the-middle who broke free from tacklers for a score. Perry kept the Deer confused by spreading out passes to 6 receivers and mixing in the running game with 4 running backs. Junior running back Alton Lott led the rushers and gained 130 yards with 21 carries and two touchdowns.

The fantastic performance of the Falcons offensive line gets a large amount of the credit which enabled the 494 yard offensive show. Their awesome defense held the Deer to a mere 164 yards of total offense.



Photo Courtesy of Channelview ISD

Devin Jennings creating the running lane for #88 Trevon Chandler to set up the score for the Falcons.



Channelview junior wide-receiver Trevon Chandler shakes lose Deer defender on a 62 yard pass play from junior quarterback Mack Perry.

The Falcons will travel to play Baytown Sterling in a district contest at 7 PM on Friday Oct. 5th at Stallworth Stadium.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Construction on North Shore Park Playground begins



Concept for North Shore Park's new playground sets.

NORTH CHANNEL, Texas - Commissioner Jack Morman is proud to announce the start of construction on September 26th for North Shore Park's new playgrounds. This project includes the replacement of older playground equipment and installation of rubberized fall surfaces, shade canopies, and benches. The playground sets will

be able to accommodate children from ages 2 to 12. Construction on the \$350,000 playground set is expected to be complete in November. Park goers can visit Jim & Joann Fonteno Family Park as an alternate location with playgrounds until the construction is complete. North Shore Park is a 46.4-acre park located at

14440 Wallisville Road in Houston. In addition to the playgrounds, this park also features numerous baseball and soccer fields, a large walking loop, and various picnic areas.

For more information and updates on the Precinct, visit www.hcp2.com or like "Harris County Precinct 2" on Facebook.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Cougars punch Pirates Homecoming Parade



Jaiden Howard pulls a keeper to get outside of the hard charging Pirates on Sept. 28

VIDOR - Two undefeated in district teams went into Ivan Croak Field and only the Crosby Cougars came out undefeated, (4-0) but it was definitely not easy.

The Cougars were behind 13 points at half-time because the Pirates had out run, passed and defended them but this team isn't beaten until it quits. Vidor put up 31 yards, 50 yards to the 20 and 16 yards to make their first touchdown. The Cougars would have three ugly

turnovers, two fumbles and a pick-off.

Vidor dominated before the Cougars awakened with a growl answering 14 points with 14. It was looking gloomy and Jaiden Howard had come up limping after a fumble.

Coach Riordan would say, "Our guys were never out of the game because they believe they can win. It is the third time they came from behind to win."

Crosby finally took the lead 22-28 after a two point conversion in the 3rd. They

ran the keeper and stunned the shifting Pirates. Somehow the Cougars using gang tackles and solitary heroics held Vidor back and went ahead to 29-32.

The time had slipped by and it looked like the game had been lost to a coin flip when with 36 all. Zack Simon put a smashing run through the middle to cap the game.

At the end of play, the Cougars were up 42 to 36 on a final touchdown in triple overtime.

Homecoming Parade sure to snarl traffic

CROSBY - The Crosby Cougars will host their Homecoming Parade this Friday, Oct. 5 from 5:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on FM 2100 from the parking lot in front of Palais Royal to the Crosby Middle School Road, ending at "The Jungle" Cougar Stadium.

Road closure will begin in both directions at 5:00

p.m. Business owners, commuters and otherwise are advised to find alternative routes at this time. One alternative for example for southbound drivers is to turn left at the light at Wahl St., right on Miller Wilson and left on Church Street to reach US 90 but traffic will be heavy, so caution is advised.

Patients is advised for those travelling north-bound except to take US 90 to at least Crosby Dayton Road and pick their path from that direction.

Line up for participants is 5:00 p.m., too. An entire cadre of Crosby High School participants will show off their Cougar Pride.

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The Crosby High School Symphonic Band is one of only five high school bands from the entire nation selected to play at the Midwest Clinic! The bands travels to Chicago this December to perform for over 1,500 audience members. The Midwest Clinic is the largest and most prestigious instrumental music education conference in the world. There will be over 17,000 in attendance from all 50 states and over 30 countries. To this end the Vidor ISD Pirates donated over \$1,000 to the Cougars during this tightly funded time. Donations will help the District with offsetting the travel costs, meals, supplies, music purchase, new woodwind instruments, private lessons, clinicians and so much more.

Ring. Ring. Please note our new phone number: 713-266-3444



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PRICE REDUCED! Nice home with all the amenities that Newport provides. Pool, tennis courts, exercise room, golf, lake & beach access and walking trails. Large shaded lot with beautiful landscaping, walking trails directly across the street for easy access. Spacious living area with fireplace, bar area into kitchen. Lots of cabinets in the kitchen with new dishwasher replaced in 2015 & built in microwave. MLS# 42532887 \$168,900



Affordable home in the much desired Newport Community. Situated through a courtyard allows you additional privacy, the garage has been converted into an insulated "man cave" with ac. Currently this can park one car but easily converted to hold two cars if required. Refrigerator will remain in house. Swing set in backyard is negotiable. Nice storage shed. MLS# 4909265 \$165,000



This gorgeous home sits on 1.49 acres secluded in Private Gated Community with a country living feel while being 6 minutes from I-45. Recently remodeled with almost 1500 square feet of wrap around porches to enjoy the tranquil Water View! Beautiful kitchen with huge island and custom Quartz counter tops. Open floor plan perfect for entertaining, and upgrades galore. Don't miss out on this one of a kind home and call for your appointment today. MLS# 50487093 \$375,000



Very well maintained home, on 2 lots, new flooring, fresh paint, 4 beautiful mature live Oak Trees that stay green all year long. There is a heated outdoor 4th wheel pool 18x24 which heat for pool and hot tub and the pit area all from a propane tank, sit in your hot tub next to a flag stone fire pit. Store all pool toys, floats in dedicated attic above your 18x20 patio with 3 outdoor ceiling fans and recess lighting. There is a smart 10x15 storage unit in back corner. MLS# 60327744 \$255,000



This gorgeous custom built home sits on a half acre lot and is located on the golf course near Lake Houston. This home has an open floor plan with a spacious living room that is perfect for entertaining. There is a formal dining room and the kitchen has solid wood custom cabinets, custom granite, tiled backsplash, convection oven and a burner gas stove. The master bathroom has been updated with designer tile flooring, tile shower and tub, his and hers and large closets. MLS# 44902517 \$329,000



Don't miss out on this gorgeous home in Seven Oaks North Section in Newport. Wired for security system, dual bath shower who is at the door, natural gas appliances, heat thermostat, media game room/computer, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths upstairs, master bedroom and bath downstairs, half bath downstairs. Kitchen and breakfast combined with separate formal dining room. MLS# 84497711 \$217,400



This home is SO SPACIOUS! All rooms are oversized! The huge family room with high ceiling has a fireplace, lots of light, cedar accent wall and is open to the breakfast/dining area. Kitchen has a large breakfast bar, LOTS of cabinets, pantry & double ovens. The formal dining has a built in buffet across the whole back wall. Large master with sitting area & patio doors to backyard deck. MLS# 15421788 \$195,900

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COMMUNITY NEWS

National Night Out,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Photo by Allan Jamail

Standing, L- R: Organizer Sue Blackburn (pink), Linda Jamail (red), Community Liaison of Rep. Ana Hernandez with Wood Shadows I neighbors visiting each other and enjoying homemade chili cooked by Jack Blackburn.

neighborhood friendship to make neighborhoods safer.

The events are typically organized by block leaders. They can be as simple as cookouts with food, games and music to in-

crease awareness about police programs in communities, such as drug prevention, neighborhood watch and other anti-crime efforts.

Jacinto City had five

separate locations for citizens to go get crime prevention literature, food, refreshments and meet police officers. Galena Park had their event at the City Hall.

Galena Park Yellow jackets fall to Port Arthur Titans

By Allan Jamail

Port Arthur, TX. - September 28, 2018 the Galena Park Yellowjackets lost

their first 5A-1 Region III District 9 game on the road against the Port Arthur Titans 35 to 7. The Yellowjackets has 6

more district games, their next district game they'll be hosting the New Caney Eagles Friday, October 5th at 7 PM.

BEAUMONT WEST BROOK CRUSHED C. E. KING 55 - 7

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. - September 28, 2018 at the Sheldon ISD J.H. Crenshaw Memorial Stadium the Beaumont west Brook Bruins trounced the C. E. King Panthers 55 to 7 in a district game.

The Panthers Crenshaw Memorial Stadium located at 8540 C. E. King Pkwy has been recently updated to include artificial rubberized turf, a new video board, and new track. The stands have been painted and updated for easier access for people with physical disabilities. The

entrance to the stadium has been updated as well.

The Panthers with a 3 win and 1 loss record travels to play the Galena Park North Shore Mustangs who has 4 wins and no losses, Thursday, October 4 at 7 PM in a district game.

Community Announcements

Sheriff's Safety Forum

A Community meeting will be held at San Jacinto Junior College located at 5800 Uvalde Road, Houston, TX 77049 (meeting will be held in the Charles Grant Fine Arts Center, N1-off of Wallisville) on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, from 7pm-8pm.

"Art Beast" in Jacinto City Oct. 6

A Jacinto City Art Market Experience, October 6, 2018, 6 pm - 12 am at Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Rd. Costume Contest, raffles, family friendly.

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NOTICE OF TAX REVENUE INCREASE

The Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 conducted public hearings on September 21, 2018 and September 28, 2018 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 10.13 percent.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised last year at last year's tax rate of \$0.0477 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$1,443,361.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.0500 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$1,586,995.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.0500 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$1,605,171.

The Board of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on October 16, 2018 at Cloverleaf Fire Station No. 1, 911 Hollywood St., Houston, TX at 6:00 PM.

The Board of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 proposes to use the increase in total tax revenue for the purpose of emergency services operations.

NOTICE OF TAX REVENUE INCREASE

The Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 conducted public hearings on September 21, 2018 and September 28, 2018 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 17.10 percent.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised last year at last year's tax rate of \$0.0485 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$2,352,399.

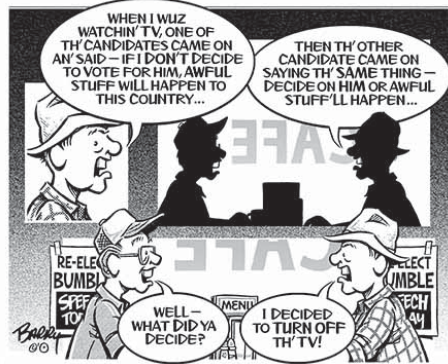
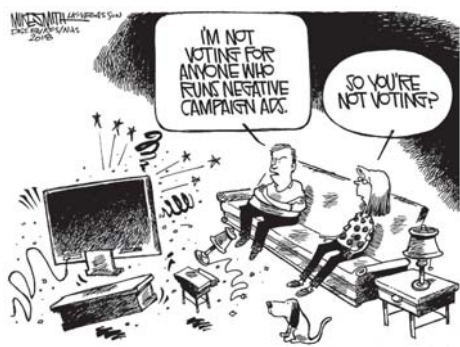
The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.0500 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$2,747,626.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.0500 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$2,832,194.

The Board of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on October 15, 2018 at 1210 Dell Dale Ave., Channelview, TX 77530 at 6:00 PM.

The Board of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 proposes to use the increase in total tax revenue for the purpose of emergency services operations.

OPINION PAGE



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Abbott, Valdez present views on Texas in one hour forum

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott and Lupe Valdez on Sept. 28 appeared together on television for 60 minutes in the only scheduled gubernatorial debate, a forum hosted by the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum on the University of Texas campus.

A Republican and former Texas attorney general, Abbott is seeking a second four-year term as the state's chief executive. His challenger, Guadalupe "Lupe" Valdez, a San Antonio-born Democrat, held elected office as Dallas County sheriff from 2005 to 2017 and previously served as a senior agent and investigator for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, earlier as an agent for other federal agencies, and as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Abbott and Valdez voiced their positions on topics including education, property taxes, health care, immigration, border security, gun control, school campus security and disaster management related to Hurricane Harvey. Abbott touted his record on each topic and asked voters to stay the course and support him. Valdez said she would use the state's \$12 billion "rainy day fund" to speed up assistance to hurricane-stricken Texans. Valdez also said she would fund public education and health care programs at a much higher level, rather than devote state dollars to militarizing the Texas-Mexico border. Also, she said that as governor she would sign a "red flag law" to help keep firearms out of the hands of ill-intentioned individuals.

Both candidates said they would support legislation that increases access to medical marijuana and decreases the criminal penalty for possession of small amounts of marijuana for non-medical use.

Robert Hadlock of KXAN, the Austin NBC-TV affiliate, moderated the forum in which the

candidates answered questions from a panel of four journalists from Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio broadcast stations.

Registration hits new high

As of last week, Texas had 15,624,871 registered voters, a new record, the state's chief elections officer announced.

On Sept. 25 — National Voter Registration Day — Texas Secretary of State Rolando Pablos pushed for even more participation, inviting all eligible residents to ensure they are registered to vote ahead of the Oct. 9 voter registration deadline.

It was Pablos' final call to action to voters, community leaders and elected officials to encourage fellow Texans to register and prepare to vote in the upcoming Nov. 6 election. He suggested that Texans check their registration status on the Texas Secretary of State's "Am I Registered?" web page, and that those who have moved to a new address within the same county or have changed their name can update their information online.

Early voting will begin on Oct. 22 and end on Nov. 2. Voters with questions about how to cast a ballot in upcoming elections can call 1-800-252-VOTE.

Abbott announces grant

Gov. Abbott on Sept. 24 announced a \$2 million grant to the Austin Community College District in partnership with The University of Texas and the U.S. Army.

The funds, Abbott said, are for the build-out of communication facilities supporting the new U.S. Army Futures Command in Austin.

The \$2 million comes through the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance grant program administered by the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, a part of the governor's office that advises Abbott and the Texas Legislature on defense and military issues.

Abbott noted that he announced more than \$50 million in grant awards to military installations across Texas over the last two state budget cycles.

Jobs increase in August

The Texas economy added 32,000 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs during the month of August, the Texas Workforce Commission announced in September.

Private-sector employers added 32,800 positions in August and Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 3.9 percent, down slightly from 4.0 in July.

Also, the Workforce Commission stated, the increase marked 26 consecutive months of employment growth. Over the course of the year Texas added 394,500 jobs, for an annual employment growth rate of 3.2 percent.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded the month's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not-seasonally adjusted rate of 2.2 percent, followed by the Amarillo and Odessa MSAs with rates of 2.8 and 2.9 percent, respectively. The Austin-Round Rock MSA recorded the fourth-lowest rate of 3.0 percent for August.

Social Security Matter



by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor
Association of Mature American Citizens

and just wait until I'm 70 to get a larger benefit? Signed: Changed My Mind

Dear Changed: Situations such as yours are exactly why Social Security has a "do over" option, which allows those who claim benefits to withdraw that application within one year. Reality is that sometimes financial circumstances change. People who lost their job may react by claiming Social Security, and then later find other employment, which provides them the income they need. Or they may simply just change their mind and be sorry they ap-

plied for benefits. In any case, the do-over option can be used to fix that but exercising that option does have some important consequences.

The short answer to your questions is "Yes" - you can exercise the "do over" option and totally withdraw from Social Security if you do so within 1 year of the date your benefits originally started. But - and this is a big but - you will have to pay back everything that you have collected, including any withheld taxes, Medicare premiums, and any spousal or other dependent ben-

efits that may have been paid on, to or from your account over the past year. Obviously if you wish to do that you should act with haste to submit Form SSA-521 (Request for Withdrawal of Application), because you're coming up on the one-year anniversary of your original application.

However, since you have already reached your full retirement age of 66, you have another less financially painful option available to you which you might want to consider - you can simply suspend your current benefits, which will allow you to earn delayed retirement credits equal to 2/3rds of 1% per month of suspension (8% per year) up until you reach 70 years of age. You will have lost that initial 8% benefit growth you would have otherwise realized for the 1st year after you reached age 66, but that may be less traumatic than repaying Social Security a very large lump sum for an entire year's worth of benefits paid. Then when you reinstate (un-suspend) your benefits at age 70, the benefit amount will be about 24% higher than it is now. Thus, you'll gain a significantly increased benefit without needing to repay all that money you collected for a whole year.

Ask Rusty - Changed my mind after claiming Social Security

Dear Rusty: I will be 67 years old this September and have been receiving my Social Security benefits since September of last year (2017). I've found that I do not need the money now, and since I don't need the money, I'm wondering if can I repay what I've already collected

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 47 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2017 on October 11, 2018 at 5 p.m., at 210 Brookview, Channelview, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

FOR the proposal: Dennis Hamala, Jack Dauzat, Alan Wolcik, G W Gunter, Nick Shankle

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT:

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.95/\$100	\$0.95/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised value	\$88,462	\$93,016
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$8,846	\$9,302
Average taxable value	\$79,616	\$83,714
Tax on average residence homestead	\$756.35	\$795.28
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		+\$38.93
and percentage of increase (+/-)		+5.14%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

The Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 47 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of making improvements to the water and wastewater system.

LIFESTYLE

Quilt to be auctioned at Czech Fest



This Handmade Quilt will be on a giant auction at the 78th Annual Czech Fest this Sunday, October 7, 2018 at the Crosby Fairgrounds beginning at 1:00 p.m. Pictured are ladies who helped make the quilt: Sue Matthews, Kathy Roder, Joni Hord, Merlinda Canada, Katie Hanus, Marilyn Sikora, Josephine Svoboda and CiCi Hodges.

Book Club for Kids!

Once a month the Stratford Library hosts a book club for kids ages 8 & up. Join them for book chat & a craft.

Pick up a copy of this month's title at the library or bring one of your own reads to share!

The next Kids Book Club meets on Wednesday, October 17th at 4:30 p.m. Follow on Facebook or Instagram for more info! Or call 832-927-54020. Stratford Library is located 2 blocks behind Food Town at 509 Stratford Street, Highlands, TX 77562.

Community Announcement

David Reid, Chief Marketing Officer for National Oilwell Varco, will speak at Eastgate Church on Wednesday, October 10, at 7 p.m. David will help top be more aware of Human Trafficking and sexual harassment in the Houston area.

Eastgate Church is located 6 miles east of Huffman on FM 1960, then south on CR 611 at the Shell Station.

May Community Center hosts Fall Festival and Pumpkin Patch

May Community Center's Annual Fall Festival and Pumpkin Patch, a family festival and fund-raiser, Saturday, October 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event includes carnival games, children's crafts, concessions, pumpkin patch, raffle for homemade quilt, silent auction, clowns, live entertainment, sweet shoppe with homemade goodies, free cotton candy sponsored by the Lions Club, craft and gift market, vendor booths and much more.

Exhibits and Shows Include: Houston Texans Cheerleaders, H - E - Buddy, Shortcakes the Clown, Crocodile Encounter, Yellow Rose Cloggers, Live DJ, Huffman Volunteer Fire Dept., Harris Co. Sheriff's Office and Huffman EMS.

May Community Center is located at 2100 Wolf Road, Huffman 77336. For more information please call (713) 274-2434.

Lake Houston UMC Pumpkin Patch opens soon



A beautiful couple was engaged in the Pumpkin Patch at LHUMC last year.



The pumpkins arrive in a tractor trailer and are unloaded by LHUMC members and friends.

The Pumpkin Patch opens Monday, October 8, 2018! Each year for the last 17 years, Lake Houston United Methodist Church has been home to a large Pumpkin Patch with over 1,000 pumpkins with a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Before the opening of the Patch, LHUMC members and

friends both young and old, unload the truck once it arrives and participate in setup. Once the Patch opens, folks come from all over to pick out their perfect holiday pumpkins. The Pumpkin Patch will be open 7 days a week until All Hallow's Eve (Halloween), October 31. Patrons are invited to bring kids,

family and cameras for fun fall photo opportunities. The Patch is located at 23606 FM 2100 in Huffman and is open Monday through Friday, 3-7 pm; Saturday 9 am until 7 pm; and Sunday noon to 7 pm. For more information contact the church office at 281-324-1541 or visit www.lakehoustnumc.com

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LOVE NEVER FAILS
I Corinthians 13:8

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I can do all things
through Christ who
strengthens me.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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Pride only breeds quarrels,
but wisdom is found in
those who take advice.

God is our refuge
and strength, a
very present help
in trouble
Psalm: 46:1

2018
HIGHLANDS MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
TENT REVIVAL
OCTOBER 14TH AT 6PM;
OCTOBER 15TH - 20TH AT 7PM
700 S. MAIN ST, HIGHLANDS
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Wesley Freeman of 1st Baptist
Beau Rosser of 2nd Baptist
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Phillip Morris of Restoration Church
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ROMANS 8:18

All of them were filled with
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speak in other tongues as the
Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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Be alert. Continue strong in
the faith. Have courage
and be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the
aged, show respect for the
elderly and revere your God.
Leviticus 19:32

ASK THE EXPERT



Diamond Jim: "What are the birthstones for October?"

ASK DIAMOND JIM

October birthstones are Opal and Tourmaline

Opal
The name "opal" originates from the Greek word *opallios*, which meant "to see a change in color." The Roman scholar Pliny used the word *opalus* when he wrote about this gem's kaleidoscopic "play" of colors that could simulate shades of any stone. Opal's characteristic "play-of-color" was explained in the 1960s, when scientists discovered that it's composed of microscopic silica spheres that diffract light to display various colors of the rainbow. These flashy gems are called "precious opals;" those without play-of-color are "common opals."

Dozens of opal varieties exist, but only a few (like Fire Opal and Boulder Opal) are universally recognized. Opals are often referred to by their background "body color"—black or white.

Opal's classic country of origin is Australia. Seasonal rains soaked the parched outback, carrying silica deposits underground into cracks between layers of rock. When the water evaporated, these deposits formed opal. Sometimes, silica seeped into spaces around wood, seashells and skeletons, resulting in opal-

ized fossils. Since opal was discovered in Australia around 1850, the country has produced 95 percent of the world's supply. Opal is also mined in Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Ethiopia, the Czech Republic and parts of the U.S., including Nevada and Idaho.

The water content of opal can range from three to 21 percent — usually between 6 and 10 in gem-quality material. This, combined with hardness of only 5.5 to 6 on the Mohs scale, makes opal a delicate gem that can crack or "craze" under extreme temperature, dehydration or direct light. Wearing opal is well worth the extra care, though. For centuries, people have associated this gem with good luck. Though some recent superstitions claim that opals can be bad luck to anyone not born in October, this birthstone remains a popular choice.

Tourmaline
The name "tourmaline" comes from the Sinhalese words *tura mali*, which mean "stone of mixed colors." As its name implies, tourmaline stands apart from other gems with its broad spectrum of colors in every shade of the

rainbow. Tourmaline is not one mineral, but a fairly complex group of minerals with different chemical compositions and physical properties. Certain trace elements produce distinct colors, and many resulting varieties have their own names:

- Schorl or black tourmaline is rich in iron, which causes dark shades from deep brown to bluish-black. This variety makes up 95 percent of all tourmaline, though most of it isn't gem-quality. Schorl, in particular, is said to have protective powers against harmful radiation, toxins and anxiety.

- Dravite or brown tourmaline is rich in magnesium, which causes colors ranging from brown to yellow. It's named for the Drave District of Carinthia (now Slovenia) where it's found.

- Elbaite offers the widest range of gem-quality tourmaline colors, due to lithium traces combined with other coloring elements:

Tourmaline is mined in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Mozambique, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the U.S.—mainly Maine and California. Tourmaline is desirable because of its sheer range of color options. Combined with a good hardness of 7 to 7.5 on the Mohs scale, tourmaline makes very wearable jewelry.

One of this gem's most impressive traits is its ability to become electrically charged through heat (pyroelectricity) and through pressure (piezoelectricity). When charged, tourmaline can act as a magnet by oscillating, and by attracting or repelling particles of dust. Ancient magicians used black tourmaline as a talisman to protect against negative energy and evil forces. Today, many still believe that it can shield against radiation, pollutants, toxins and negative thoughts.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

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The Shift

While meeting with six concerned citizens last night, I listened as they asked why our community has been known as "the forgotten side of Harris County" for so long. They asked why the community has so many petrochemical companies yet very little done about the smell of the pollution. They asked why so many of the people who earn money at these refineries do not live in our community.

Another person asked why with all of the expansion in the North Channel Area has there not been an effort made to expand the public transportation to serve more residents. One man inquired about how are people who need to access the Attorney Generals Division of Child Support supposed to get to a location so far off of the bus line. One of the ladies asked why in an area with so much poverty, are there no public health clinics in the area.

One of the men present spoke about how so many of the youth he sees in his office have the attitude that they will have to play ball or never get out of the neighborhood. He had told

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson

many of these young guys that for every 8,000 youth that play ball, less than 50 make it to the professional level. The young people seem to think there is no other way to "make it". We all agreed that we have seen too many of them turn to illegal activities and that together, we must be part of the shift.

What shift? The one that teaches not only the young but all members of the community that they can make it. There are resources out there and if we do not know where to find them, we have to lose our pride and ask for assistance. There are people who have been in the same job for too many years because someone else was afraid that they would not just learn something new but would succeed. We have to talk to young people as well as coworkers about moving forward to be better people. We have to learn that change is possible and with that change,

there will be a shift in what we consider the "normal". We cannot just think that others will set the standard and the rules. We must wake up and be ready to make changes. We need to learn the history of why something is how it is and what we can do to improve it.

The world has changed yet sometimes it feels as though our community has not. Most of the founders of the area have passed away or moved, yet the foundation they laid is still going strong. We have been fortunate to see changes in that now we see leaders looking more like our community members but too often, they look like the community but are still doing things the same way. It is time for a shift in leadership as well as in the process. We must never forget those who came before us but must be ready to help those who come after us. Get ready. The shift is coming.

Galena Park resignation,

Continued from page 1

Although the city charter says that you must be a resident if you run for office, Collins explained to the *Star* that even though Chersky announced that he had moved into Houston in July, the charter says he can hold the seat until June 1st of the next year, or until a general election is held. However, Collins said this is his interpretation, and will ask for a ruling from the Texas Attorney General.

Attorney Collins addressed this situation publicly at the last Commission meeting on October 2nd. He also noted that Chersky plans to move back into Galena Park, which may make this problem moot.

INVESTIGATION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL

The *North Channel Star* has learned that a number of citizens of Galena Park have been interviewed recently by a representative of the Texas Attorney General, Sergeant Mark Richardson. Their office has not released any official information on this probe, but it is thought to be about voter fraud in the last municipal election. The investigation was prompted by complaints from several citizens who observed irregularities during voting.

August 22, 2018
Mrs. Mayra Gonzales
City Secretary
2001 Clinton Drive
Galena Park, Texas 77547

Dear Mrs. Gonzales,
Please accept this letter as notice of my resignation from my position as Commissioner Streets and Bridges. My last day of employment will be August 22, 2018.

It has been a pleasure working with you and city council over the last two years. I wish the city much success.

I would like to offer any help with the transition if needed. I am available to help my replacement, and I will make certain that all reporting and records are updated before my last day.

Thank you again for the opportunity working for the City of Galena Park. I wish you and the council all the best.

Sincerely,
(signed)
Barry Ponder

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2018 Property Tax Rates in Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60

This notice concerns the 2018 property tax rates for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual tax rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$2,236,662
Last year's debt taxes	\$0
Last year's total taxes	\$2,236,662
Last year's tax base	\$4,536,839,757
Last year's total tax rate	\$0.0493/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$2,234,232
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$4,448,736,045
= This year's effective tax rate (Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)	\$0.0502/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures)	\$2,234,232
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$4,448,736,045
= This year's effective operating rate	\$0.0502/\$100
x 1.08 - this year's maximum operating rate	\$0.0542/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$0/\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	\$0.0542/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Harris County Emergency Service District No. 60 adopts a 2018 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.0502 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2017 taxes by \$53,729.

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
	0

Schedule B - 2018 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
	0	0	0	0
Total required for 2018 debt service				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2018				\$0
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2018				\$0
= Total debt levy				\$0

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 1001 Preston, Houston, TX 77002.
Name of person preparing this notice: Ann Harris Bennett
Title: Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector
Date Prepared: 09/04/2018

2018 Property Tax Rates in Harris County Emergency Services District 2

This notice concerns the 2018 property tax rates for Harris County Emergency Services District 2. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual tax rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes	\$1,315,208
Last year's debt taxes	\$0
Last year's total taxes	\$1,315,208
Last year's tax base	\$4,428,309,764
Last year's total tax rate	\$0.0297/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$1,313,725
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$4,361,424,734
= This year's effective tax rate (Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)	\$0.0301/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures)	\$1,313,725
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$4,361,424,734
= This year's effective operating rate	\$0.0301/\$100
x 1.08 - this year's maximum operating rate	\$0.0325/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$0/\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	\$0.0325/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Harris County Emergency Service District 2 adopts a 2018 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.0301 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2017 taxes by \$29,576.

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
	0

Schedule B - 2018 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
	0	0	0	0
Total required for 2018 debt service				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2018				\$0
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2018				\$0
= Total debt levy				\$0

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 1001 Preston, Houston, TX 77002.
Name of person preparing this notice: Ann Harris Bennett
Title: Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector
Date Prepared: 09/04/2018

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 468,881 Estate of NORMA H. BENNETT, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2, of Harris County, Texas, Deceased, were issued on September 19, 2018.

CYNTHIA L. BENNETT PROCTOR

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
5223 Garth Rd.
Baytown, TX
77521

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this September 25, 2018.

Weston Cotten

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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ATTRACTIONS

Spellman Museum of Forney History showcases exhibits and artifacts from Kaufman County in historic downtown Forney. Open Wednesday through Saturday with free admission! Located at 200 S. Bois d'Arc, Spellmanmuseum.com, 972-552-2400.

AUCTIONS

Public Online Auctions of seized cars on behalf of U.S. Customs & Border Protection, U.S. Treasury, and U.S. Marshals Service. No deposits! No fees! www.appealauctioneeringco.com.

Public Auction - Jenco Fabricators Inc., Thurs., Oct. 11, starts at 9:01 a.m., 1850 N. 170th E Ave., Tulsa, OK. Tractors, trailers, truck, office trailer, forklifts, 25 ton sand storage hopper and more. Visit chuppsauction.com for a full item list and pictures. 918-638-1157, 918-639-8555.

EVENTS

Seguin - Guadalupe County Fair IBCA State Championship Bar-B-Que Cook Off & Jack Pot Beans, Fri., Oct. 5 - Sat. Oct. 6, 2018 BBQ Cookoff Mutton Bustin' on Oct. 6, ages 4-7. Books open at 6 p.m., cash prizes. Guadalupe County Fair & PRCA Rodeo, Oct. 11-14, Seguin Events Complex. www.gcfair.org, 830-379-6477.

Mount Vernon - Country Fest, Sat. Oct. 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Downtown Mount Vernon, Texas. Vendor booths, antique car show, entertainment, escape room, children's games, pancake breakfast, stew cook-off. Find Mount Vernon Key Club on Facebook.

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NOTICE OF 2018 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR CITY OF GALENA PARK

A tax rate of \$1.17339 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of City of Galena Park.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$1.17339 per \$100
PRECEDING YEAR'S TAX RATE	\$1.03745 per \$100
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	\$1.17339 per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Galena Park from the same properties in both the 2017 tax year and the 2018 tax year.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

property tax amount = (rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact:

Ann Harris Bennett Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector
City of Galena Park tax assessor-collector
1001 Preston, Houston, TX 77002
713-274-8000
tax.office@tax.hctx.net
www.hctx.net

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New Legislation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

able housing tax credits for working families.

Pastor Robert I. Dixon, II made the North Shore Community Fellowship of Faith Church building available for the meeting so the church members and citizens can come hear and learn about Medicare, Social Security and citizen issues.

“Just when we thought America’s affordable housing crisis couldn’t get any worse, Republicans picked up their shovels and kept digging. Their tax scam is projected to cause 235,000 fewer affordable housing units to be built and 262,000 jobs to be lost over the next ten years. With an existing shortage of more than 7 million units, we simply cannot allow this crisis to go on unabated.”

cuts.”

Senator Garcia will be the Democratic Party’s nominee to replace retiring Democrat Congressman Gene Green of the 29th District. The district has a high number of Democrats and she’s favored to be elected if Democrats turn-out in large numbers. Opposing Garcia is Republican Phillip Aronoff and Libertarian Cullen Burns. Garcia said she’s not expecting an easy win and she’s asking her supporters to work hard to get voters out until the last voter votes at 7 PM November 6th.

Green, Lee and Clyburn said they’re supporting Garcia because she has a proven record of leadership producing positive results for her constituents over

Ms. Diana Carter Retirement Party



Pictured left to right at Ms. Carter Retirement Party are Durwood Radican, Jr., Diana Carter, Maxine Thamm (Diana’s mother), Connie Owens (Diana’s sister) and Frank Hostetler.

Carter-Conley Funeral Home hosted a Retirement Party for Diana Carter last Friday where the community and friends were invited to wish her well in her new adventure.



The Funeral’s Home Therapy Dog, Ax1, was also present at the retirement party to wish well to Ms. Carter and greet attendees.



Photo by Allan Jamail

Senator Sylvia Garcia’s Town Hall meeting includes Galena Manor Aerobics Class, Civic Clubs, Community Leaders and citizenry.

Standing, L – R: Glenda Lawndale, Verna White, Diann Cotton, U.S. House Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn, Senator Sylvia Garcia, Yuroba Harris, Eronia “Taggy” Hall, Velma Hawkins and Linda Jamail, Rep. Ana Hernandez staff. Sitting, L – R: Linda Watkins, Geraldine Ireland and Annie Murphy.

ed,” Clyburn said.

Congressman Green reported the 2018 Medicare Trustees Report projects that Medicare Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund will bring in less revenue due to changes made in the Tax Cuts Act (commonly known as the “Trump tax

the years.

Clyburn said, “it’s important for voters to turn-out to elect representatives who’ll work towards restoring the American values that’s been eroding in recent years, I’m confident Garcia will make us all

proud of our supporting her.”

Green has a free “Paying for College Workshop” scheduled for Monday, October 15th, at 7 PM in the North Shore Senior High School Gymnasium, 353 North Castlegory, Hou. TX. 77049.

GRAND OPENING



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Ladies Night Out in Baytown: Positively Pink for Breast Health

THURSDAY, OCT. 18, 2018
5:30-7 P.M.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

4401 Garth Rd. | Conference Center Classroom | Baytown, TX 77521

Join us for a fun evening dedicated to breast care — from early detection to advanced treatment of breast cancer — presented by Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital and Houston Methodist Breast Care Center.

Join us for food, games and giveaways!

Free parking at rear of hospital; enter from W. Baker Road.
A limited number of mammograms will be offered on-site from 5 P.M.
Please call in advance to schedule your mammogram at **844.454.PINK (7465)**.



Visit houstonmethodist.org/events
or call **281.428.2273** to RSVP for the event.

