

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 9, NO. 5/6 (#360) THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 & 11, 2021 www.northchannelstar.com



## COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES

**CITY OF HOUSTON**  
Registration  
HoustonEmergency.org/  
covid19  
832-393-4220  
**HARRIS COUNTY**  
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readyharris.org OR  
https://vacstrac.hctx.net  
832-927-8787  
**RETAIL PHARMACIES**  
Registration at Websites  
CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Sams  
Club, HEB, Kroger, Randalls  
**HOSPITALS**  
houstonmethodist.org

## 192 new housing units for Channelview

*The Hollows, a Multifamily Housing Community, to Replace Housing Lost During Hurricane Harvey*

HOUSTON, TX (Wednesday, February 3, 2021) – The Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA), Harris County - Community Services Department (HCCSD), Harris County Precinct Two Commissioner Adrian Garcia, the Texas General Land Office (GLO), and development partner LDG Development (LDG) celebrate the groundbreaking of The Hollows, a multifamily development to replace housing lost during Hurricane Harvey. The development will be financed with Harris County's Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds in conjunction with construction and private permanent financing from Citi Community Capital and tax credit



The Hollows on Dell Dale will house 192 new apartment units. It will open in 2022, and include 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units.

equity from Hunt Capital Partners.

This \$39.35 million community's groundbreaking will create 192 beautiful new apartment homes for families seeking quality housing in the Channel-

view area. A virtual groundbreaking ceremony was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

"We are pleased to partner with LDG. Development to provide much-needed quality

housing for Harris County families," said Horace Allison, AIA., Executive Director and CEO of Harris County Housing Authority. "This multifamily housing community will replace housing resources lost dur-

ing Hurricane Harvey while adding an attractive, viable, and valuable asset to the neighborhood."

The Hollows will provide a wide array of amenities to the families it serves, including a fully equipped clubhouse, business center, fitness center, laundry facilities, a swimming pool with a sun deck, and a playground.

"The Hollows project is one of sixteen the Harris County Community Services Department is supporting with the use of HUD CDBG Disaster Recovery funds in the effort to replenish housing stock lost from several past disasters," said CSD Director Dr. Adrienne Holloway. "These developments pro-

Continued see HOUSING, p. 8

## Ley YMCA continues to serve NC Community

By Jada Mier

The community for many years has depended upon and supported the Wendell Ley Family YMCA on Wallisville Rd. for athletic programs and social activities. Now with the Pandemic limiting personal interaction, the YMCA must find new ways to of-

fer services, such as virtual classes and reservations to use facilities within the building.

The current pandemic has exposed critical issues that require more action from the Y than ever before. The organization's new direction for 2021 will highlight the Y's community impact beyond its build-

ings and provide opportunities such as its new Impact Membership, giving Houstonians a chance to make a difference with the Y.

On the COVID front Jessica Bains, Director of Operations, chimed in on how the services have changed in the wake of the ongoing pandemic. She ex-

plained "we have to be a little creative when it comes to reaching out to our members. We have virtual studio, and we have virtual instructors for exercising, as well as classes on demand. We now also offer Impact memberships for those who are not

Continued see YMCA, p. 5



Wendell Ley Family YMCA at Wallisville and N. Castlegory

## Jacinto City recognizes its K-9 Police program

### North Channel Animal Doctor Frank Martin receives award

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. Thursday, January 28, 2021 at the Jacinto City council meeting Police Chief Joe Ayala presented an Outstanding Service Award to Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Veterinarian Francis "Frank" Martin for his services because for the past 11 years he's donated the treatment and facility when needed to care for the department's K9 officer Kyra.

Chief Ayala said, "I'm thankful to DVM Martin



Northshore Animal Hospital Veterinarian Francis "Frank" Martin (holding award at left) receives Outstanding Service Award from Jacinto City Police Chief Joe Ayala for K9 dog Kyra's care. L-R: Northshore Animal Hospital staff Allen Driver, Vet. Frank Martin, Chief Joe Ayala and Joan Barnes.

and his staff for they took excellent care day and night of K9 Kyra when it had some serious health issues before it's passing away."

"Police Corporal A. J. Seydler was K9's Kyra's handler, we now have "Fly" a new K9 to assist us with narcotic investigations Ayala said."

### K-9 Kyra remembered

By Jada Mier

Jacinto City Police Department K9 Officer Kyra passed away on January 1, 2020 due to ongoing medical complications. Officer Kyra served Jacinto City from January 2009 - October 2020.

During her service she has contributed to countless arrests and played a significant role in keeping our community a safe place to live and work in her duties as a canine officer. Cpl. Albert Seydler her canine officer says, "you don't think about how attached you get to your dog and how a part of the family they become." He agreed to take Kyra on in July of 2014 he described her as hyper and was shocked how quickly she bonded with him.

Kyra was certified with the National Narcotics Detectors Dogs Association, both her and Seydler also did school events where he explained she was always gentle with children. He elaborated on what the training process was like "We did four weeks with the Harris County Sheriff's office's canine depart-



KYRA with Cpl. Albert Seydler

ment, alternating between night and day at least ten hours each day. We did

Continued see KYRA, page 8

## Concerns raised about new Construction near Waste Pits

CHANNELVIEW – Residents of the area near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site have become concerned with evidence of new construction that might threaten the neighborhood along River Road, and the waste pits themselves.

The investigation is being headed by Carolyn Stone, who lives in Channelview not far from I-10 and the Waste Pits, and is the director of an environmental action group known as C.H.I.P., or Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition. The group is monitoring progress at the Waste Pits, as well as water and



Construction activity along River Road includes piles about to be driven into the water to support a new set of berths for barges. To the left is Meadowbrook Park, and to the right the old Riverside Inn.

air quality in the Channelview area.

Stone says in a letter

widely distributed to government bodies and other interested persons,



Piles are being driven across the river from the Waste Pits Superfund site, to repair and expand a fueling facility. Above the dock can be seen two storage tanks, and buildings along Crosby-Lynchburg Road.

that the construction that can be observed along river road and on the east

bank of the river is proceeding without any evidence of permits from the

County engineering Department or the Corps of Engineers, each of which has jurisdiction of this type.

Stone says that she learned that a company known as TimTom Land Holdings LLC is building the barge facility, and plans a restaurant/bar adjacent. She says in her letter, "these two projects lay in a very vulnerable and low land area which is the first area to flood..."

She said the Pct. 2 plan for the area is to develop San Jacinto River Estates, the neighborhood adjacent

See SAN JACINTO RIVER work, page 5



## Academic Beginnings for Children places Free Little Library

Baytown, TX – Work in support of childhood literacy in the Baytown area by Academic Beginnings for Children has expanded to include placement this spring of a Free Little Library at Rosemont Apartments, 6033 Garth Road.

Tom O’Kuma, a recently retired Lee College physics instructor, donated books to the effort. O’Kuma said, “Reading is not only personally enjoyable; it is also beneficial to your success as a student.”

Maria DeLeon, Banuelos Elementary Campus Student Success Specialist said, “We are very thankful to Academic Beginnings for Children and Tom O’Kuma for making this Free Little Library possible. It is exciting to know that our students will have access to books just a few steps away from their home.”

Children are encouraged not only to read from the Free Little Library while in the office community room, but also to take a book for enjoyment and learning at home.

Academic Beginnings for Children, a broad-based coalition of Baytown area education, civic, business and nonprofit organizations working together to deliver the best solutions for children, has worked several years on multiple initiatives to advance childhood literacy.

The unit at Rosemont Apartments brings the total to more than 11,500 children’s books placed throughout Baytown since March 2017. The organization has placed and is maintaining 13 other Free Little Libraries at USA Washateria, 110 North Alexander Drive; Laguna Azul Apartments, 1200 Northwood; Baytown Housing Authority’s Alexander Place, 2401 Alexander Drive; Providence Apartments, 1710 James Bowie Drive; Marina Club Apartments, 1200 Missouri Street; Cedar Ridge Apartments, 2900 W. Baker; Bay Oaks Apartments, 1700 Bob Smith Rd; Avalon Bay Apartments, 925 Northwood; Sabor de Mexico, 208 W. Texas Ave; Motel 6, 4911 Interstate 10 East; Village Apartments, 4601 Village Lane; and Creekside Apartments, 3120 Decker, and Executive Residency by Best Western, 4602 East Freeway.

To support childhood literacy throughout the Baytown area with Academic Beginnings for Children, email [domohlman@lee.edu](mailto:domohlman@lee.edu).



Mitzi Oliver, Banuelos Elementary School Counselor; and Maria DeLeon, Campus Student Success Specialist.



Tom O’Kuma, recently retired Lee College physics instructor.

## Pct. 2 Garcia and Port Houston new Maritime logistics program

Harris County, TX — Commissioner Adrian Garcia joined Anthony P. Ambler, dean of the University of Houston College of Technology; Margaret Kidd, UH Supply Chain and Logistics Technology program director, Port Houston Commissioner Wendy Montoya Cloonan for a press conference. The event announced a port-funded grant to the University that funds 120 high school and 120 community college in a new certification program focused on Supply Chain and Logistics. The University of Houston program is the inaugural and exclusive site in the U.S. offering these certifications from the Chartered Institute Logistics and Transport.

This is the latest example of Commissioner Garcia’s support for workforce development programs across southeast Texas.

“The pandemic has wrecked several sectors of the economy, directly impacting thousands, and so many are searching for new skills that translate to this new normal. This UH program, funded by Port grants, is yet another way we and our partners are addressing that,” said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. “Hardworking people need locally elected officials, educational institutions, and industry to help us get past these difficult times, which is why I am extremely excited about the launch of this program.”

Dean Ambler and Margaret Kidd from University of Houston said the program will enable high school and community college students to earn certification in fields that lead to good-paying jobs in the industries of supply chain logistics and technology.

“The College of Technology prides itself in providing degree programs that support the workforce – a workforce that both needs to expand in numbers to boost the economy, but also to provide a more relevant education for industry and commerce,” said Dean Ambler. “We are grateful to the Port Houston and its support of our technology program which explicitly exposes students to how business operates so that they are able to be productive quickly.”

“Fully employed workers in the maritime logistics field have the opportunity to experience the ‘American Dream’ of homeownership and connectivity to the community. This is not only a positive impact on our region but more saliently a comment on the commitment of collaborative efforts to move the pendulum forward for economic prosperity for all people in the region,” said Program Director Margaret Kidd, “As Port Houston is an economic engine for the local, regional and state economy, it is relevant that our workforce has the necessary skills to keep our region competitive. The Supply Chain & Logistic Technology Program plays an integral part in preparing the next generation of workers.”

Also speaking at the event were Port Commissioner Wendy Montoya Cloonan, as well as Lisbeth Cabrera, a program participant working in the field of maritime logistics. For information about the program, click here.



TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Southwest Shipyard, L.P., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to Air Quality Permit Number 43774, which would authorize modification to and continued operation of the Ship Building & Repair Facility located at 18310 Market Street, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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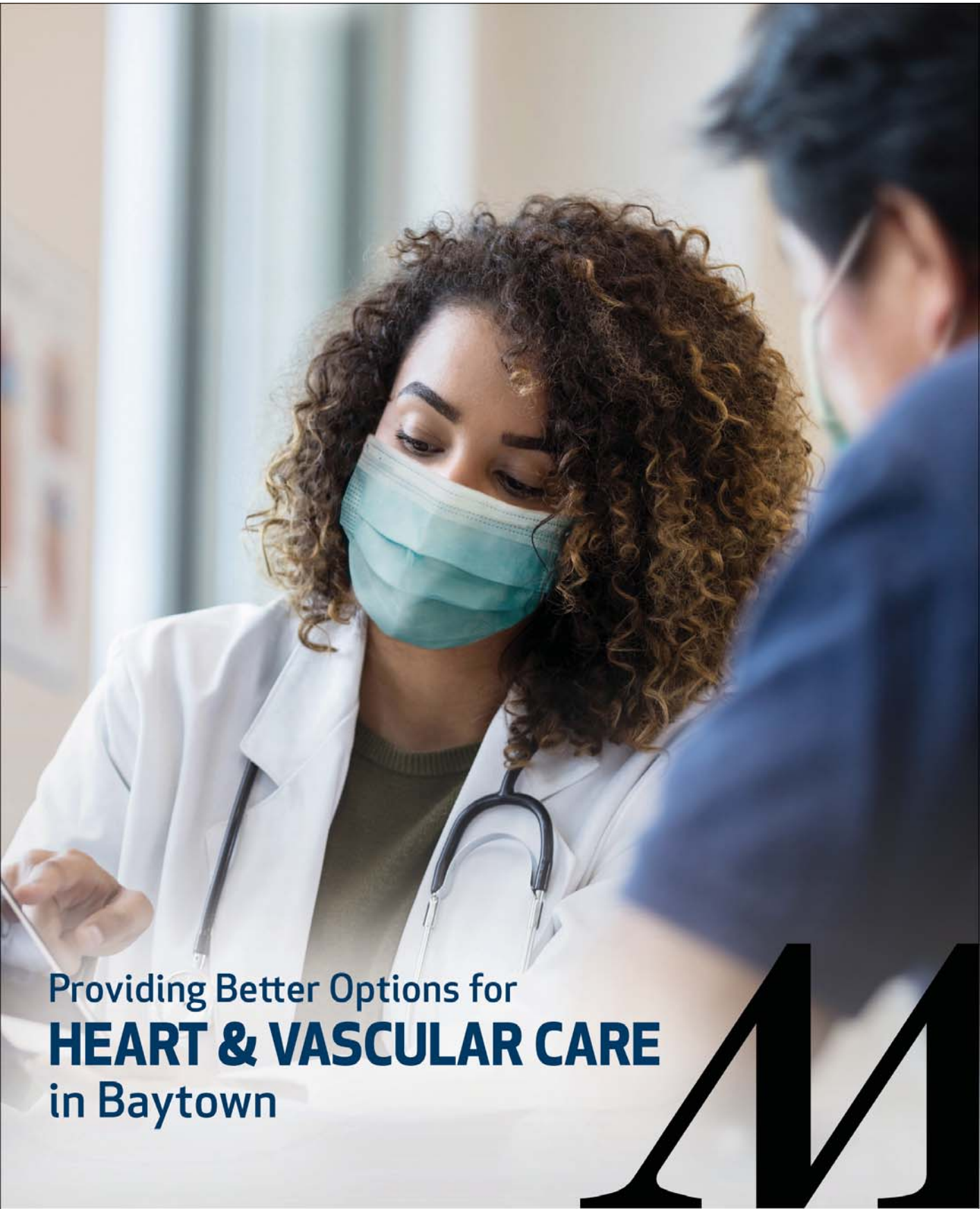
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CROSBY’S HOME TOWN HOME CARE





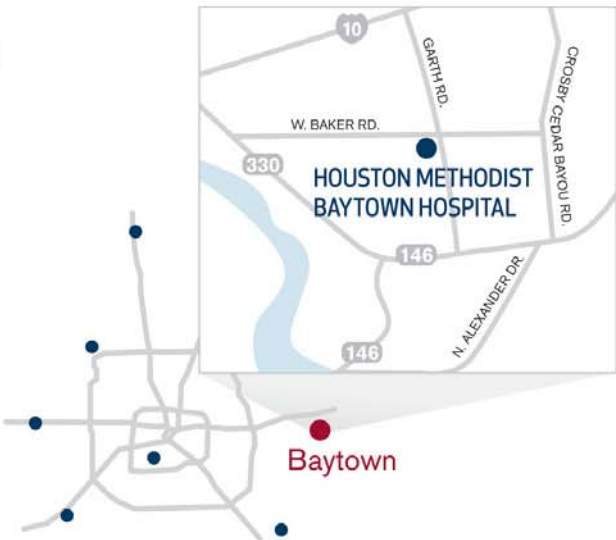
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OPINION

By BILL KING



## Texas is Getting Shortchanged on Vaccine Distribution

Based on the CDC's vaccine distribution data, through yesterday 28,504,000 vaccines had been distributed to the states.

1. That works out to 8,684 doses per 100,000 people in the country. However, Texas has only received 7,262 doses per 100,000. If Texas had received its pro rata share, it would have an extra 412,000 vaccines to pass along to local providers.

2 That is five times the number of nursing home residents in Texas.

Overall, Texas ranks 48th in the number of COVID vaccines it has received on a per capita basis. New York has received 33% more than Texas. California, 23% and Florida 26%. And, of course, the District of Columbia has received a disproportionate share, getting 33% more than Texas.


I contacted a number of Texas Congressional offices yesterday and found none that were even aware Texas is getting shorted. Two told me they were too busy with the impeachment to look into it right now. It is a sad day when the hyper-partisan wargames in the Capitol take precedent over saving the lives of constituents.

One office did call HHS and got a number of lame excuses, including that Texas was getting less because we have a higher percentage of our population under 18, who are not approved for the vaccine yet. So, I quickly ran those numbers and it makes only a small difference. But even if that is the basis, Texas has still been shorted by, at least, 300,000 doses.

Even being shorted, Texas is doing a better job of getting the vaccine out as compared to other states. It has vaccinated the most people and was the first state to surpass the one million vaccination mark. It also has vaccinated the most people on a per capita basis among the ten largest states and ranks 7th in the percentage of vaccines it has administered of those received.

If the federal government is going to vary from a straight proration of the vaccines by state, it should be sending the vaccine to those places currently suffering the worst outbreaks and to the states doing the best job getting the doses in people's arms. On both counts, Texas should be getting more, not less, of the doses available.

Hopefully, our U.S. Senators and House members will find some time next week to take a break from their hyper-partisan intramural games and ensure that Texans are getting their fair share of the vaccines. If you have some time over the next couple of days, you might give them a call and make that "suggestion."



Home Country  
with Slim Randles

## Danged Virus Thingie

"You know," said Herb, "when this danged virus thingie is over and we all have our shots and are guaranteed to live longer than anyone else wants us to, there is only one thing I'll miss."

Doc, our morning coffee medical expert, put down his cup and looked at Herb, who was not our medical expert but a retired pawn shop owner.

"You mean you're going to miss this pandemic, Herb? It's terrible. What on earth will you miss about it?"

Herb glanced around the philosophy counter here at the Mule Barn truck stop and smiled.

"I will slightly miss its contributions to our more colorful swearing."

"Oh ..." said the cowboy, Steve. "because we cussed it so much?"

"Not a bit, Steve. No, it was in the use of new words and phrases. For example, as a cussing epithet, who could outdo someone who says, "I want that virus vaccination now, PANDEMIC!"

We nodded.

"Or ... why don't you just go COVID yourself .... 19 times!"

Doc nodded. "Good one, Herb."

"I know," said Windy, "how about let's VIRUSTICATE ourselves over to the bar and have a CORONA?"

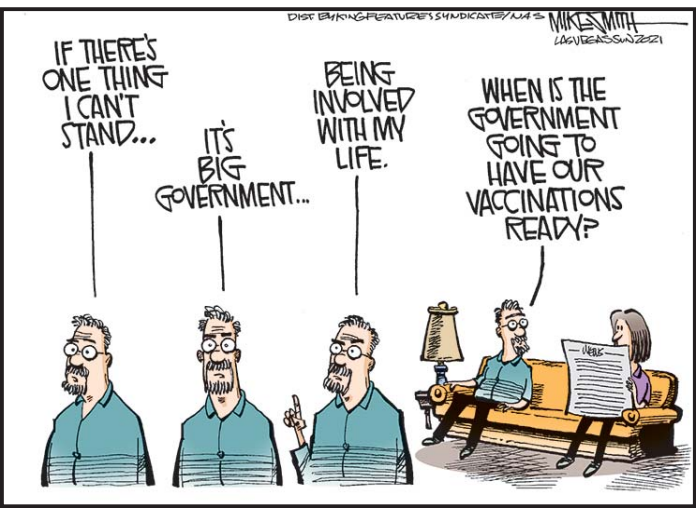
"That sounds like fun, Windy," said Doc, "but at my age it'd be just my luck to virusticate myself over to the bar and have a coronary, instead!"

Windy had a quizzical look on his old bearded face. "Well ... how about a Budweiser then?"

"That does sound wiser," Doc said.

Sometimes, there is a danger that expanding the language can create its own problems. That's why we drink coffee here.

Brought to you by Desperate Season, from award-winning author Maryann Miller, a mystery found at Amazon.com.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## COVID-19 vaccine pace rises while statewide hospitalizations drop

The number of people in Texas hospitalized with COVID-19 has declined more than 28 percent in the past month, according to the Texas Department of Health Services. As of Feb. 7, Texas hospitals were treating 9,957 COVID-19 patients, down from nearly 14,000 a month ago. The number of new cases in the past week was 123,239 — a 22 percent drop from the record high of 158,922 the week of Jan. 10, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

At the same time new cases and hospitalizations were decreasing, the number of Texans getting their first dose of vaccine crossed the 2.3 million mark as of Sunday, according to TDHS. That's 700,000 more initial shots in a week. Those who are now fully vaccinated reached 733,287 as of Sunday.

The state received 401,750 first doses from the federal government this week, which are going out to 358 providers in 135 counties. That includes 85 hub providers, according to TDHS.

### NOT EVERYONE IS ON BOARD TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE

About one-third of Texans polled in a recent statewide survey by the University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs say they are unlikely to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. More than one out of five respondents were adamant they will not receive the vaccine.

Kirk P. Watson, founding dean of the Hobby School, said he hopes the survey will help public health officials address concerns of those unwilling to be vaccinated.

"More than 60% of people who are hesitant to be



immunized had concerns about potential side effects and worried that the vaccine is too new," Watson said in a news release. "Understanding why people resist immunization is an important step in reaching herd immunity." Most of those polled who say they are certain or likely to refuse vaccination asserted they don't trust the government or pharmaceutical companies to ensure the vaccine is safe. Health experts say that between 70% and 90% of the population must be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, according to the press release.

On the flip side, more than 40% of Texans say they will get the vaccine when available, or they have already gotten at least one dose, while 18% said they would probably get it.

### ABBOTT GETS BEHIND RURAL BROADBAND EXPANSION

Gov. Greg Abbott made expanded broadband service an emergency item during the current legislative session, saying it is necessary for providing telemedicine care to patients regardless of where they live, and for improving educational access.

"From medicine to education to business, broadband access is not a luxury — it is an essential tool that must be available for

all Texans," Abbott said in his State of the State address last week.

As previously reported, a pair of lawmakers intend to file legislation aimed at expanding critical broadband services throughout the state. Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, and Rep. Trent Ashby, R-Lufkin, are calling for creation of a statewide broadband plan no later than a year after enabling legislation is passed. Texas is one of only six states that does not have such a plan.

One Capital Highlights reader, a Houston resident who owns a second home on Lake Murvaul in Panola County, recently wrote to bemoan the lack of connectivity in rural East Texas: "It's a no-internet/no cell bars jungle over there. At Lake Murvaul, I have installed a cell phone booster on a 20-foot antenna so that my phone has enough signal strength to be a hot spot. Then I had to upgrade my "unlimited" plan, only to find out that after 30GB of being a passable hot spot, it meters down to a trickle that won't even let me view the latest Bernie Sanders meme." He added, "I have parked in the lot at the library just to download Kindle books and Prime Video. Primitive!"

### STATE REP SEEKS TO CLARIFY DEADLINE FOR TPIA REQUESTS

Rep. Giovanni Caprigliano, R-Southlake, has filed an open government bill designed to more clearly explain "business days" for governmental entities responding to the Texas Public Information Act. According to Kelley Shannon, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, during the COVID-19 pandemic some governments refused to respond to TPIA requests if their physical offices were closed, even if the staff was working remotely. This legislation would give clearer guidelines for response days. It's House Bill 1416.

### EMERGENCY SNAP FOOD BENEFITS EXTENDED THROUGH FEBRUARY

Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits have been extended through February, with \$300 million in benefits provided. The move came after the Texas Health and Human Services Commission received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which funds the program. Recipients will also continue to receive a 15% increase in their total benefits, at least until June.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

### Such a Good Book

I've always loved librarians.

I remember my first school librarian. Her name was Mrs. Scheau, and she rode a bicycle to school, back when this was still a novelty. She wore a plaid skirt every day, and she was enormously kind.

I had no idea how to find a book I would like to read (and isn't this still a challenge?) But Mrs. Scheau would always have a suggestion when I walked in.

"What should I read next, Mrs. Scheau?" And she would hand me the next book.

I remember the feeling of getting those books from the library and putting them in my book bag (school backpacks were not yet in vogue). We were not allowed to read in class, and we were not allowed to read at recess, so I had to wait until I got home to open the book. I remember that anticipation, the feeling that there was a treasure waiting for me under the protective plastic cover.

Recently, I noticed I was not reading at all. I don't know how this happened, but my attention span shortened to the point where I couldn't seem to read more than a few hundred words at a time. When I was tired, it was so much easier to watch a late-night comedian or a short documentary or browse Facebook. Before I knew it, it was time to go to bed, and I hadn't watched or read anything I cared about or would remember.

"Does anyone know of a book club I could join?" I wrote on a community Facebook page.

It should not have surprised me that the person who wrote back (within minutes!) was a retired librarian, Katy.

"We have one you can join. I'll send you the info!"

Just like that, I was the member of a book club. What I did not realize until the first meeting was that this book club was comprised almost entirely of retired librarians.

It's called the "Any Book Book Club" because there is no assigned reading. Everyone just shows up and reviews whatever book they read that week. Because they are librarians, the books they read are interesting and diverse. An added bonus is that, on Zoom, I get a peek into the librarians' houses, filled with books. And they are almost always enthusiastic.

"It's such a good book!" Bernadette, one of the most enthusiastic of the librarians will say every week—sometimes more than once. "And the library has it!"

Katy, the leader of the group, says, "It doesn't matter what you read, but you have to read something!"

I'm still finding it hard to read. I've had to miss a couple meetings because I got no reading done that week. But most of the time now—when I am tempted to watch late-night television or catch up on cat videos—I think of my panel of librarians, earnestly talking about the books they love, and I go to my chair and make it past the first few hundred words until I am happily lost again in a good book.

This week, I am reading a sad book. It is beautifully written and brings me into a world I would never have seen if the book had not taken me. I know I will cry before the book is finished.

I am already looking forward to holding the book in front of the camera on my computer, showing my little panel of librarians the cover, and telling them enthusiastically, "It's such a good book!"

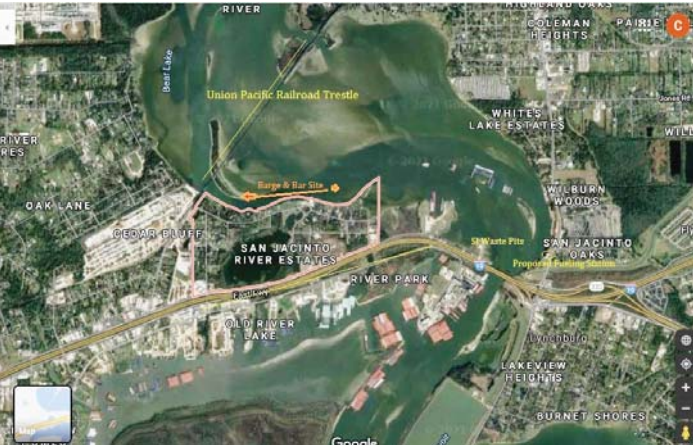
And then I'll ask them, "What should I read next?"

Till next time, Carrie  
Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com



# San Jacinto River Work,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



On the map above, orange highlights show the San Jacinto River Estates, proposed barge facility at left, old Riverside Inn at center, Waste Pits Superfund site at center, and the marine fueling station work and storage tanks at right.

to these projects, as a flood mitigation zone and park. It is currently under a “buyout” by HC Flood Control.

Stone points out in her letter that the new barge site is located between the UP Railroad trestle to the north, and the I-10 highway bridge to the south. She suggests that under flood conditions, which are common with heavy storms or hurricanes, that both pathways are susceptible to damage, as has been seen last year with the closing of the I-10 bridge twice. She says that more barges, either from these projects or others, can only mean more chances for damage from break-away barges and ships.

She says that theTim-Tom Land company has applied for a liquor license from the state for a bar and restaurant, but she points out that the Riverside Inn is now closed due to heavy damage from previous devastating floods.

Stone points out that the area known as SJRE (San Jacinto River Estates) has numerous pipelines running through it, and they are subject to damage in flood conditions. In fact, in 1994 a flood ruptured pipelines under the river, and the resulting fires and flood waters took days to control, at the expense of the environment.

In her letter, Stone continues “Since the SJRE subdivision is to be developed by Harris County as a flood mitigation zone

and park and has suffered many devastating flood events the remaining residents have been informed they cannot receive any permits for construction or repairs. The barge facility construction and the restaurant/bar repair and construction has thus far taken place without permits or oversight by Harris County or the US Army Corps of Engineers. Harris County and Commissioner Adrian Garcia’s Pct. 2 representatives were unaware of these developments until informed by our community members. On 01/15/21 HC Permits Lead Enforcement Coordinator Debjani Chakravarty issued Tim-Tom Landings LLC a notice to stop construction immediately and a notice of forthcoming inspections. Despite the 1/15/21 notice and follow up stop construction notices construction has continued to present. A review of the US Army Corps of Engineers public notice page does not reflect TimTom Land Holdings or any other entity that has applied for a permit for this construction...” “The total disregard for all rules, regulations, laws and notices from Harris County to stop construction by the individuals involved in the barge facility construction and the restaurant/bar repair and construction raises additional concerns for our community members as to their future operation of the facilities since the individuals have already proven they do not

feel they are subject to any rule, regulation or law.”

Stone says that Tim-Tom Land also purchased the ZXP storage tanks on the eastern banks of the San Jacinto River a short distance from the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site and I-10 East SJ Bridge, for the purposes of creating a marine industry fueling station.

“This will conceivably increase the marine industry traffic in the area and bring fueling transmission lines and equipment into what is known to be the most hydraulically violent area of the San Jacinto River during a flooding event imposing the additional dangers of spills and explosions to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, the I-10 East SJ Bridge and our communities.

This area is also soon to be subject to a considerable amount of construction activity related to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site remediation, the new I-10 East SJ Bridge construction and I-10 East Improvement project, adding into this mix a marine fueling station and additional marine traffic would, logically, seem to be a very dangerous and unnecessary component.”

Stone is opposed to all of this construction, and has asked the government entities to help stop the work.

Photos courtesy of Greg Moss and C.H.I.C. group.

# 5 North Shore senior varsity football players sign with colleges



On February 3, five North Shore Senior High School varsity football players signed national letters of intent to their respective colleges.

Jaeden Roberts- The University of Alabama; Edzavier Deblaw- Trinity Valley Community College; Tonie Bass- Culver-Stockton College; Brannon Davis- Southwestern Assemblies of God University; and Charles King- Houston Baptist University.

We would like to congratulate these young men and wish them the best of luck!

# YMCA continues services,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

comfortable enough to come into the building. This way people still have access to our group exercise online, this does not include access to the facility, but they pay twenty-five dollars a month for the online platform called HTX that connects you to YMCA services.

Larnelle Morgan, Regional youth and family director, explained that the YMCA offers a wide variety of programs, high-lighting sports specifically. He said “we are big on basketball here, but we offer volleyball flag football and soccer. We also offer monthly clinics but are

also trying to dabble in adult sports or something towards the age group of 12-15.” He explained that in the way of safety protocols what has changed is that “we have a full time attendant in our healthy living space and they are sanitizing equipment and making sure that we are doing our part to make sure the community is safe.” Bains said “we want to welcome the community. We just have to make sure they are safe” For the gymnasium and the functional studio, racket ball, and group x classes reservations must be placed in order to use. Once their

pool opens reservations will also be required.

The locker rooms, showers and saunas are still open to members though and there are 2 staff members there to keep those specific areas clean. Ariana Mendoza explained that for people who are looking to possibly become members but are afraid to commit, there is a one-day guest pass for those wanting to explore the facility and all it has to offer. She stated “The YMCA is more than just a gym, although COVID has made it hard we are trying to transition back into the social aspect that is the Y.”

# OBITUARIES

## WANDA J. GIDEON FALLIN

Wanda J. Gideon Fallin, 87, of Baytown, passed away Thursday, January 28, 2021, at her residence after a courageous battle with cancer.

Wanda was born April 2, 1933, in Chandler, TX, to parents; Avery and Vivian Welch Gideon. She is a former resident of Houston and has resided in Baytown for the past 10 years. She received her Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Houston and was a retired teacher from Channelview ISD after 20 years of teaching fourth grade. Wanda also enjoyed cruises, gardening, crossword puzzles, and her cats.

Mrs. Fallin was preceded in death by her father: Avery Gideon, mother: Vivian Welch Gideon Wilson, and her husband: Boyce Fallin.



She is survived by her sons: Stephen Fallin and wife Carol, Richard Fallin and fiancée Miriam, and Jerry Fallin and wife Julie, grandchildren: Scott Fallin, Chris Fallin, Jason Fallin, Jeremy Fallin, Joseph Fallin, Alexis Fallin, and Jillian Fallin, great-grandchildren: Olivia Pribbanow, Malia Fallin, Grace Fallin, and Jackson Fallin, special friend: John Hesck, and numerous other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, at the Crespo & Jirrels Funeral Home Chapel. A private service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at the Crespo & Jirrels Funeral Home Chapel with interment following at Brookside Memorial Cemetery in Houston. A celebration of life is planned for a later date.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Wanda J Fallin, please visit our floral store.

Crespo & Jirrels Funeral and Cremation Services  
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www.crespoandjirrels.com



This drone view shows the proposed new Barge area at the center, among the old wood pilings, Meadowbrook Park and River Road to the left, and the shuttered Riverside Inn in the foreground.



A pile driver and another crane are on site of the new Barge facility, ready to place and drive the steel piles shown under the crane arm.

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Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from February 15 to February 22 until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link  
http://wbauctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/ current to sell for cash only the contents of Unit H-15, William Rank, in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is house hold items and etc.....

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AMENDED NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION  
FOR AN AIR QUALITY PERMIT

PERMIT NUMBER: 43774

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Southwest Shipyard, L.P., 18310 Market Street, Channelview, TX 77530-3858, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to Air Quality Permit Number 43774, which would authorize modification to and continued operation of the Ship Building & Repair Facility located at 18310 Market Street, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on July 15, 2020. The existing facility will emit the following contaminants: exempt solvents, hazardous air pollutants, organic compounds and particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit which, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the permit because it meets all rules and regulations. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Houston regional office, and at [http://www.swslp.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Permit\\_43774\\_Public\\_Notice.pdf](http://www.swslp.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Permit_43774_Public_Notice.pdf), beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk Street Suite H, Houston, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comment or to ask questions about the application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. You may submit additional written public comments within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice in the manner set forth in the AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION paragraph below.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. Because no timely hearing requests have been received, after preparing the response to comments, the executive director may then issue final approval of the application. The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or is on a mailing list for this application, and will be posted electronically to the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID).

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. When they become available, the executive director's response to comments and the final decision on this application will be accessible through the Commission's Web site at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application which is provided at the top of this notice. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.789722&lng=-95.065277&zoom=13&type=r>.

MAILING LIST. You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to obtain additional information on this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/), or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Southwest Shipyard, L.P. at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Elizabeth Stanko, Project Manager at (713) 244-1039.

Amended Notice Issuance Date: February 1, 2021

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# ASK THE EXPERT

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

**Diamond Jim:** “Is it difficult to become a jeweler?”



Over the past 40 years, I’ve been asked this question countless times. Thank you for asking and allowing me to respond in writing. Most people equate being a “jeweler” with nearly any position in a jewelry store or jewelry manufacturing business. The Oxford Dictionary defines the word “jeweler” as “a person or company that makes or sells jewels or jewelry”. Technically, the term or title of jeweler requires a little more definition. Someone who sells jewelry is a Sales Associate for a jewelry company and is not necessarily a jeweler. Personally, I find that it takes either the completion of formal education from an accredited institute, or many, many years of experience, or both, to earn the title of ‘Jeweler’.

The GIA (Gemological Institute of America) is one of the most respected teaching institutions in the world in the arena of gems including diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, semi-precious gems and pearls. A formal education from the GIA will give you the educational acumen (basis) to begin what can be a very lucrative and rewarding career as a jeweler. Some of the career options available, once you have your schooling behind you, are; Jewelry Sales Associate, Gemologist, Bench Jeweler, Jewelry Appraiser, Jewelry Auction Specialist, Gem Buyer, Jewelry Designer / Manufacturer, and more.

An inexperienced jewelry sales associate tends to learn at the expense of a jewelry store owner and staff who must teach that person the basics of jewelry including how it’s designed and created, how it’s displayed, the content of the gold, platinum or silver metals in the jewelry, and some knowledge of the gems or stones that are set in the jewelry.

The GIA offers a learning environment that employs some of the best jewelry educators and lab equipment in the world. The cost of a formal GIA jewelry education is surprisingly low compared to a four year Bachelor’s Degree at a university. For example, check out the beginners course entitled “Applied Jewelry Professional™”. Obtaining the Applied Jewelry Professional™ credential is one of the fastest and most effective ways to improve your understanding of gems and jewelry, and covers essential knowledge related to diamonds and popular colored gems. You can earn your credential via eLearning by taking three online courses....Jewelry Essentials, Diamond Essentials, and Colored Stones Essentials

Some say that the Graduate Gemologist credential is the most prestigious credential in the industry. The GIA Graduate Gemologist program gives you the comprehensive knowledge of diamonds and colored stones you need to succeed anywhere in the jewelry business. You’ll gain both technical expertise and practical skills to evaluate gemstones by the 4Cs (cut, color, clarity, and carat weight), the International Diamond Grading System™, and the Colored Stone Grading System.

For more information, please logon to [www.GIA.edu](http://www.GIA.edu). If I can be of any assistance to you as you begin your amazing path towards a knowledgeable and financially rewarding career in the jewelry industry, please let me know.

*Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the IJO for many years. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).*

*Thank you for reading the “Ask Diamond Jim” column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!*

*If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

## New Housing,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vide a significant investment in the effort to provide affordable housing for all who live and work in Harris County.”

The Hollows is expected to begin leasing in 2022. Rents will range from \$384 to \$848 for a one-bedroom/one-bath unit, \$532 to \$1,065 for a two-bedroom/two-bath, and \$615 to \$1,230 for a three-bedroom/two-bath unit.

“We are in a housing crisis. Families who were first displaced by natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey are now facing difficulty staying in the places they grew up because of rising costs,” said Harris County Precinct Two Commissioner Adrian Garcia. “As we face the economic impacts of COVID-19, which is placing additional strain on families, I am proud that we are coming together to bring new, quality housing units for Harris County families.”

This development is one of several housing communities being developed by HCHA in partnership with the private and public sectors to serve families recovering from Hurricane Harvey’s aftermath.

“The Texas General Land Office is committed to helping Texas communities recover from the widespread damage caused by Hurricane Harvey,” said Heather Lagrone, Director of Disaster Recovery, Texas General Land Office. “The Hollows is one of many multifamily developments the GLO is funding with long-term disaster recovery assistance to restore affordable rental housing for Texas families. We are very pleased these funds will provide an additional 192 units of quality housing for families in Harris County.”

The total development cost for The Hollows is \$39.35 million, comprised of \$9.9 million in private equity funding arranged by Hunt Capital Partners, LLC, and \$17.07 million debt financing provided by Citibank Community Capital, as well as \$11.12 million in financing provided by Harris County Community Services Department using Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery funds from the Texas General Land Office and a \$1.2 million deferred developer fee.

“LDG was founded more than 25 years ago based on our belief that everyone deserves a quality place to live. We are committed to ensuring more communities have access to safe, stable and quality housing that can serve as the foundation for a better future.”

## K-9 KYRA,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hides all throughout the city of Houston, and she was certified with the NNDDA at Greenspoint Mall.”

Kyra who struggled with multiple health conditions, retired around October of 2020. Explaining that most dogs get depressed after retirement

ation for improving outcomes that strengthen the entire community,” said Justin Hartz, Development Director, LDG Development.

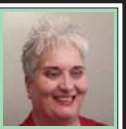
HCHA is currently developing more than 650 additional housing units scheduled to be brought into the Harris County housing rental market in 2022.

For over 40 years, HCHA, a premier housing provider, has provided quality, livable, and sustainable communities to Harris County residents, including families with school-aged children, seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities. HCHA has developed ten housing communities and has four more housing developments under construction. HCHA administers more than 4,500 Housing Choice Vouchers providing rental assistance to eligible families. Learn more at [www.hchatexas.org](http://www.hchatexas.org).

Following Hurricane Harvey, Commissioner George P. Bush and the Texas General Land Office were appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to lead the historic housing recovery efforts. In addition to short-term housing in partnership with Federal Emergency Management Agency, the GLO also administers CDBG-DR funds from HUD on behalf of the state of Texas. HUD allocated \$5.676 billion in funds to rebuild and protect housing across 49 Hurricane Harvey affected Texas counties. More than \$14 billion has been allocated for recovery following Hurricanes Rita, Dolly, Ike, the 2011 wildfires, the 2015 and 2016 floods, and Hurricane Harvey.

LDG Development is the nation’s largest developer of affordable housing. The company was founded more than 25 years ago by Chris Dischinger and Mark Lechner based on their shared belief that everyone deserves a quality place to live. Headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, the company has created more than 16,000 units of high-quality affordable housing for working families and active seniors in seven states. The work of LDG is supported by more than 100 employees who are in the company’s Louisville, Kentucky; Austin, Texas; Nashville, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia offices. For more information about LDG Development, please visit [www.ldgdevelopment.com](http://www.ldgdevelopment.com).

## CHARLOTTE’S WEB



## Be a Good Neighbor

Recently while riding through the community, I noticed on both sides of the street, there were numerous cars parked in front of homes making it very difficult to proceed. I started thinking that if there were an emergency, how would first responders get down the street. If the streets are this crowded, can neighborhood children ride their bikes? I thought about the older neighbors who like to sit out in their yards and visit with others. With this many vehicles, I realized that many occupants have enough going on at home, that they may not even know their neighbors as their lives are busy enough with those they live with.

As I looked around, I saw youth attempting to play basketball in the street. I could tell they were baffled to the lack of room to play. I saw some young children using chalk in the street to play games. Their moms were near as to watch to be sure traffic was not going to interfere. I also so people with what appeared to be the end of the day affects of a yard sale. I witnessed neighbors arguing about the kids playing in the streets because of an occasional ball that hits a vehicle.

I realized that while the families who live here are so very different than those who grew up blocks away just 20 or 30 years ago. In some of the neighborhoods, there are chickens in the streets as well as plenty of stray dogs and cats. I turned the corner and saw a goat tied up to a fence and just blocks away, a horse was tied to a gate. I took another turn and what did I find? A casket. Yes, a casket sitting in the front yard under an awning. (I later saw a post on social media that a man went and dug up a grave, had the remains cremated and shipped to loved ones and he was trying to sell the pre-used casket.)

Many neighborhoods have Home Owner Associations or Civic Clubs which have rules for residents to follow. Be a good neighbor, talk to your neighbors and explain that if all of the street is blocked by vehicles and there was a need for a firetruck or ambulance, the vehicles blocking the street could prevent assistance from arriving.

There are some neighbors who do not seem to understand that there are laws preventing the sale of foods prepared in a home and sold on the streets or in parking lots. If you are one of those, please look up Texas Cottage Law and get details. Businesses are required to have health department training and certifications, as well as be responsible to collect and pay sales taxes. Yet if nobody has told these individuals, how do they know they are breaking the law?

Often when someone moves to the community, they do not know anyone here. Be a good neighbor and introduce yourself and offer to answer questions. Be kind. Care about others.

## NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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