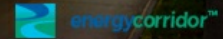


DISTRICT DISCOVERY



April 28, 2022

Common Bond bistro, brasserie, bakery coming to The Energy Corridor District in June!

Ribbon cutting and grand opening planned for early June

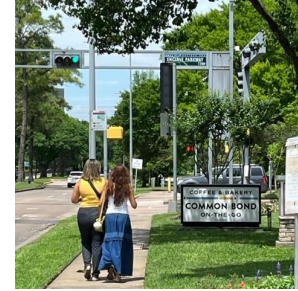


George Joseph's entire life and passion has been about bonding people.

It began with his life's passion in the drug and alcohol rehabilitation business and now extends to his other job as

CEO and owner of Common Bond bakery and coffee shop.

"At Common Bond, you bond over food and it's the same in rehab, it's a bonding and spiritual experience," Joseph said, standing at his soon-to-open Common Bond On-The-Go location on Eldridge Parkway.



Joseph, a native of Lockport, La., a small bayou town in Lafourche Parish, moved to Houston in 1987 and spent most of his early years working exclusively in the drug and rehab business.

Now, though, the two businesses he owns, Common Bond and the Positive Recovery Center, interchange ideas. Common Bond uses produce grown at the rehabilitation center, a kind of farm-to-table concept. And pastries leftover at the end of the day go to the rehab center.

"The clients love it," he said smiling as he watched construction workers redo the interior on Eldridge Parkway.

The new location will meet Common Bond standards and include a kitchen and drive thru. The indoor and outdoor seating will make the place hum, Joseph noted, marveling at all that has happened since he bought the bakery in 2015.

Since then, he's opened a commissary _ a central location where all the baked goods and bread are made _ as well as 11 additional locations, adding to the first cafe in Montrose. The COVID-19 pandemic forced him to rethink the concept, pivoting to the smaller drive thru concept.

The Energy Corridor District location will be the fourth in that model and will have indoor and outdoor seating, in addition to the drive thru. Two more locations are in the works and then, Joseph said, he will take a break from expansion.

"I like this location because it's on the right side of the street leading toward the freeway," Joseph said.





Upper left: George Joseph stands inside what will soon be The Energy Corridor District's Common Bond.

Lower left: George Joseph stands outside the Common Bond on Eldridge Parkway.

Right: Workers do construction to build out the Common Bond set to open in early June.

King's Head Pub celebrates 10-year anniversary with live music, street festival



The King's Head Pub at 1809 Eldridge Parkway celebrated its 10-year anniversary on April 23 and April 24. Residents and patrons came out to drink, listen to live music, shop at street vendors and enjoy BBQ and crawfish.

Hurricane Harvey. Pandemic. Freeze. More pandemic.

"It's been an interesting decade so far," Rachel Freeman, general manager of [King's Head Pub](#) at



1809 Eldridge Parkway, noted wryly while busily planning the bar's 10-year anniversary bash.

Celebrating a 10-year anniversary takes on a whole new meaning when you've plodded on despite the many obstacles that have made running a small business even more challenging.

And so Freeman and her team went all out: live music, games, vendors, trivia, drinks and lots of fun.

The goal, as always, was to bring out residents and patrons and take that community pub feeling to the next level. And they did come out on the weekend of April 23, enjoying crawfish, BBQ, street vendors and live music, all in celebration of the neighborhood pub's 10-year anniversary.

"Everyone in this area is very supportive," Freeman said, noting the pub's increased dependency on residents as a main source of business.

That support, though, has been mutual. King's Head has provided the community with a place to go in times of need and the residents have responded by allowing the pub to successfully pivot during the pandemic from an establishment that heavily relied on corporate clients for revenue to one that could more reliably get some of that needed business from the neighborhood dwellers.

During Harvey, recalled Ryan Harris, a former employee and long-time patron of King's Head, the pub was the only place open, giving folks welcome relief during a stressful time.

Then, during the pandemic, the pub remained closed during the lockdown, but quickly reopened once it was allowed. It then began holding outdoor community events, like monthly markets, and special giveaways so people would know there was a place to go nearby.

"It showed people this place was a 'pub' because most people didn't know this place existed," Harris said.

Finally, during the February 2021 freeze, King's Head stayed open for the first day or so since it had power. Freeman said that was the most difficult time because staffing was light _ only she and one other employee were able to walk over _ and residents were flocking in, even bringing their dogs along, for a drink and some warmth.

Freeman was finally forced to close when they lost water completely and she found herself using bottled Fiji water to flush the toilets.

"I will never forget that," she said laughing.

Now, as King's Head celebrated 10 years in The Energy Corridor District, Freeman and Harris are thankful the pub has been able to weather all the storms of the past few years, but note business is still not where it was pre-pandemic.

Corporate clientele have not returned in huge numbers so happy hours aren't as lively. Hybrid workplaces mean those corporate functions will not likely ever return to the level they once were. Harris even calls them "the unicorn."

Still, happy hour is picking up a little, Freeman said, noting this is crucial because the bar business depends on lunch feeding happy hour which feeds the late-night crowd. They are interdependent and the pub needs all of them to be successful.

And the reliance on residential customers has also changed other parts of the business model, she said. For the first time, liquor sales are higher than beer sales since patrons don't always need to drive.

"The whole place has changed that much," Freeman said.

Now, as they celebrated 10 years, business is looking better. "It's not where it needs to be but it's moving in the right direction," she said.



Energy Corridor history on display at Barker Reservoir Park



The Harris County Historical Commission, Harris County Commissioner R. Jack Cagle and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers unveiled April 21 three historic interpretative plaques at Barker Reservoir Park.

Each plaque describes a different part of the area's history that predates the

creation of the reservoir in the 1940s. The Barker and Addicks reservoirs were strategically built at the confluence of Buffalo Bayou and South Mayde Creek to protect downtown Houston from flooding after multiple such events destroyed commerce and infrastructure.

"I get to reap the benefits of this project," said Cagle, whose Precinct 4 includes the reservoir, noting the importance of learning and understanding history to both build on past successes and avoid repeating mistakes that were made.

The historic commission plans to do that and the Barker Reservoir plaques are the first three of a larger pilot program to place more than 40 plaques across the county.

The first plaque, titled Wheaton's Ford on the San Felipe Trail, commemorates the home and traveler's inn built on Buffalo Bayou by Joel and Elizabeth Wheaton. The inn was built on more than 4,600 acres of land given to the couple by Stephen F. Austin in 1831. The Wheatons also had a team of oxen they used to help wagons laden with commercial goods headed for the Houston market cross the muddy bayou and climb the steep embankment. They also ranched and farmed the land.

A second plaque tells the story of the 1840s, when poverty and social unrest in Europe led to a mass migration of Germans. Landing in Galveston, they traveled north on steamboats to Houston and continued further inland along the San Felipe Trail and the Wheaton's Inn. Many continued west to settle in towns such as New Braunfels. But many remained in the area and built vibrant communities in Harris County along White Oak Bayou and Spring Branch and Bear creeks.

The final plaque speaks of the post-Civil War years and the migration of former slaves after Juneteenth, named for June 19, 1865 when Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and informed Texans that the slaves had been freed. Thousands of freed slaves took to the roads, turning east along the San Felipe Trail, passing through what is now the Barker reservoir to make their way to Houston, where they established Freedmantown.

Future plaques will tell the story of 13,000 years of bison herding and slaughter by Native Americans who called what is now the Energy Corridor home.



Harris County Commissioner R. Jack Cagle speaks at a ceremony unveiling the historic plaques



Harris County Commissioner R. Jack Cagle presents proclamations to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Harris County Historical Commissioner



Mark Hermon unveiled the plaque about Wheaton's Ford. His family lived and ranched on the land that later became the Barker Reservoir

Houston City Council passes ordinance to help HPD increase public safety

Houston Police Department Westside Commander Reece Hardy believes a new ordinance passed by City Council in April will provide law enforcement with more tools to fight crime.



The [new ordinance](#), which amends an existing local law, requires certain businesses -- such as bars, nightclubs and convenience stores -- to install exterior security cameras and lighting outside their establishments. The businesses are also required to preserve the video for no less than 30 days and provide HPD with footage from the cameras within 72 hours of a request.

These requirements create "an unfavorable environment for criminal activity to thrive" and makes it easier for law enforcement to build cases "against businesses who fail to properly manage their properties by continually allowing criminal activity to occur," Commander Hardy said.

All businesses that fall under the rule will have 90 days to take the necessary measures to be in compliance.

City of Houston Public Works Wastewater Construction Project

The [City of Houston Public Works](#) wastewater construction project is proceeding on schedule.

The construction currently impacts Park Row and parts of Eldridge Parkway north of I-10. In these areas, the number of traffic lanes have been decreased to allow workers to complete the necessary pipeline work to divert stormwater drainage to a newer Turkey Creek facility.



If you have any questions or concerns please email info@energycorridor.org.

SAVE THE DATE PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING JUNE 9, 2022

The Energy Corridor District's quarterly public safety meeting will be held at noon

on June 9.

[Register today](#) to join this virtual meeting, which will include recent crime statistics for the area from the Houston Police Department and the District's public safety enforcement team from the Harris County Precinct 5 Constable's Office.

Live in the Woodlands? Work in The Energy Corridor District? Hop on the bus!

The Energy Corridor District collaborated with The Woodlands Township to launch a new commuter bus service.

For a \$13-round trip ticket you can ride The Woodlands Express from the Sawdust Park and Ride to one of six stops in the Energy Corridor.

Check with your employer to find out if they will subsidize your transit cost.

[Buy your ticket today](#) and make your commute more enjoyable!



SAVE THE DATE

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

ENERGY REALTY CLIENT APPRECIATION

MAY 14, 2022 7:00PM TO 10:30PM
725 BATESWOOD DR, HOUSTON, TX

77079

ALL TICKET SALES GO TO FAMILY POINT RESOURCES
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Upcoming events in The Energy Corridor District

April 27: [Energy Young Professional Expo and Networking](#)

May 6: [ECHOchestra A Tribute to Students concert](#)

May 7: [PDASH Fun Run](#)

May 14: [Family Point Resources outdoor movie night](#)

May 31-June 3: [Family Point Resources summer programs](#)

Do you have an event or story you want included in the newsletter?

The Energy Corridor District has two monthly newsletters, one for events and one for stories

If you have a story or event you would like to share in one of these publications please email Ramit Plushnick-Masti at rmasti@energycorridor.org.



District News

- [Sale of West Houston office building closes](#)
- [Company relocations disrupting Houston's office space market](#)
- [A flood of tech money could give carbon removal and Houston energy companies a big boost](#)
- [Are high prices beginning to cut into energy demand? Bears, bulls to square off in oil markets this week](#)
- [U.S. rig count continued its climb this week as Ukraine war drives demand](#)



About The Energy Corridor District

The Energy Corridor District is an advocate for one of Houston's premier business centers and destinations. Established in 2001 by the Texas Legislature as Harris County Improvement District #4, The District was created to promote, develop, encourage, maintain employment, commerce, transportation, housing, recreation, arts, entertainment, economic development, safety and the public welfare within its boundaries.

Home to the headquarters and regional offices of prominent global firms within the energy sector and beyond, the District consists of over 2,000 acres, stretching along IH-10 from Kirkwood Road to west of Barker Cypress Road, and extending south along Eldridge Parkway to south of Briar Forest Drive. The District also offers access to assets such as Buffalo Bayou, Terry Hershey Park, various recreational trails and adjacency to over 26,000 acres of parks and open space.



ADVOCACY,
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT,
LEADERSHIP,
AND MARKETING



BEAUTIFICATION
AND
MAINTENANCE



PLANNING,
INFRASTRUCTURE,
AND IDENTITY



PUBLIC SAFETY
AND SECURITY



TRANSPORTATION
AND MOBILITY

If you have news about a business that is located within the Energy Corridor District, let us know by responding to this email. We will gladly consider your submission for future e-newsletters.

www.energycorridor.org

