

DISTRICT DISCOVERY



June 29, 2022

Farmer's Market grand opening June 30!

GRAND OPENING
ENERGY CORRIDOR
FARMERS MARKET

DISCOVER NEW PANTRY FINDS AND BEYOND

30
JUN

EVERY 2ND, 3RD, 4TH
THURSDAY'S, 3:30-6:30 PM

1520 Eldridge Pkwy,
Houston, TX 77077
(Corner of Briar Forest & Eldridge)

YNFMA.ORG

NATURAL ORGANIC 100% VEGAN

The banner features a vibrant yellow and green background with a string of colorful triangular flags at the top. It includes a logo for YNFMA.ORG, three circular icons representing 'NATURAL', 'ORGANIC 100%', and 'VEGAN', and an illustration of a market stall with a striped awning and various produce.

The Energy Corridor District is excited to announce the [Your Neighborhood Farmer's Market](#) will hold its grand opening from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. June 30 at the corner of Eldridge Parkway and Briar Forest Drive.

The grand opening on Thursday will feature live music, organic, locally grown fruits and vegetables, artisan foods and crafts and a special proclamation welcoming them to the Energy Corridor from the office of [Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle](#).

Going forward, the farmer's market will be open every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday of the month, bringing back an amenity that residents, workers and businesses have missed for several years.

Common Bond grand opening planned for July 7

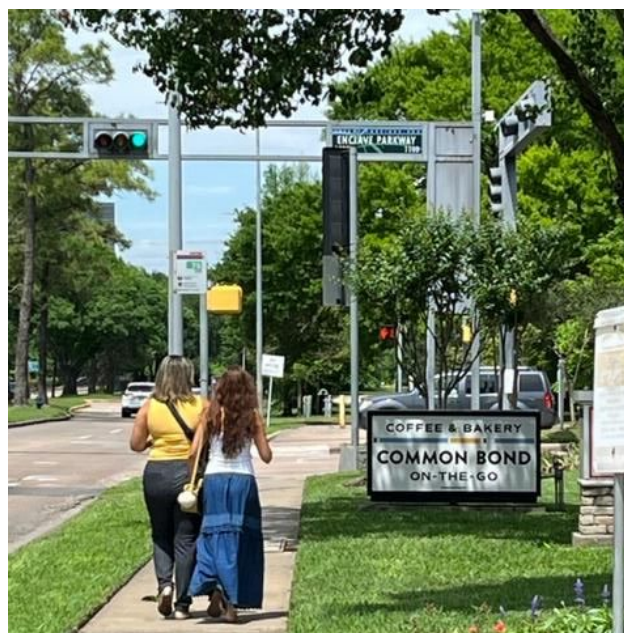


Common Bond On-The-Go is opening on Eldridge Parkway on July 7. Free chocolate chip cookies and gift card giveaways are all on the agenda!

Construction delayed the opening of [Common Bond On-The-Go](#) in The Energy Corridor District but the big day is almost here!

The Houston-based cafe chain will open July 7th with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, gift card giveaways and free chocolate chip cookies to the first 100 drive thru or in-store customers.

Common Bond at 1127 Eldridge Parkway will also offer Frozen Bond samples, a perfect iced coffee on a hot Houston day, and a chance to win gift cards on opening day!



Blue Agave Cantina opened in the middle of the pandemic and is now getting its groove



Just at a time in March 2020 when the country and the world were learning what it was like to live under pandemic lockdowns, Brian Smith was taking over an Energy Corridor business.

And not just any business, a restaurant, the type of enterprise hardest hit when everyone was forced to stay home and the state shutdown the ability for people to gather.

"Pathetic, awful, cried, kiss that money goodbye," Smith said recently recalling those initial days as he spoke over the loud din of a mid-week lunch crowd at [Blue Agave Cantina](#), the restaurant at 14555 Grisby Road that he bought in March 2020.

The deal was sealed just before the first lockdown in mid-March 2020 and initially Smith and his partners planned to do a quick makeover from the restaurant that had previously been there, Las Ventanas, and open within 30 days. But the lockdown forced that plan to change and the group decided to open the doors within 60 days.

Then 90 days.

Finally, eight months later, in November 2020, Blue Agave Cantina opened its doors.

"It's the most brutal business there is," Smith said, noting he has run multiple other restaurants, including an El Tiempo.

But during the pandemic, restaurants suffered more than usual.

"I mean I opened up and I saw thousands close," Smith said.

The initial lockdowns forced many to try takeout and delivery models for the first time. And the slow removal of restrictions, from 25 percent capacity to 50 percent and finally, months later, full capacity, made recovery slow.

Then, wave after wave of new, more contagious variants, made many reluctant to venture out. Some tried to create outdoor seating where none had existed before. And finally, after two years of restrictions and cautions made a more vaccinated public feel comfortable, and even eager, to eat out again, restaurants suffered staffing shortages, unable to find enough waitstaff, cooks and other essential employees to meet the sudden surge in demand.

Smith notes they are still not quite at what pre-pandemic business levels, but things are definitely looking better.

Paul Estrada, Blue Agave's general manager, believes his restaurant offers some unique menu items, including seafood favorites like ceviche and fish tacos made with red snapper.

An outdoor covered patio is also popular for parties and crowds.

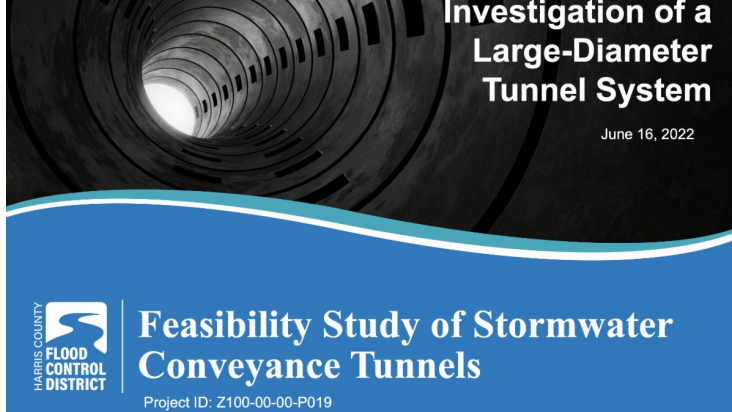
And although Blue Agave, like other restaurants in the area and nationwide, is still struggling with staffing shortages, as people head back to Energy Corridor offices, lunch crowds and happy hours are growing and Friday nights buzz.

"We have space for large company events and they seem to like that," Estrada said. "That's what helps set us apart."



Harris County Flood Control District studies stormwater tunnels for flood mitigation

The Harris County Flood Control District has completed the second phase of its investigation into a \$30-billion idea to build stormwater tunnels to fortify already existing flood mitigation



infrastructure in the region.

The flood control district plans to begin in early 2023 the \$20 million third phase of the investigation, which includes community engagement, advancing the design, quantifying the benefits and identifying potential funding sources.

Scott Elmer, the district's assistant director of operations, [recently presented](#) at a virtual public meeting hosted by the flood control district and explained the findings of the first two phases of the study and the work that will be done during the third phase.

"The addition of a large-diameter underground tunnel system to our stormwater management network has to the potential to significantly reduce flood risk to densely populated areas of Harris County," Elmer said during the virtual presentation.

The district has concluded that tunnels can be built despite the less absorbent clay soil in the region. It has also found there are some areas where such infrastructure will not move enough water to be beneficial compared to more traditional flood mitigation methods.

The first two phases revealed that tunnels significantly decrease the amount of land needed, about 34 acres compared to thousands of acres, to improve the flood mitigation infrastructure, making it far less disruptive to the community. It also is less harmful to the natural environment and wildlife than more traditional methods.

The tunnels would be between 30 feet to 45 feet in diameter and be built 80 to 100 feet underground. Such tunnels would carry exponentially more water than traditional sewage tunnels, Elmer said.

However, Elmer said the final solution will likely include a combination of tunnels, channel expansion and other traditional flood mitigation infrastructure.

The district will spend the rest of this year gathering public input on the findings before beginning the third phase. That phase will include working with other stakeholders, including the Port of Houston, to further the design and building out a business model that will help identify state and federal dollars available for the project.

\$13-round trip ride from The Woodlands to the Energy Corridor saves time, money, stress

The commuter bus service from The Woodlands to the Energy Corridor has added an additional stop at CITGO as it enters its sixth month of service.

The \$13-round trip ride from The Woodlands Sawdust Park and Ride to seven different Energy Corridor District stops has seen ridership slowly grow as employees begin returning to the office.

The Wifi-enabled buses offer commuters a convenient, stress-free trip to the Energy Corridor.

The bus has seven stops in the The Energy Corridor District: Energy Center 1&2, Shell, ConocoPhillips/McDermott, CITGO, Memorial and BP 1&2.



New departure times are as follows:

- Sawdust Park & Ride: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 6:30 a.m.
- Depart Energy Corridor: 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 4:45 p.m.
- Depart Energy Corridor - Friday: 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 4:45 p.m.

Buy your ticket [here](#).

Upcoming events in The Energy Corridor District



- June 30: [Farmer's Market grand opening](#)
- July 1: [Joey Trevino at Watson's House of Ales](#)
- July 7: [Common Bond On-The-Go grand opening](#)
- July 8: [District G Council Member Mary Nan Huffman and Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle Summer Movie Series](#)

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

- [Bridgeland unveils townhome community at future urban core](#)
- [Insight: Love it or hate it, natural gas is likely here to stay](#)
- [Shell launches renewable power brand in Texas under new company name](#)
- [How ConocoPhillips CEO stays steady in oil industry booms and busts](#)
- [Oil companies retake top spots in Chron 100](#)
- [Real estate industry turning its focus more to ESG](#)



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

