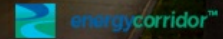


# DISTRICT DISCOVERY



March 23, 2022

## Memorial Drive strip mall property owner uses art to drive "energy" in the corridor

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Artist Thomas Witte climbs down a ladder as he paints a mural on the wall of the Memorial Drive strip mall that is home to Pooch in the City. The Energy Corridor District also has plans to use art to beautify the public realm.

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Christine Morrison is determined to show residents, visitors and everyone else that passes by her Memorial Drive strip mall that the energy in the Energy Corridor is more than just a name and more than oil and gas.

"The Energy Corridor may have started with energy



companies, but we have so much more with the energy of the people," she says, passionately describing the impetus behind her latest project.

The project? A giant mural on the side of the strip mall she co-owns with Dirk Smith, who also owns one of the property's signature stores, Pooch in the City.

The goal, Morrison said, is an "Instagram-able" wall where residents, school sports teams, Boy and Girl Scout groups and any other passers-by and visitors can take pictures and videos to post on social media.

"Just have fun with it," she says, laughing as she envisions teenagers shooting TikTok videos in front of the public wall.

Similar public art projects are popping up in other parts of Houston and The Energy Corridor District is also planning to fund and support such ventures in the coming years.

Recently, the District hired UpArt, a Houston-based public art consultancy firm, to research and recommend how public art could be used in the Energy Corridor. The [Public Art and Placemaking report](#) outlines ways public art can be used in the Energy Corridor and potential projects.

In the coming year, the District will have smaller murals painted on electric boxes in three intersections, similar to [six others](#) that have been done previously. The District will begin larger art projects in the future.

Morrison is excited her project complements these efforts.

Thomas Witte, a Cypress native, was excited to come down to Houston from his Bastrop home to bring Morrison's vision to life. A lifelong artist who enjoys all mediums, Witte previously painted a mural in Huntsville while attending school at Sam Houston State University and another in Austin. Now, though, is his chance to paint a large mural.

"I've always wanted to do a mural that size so having someone willing to take the chance on an artist like that is fun," Witte said.

Morrison, he said, wanted the mural to somehow depict Houston and the Energy Corridor's connection to energy. So Witte, who points to the sun as his main source of energy, decided to use color and the sun to bring that idea to life and also tell the story of Houston's diversity.

Now, as he paints, people walk by and comment on the colors and the design.

"You have 40-year-old men saying they love the pink," Witte said. "That was part of using so many colors and making it bring and sunny ... I wanted it to be the energy of the sun in the center."



Christine Morrison and Thomas Witte pose in front of the mural on the first day of painting (left). Witte and his Energy Corridor-resident aunt, also an artist, work together on the mural.

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## The Kolache Run is April 2! Free registration? Follow, like or comment on social media!

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The Energy Corridor District is once again hosting the Kolache Run! [Register today](#) for the April 2 event!

The District has five more free registrations for the 5K/10K race! Just follow, like or comment on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) and email us at [info@energycorridor.org](mailto:info@energycorridor.org) to be eligible for a free registration!

The Kolache Run starts at the Addicks Park and Ride and heads down Park Row. Get your exercise while enjoying all the Energy Corridor has to offer!

## HPD, Precinct 5 constable tips to avoid car burglaries

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Criminals often look for easy targets and burglarizing vehicles often fit the bill. But the Energy Corridor Public Safety and Security Service provided by the Harris County Precinct 5 Constable's Office says risk can be minimized.

Precinct 5 Sgt. Consuelo Rico and the Houston Police Department note such burglaries are a nuisance across Houston as well as in the Energy Corridor.



Following are some tips from HPD and Sgt. Rico on how to avoid such burglaries:

- If at home, park in a garage if possible and lock the door. Otherwise, try to park in a driveway.
- Always park in a well-lit area and take note of your surroundings.
- Use car alarms, kill switches, steering wheel locks, tracking devices and other theft deterrents.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle. Criminals especially target: guns, purses, laptops, jewelry and coins.
- Never leave a gun unsecured in your vehicle.
- **AND ALWAYS LOCK YOUR DOORS AND ROLL UP YOUR WINDOWS**

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## Outreach Center of West Houston: An Energy Corridor home for nearby nonprofits

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The [Outreach Center of West Houston](#) has spent the past two decades housing Energy Corridor nonprofits while providing area children and adults a safe place to convene.

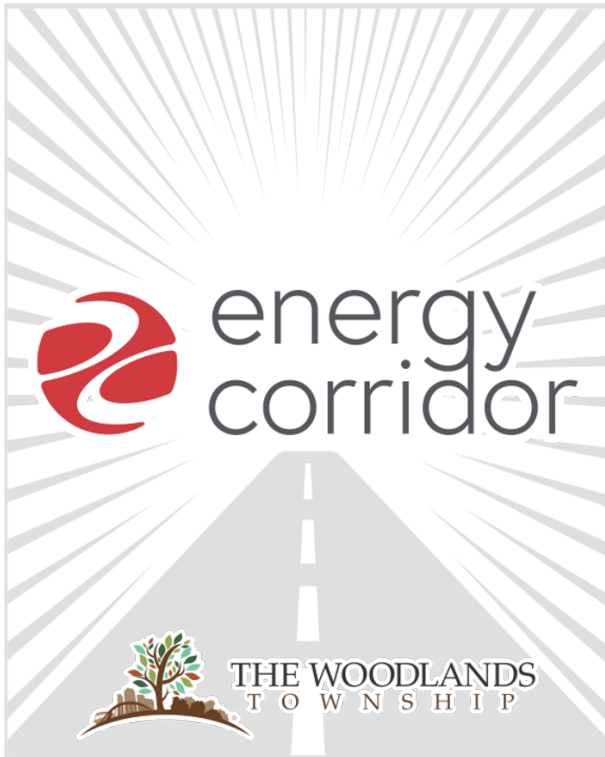
The center, located on Bateswood Drive, provides services, such as an after-school program for small children, an 8,000 book library and meeting space for Alcoholics Anonymous, at a significantly reduced cost, said Jorge Quinones, the outreach center's executive director.



The difference is made up through fund-raising activities throughout the year. One of the biggest events is a [casino night](#) to be held

at 6 p.m. on March 31. The funds raised at the casino night will be critical for the center's operations this year, Quinones said.

In addition, the center hosts a food bank every third Saturday of the month. The goal is to provide families a couple of weeks worth of food, including beef, pork and chicken, Quinones said.



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

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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!

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## Newsletter changes coming in April



The Energy Corridor District will change its newsletter distribution in April to better communicate with residents and business owners.

Beginning next month, the District will communicate using three different email platforms. One will be an email dedicated to area events and a second will be a monthly newsletter featuring stories and profiles about area businesses, people and other topics.

Finally, a third type of email will be used for urgent or emergency communications.

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**Energy Corridor of Houston  
Orchestra (ECHO) holds March 26  
small ensemble concert**

ECHO, the Energy Corridor's very own orchestra, is holding a small ensemble concert March 26 at the Campbell Learning Center.

The free concert will features the Donatti-Labuda duo and is part of the community concert series.

RSVP



## District News

- [Enbridge to move Houston offices to newer, smaller digs in Energy Corridor](#)
- [Shell's pilot office redesign in Houston offers a peek at the hybrid workspace of the future](#)
- [Texas offers a sneak peek of what return to the office might look like](#)
- [US will boost oil production in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but energy independence remains a dream](#)
- [Energy industry tech company raises \\$43 million, expanding Houston offices](#)



## 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.*

