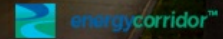


DISTRICT DISCOVERY



March 9, 2022

City of Houston wastewater construction project heads east on Park Row to Eldridge Parkway



City of Houston Public Works 18-month wastewater construction project to continue east on Park Row to the intersection of Eldridge Parkway. Lane closures in that area will begin before the end of the month.

The City of Houston's 18-month wastewater construction project will bring all of Park Row from four lanes down to two lanes from State Highway 6 east to Eldridge Parkway.

The new lane closures, which will begin

by the end of the month and last about six months, will run to the intersection of Park Row/North Dairy Ashford at the intersection of North Eldridge Parkway. There are already lane closures further west along Park Row.

The city's Public Works will move into the second phase of the project before the end of the month, leading to the additional lane closures.



The project will divert wastewater from the Park Ten Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to a newer sanitary system east of State Highway 6.

Lane closures currently start at Park Line Drive and run east past State Highway 6 to the Addicks Park and Ride. All businesses are accessible from the road.

Construction will intermittently impact different areas of the Energy Corridor, including parts of Eldridge Parkway to Memorial Drive.

More information about the project and traffic disruptions can be found on the [City of Houston Public Works' website](#).

From Romania to the Energy Corridor, female business owner becomes community staple



Laura Damian has been holding court in The Energy

Corridor District's Kroger shopping center for 21 years, shipping packages and letters from her Parcel Plus shop to the far reaches of the world.

Damian's real claim to fame, however, is the relationships she has nourished over the decades, becoming not only a go-to for local business owners and residents seeking reliable delivery services but also a friend, helper and trusted adviser to many in the community.



"I just love people. When you have a business for 20 years ... it comes to a point where you're just servicing the people," Damian said, noting that her margins are slim and the money is not what keeps her doors open.

"It's crazy. You become friends. It's more than the barman and the barber. You become the shrink," she says, laughing wryly as she bids farewell in Arabic to a woman who worked at a hairdresser nearby and is now working out of her home.

Damian, a businesswoman for more than two decades who has simultaneously emphasized community and globalization, exemplifies International Women's Day. And as the world celebrated Tuesday among broader March celebrations of Women's History Month, she reminisced about her years in business, turning the pages of a well-worn Atlas to point out all the places she ships to, her dog Zeus curled at her feet.

In four days in early March, she had already shipped packages to Romania, South Korea, Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica and even frozen sausage to a college student.

"How's your father doing," she asks a customer.

As the two discuss his condition and his ups and downs, Damian crinkles her brow, noting she had seen him days before.

"I'll tell him you asked," the woman responds, smiling.

People who once lived or worked in the Energy Corridor and have since moved away still come to Damian's shop, sometimes driving 20 or 30 minutes, just to have her ship their packages. They come from Katy and Clear Lake and sometimes further, she says proudly.

Damian opened her shop on Dec. 21, 2000. "I've been here 50 pounds ago," she says laughing at the years that have flown by, the changes that have occurred and the things that have remained the same, including her good friend who owns the State Farm next door.

Originally from Timisoara in West Romania, Damian married a Syrian man. The two lived in various places, including in Damascus for a few years, before moving to Houston on Christmas Day in 1996.

Quickly they realized their education may not be recognized. Her husband, a dentist, works in real estate. And Damian, who oversaw a management school that awarded associate's degrees in Romania, worked at a Parcel Plus in Houston for three months before deciding to open her own business.

"We foreigners, they sometimes don't recognize our degrees," she said. "With American opportunity, you just have to learn. Knowing a lot of history, geography, numbers," opening a Parcel Plus franchise store seemed like a great idea.

Two decades later, Damian is still having fun.

"I have customers that have been with me for 22 years. I have customers from day one to the day they die," Damian quips, explaining how she chats with them on the phone to see how they're doing and visits them in hospice in their dying days.



Energy Corridor District hosts first public safety and security meeting of 2022



The Energy Corridor District will host on March 10 its first virtual public safety and security meeting of 2022.

The meeting will feature Sydney Zuiker, director of the Safe Community Institute at CrimeStoppers of Houston.

CrimeStoppers Safe Community Institute was unveiled earlier this year after a two year increase in violent crime. Zuiker will oversee the institute's efforts to collect crime data and provide political officials with recommendations and tools to improve public safety.

As the institute's director, Zuiker is executive producer of the podcast "The Balanced Voice."

Zuiker has a bachelor's in social work from the University of Texas at Austin and is pursuing a master's in forensic psychology from the University of California Irvine.

Representatives from the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Precinct 5 Constable's Office will also speak at the meeting, which is held four times a year.

The March 10 meeting will be held at noon. To register in advance, please



Law enforcement tips on preventing catalytic converter theft

The Houston Police Department and Harris County Constables, Precinct 5 are warning area residents, like the rest of Houston and the nation, that there is a continuing increase in thefts of catalytic converters, an expensive car part.

Thieves are targeting these items because they contain precious metals and can be stolen in less than two minutes, according to the Houston Police Department.

Some vehicles have multiple catalytic converters and it can cost thousands of dollars to replace.

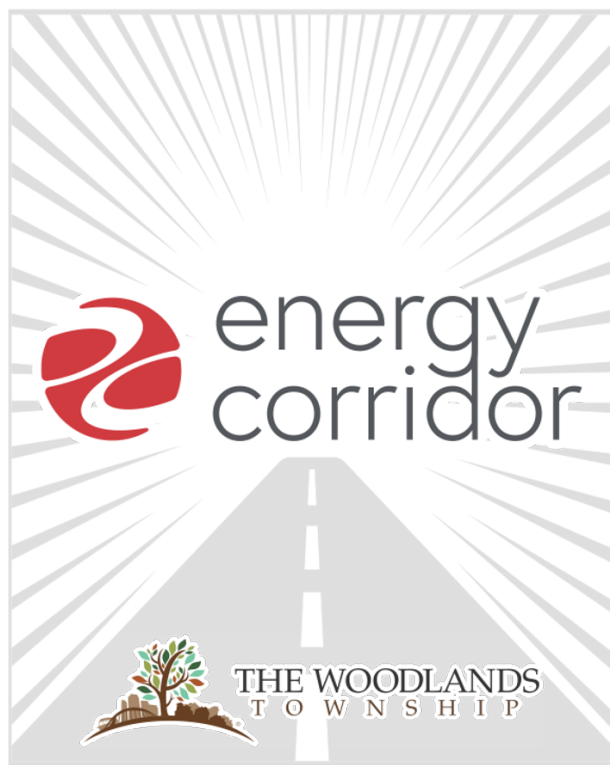
Catalytic converter thefts increased more than 300% in Houston last year, a phenomenon seen in other parts of the state as well.

The Texas Legislature made the sale and purchase of these stolen items a felony and that increased penalty can lead to prison time as of September 1.

“Thefts are happening day and night, but most seem to happen during the day in crowded parking lots with lots of noise to cover up the noise of removal of the converters,” HPD Auto Theft Division Sgt. Tracy Hicks said in a statement.

For additional tips on how to prevent these thefts, please watch [this video](#) created by HPD.





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!

Energy Corridor discusses flood resiliency at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston event

The Energy Corridor District Executive Director Elijah J. Williams presented to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conference in February.

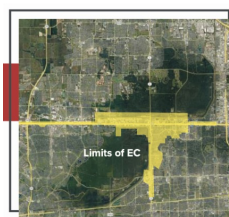
He focused on the economic importance of the Energy Corridor District, the impacts Hurricane Harvey had on the area, work that has been done since and what is still needed.

The Galveston conference focused on environmental and social justice and also included presentations from U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher and the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD).

"It is critical that we don't lose sight of the economic and business importance of the Energy Corridor to Houston. Ensuring sound flood resiliency measures and improvements remain top of mind for elected and public officials is a District priority," Williams said.

The USACE and HCFCD are researching ways to create tunnels and other mechanisms that could decrease the risk of flooding in the area.

The Energy Corridor hosted a public meeting in February to discuss these and other ideas and provide information to stakeholders.



The USACE completed the installation of new outlet structures at both Addicks and Barker Dams in 2021 and are reevaluating operations for each reservoir.

The Addicks and Barker Reservoirs include the largest municipal park in the U.S. and provide a special recreational experience for the metropolitan area.

To this day they still perform their originally intended function – providing downstream flood risk reduction for the communities along the Buffalo Bayou through downtown Houston and the Houston Ship Channel.

In 2020, USACE released the Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries Resiliency Study (BBTRS). This study begins the review of improvements to the reservoirs and improvements along Buffalo Bayou to improve conveyance.

In Fiscal Year 2020, the dams prevented \$2.1B in damages

Since constructed, the dams have prevented \$28.71 in damages

*Annual damages vary by the amount of rainfall, the number of pools and the size of the pools during the year (Per USACE).



Similar meetings will be planned in the future to ensure information is shared and questions are answered.



Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen semifinalist for prestigious James Beard Best Chef in Texas award

Energy Corridor chef Sylvia Casares of Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen is a semifinalist in the James Beard award for best chef in Texas.



The James Beard Foundation, named for the famous chef and culinary expert James Beard, is a nonprofit that awards prestigious awards nationwide for cooking, baking and restaurateur feats.

2022 finalists and awards will be announced in June.

Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen is on Eldridge Parkway.

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

- [Atlantic Pacific Companies acquires Energy](#)

[Corridor apartments](#)

- [Developer behind City Centre buys 68-acre former ConocoPhillips campus in west Houston](#)
- [Houston's plans for hydrogen hub face 'green' competition](#)
- [CERAWeek Energy conference returns to Houston as Ukraine conflict puts market in turmoil](#)



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

