

FORT BEND

NEXT WEEK

■ Pregnancy Resource Center of Fort Bend County has been operating from a center in Rosenberg. Starting in June, it will open a second site in Sugar Land.

SUGAR LAND | MISSOURI CITY | STAFFORD | RICHMOND | SIENNA PLANTATION | GREATWOOD | FIRST COLONY



Learn more about these and other stories about your community online at chron.com/fortbend

Getting around: Sugar Land city officials took comments Wednesday on their pedestrian and cyclist studies at a citywide community meeting at City Hall.



UP IN SMOKE: Arson investigators check the scene of a Monday morning fire that destroyed Needville High School. For the latest, visit chron.com/fortbend.

AROUND THE AREA

ROSENBERG

Amendment set for review today

The Rosenberg Charter Review Commission will hold a community forum 7-9 p.m. today to review the proposed amendment to the Rosenberg Charter which will be considered during the May 12 election.

The forum will be at the Rosenberg Civic and Convention Center, 3825 Texas 36 S.

The charter requires that any zoning-regulation decision be considered by citizens during a municipal general election. Rosenberg general elections are conducted only in odd-numbered years.

The amendment would allow the city to have citizens consider zoning decisions on state uniform election dates of any year.

The charter requirement for a citizen election to adopt zoning regulations would not change, said John Dorman, commission chairman.

MISSOURI CITY

Parks master plan is unveiled

The Parks Board of the Missouri City Parks and Recreation Department will review the proposed parks master plan at 7 p.m. May 3 in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 1522 Texas Parkway. The master plan identifies park system assets and deficiencies and prioritizes the park systems' needs. The plan reflects on-line public comments and the results of the city's Recreation Attitude Survey.

DREAM COME TRUE



Children's care

Dr. Anastasia Gentles examines Diarra Foley, 5 at NightLight After Hour Pediatrics at 15551 Southwest Freeway in Sugar Land. After two years of planning, Gentles and Connie Cazares and Zawadi Bryant have realized their dream of opening the facility. **STORY ON PAGE 9**

By the gallon, water to cost more in Richmond

The price of gasoline isn't the only cost going up. Beginning in May, Richmond utility customers will pay more for water and sewer fees as well as for trash collection. City Manager Glen Gilmore said the water rate increase is intended to help Richmond meet state mandates for groundwater consumption. **STORY ON PAGE 8**



Higher education expands

Houston Community College broke ground last week for a Sienna Plantation campus. Participants included, from left, Mary S. Spangler, HCC chancellor; Glenn Jarrett, project manager for the PGAL architect firm; and Winston Dahse, HCC Southwest interim president. It is one of three higher-education projects beginning in Fort Bend County. **STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 12**

Thousands expected at festival of food, wine

The third annual Grand Wine and Food Affair began Wednesday and continues through the weekend at sites in Fort Bend County and Houston. The festival brings in chefs from throughout the country and highlights regional vineyards and chefs. Sugar Land Town Square will host on Friday the Grand Tasting. **STORY ON PAGE 5**



Open house

The Dewalt Heritage Society Saturday hosted a Dew Preview, a family event at Kitty Hollow Park, 9555 Texas 6 S. in Missouri City. Reconstruction will begin in the next few weeks to refurbish the 1900 mansion, which will become the Dewalt Heritage Center, an interactive museum to preserve East Fort Bend County history.

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SUZANNE REHAK FOR THE CHRONICLE

FAMILY FRIENDLY: Staff at NightLight after-hour pediatrics are from left, Connie Cazares, medical assistant; Dr. Anastasia Gentles, chief executive officer/medical director; and Zawadi Bryant, chief operating officer.

3 women open after-hours clinic

■ Center focuses on pediatric care when doctor's office is closed

By KIM HUGHES
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Three women with different skill-sets have come together in Sugar Land to offer after-hours medical care for children.

NightLight, a pediatric care center in First Colony, recently celebrated its grand opening at 15551 Southwest Freeway.

Founded by Clear Lake resident Dr. Anastasia Gentles, Gulfgate resident Connie Cazares and Zawadi Bryant, a Texas Medical Center area resident, NightLight has become a dream come true after two years of planning.

Gentles, who earned her medical degree from the University of California in 1997, said her previous work in emergency rooms and urgent-care centers showed her there was a real need for something different for young patients.

"You see urgent care for adults, but you don't see it for children — and I think that is missing the point of pediatrics," Gentles said. "Over half of what I was seeing could have been seen if their pediatrician's office would have been open."

Gentles, who has numerous nieces and nephews, understands that many afflictions children develop seem to happen at night or on the weekends.

The center addresses ear infections, lacerations, even "removal of foreign bodies." NightLight is open from 5-11 p.m. Monday through Friday, and noon-7 p.m. weekends and holidays.

It also has laboratory services for blood and urine samples.

Gentles said they hope to acquire X-ray equipment soon, but for now patients requiring X-rays are referred to the hospital. However, they will not have to pay two insurance co-pays if that happens, she said. The center uses electronic records.

"We interact very closely with each patient," Gentles said. "The front office, the back office, no matter where, every patient is personally taken care

NIGHTLIGHT

NightLight, an after-hours pediatric care center at 15551 Southwest Freeway in First Colony Commons Shopping Center, is open 5-11 p.m. Monday through Friday; noon-7 p.m. weekends and holidays. For information, visit www.nightlightpediatrics.com or call 281-325-1010.

About the founders:

■ Dr. Anastasia Gentles, 39, chief executive officer and medical director: Gentles obtained her medical degree from University of California in 1997. Before forming NightLight, she was an assistant professor of pediatric emergency medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, and a physician at Texas Children's Pediatric Associates in Houston.

■ Zawadi Bryant, 33, chief operating officer: Bryant earned an MBA in operations management from Cornell University. She has worked with Hewlett Packard, British Petroleum and Shell Oil Products. While at HP, Bryant was designated as one of the Top 30 Black Engineers under 30 by *Black Engineer Magazine*.

■ Connie Cazares, 31, clinical specialist: Cazares, a mother of three, is a certified medical assistant with more than 12 years of experience. A graduate of Texas School of Business, Cazares is continuing her studies at Houston Community College, where she is working toward becoming a physician's assistant.

of every step of the way."

Bryant, the chief operating officer, greets patients when they arrive.

Bryant, who has an MBA in operations management from Cornell University in New York, is the brains behind the business aspect of operating a medical clinic.

"When Anastasia first approached me, it was from the standpoint of 'I hear you are a really good businesswoman,

and I have this idea,'" said Bryant, who comes from a technological/engineering background with experience working for Hewlett Packard, British Petroleum and Shell Oil Products. "So, we talked about it, to see if it would be viable. The more I talked to her, the more I thought 'This is a great idea.' It evolved from me writing a business plan to me becoming a partner."

Bryant completed case studies on pediatric after-hour clinics in Dallas, Orlando, Fla., and California.

The next step, she said, was to see if pediatricians in Sugar Land would be on board with the idea.

"It's important to network, so we started talking to pediatricians in the area last summer," Bryant said. "We wanted to know what services they thought we should provide."

Bryant stressed that NightLight is an extension of the pediatrician's office — not a replacement.

Since they started seeing patients in March, NightLight is averaging about one patient an hour during peak times on Saturdays.

As word gets out, and when winter ailments start to appear, they expect to see more.

But the maximum number of patients Gentles can see is six an hour, and she said that when she gets close to that amount, she will hire an additional pediatrician to help handle the workload.

And the ultimate dream for Gentles and Bryant is to see NightLight expand into additional communities around the Greater Houston area — a vision third co-founder Cazares shares.

"I know our concept is a great concept," said Cazares, NightLight's clinical specialist. "I hope in the future we can open more NightLights around the city."

Cazares met Gentles when they both worked for Texas Children's Pediatric Associates North Shore location, 12605 East Freeway.

"I have three children myself, and I have experience working with children for more than 12 years in pediatric offices," Cazares said. "So, I know with kids, there's always something that happens after hours."

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As for Snoopy... We could not have chosen a more fitting name for our beagle. As a puppy (before his brown fur came in), Snoopy was black & white and looked just like the infamous cartoon character. However, the similarities continued to develop—Snoopy became QUITE the character, making "Snoopy noises" as seen on the Peanuts cartoons and mischievously "snooping" around all the time. To this day, he still "rouns" his bones with that beagle nose to ensure that Lucy (his female beagle counterpart) hasn't taken any from his stash! We think any late-night baying/howling is his quest to find The Great Pumpkin. Snoopy is a wonderful and irreplaceable pet, and we would never own anything else but a beagle!

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Sugar Land Citizens Fire Academy graduates 10

Participants in the Sugar Land Fire Department's Citizen Fire Academy 4 celebrated completion of a 10-session program during a graduation ceremony at City Hall on April 18.

The graduates are: Susan Marbledstone, Damian Arnold, Hillary Goldstein, Lauren Arnold, Carolyn James, Howard Marbledstone, Patricia Hildebrand, Sergio Amaral, John

James and Anne Sullivan.

The academy program is intended to foster a better understanding of the fire department, with participants returning to their schools, organizations and neighborhoods to share information they've learned.

Participants must commit to attend all 10 sessions, be at least 18 years old and live or work in Sugar Land.

Applications for the next class will be accepted from July 16 to Aug. 10. These may be submitted online or in person at the Fire Administration offices, 10405 Corporate Drive, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. This class is scheduled to begin Aug. 23.

For details visit the Web site at: www.sugarlandtx.gov and select the fire links.

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