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The Men's Issue

JUNE 2024

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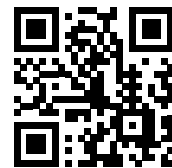
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# Celebrating all the men who improve our lives!

April 25th to May 21st is birthday month at our house. It is the time of year when my daughters, myself, and my husband all have our birthdays. It's fun - but exhausting - and once you throw Mother's Day in the mix, we are all pretty partied out by the time it's over. This is a shame because my husband usually gets shortchanged simply because his birthday comes last. He says, "I don't want to do anything!" Plus, let's face it, guys don't always get their due, do they?



With Father's Day coming up on June 16th, this month is the perfect time to pay tribute to all the unsung men out there who show up day after day and do amazing jobs that make our community a better place. Most don't ask for recognition, but they do appreciate a little gratitude. So this month is for all you men out there.

Thank you for your hard work, your support, and your sacrifice! It does not go unnoticed.

And yes, Dale, this includes you. You've been by my side for more than 40 years now, and though I don't always say it, I appreciate all the things, both large and small, that you do for our family. I love knowing that through the good and the bad times, you are my last call of the day, and I am yours.

Happy Father's Day,

ALISON KARTEVOLD, PUBLISHER  
@CONROECITYLIFESTYLE

*June 2024*

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**Proverbs 3:5-6**

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JUNE 2024 | GENTLEMEN'S



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## On the Cover

Three generations of Rinker men race boats- Jerry Rinker, son Chris Rinker and Chris's sons, Mason and Tanner.

Photography:  
Shannon Matlock of  
Arrowhead Photo

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JUNE 2024

# city scene

WHERE NEIGHBORS CAN SEE AND BE SEEN



1: Montgomery County Food Bank, CEO Kristine Marlow, at their Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope Gala. 2: Montgomery County Community Foundation honored the Buckalew Family as their 2024 Legacy of Caring Family. 3: The Buddy Holly Story (Ian Montez) singing and playing the guitar at the Crighton Theatre. 4: Meals on Wheels celebrated Nashville Nights at Sawyer Park Icehouse to feed homebound seniors. 5: Mim's Baptist Church received 2024 Faith Partner of the Year at the CAC Legacy Luncheon. 6: Chris Nikic, New Danville's event speaker, moves past Down Syndrome to finish Ironmans and marathons. 7: Habitat for Humanity Building Hope Gala celebrates 35 years of building safe homes with honorees.

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**DR. GUY BURROWS** is a board-certified neurologist with fellowship training in peripheral nerve disorders and neuromuscular diseases. In 2010, Dr. Burrows established a neuromuscular and peripheral nerve disorder medical practice in Beverly Hills and Palm Springs, California, with hospital affiliations at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs.

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# business monthly

A ROUNDUP OF NEWS  
FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES



## Willis ISD Names Superintendent

Willis ISD names Kimberley James Lone as Superintendent of Schools. Dr. James is the Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction for Corpus Christi ISD, a role she has held since 2021. Before that, she was the chief of staff and a high school principal at Corpus Christi. With more than thirty years of experience in public education, Dr. James has significant experience in curriculum design, professional development, and school leadership.

*Photography by Willis ISD*



## Ice Cream now Sailing on Lake Conroe

The Original Conroe Ice Cream Boat is now a fun source of refreshment

while enjoying the lake. Listen for the familiar tune, and you will see them delivering sweet treats for all ages along the shores of Lake Conroe from a brightly colored 20-foot pontoon boat. They Serve Bomb Pops, Ice Cream Sandwiches, Popsicles, Drumsticks, Candy, Chips, and Soda.

Photography by Conroe Ice Cream Boat



### CASA Child Advocates Appoints new Director of Programs and Services

Child Advocates of Montgomery County announces the appointment of Camille Davis as its Director of Programs and Services. With over 20 years of experience working with vulnerable children and youth involved in the child welfare system, Camille brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to her role. Camille's passion for advocating on behalf of children runs deep, with experience working directly with foster and adoptive families, as well as children living in residential care.

Photography by CASA Child Advocates

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business *monthly*

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**MCFB Celebrates  
Groundbreaking of New  
Expanded Facility**

Montgomery County Food Bank celebrated the groundbreaking of its renovation and expansion facility, which is located at 1 Food For Life Way in Conroe. The Build Today, Feed Tomorrow campaign will support an extension of the facility to provide additional cold storage within the facility's Produce Rescue Center, a new Welcome Center, volunteer activity areas and communal space, warehouse food storage space, and additional parking. The projected completion date is in Winter 2024.

*Photography by Montgomery County Food Bank*



*Scan to read more*



**McKenzie's Barbeque  
and Burgers Expands**

After 30 years in business, McKenzie's Barbeque and Burger has added

additional space for parties at its Conroe location, 1501 N. Frazier, with a capacity for 60 attendees. The 1,200-square-foot space can accommodate groups, meetings, special occasions, and other opportunities that demand a closed room from the public.

*Photography by McKenzie's Barbeque and Burgers*



*Scan to read more*



## The Woodlands Hills Extends into Willis Community

Howard Hughes has marked the arrival of the award-winning master-planned community, The Woodlands Hills, into Willis as it extends its reach from neighboring Conroe. Willis City Council officials, team members from Howard Hughes, Willis ISD Director of Communications Jamie Fails, and builders from The Woodlands Hills joined in the festivities with a “Welcome to Willis” ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, April 23.

*Photography by Howard Hughes*



*Scan to read more*

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**KATE BIHM**  
Principal Attorney

The "Real Deal"  
Chris Rinker  
#52 racing in  
the F1 Series.



RINKER'S FAMILY LEGACY OF BOATING

# Racing Royalty on Lake Conroe

ARTICLE BY CARRIE RANNEY | PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED AND BY ARROWHEAD PHOTO



“

**“Building great relationships with a family is everything in the boating business,” says Chris Rinker.**

The Rinker family's boating heritage started from humble beginnings, but it has continued to become a powerhouse in boat racing and sales. Their story spans states and generations and leads right to Lake Conroe.

In the 1930s, Lossie 'LE' Rinker started to build racing and fishing boats in the Midwest. They were beautifully handcrafted wood plank examples of a bygone age. His love of boating and racing was passed on to the next generation of Rinkers when Rinker Boat Company began in 1945, run by two of LE's oldest sons. John and Jan took their father's craftsmanship and broadened the company's success. The brand became popular with the growing world of boating enthusiasts until they were manufacturing and building around 2,500 recreational powerboats a year.

The Texas era of their family's story began during the economic crisis of the 70s. In 1977, Jerry Rinker, John and Jan's younger brother, found himself in Houston, Texas, without a job. John suggested that Jerry come to Indiana, bring back a Rinker Boat, and try selling it in the Houston market. Jerry and his young son, Chris, did just that.

At first, they'd drive to Indiana and trailer back a single boat. Each day, they would park the boat on Hwy 249, hoping it would entice people to stop. When it sold, Jerry trekked back to Indiana to get another, then another, and another. Jerry turned out to be so successful at selling Rinker Boats that his brother helped him start his own boat dealership here in Houston. Rinker's Boat World was founded in 1978 and still stands at its original location on Highway 249.

The Rinkers are an extreme example of a family enthusiastic about boating. Racing isn't just something the men are involved in. The whole family plays a part in both the racing and boat dealerships. They actively promote the boating lifestyle through boat racing while building a thriving boat manufacturer and dealership business around it. The Rinker family has become a dynasty that spans decades in the powerboat racing arena, from Tri-hull class to Formula 1 Powerboats. They take "no prisoners" and display the checkered flag to promote boating and advocate boat racing.

Jerry says his first racing experience was in the Midwest when he was seven. His older brother put him in one of the family's small but sleek wooden boats, which Jerry had never operated. The novice Jerry prepared to drive against several kids a few years older than him, one of whom was a girl. Jerry's instructions were simple: "John said don't come back if she beats you," he says with a laugh. Fast-forward several decades, and Jerry has now opened Rinker's Boat World. The business is doing well, and he decides the time has come to reenter racing.

He started by racing in the Mini Grand Prix and occasionally Sport C classes. Then, in 2003, Jerry began to race Tri Hull boats and never looked back. After 19 years in this class, it's safe to say he has been highly successful, winning over 20 races and becoming the "High Point Champion." Mind you, these wins and accomplishments came after turning 68 years old! His most significant wins started in 2018 at Nashville, then another victory at The Port Neches River Fest in 2019, and then he finished the year as the "Tri Hull National Champion" in Windsor, Colorado, at the age of 75!

CONTINUED >



*Mason takes his Tri Hull on a Lake Conroe Test Ride*



*The Rinker Family all centered around John Rinker at Lake Havasu, AZ races.*

“Boating is one of the BEST ‘family memory builders’ there is,” said Chris Rinker. ”



Jerry always said he wanted to beat the age at which his brother John stopped racing at 79. Well, check off another goal accomplished. Affectionately known on the circuit by the handle 'Scary Jerry,' Rinker turned 80 years old last summer! And #10 is not done yet. Jerry is a "Fan Favorite" fueled by his age-defying racing career and the deep admiration he has earned from fellow racers. Now he also loves racing with and against his two grandsons.

Mason and Tanner Rinker took no prisoners in 2022 on the water and podiomed in the Tri Hull class. Mason Rinker, #37, is in his second year of racing and has made quite a name for himself with his fearless competitiveness and persistence. In fact, in the first race of this season he took the checkered flag. Tanner Rinker, #52, always pushes through the pack, fighting to be on the podium. When asked whether they'd ever felt pressure to start racing, both adamantly stated the choice was theirs



CONTINUED >

alone, but come on, who wouldn't want to have a chance to run with their grandpa?

Chris Rinker started his boat racing career in 1986 when his uncle John gave him a boat to test drive at a race. John never got that boat back. At the end of that season, Chris was the National Champion. He was only 16! Previously, Chris had been racing for several years with his dad, "Scary Jerry", in a southern class called Super Stock Tri Hulls before entering the F1 Series. Chris is a top contender in every race he is in and won the Tri Hull series in 2016. In 2019, he earned the title of 'Rookie of The Year'.

Racing in the F1 Series, the 'Real Deal,' #52, Chris Rinker had a year to remember in 2023! He received the F200 National Championship, set the F200 World Speed Record at 127.26, became a Hall of Champion Inductee, and APBA U.S. 1 National Champion in points.

It's incredible to have three generations of Rinkers racing on the water in one setting and three Rinkers racing in the Tri Hull class.

When Chris is not hitting the podium with awards, you can find him running his boat dealerships, Rinker's Boat World, Houston, and Rinkers Boat World Lakeshore on Lake Conroe. Shortly after Chris took over the helm from Jerry, he bought the Lake Conroe location, it had previously been another family-owned boat dealership known as Lakeshore Sports that had been on the lake for 30-plus years.

Being voted one of the 'Top 100' Boat Dealerships in North America is proof of all Rinkers' arduous work and excellent customer service. Rinkers is not only a '5-star rated Boat Dealership' serving Lake Conroe, the

Greater Houston Metroplex, Lake Livingston, and the Gulf Coast area but also has the most positive online reviews. Rinkers has earned the reputation of being one of the sought-after boat dealers in Houston and on Lake Conroe for more than three decades due to the attention they provide their customers.

Rinkers Boat World is dedicated to helping customers have the best experience possible, says Chris. From experts to novices, they want to give their customers the tools they need to succeed on the water. A knowledgeable salesperson from their team provides comprehensive details to guests about the types of boats to make boating easy and accessible for anyone to enjoy.

They also carry some of the best boats in their class. They are one of only three dealerships in Texas to sell sought-after Cobalt boats. They also sell Supra, Sylvan Pontoons, Sea Hunt, Moomba, and StarCraft in both new and pre-owned inventory.

Chris also believes good customer service attracts repeat customers. Rinker's trust, relationships, and customer service are so strong that customers often don't look anywhere else. Some families are on their fifth boat from Rinker's Boat World!

Stop at either location, Houston 2500 West Mount Houston in Houston, or on the shores of Lake Conroe, 15225 Walden Rd, Montgomery. Join them for their monthly Ride & Drive events at their Lake Conroe location to experience the luxury firsthand or shop for the best water sports toys and accessories. And don't forget to protect your investment by scheduling maintenance.

To learn more about Rinkers, go to [RinkersLakeShore.com](http://RinkersLakeShore.com)





“ Rinker’s Boat World is dedicated to helping customers have the best experience possible. ”

*Jerry Rinker still racing at 81! 2nd in the Tri Hull Class for 2022 F1 Powerboat Championship*

# A *Legendary* Gift

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*Staff pose on  
Harley Davidsons*

Since 2014, Faith Cycles has become a beacon for motorcycle enthusiasts. It specializes in buying and selling motorcycles (predominantly Harley Davidsons) and provides services to enhance the motorcycle experience.

“We’re not just a dealership; we’re a full-service shop dedicated to Harley-Davidson motorcycles,” owner Trent Short said.

Short, a longtime entrepreneur and aficionado of motorcycles, said he launched his business to share his passion for Harleys and other high-powered bikes. From routine maintenance to comprehensive motor upgrades, the shop offers both basic and full services, including same-day oil changes and tire installations.



Short brothers- Jake and Trent.



Harley Davidson Touring cycles available in different models.



The Showroom with a large selection of Harleys.

Faith Cycles has a commitment to accessibility. With options like financing for both parts and motorcycles and accommodating all types of credit, the business strives for motorcycle ownership and maintenance to be accessible for everyone.

“We believe in serving everyone, not just those with perfect credit,” Trent adds.

A family affair, Short said his brother Jake manages the service department. The business is staffed with Harley-certified technicians and has an average of 30 motorcycles ready for sale at any given time. Although it is Harley-focused, it will also accept non-Harley bikes for buying and selling.

By catering to the needs of riders and offering flexible payment options, Faith Cycles rides ahead, making the Harley experience possible for many people in the Conroe area.



*Noble, Curtis, and Justin Lindsey stand in front of Worthington Manor Senior Living-one of their properties in Conroe.*

# BUILDING CONROE'S FUTURE

---

Lindsey Properties Provides Opportunities for  
Their Family and Local Business to Thrive!

In the heart of downtown Conroe, a transformative construction initiative is reshaping the community's landscape. Led by the family-owned Lindsey Properties, the company is breathing new life into this historic area through a series of innovative projects that pay homage to the past while paving the way for the future.

This family-run business is guided by a vision to blend history with progress, leading the charge to transform daily life downtown. The Lindsey family has a longstanding passion for Conroe, which is apparent in every facet of their approach to the developments.

"Our goal is to add value," Nobel Lindsey said. "We are not just building structures; we are crafting a legacy for Conroe and its residents."

Lindsey Properties, guided by Curtis Lindsey and his sons Nobel and Justin Lindsey, has embarked on a mission to revitalize downtown Conroe with its architectural prowess and deep community ties. Curtis, the visionary, focuses on exploring new opportunities and the broader picture, while Nobel applies his expertise to the practical aspects of building and cost-efficiency. Justin handles operations, ensuring the aesthetics and functionality of their projects meet the highest standards.

CONTINUED >

ARTICLE BY PEYTON MACKENZIE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANNON MATLOCK

## AN EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY AND HISTORY

The centerpiece of Lindsey Properties' redevelopment efforts in Conroe is the Simonton-Cable project, a mixed-use space that will feature retail and executive office spaces topped with a rooftop terrace. This development is a tribute to the first Ford dealership in Montgomery County, acknowledging its role in the city's history.

The Pacific Lofts offer urban living spaces above the historic Homestead House. "We are preserving the essence of Conroe's history while infusing it with modern amenities," says a spokesperson from Lindsey Properties.

The Everett project will bring a blend of retail options to the corner of Simonton and N Pacific Streets, reflecting the historical architecture of downtown Conroe. "The Everett stands as a symbol of what we are trying to accomplish – progress rooted in the respect for our past," Curtis Lindsey elaborated.

## A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The company's efforts extend beyond just building. Curtis describes their approach as buying "problems"—properties that are challenging due to issues like foreclosure or title complexities—and transforming them into productive community assets. This philosophy has been passed down to his sons, who now take charge of identifying and developing real estate opportunities.

"We don't just look at the highest and best use for a site; we consider what's best for the community," Curtis Lindsey stated.

As an example, they point to the story of transforming a former golf course into Worthington Manor, an assisted living facility that brought jobs and community value to the area. They now own the development that is located just up the hill from their office.

All their projects are meticulously designed to respect the town's history. For instance, the architecture of The Everett echoes a bank built in 1911 after a devastating fire nearly destroyed the entire town.

"We want to build something that not only adds to the aesthetic of downtown but also its story," Justin Lindsey commented.

The company's influence in downtown Conroe is evident in three significant projects: The Everett, Simonton Cable, and Pacific Lofts.

## The Everett

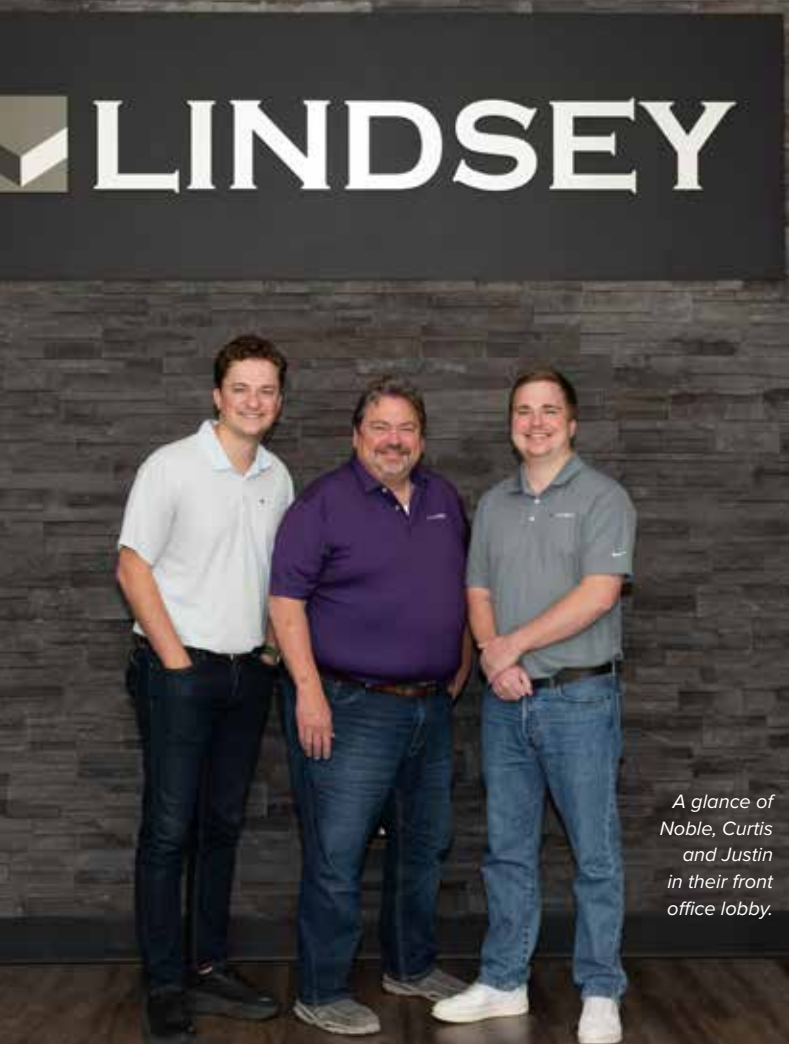
This building stands on the site formerly occupied by Everett Hardware, a cornerstone of Conroe for 90 years. This development, approximately 27,000 square feet of mixed-use retail and office space, has design elements reminiscent of a bank that was rebuilt after the devastating 1910 fire that nearly obliterated downtown Conroe.

CONTINUED >





*Pacific Lofts is the new residential and retail space where the historic Homestead House was located.*



*A glance of Noble, Curtis and Justin in their front office lobby.*



*Lindsey men collect cars and restore them—mostly Jeeps.*



*View from  
Worthington Manor  
to the Lindsey  
Property offices  
across the street.*



*Restoring cars is  
a hobby the guys  
love and soon  
the grandsons  
will enjoy it too!*

## THE CONROE COMMUNITY

Furthermore, Lindsey Construction places a significant emphasis on community engagement and adding value beyond mere economics. They prioritize communication with local homeowners and stakeholders, ensuring their projects are well-received and beneficial to the existing community. They said this approach has led to successful integrations of their projects, like the Worthington Manor. It had to be sensitively integrated into the surrounding community with attention to both aesthetics and function.

"We aim to add value," Curtis said. "Our goal is to add value to our community. We love this community; we raised our families here, and we just want to make a difference."

As Conroe continues to evolve, the Lindsey family remains at the forefront, crafting a vision that respects the past while building a sustainable future. Their projects in downtown Conroe are not just about redevelopment but about creating a legacy that honors the history of the area while welcoming new opportunities for growth and revitalization. Through their endeavors, Lindsey Construction exemplifies how thoughtful development can enhance a community, making downtown Conroe a vibrant and attractive place to live, work, and visit.

Justin Lindsey expands on the idea that they are more than just developers—they are

landlords. He believes their business is meant to support the small businesses that rent from them and help them pursue their own business dreams.

Beyond their business, the Lindseys say they are committed to Conroe. They've laid down roots in the city, raising families and actively participating in community life. Their involvement extends beyond building as they serve as long-term landlords, fostering relationships with small businesses and aiding in their growth.

Curtis reminisces about his early days, starting the construction business with an orange crane visible from the highway. This crane symbolized the beginnings that rooted the Lindsey family deeply into the fabric of Conroe. Their ongoing projects in downtown Conroe continue this legacy, aiming to enhance the city's appeal and livability. This is especially important to them now that Noble and Justin each have young sons they are raising here.

For residents and onlookers, the unfolding developments signal an era of change in which Conroe's past and future coalesce, brought together by the vision and dedication of the Lindsey family.

"We love this community. We are thankful to be a part [of it]," Curtis said. "We are thankful the community supports us and what we are doing."

## Simonton Cable Building

The Simonton Cable Building is named after the first Ford dealership in Montgomery County, which was originally located on the site. The building is envisioned as a hub for office and retail space, with Lindsey Construction relocating its headquarters to its top floor.

## Pacific Lofts

Pacific Lofts proposes a novel blend of retail and residential spaces, aiming to introduce a vibrant living option within the downtown core. This project is especially significant as it marks a pioneering step towards adding residential units in the downtown area, something that has been contemplated but never actualized to this extent.



# Trends in Office Space

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*Beach Walk Offices offers everything you need to office professionally.*

ARTICLE BY MATT ARCENEUX

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARROWHEAD PHOTOGRAPHY

B E A C H W A L K O F F I C E

Traditional offices are seeing a trend towards vacancies as businesses scale back and downsize.

This trend toward reducing office space has given rise to an increased demand for flexible office environments. As leases come up for renewal, tenants are downsizing or relocating to buildings with better amenities and flexibility. Employees are expressing a preference for working close to home. However, businesses recognize the value of maintaining a physical presence so that teams can collaborate closely.

Office space is ultimately an employee decision. Some businesses provide employee allowances to choose workspaces that accommodate employees' needs with flexibility and shorter commutes. The ability to work from a local coworking space or flexible environment is seen as a valuable perk to work/life balance.

There are three different segments of people: those who love working from home, those who just go with the flow with company policy, and those who are eager to get out of the house.

"I just need to get out of the house" is what we hear while giving tours in Houston and Conroe. People have a desire for routine, an escape from home distractions, and a sense of community, which drives them to seek out flexible workspaces. [BeachWalkOffice.com](http://BeachWalkOffice.com)





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JUNE 2024

# events

A SELECTION OF UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

**JUNE 1ST**

## Grand Central Park Monthly Artisan Market

*1039 Lake House Drive, Conroe | 9:00 AM*

Support local artisans and businesses while picking up handcrafted treasures and artisanal treats at the Grand Central Park Artisan Market, 9 AM to noon the first Saturday of each month through September. At The Lake House, 1039 Lake House Drive in Conroe, attendees can browse items offered by local food and business vendors, as well as artists, designers, and crafters.

**JUNE 6TH**

## Escape- Tribute to Journey at First Thursday Concert

*Heritage Place Park, 500 Metcalf Street, Conroe | 7:00 PM*

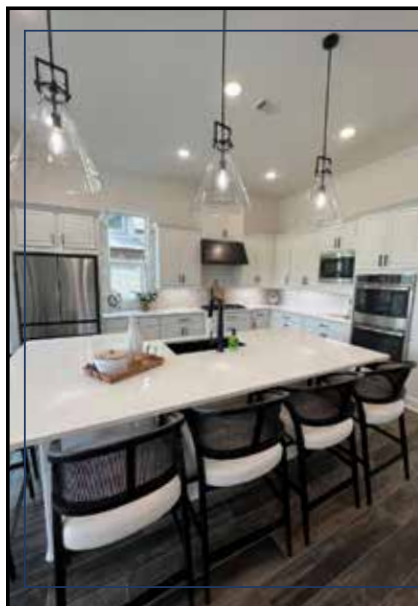
The First Thursday Free Concert Series continues through September, hosted by the City of Conroe at Heritage Place Park. June's concert headliner is Escape with a Tribute to Journey. Food and drinks may be brought inside the gates, although no glass containers are allowed in the park. There will also be food trucks outside to purchase food.

**JUNE 8TH**

## Outrun Hunger with the Montgomery County Food Bank

*The Lake House at Grand Central Park-1039 Lake House Dr, Conroe | 8:00 AM*

Montgomery County Food Bank's 2024 Outrun Hunger event will feature a 5K Trail Run & 1K Color Dash. The event's proceeds benefit Montgomery County Food Bank's programs for children, seniors, and families facing hunger in Montgomery County. [mcfoodbank.org/outrunhunger24](https://mcfoodbank.org/outrunhunger24)



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## Want to be featured?

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JUNE 8TH - 9TH

### Houston Exotic Reptiles and Pets Expo

Lone Star Convention Center, 9055 Airport Road, Conroe

Houston Exotic Reptiles and Pets Shows (HERP) is hosting their annual show at the Lone Star Convention Center on both Saturday and Sunday. Purchase or browse thousands of reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, feeders, supplies, and more, all available for purchase at discounted prices in the two-day event. [herpshow.net/shows/reptile-show-in-conroe-tx](http://herpshow.net/shows/reptile-show-in-conroe-tx)

JUNE 29TH

### Conroe's Stars and Stripes Celebration

Heritage Place Park-500 Metcalf Street, Conroe | 6:00 PM

The 3rd annual Conroe Stars and Stripes Celebration will begin at 6:00 PM with free kids' activities, a vendor market, food trucks, live music featuring the Conroe Symphony Orchestra, and fireworks! The fireworks display will begin at 9:15 PM

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# Men Making an Impact *in the Community*

*What does Margaritaville, 202 Main, Joe's Italian Restaurant, Dr. Reddy, Neurosurgeon, and Incredible Pizza Have in Common? They are Notable!*



Keath Krueger  
of 202 Main

ARTICLE BY IAN GARRETT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARROWHEAD PHOTOGRAPHY

Father's Day is categorized as one of those 'lesser' holidays, like Arbor Day or National Pineapple Month, getting lost in the shadow of more major annual celebrations. While moms often get feted with roses and brunches, the men get to be content with neckties or soaps-on-a-rope. We are dropping cliches and highlighting a handful of men who have a significant impact on the Conroe community.

Keath is one of the owners of 202 Main, a unique restaurant serving lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunches. It features two bars and a large courtyard and offers high-end comfort food, one-of-a-kind craft cocktails, and fun events.

When asked about the origins of 202 Main, Keath replied, "It was literally a discussion with the building owner. We both wanted to make the space into something that would benefit and contribute to the growth of downtown Conroe." Between them, Keath and his wife Alison also own Branding Iron and Switch Hair Studio on the same block. All felt that downtown needed more venues, bars, and restaurants to help drive traffic to the area. "From there, our conversations and visions just continued to evolve into what we have today."

Community is key to Keath. "It's one of the most important things that we have in life. It is our duty to do what we can for those around us. Everyone has an obligation to invest in their community to make it a better place for everyone. Hopefully, my family is doing our part to contribute wherever we can."



Mario Valadez has been working in the entertainment industry since he was a high school student more than thirty years ago. Though he wanted to go to school for Sports Medicine, over time, he gradually moved up the ranks in the family entertainment industry. “I fell in love with that industry because of the joy it brings to families and kids. Seeing them have fun, and the smiles on their faces, makes it all worth it,” he said.

He started with Incredible Pizza on their corporate management team in 2005 and eventually acquired a majority stake in the business in 2019.

When asked about the importance of community and his place in it, Mario replied, “We’d be lost if there wasn’t a spirit of community. Our community plays a vital role for Incredible Pizza, and I hope we give back to the community as much as they give us. For my personal place in the community, I like to think I am an asset. I love Conroe, I love living here. I have made so many friends with the opportunities, organizations, and groups that I have been a part of over the years.”

Dr Praveen Reddy, MD, M.Ch, CEO of the Center for Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery, PLLC, has always wanted to be a physician. “I fell in love with the brain in my first year of medical school and hence opted to become a neurosurgeon,” he said.

With more than two decades of medical training under his belt, Praveen is fellowship-trained in neuro-oncology, skull base surgery, and cerebral vascular surgery. He provides high-quality care to patients with complex brain and spine disorders. His clinic is unique in its approach to neurological care, using surgery as a last resort, reserved for situations where conservative methods fail.

“Medicine is rather expensive; I love to introduce value-based care into it. We have a tendency to perform extensive operations when we can manage the majority of them through minimally invasive approaches,” he said.

“I feel like any physician needs to understand the gaps in healthcare and needs of the community,” he said. “I’ve collaborated with HCA Conroe and they have invested in the infrastructure for me to do robotic minimally invasive spine surgery and also tumor surgery. I feel like patients in this community do not need to travel anywhere for care; we can provide high-quality, evidence-based care right here.”

Mario Valadez  
owner of  
Incredible Pizza



Dr. Praveen  
Reddy, Center  
for Minimally  
Invasive  
Neurosurgery

CONTINUED >

Tom Faust, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Margaritaville Resort, Lake Conroe, got his first job in hospitality as a bellman when he was a 20-year-old college student. The combination of family and career was evident from the start; he was hired by the hotel's human resources director, who would turn out to be his wife of 46 years, Michele.

"Since then, I have been very blessed to have worked in hospitality my entire life and career," he said. He has been with Margaritaville since 2019, even before it opened its doors to the public in 2020.

"If there is one thing I've learned from working here, it's that community spirit has a large presence in Conroe, and Margaritaville plays a crucial role in it," he said. "The resort itself is a destination for people in Conroe to gather. With restaurants, bars, and a festive atmosphere, it offers a place for locals to enjoy themselves alongside tourists, conventioneers, and visitors."

Joe Haliti is the owner of Joe's Italian Restaurant- a Conroe institution. Not only is he the proprietor of Joe's Italian Restaurant, a family mainstay since 2006, but he also believes heart and soul in the power of community.

"When I moved to the United States, my two options for employment were working in a restaurant or working in construction. Since I loved cooking, it was definitely an easy decision, and I still enjoy it every day," he said.

By the time Joe had opened his namesake restaurant in Conroe, he already had two other restaurants operating in East Texas and Dallas. "Conroe felt like home for me," he said about setting down roots here. "I fell in love with the city, with the people, with the entire county."

Keeping the family tradition going strong, he works closely with his brother and nephew daily.

"Since the day we opened, the community has been there for us and has shown us tremendous love," Joe said. "It's our duty to do the same and to be there at any time when we are needed."

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At CCL we pay tribute and honor these five men who support the Conroe community daily with their contributions to enable us to work, play and enjoy our family. Please consider visiting their businesses as notable men in our community.

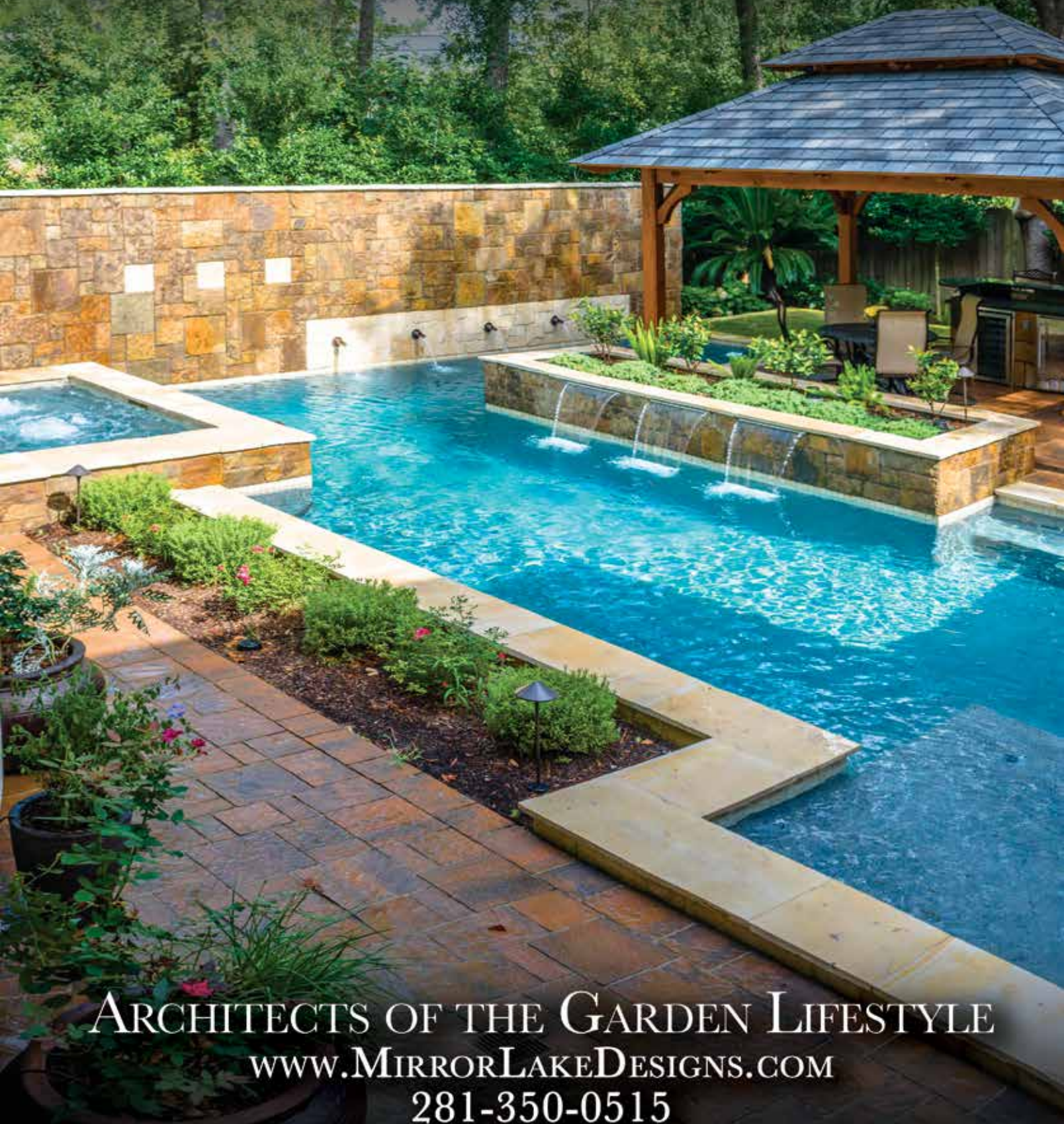


Tom Faust, Sr VP  
Margaritaville  
Lake Resort  
Lake Conroe



Joe Haliti at  
Joe's Italian  
Restaurant

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