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HOUSTON CHRONICLE

# MEMORIAL SPRING BRANCH

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**SPRING BRANCH**

## MEETING THIS WEEK

The Spring Branch Management District is scheduled to meet from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday in the first floor conference room at the Spring Branch Hospital. The district was created to provide supplemental programs and public services to mobility, safety, urban design and economic development. Send e-mails to [mknnox@hchclp.com](mailto:mknnox@hchclp.com).

# Grand opera adds to staff

## Selections come to Houston in the fall

The Houston Grand Opera recently announced two new appointments, Francis Greep will join as head of music staff and music director of the opera studio and Craig Kier as assistant chorus master. "I have known and ad-

mired Francis' work for most of his professional career," said HGO Music Director Patrick Summers. "He possesses the wide range of skills that are logistically and administratively necessary in this position to disseminate the artistic philosophy of Houston Grand Opera. Francis is someone who is recognized within the profession to have the linguistic, musical and

administrative abilities to prepare a singer for any situation." Greep, who will assume the dual position of head of music staff and music director this fall, replaces Kathleen Kelly, who joins the Vienna State Opera this fall as head of music. Greep has served as head of music and assistant conductor for all productions at

the West Australian Opera since 2006. He was also the artistic director of the Young Artist Program at the West Australian Opera. In this capacity, he brought new repertoire and productions to the West Australian Opera, including Bellini's *La Sonnambula*, Britten's *Peter Grimes* and Puccini's *The Girl of the Golden West*. He served as chorus master for the Australian premiere of John Adams' *A Flowering Tree* and helped prepare the 2007 Helpmann Award-winning world premiere of Richard Mills' *The Love of the Nightingale*. Kier is currently the resident principal coach/accompanist and assistant conductor for the Atlanta Opera. He becomes the HGO assistant chorus master in September. Kier was a part of the Seattle Opera's music staff, serving in a variety of roles including coach/accompanist, chorus master, and assistant conductor. He has a wide variety of experience with other companies including the Cincinnati Opera, Opera Colorado, Berkshire Opera, Opera New Jersey, Opera Birmingham and Des Moines Metro Opera. He has been a member of the faculty of the Opera Theater of the Rockies Vocal Arts Symposium and recently made his conducting debut leading Puccini's *Glianni Schicchi* in a joint project between the Seattle Opera and the Yakima Symphony Orchestra. In 2009, he joined the Santa Fe Opera music staff, assisting with their mainstage productions of Verdi's *La traviata* and the world premiere of Paul Moravec's *The Letter*. "I worked with Craig on Santa Fe Opera's world premiere," said Summers. "He possesses an impressive musical instinct and an ability to work orchestrally. Craig is a fine budding conductor and I look forward to working with him on HGO's musical staff."

## Memorial residents named to council

Texas Children's Hospital announced the formation of the West Campus Advisory Council, a volunteer council made up of civic and business leaders from the communities that will be served by the new West Campus, Texas Children's first community hospital, currently under construction at I-10 and Barker Cypress.



CSORBA III

The inaugural members of the advisory council include Memorial residents Les T. Csorba, III, senior partner, Heidrick and Struggles Inc., and Charles H. Herder, III, co-chairman and principal, Colliers International.



HERDER III

The council will provide West Campus leadership with insights and recommendations on hospital programs and patient experiences as well as share their perspectives on developments in the communities West Campus serves. It will also help the hospital identify and develop mutually supportive relationships and partnerships with community businesses. "From the beginning, Texas Children's Hospital West Campus has involved the community in developing a state-of-the-art healing environment that provides children and families the special accommodations they need," said Herder III. "As a parent of a child whose life was saved by the exceptional care at the Main Campus over 26 years ago, and as a West Houston resident, I am thrilled that Texas Children's is continuing to bring their standard of children's care to our community."

## NEIGHBORHOOD HOME PRICE SURVEY



R. CLAYTON MCKEE PHOTOS: FOR THE CHRONICLE

**FULLY SECURE:** Shadow Springs gated community is currently under construction in Spring Shadows, a subdivision of Spring Branch. In a recent survey by Crawford Realty, Spring Shadows was the top subdivision in home sales in 2009 in Spring Branch. Part of the reason is because of the success of Shadow Springs. Since construction began in 2008, 40 of the 70 lots have been built and sold.

# Building what they want

**THERE'S MORE**

Today's Houston Chronicle is full of information regarding the current home market.

■ **Business section:** The Sunday Business section has home sales data from the region. **PAGE B1**

■ **The Top 20:** See the listing of home sales in the Spring Branch/Memorial area. **PAGE 2**



**HOME SALES:** For the Spring Branch and Memorial area can be seen at [chron.com/homefront](http://chron.com/homefront)

**R**IVERWAY Properties president John Santasiero is close to completing the gated community of Shadow Springs, which is in the Spring Shadows subdivision. The developer boasts that the town homes being built are affordable. And the gated community's location places it close to fine dining and good schools.

**STORY ON PAGE 2**



**MAN WITH A PLAN:** John Santasiero, president of Riverway Properties, shows the living room of a model home in the Shadow Springs development. The community is located in Spring Branch.

**SPRING BRANCH ISD**

## Two teachers are finalists

Two Spring Branch Independent School District teachers were named finalists for the 2010 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards.

**STORY ON PAGE 5**

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