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## The Passport Services Office provides information and services to American citizens about how to obtain, replace or change a passport.

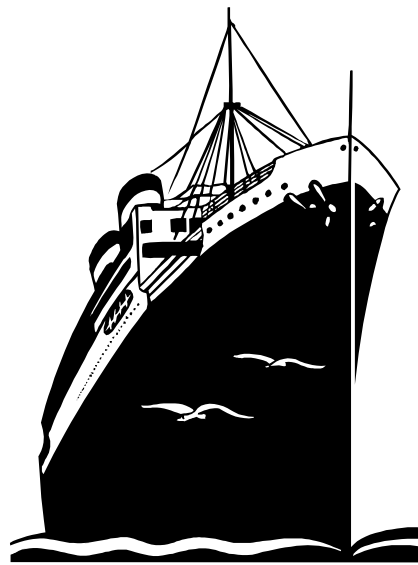
A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies the identity and nationality of the bearer. A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave most foreign countries. Only the U.S. Department of State has the authority to grant, issue or verify United States passports.

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Acceptance facilities include many Federal, state and probate courts, post offices, some public libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. There are also 13 regional passport agencies, and 1 Gateway City Agency, which serve customers who are traveling within 2 weeks (14 days), or who need foreign visas for travel. Appointments are required in such cases.

You'll need to apply in person if you are applying for a U.S. passport for the first time; if your expired U.S. passport is not in your possession; if your previous U.S. passport has expired and was issued more than 15 years ago; if your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16; or if your currently valid U.S. passport has been lost or stolen.



# Overcoming Obstacles

by Virdiana Hernandez

When I was eleven years of age, my parents made the decision to move to the **United States**. At the time I couldn't understand why my parents had chosen to leave behind our family, friends and home. We arrived in **Houston** in mid-July of 1996. Because it was summer, it felt just like a vacation, and within a very short period of time there was no question that I wanted to stay here – **McDonalds**, **AstroWorld**, and **Chuck E. Chesse's** convinced me.



my homeroom teacher walked into the room and started talking, I became breathless. I couldn't understand a word.

As soon as the bell rang, everyone walked out of the room except me. I was accustomed to an education system where students stay in one room the whole day with the same teacher. My homeroom teacher screamed at me, and my only guess was

that he wanted me to leave the room. I walked through the empty hallways for thirty minutes not knowing where to go.

My parent registered me for **Deady Middle School**, and I didn't worry about it because I had always been an excellent student in **Mexico**. I was in for a shock. On the first day of class, my father walked me to my homeroom in a huge school. I had only seen schools with lockers in the movies. When

I encountered an administrator who asked me in Spanish if he could help. He walked me to my next class and told me that every bell meant I had to move to the next class according to the schedule that my homeroom teacher had given me.

In the class nothing made sense because all the teachers spoke English. A teacher would scream at me many times if I didn't know what to do. She would accuse me of being lazy, and I had to hold my tears as I was being ridiculed in front of other students. Lunch was the worst because I sat alone and a lot of other students pointed at me and laughed.

I remember the happiness that overwhelmed me when the last bell rang. I ran so fast to meet my dad outside the

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the school that I felt like I was flying through the hallways. When I finally saw him, I hugged him hard and cried all the way home and continued after we arrived. My first instinct was to start packing. I did not want to stay in place where I was treated badly. But, of course, we did not leave and I had to endure each day. For no matter how much I cried, my mother got me up the next morning and made me go to school, telling me that it was the best thing for me.

It was her determination that made me want to stay in school, and within a year I was reading, writing, and speaking English. There is no question that I struggled to learn a new culture and language. But I did learn, and to this day I consider it one of my proudest achievements. By the time my middle school years were ending, I was an honor student and I received statewide recognition when I graduated.

In high school I continued to do well and my mastery of English improved dramatically, but another major obstacle appeared when I began my senior year. I spoke with a high school counselor about attending college. At first she was very enthusiastic because I had an impeccable academic record, but as soon as I told her I didn't have a social security number and that I was an undocumented student who was on the path for an adjustment status, she had a complete attitude change. She told me there wasn't anything she could do to help me. She said I had no choice but to settle with my high school diploma. I left her office in tears. That night and many nights after, I cried myself to sleep.

A few weeks before winter break I found a flyer that had a bolded heading saying "UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS CAN GO TO COLLEGE." It explained a new Texas law that allowed students like me to attend state college at in-state tuition rates. I read it five times before I actually believed it. After school I showed it to my parents, my friends, and my teachers. To say that I was overjoyed would be an understatement. I started doing research on the different colleges in Houston and discovered the **Center for Mexican American Studies** at the **University of Houston**.

I contacted **Mrs. Rebecca Trevino**, the program manager of the **Academic Achievers Program (AAP)**. She asked me about my grades and background, and told me that if I came to her office, she would help me with the admissions process. I told her that I didn't have transportation and that I didn't know where the **University of Houston** was located. To my surprise she offered to go to my high school and help me with the paperwork. I was thrilled. Here was a person I had never met who was willing to come and help someone who my counselor said "couldn't go to college."

I asked the main office to add **Mrs. Trevino's** visit to the daily announcements so more students could show up. The visit was a success. **Mrs. Trevino** went over the documents we needed to apply for admission and financial aid. She also told about the **UH Academic Achievers Program**. She even gave us contact information of other people in different academic institutions who could help us further. It was 7 O'clock in the evening when we finished, and she offered to come back and pick up all our paper work.

As soon as I got home, I worked on my applications. I also started applying for scholarships, and even if they asked for a social security number I wouldn't disregard them because I was determined. I had approximately 30 interviews, and I was rejected many times because I didn't have that vital 9-digit number. But when I received my first scholarship I knew it was all worth it. One of my most important interviews was for admission to the **CMAS Academic Achievers Program**.

**AAP** has helped me in many ways as I have made the transition from high school to college. First, my parents cannot afford to send me to college. They cannot even help me by paying for my books. They can only help me be constantly encouraging me and giving me moral support. The scholarship that I receive from the **AAP** and their help in finding other financial assistance is invaluable. To put it quite simply, I would not be here were it not for **CMAS'** help with the money. Going to college is very expensive.

Second the facilities at **CMAS** are very helpful. They have computers, a library, and a good environment for studying. Also, I meet people who are like me, and we reinforce each other in our desire to do well and become college graduates. Third, the doors of all the administrators at **CMAS** are always open, and anytime I have a question or problem, they are there to help or just listen.

It is incredible to know people who are as passionate and intense about my education as I am. Fourth is the **AAP** tutors. My first semesters are the **University of Houston** were very hard, but every time I needed help the tutors were right there. It didn't make any difference if it was the evening or the weekends, they were (and are) always available.

The workshops and the leadership retreats that the **AAP** sponsors and which we must attend have provided invaluable information for becoming successful leaders in our community. I also

value them for the bonding and strengthening of friendships with other students in the program. We share our fears and aspirations, and this helps us to get to know each other better. I always return from the retreats feeling motivated and ready to tackle whatever obstacles may come my way. I know they will be there, but I also know that I am better prepared to deal with them not only because I have a college education but also because I refuse to give up.



## Word Power

# En Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers of **La Voz de Brazoria County** various word lists in each issue of

**Adjustable rate mortgage(arm)** A loan characterized by fluctuating interest rate Usually one tied to a bank or savings and loan association cost -of funds index

**Agent** One who acts or has the power to act for another .A fiduciary relationship is created under the law of agency when a property owner, as the principal, executes a listing agreement or manafement contradr outhorizing a listin agreement or management contract authorizing a licenced real estate broker to his or her agent

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe or trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de **La Voz de Brazoria County** una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

**Hipoteca con tasa ajustable** Un prestamo que se caracteriza Un prestamo que se caracteriza por tener una tasa de interes fluctuante, por lo general sujeta al indice del costo de los fondos del banco o de la institucion de ahorros y prestamo

**Agente** Una persona que actua o que tiene el poder para actuar en nomgre de otra. Se establece una relacion fuduciaria de acuerdo con la ley de agencia cuando el propietario de un inmuebleen caracter de principal , ejecuta un acuerdo de venta o un contrato por el cual autoriza a un corredor de bienes de riales certificado como su agente.

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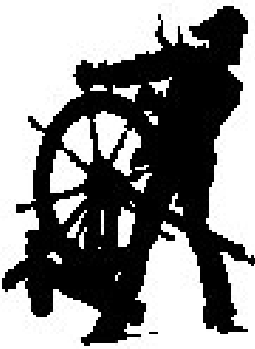
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# LULAC's Milestones

What follows are some of the milestones accomplished by LULAC in its history. These milestones offered many difficult struggles, at times – life threatening, that LULAC and its members endured to get equality in justice, employment, housing, health care, and education for all Hispanics.



**1929** - Feb. 17, 1929: The League of United Latin American Citizens is formed in Corpus Christi, Texas.

**1930** - Desegregated hundreds of public places throughout Texas, such as barber shops, beauty shops, swimming pools, restrooms, water drinking fountains, public dining places, and hotels.

**1931** - Provided the organization and financial base for the Salvatierra vs. Del Rio Independent School District case, the first class action lawsuit against segregated "Mexican Schools" in Texas.

**1933** - Formed a committee in San Antonio which led to the formation of the Liga Defensa Pro-Escolar, later known as the "School Improvement League" that fought for better schools and better education.

**1936** - Pressured the U.S. Census Bureau to reclassify persons of Mexican descent from the designation of "Mexican" to "White". The 1940 census count reflected the change.

**1940** - Played a major role in filing discrimination cases for the Federal Employment Practices Commission, the first federal civil rights agency.

**1945** - Successfully sued to integrate the Orange County school system, that had been segregated on the grounds that Mexican children were "more poorly clothed and mentally inferior to white children".

**1946** - In Santa Ana, California, filed the "Mendez vs. Westminster Lawsuit" which ended 100 years of segregation in California's public schools and becomes a key precedent for Brown vs. Board of Education.

**1947** - Protested the non-burial of veteran Felix Longoria of Three Rivers, Texas, and assisted in his burial at the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

**1947** - LULAC Council 1 in Corpus Christi, Texas, and its Veteran's Committee, facilitated the formation of the "American G.I. Forum" organization for Mexican American veterans.

**1948** - LULAC attorneys filed the "Delgado vs. Bastrop I.S.D. Lawsuit" which ended the segregation of Mexican American children in Texas.

**1950** - LULAC and the American G.I. Forum filed fifteen school desegregation lawsuits in Texas.

**1954** - LULAC attorneys took the "Hernandez vs. The State of Texas Lawsuit Case" to the Supreme Court, winning the right for Mexican Americans to serve on juries.

**1957** - Council 60 in Houston, Texas, piloted the "Little School of the 400" project, a pre-school program dedicated to teaching 400 basic English words to Spanish speaking pre-school children.

**1960** - LULAC Council 60 in Houston, Texas, worked to transform the Little School of the 400 to "Project Headstart" under the Lyndon B. Johnson administration.

**1965** - LULAC Council 60 in Houston, Texas, piloted a job placement center which led to the federally funded of SER - Jobs for Progress.

**1966** - LULAC marched with and financially supported the United Farm Workers in their struggle for minimum wages and dignity.

**1966** - LULAC and the American G.I. Forum joined forces to organize SER - Jobs for Progress, now the largest and the most successful work power program in the nation.

**1968** - LULAC created the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF). The legal arm of the Latino community.

To be continued

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# Historia

Discos Hacienda fue fundada en 1976, en Corpus Christi, Texas por Roland y Annie Garcia, junto con el hermano de Roland, Rick Garcia, quién es ingeniero y productor y quienes continúan al mando, guiando a su dinámico personal hacia el éxito. Hoy en día, Discos Hacienda se a establecido como una de las primeras compañías de discos y estudios de grabación en el mundo y puede hacer alarde de un catalogo de más de 800 títulos que se especializan en música Tejana, Tradicional Tex-Mex, Conjunto y Norteña. El catalogo también contiene de lo mejor de la musica de Rock en Español, Salsa, Merengue, Rap, Pop, Christiana y Musica Navideña.

Por los ultimos 30 años, grupos de Tex-Mex, Conjuntos y Norteños han gozado de un increíble nivel de presentaciones y grabaciones por todo el Suroeste. Discos Hacienda, ha seguido conectada muy de cerca con la gente del Suroeste y con la musica que ellos escuchan en los salones de baile, clubs y festivales. Estas gentes, lugares y eventos son el corazón, donde vive la música de acordeón. Durante este tiempo, Discos Hacienda a producidola mejor música, que por siempre ayudara a perdurar la cultura Latina.

A travez de el sitio de Internet de Hacienda [www.haciendarecords.com](http://www.haciendarecords.com), nuestros visitantes se pueden conectar con la ultima inovación en la era digital, la red de radio de Hacienda Radio Network, difundiendo música en vivo 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana para que todos puedan escuchar estas joyas eternas. En ese punto, Discos Hacienda a re-masterizado tesoros permanentes de artistas clasicos como Lisa Lopez, Pio Treviño, Romance, Los Chachos, Ruben Vela, Showband USA, Steve Jordan, Mingo Saldivar, Tony De La Rosa, Ruben Naranjo, Freddy Fender, Valerio Longoria, Michelle y muchos otros más. Discos Hacienda también ofrece música con artistas contemporaneos y estilistas como Albert Zamora Y Talento, Los Dos Gilbertos, Ricky Naranjo, La Traición, Cali Carranza, Peligro, Victoria Y Sus Chikos y muchos más.

Discos Hacienda continúa formando nuevos artistas, siempre encontrando el talento nuevo, ya sea Norteño, Tejano, Tropical, Mariachi, Trio Romántico, Tex-Mex, Country, Internacional o Música Cristiana. Con un promedio de 3 nuevos lanzamientos al mes, Discos Hacienda continúa siendo el primordial estudio distribuidor de la música Tejana y Tex-Mex en el Suroeste, y ha llegado la hora para que el resto del país y del mundo, descubran esta música tan distinta, original y tradicionalmente rica del sur de Texas y de la frontera.

Visite el sitio de Internet de la compañía y descubra la música por si mismo. En [www.haciendarecords.com](http://www.haciendarecords.com), usted puede escuchar mas de 2000 canciones con los artistas favoritos de Discos Hacienda. Ademas puede tomar un viaje virtual de nuestros estudios, leer las ultimas noticias, comprar el producto o simplemente dejar una nota a la comunidad Tejana!



## Hacienda Records and Recording Studios

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# History

Hacienda Records was founded in 1976, in Corpus Christi, TX by Roland & Annie Garcia and Roland's brother, Rick Garcia, engineer/producer, who remain at the helm, steering a dynamic staff to success. Today, Hacienda has established itself as one of the premier Spanish record labels and recording studios in the world and boasts a catalog with over 800 titles that specializes in Tejano, Traditional Tex-Mex, Conjunto and Norteño music. The catalog also contains some of the best Spanish Rock, Salsa, Merengue, Rap, Pop, Gospel and Christmas music in the business.

Over the past 30 years, Tex-Mex, Conjunto and Norteño groups have enjoyed an astounding level of performances and recordings throughout the southwest. Hacienda Records, has remained closely connected to the people of the southwest and the music they hear in the dance halls, clubs and festivals. These people places and event are the heart of where accordion driven music lives. During this time, Hacienda has produced some of the best music that will forever help preserve the Latin culture.

Through the hacienda website ([www.haciendarecords.com](http://www.haciendarecords.com)), visitors can connect to Hacienda's latest digital age innovation, the Hacienda Radio Network, broadcasting live music, 24/7 for everyone to listen to these timeless treasures. In that regard, Hacienda has digitally re-mastered enduring treasures by classic performers such as Lisa Lopez, Pio Treviño, Romance, Los Chachos, Ruben Vela, Showband USA, Steve Jordan, Mingo Saldivar, Tony De La Rosa, Ruben Naranjo, Freddy Fender, Valerio Longoria, Michelle and many others. Hacienda also offers music from contemporary conjunto stylists such as Albert Zamora y Talento, Los Dos Gilbertos, Ricky Naranjo, La Traizion, Cali Carranza, Peligro, Victoria y Sus Chikos and many more.

Hacienda continues the making of new artists, always finding new talent that cover Norteño, Tejano, Tropical, Mariachi, Romantic Trio, Tex-Mex Country, International and Spanish Gospel. With an average of 3 new releases per month, Hacienda Records continues to be a primary studio and distributor of Tejano, Tex-Mex music in the Southwest and the time has now come for the rest of the country, and the world, to discover this distinctly original and traditionally rich music from South Texas and the Border Region.

Visit the Company's website and experience the music for yourself. At [www.haciendarecords.com](http://www.haciendarecords.com) you can hear over 2000 songs by some of Hacienda favorite artists. In addition, you can take a virtual tour of the Company's studios, read the latest news, purchase product or just drop the Tejano community a chat!

# AVISO DE ASAMBLEA PÚBLICA

El Condado de Brazoria va a organizar y dirigir una asamblea pública (**formato abierto/entre y salga como usted desea**) para presentar los cambios propuestos a la Calle del Condado 48 (CR 48) (Old Airline Road/Ruta Vieja de Linea Aérea) empezando de la Carretera Estatal 6 (SH 6) y terminando al tope del Camino de Mercado-a-Granja 518 (FM 518) (Broadway) y los cambios a la Calle del Condado 58 (CR 58)(Calle Croix) empezando de la Calle del Condado 48 (CR 48) y acabando en la Carretera Estatal 288 (SH 288) en el Condado de Brazoria, Texas. **La asamblea es de las 6:00 de la tarde a 8:00 de la tarde el martes 20 de febrero de 2007 en la cafetería de la Escuela Primaria Don Jeter, en la dirección 2455 CR 58, Condado de Brazoria, Texas 77578.** La razón de esta asamblea pública es para presentar la acción propuesta, los apremios ambientales que limitan el proyecto, el estado de el proyecto, y para escuchar los comentarios de el público y contestar preguntas que puedan tener. Representantes de el Condado de Brazoria estarán disponibles para la discusión informal acerca de el proyecto.

La asamblea pública será dirigida en inglés. Sin embargo, para acomodar a la población hispana en el área, intérpretes del idioma español estarán allí para asistir a personas interesadas en expresar sus comentarios y sus preguntas. Personas que soliciten a intérpretes de otro idioma, requieren comunicación, acceso, o necesidades especiales, deben comunicarse con la Oficina de Ingeniero del Condado de Brazoria, numero de teléfono 281-756-1265 por lo menos dos días hábiles de trabajo antes de la asamblea. Las oficinas de el Departamento de Ingeniería del Condado de Brazoria estarán abiertas de lunes a viernes de las 8:00 de la mañana a 5:00 de la tarde, excluyendo días festivos. El Condado de Brazoria hará todos esfuerzos razonables para acomodar estas necesidades.

Todos interesados son invitados a asistir esta asamblea para expresar sus vistas. Comentarios en escrito relacionados al proyecto propuesto pueden ser presentados en la asamblea o sometidos al Brazoria County Engineering Department, 451 N. Velasco, Suite 23, Angleton, Texas, 77515, a cualquier tiempo hasta el **martes 6** de marzo de 2007.

## Busca

*La Voz de Brazoria County*  
en el internet en la dirección  
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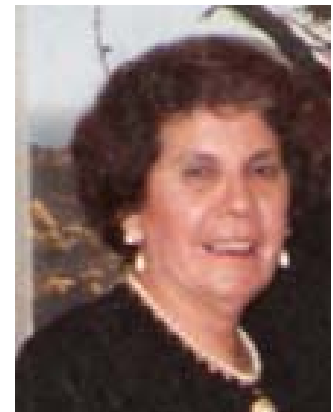
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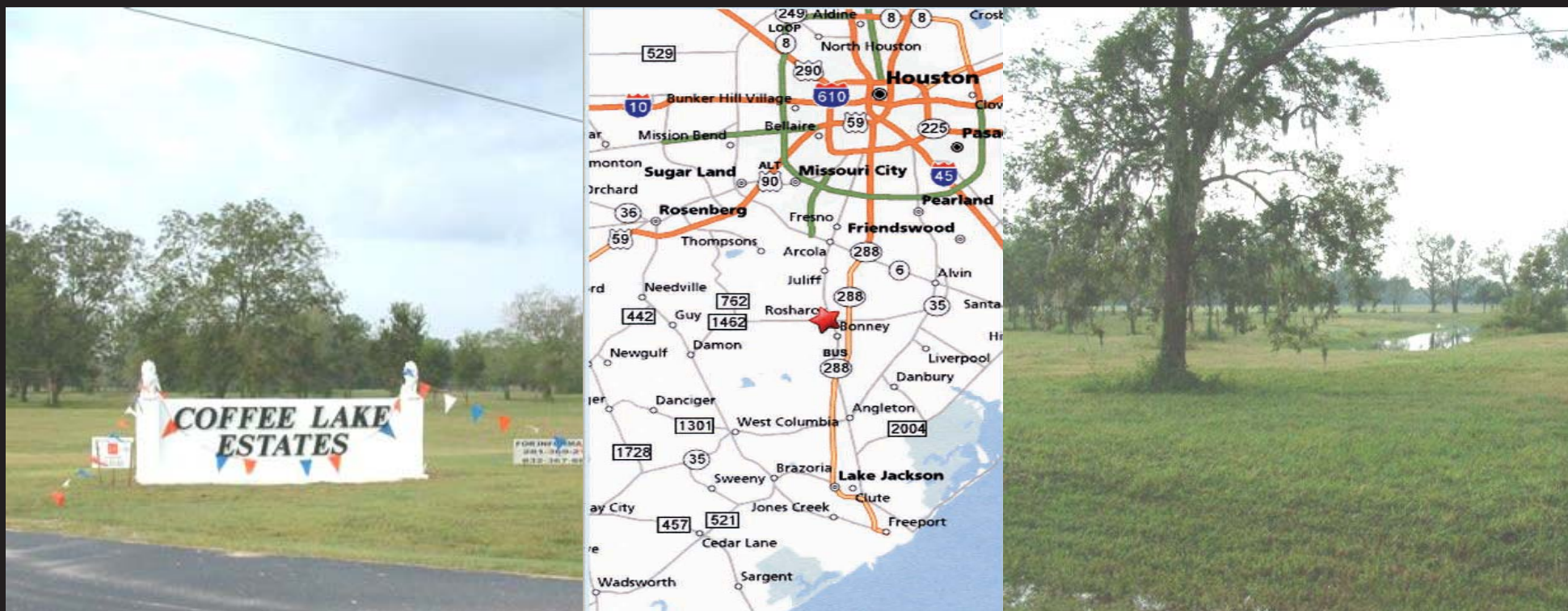
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