

April 2006



NORTH HOUSTON-GREENSPOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Pacesetter

WELLS FARGO

Wells Fargo Golf Tournament hosted by the North Houston-Greenspoint Chamber

Calling all golfers—get your clubs ready for the Wells Fargo Golf Tournament—which promises to be another great time for serious and not-so serious golfers alike! The Chamber hosts the golf tournament each spring to provide the opportunity for an outstanding day of golf and business connections while enjoying member golf courses. This year's event will be held at Willow Creek Golf Club in Spring. www.willowcreekclub.com

Why Golf?

“Because there is no better way to really get to know someone than by spending 4 or 5 hours with them on a golf course. Add a couple of hours on the 19th hole and you will have learned about the good, the bad and the ugly. And, it's done in a relaxing, casual and beautiful environment. *Neal McFarland, CHME, Tournament Sales Director Celebration Golf Club, Fla.*”

Golfers will experience THE Networking Event of the Year—where the formality of doing business across the conference room table gives way to a more relaxed and personal experience where relationships are developed that will last. When spending time with others

WELLS FARGO

Wells Fargo Golf Tournament
Monday, May 22nd
Willow Creek Golf Club
24525 Northcrest Drive, Spring
11 am ~ Registration
12:30 pm ~ Shotgun Start
5 pm ~ Crawfish Boil / Awards Dinner

THE Networking Event of the Year
See Page 7 for Registration Information
or www.nhgcc.org

ABS **CALDWELL::WATSON**
REAL ESTATE GROUP
Doing It Right. Right Now.

playing golf not only will you have the fun of sharing the day on the course, but also will have the opportunity to witness how others will probably also conduct themselves in a business environment—whether business associates, clients or employees.

The planning committee is hard at work to present the BEST golf tournament ever seen by the North Houston-Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce. The food is going to be fabulous with **Outback Steakhouse** coming out to serve lunch and then a Crawfish Boil will be served for the Awards Dinner by **DineTime**. The prizes will be coveted by all golfers and there are going to be awesome raffle items available to ALL who purchase a ticket!

Make plans now to attend the Wells Fargo Golf Tournament, bring a client or friend.

Sign up quickly—Early Bird Registration ends April 10th!

North Houston Bank Casino Night Hits it Big!

Dice were flying and chips were tossed at the North Houston Bank Casino Night, where a great time was had by all and even a few were big winners! A first for the event, this year's event was held at the Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center—which provided a great area for the gaming tables and delicious hors d'oeuvres.



Pat Boullion, Bill Townsend & Karin Smith enjoy Black Jack!

Thanks goes out to the evenings sponsors—North Houston Bank, Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center, Observer Newspapers, Caldwell Watson Real Estate Group, Brookside Funeral Homes & Memorial Park, MATTCO Manufacturing, MCA Communications, and Mir, Fox & Rodriguez as well as the Food /Beverage Sponsors and Prize Sponsors!

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair, Jerry Lowry

Greater Greenspoint District

Past Chair, Ray Shotwell

Brookside Funeral Homes & Memorial Park

Chair Elect, Bill Ginder, CCIM, SIOR

Caldwell Watson Real Estate Group

Secretary, Rosemary Buske

Contact Promotions

Treasurer, Bill Townsend

North Houston Bank

Vice Chair, Business Development, Bill Hester

IBC, Innovative Business Consultants , Inc.

Vice Chair, Community & Governmental Relations, Dr. David Sam

North Harris College

Vice Chair, Marketing & Fundraising, Jill Boullion

Boullion Graphics

Vice Chair, Membership, Mary Skaff

USpersonnel

Directors at Large

Clark Austin, Austin & Associates

Jerod Becton, Willow Creek Golf Club

Ray Bennett, ABS

Cheryl Canova, GFI Management , Inc.

Sherran Domescik, Sam Houston Race Park

Margaret Eyster, Magoo's PrintShop

Bill Ferebee, O'Donnell, Ferebee, Medley & Keiser, PC

Ken Harris, Harris & Associates

Ben McCaslin, Wells Fargo

Dana Podsednik, Hydril

Seth Sharr

Kristin Wells, Hines

Ralph Wheeler, Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA

Bill White, Parsons

John Zizelmann, MATTCO Manufacturing

Message from the Chair

A warm welcome to the new members who have joined us during the first quarter of this year. I hope you, and your staff members, have plans to attend chamber events, join a chamber committee and start immediately to become connected with our chamber community. It won't be long before you discover how our chamber and its members are deeply woven into the north Houston community and work constantly to make our area a better place to live, work and play.

A wonderful example of this commitment comes up on the calendar this month. On Sunday, April 30, Greenspoint will host the March of Dimes WalkAmerica. Chamber member Kerr McGee, as presenting sponsor, will lead hundreds of volunteer walkers through our area in support of a worthy cause. The North Houston-Greenspoint Chamber will be one of many sponsoring organizations because we see this as an opportunity to partner with area companies and organizations to have a positive impact on our community. Because of the strong support of the companies in our chamber this is one of the top community walk sites in the state. I hope your company, and employees, will join us on that day and celebrate our connections.

Another way in which the chamber plays a role in community development is by sponsorship of the Leadership North Houston program. LNH is a multi-community based organization committed to educating and enhancing the involvement of existing and emerging leaders relative to important issues, problems, and opportunities in the multi-community area. The program takes place over a nine-month period beginning in September each year. Applications for the 2007 class are available now at the chamber offices and are due on June 1st.

These are just two examples of the connections the chamber has in our community and if your company takes advantage of these, and others, you will stay *connected for growth*.



Jerry Lowry
Chair of the Board

Ex-Officio Members

Representative Kevin Bailey, District #140

Marilyn Bayless, North Houston-Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce

Regina Curry, Spring ISD

Ray Laughter, North Harris Montgomery Community College District

Senator Jon Lindsay, District #7

Dr. James Simpson, North Forest ISD

Ben Wilson, Aldine ISD

Chamber Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The 20th Anniversary Celebration took place on March 16th at the monthly luncheon. Chairman of the Board, Jerry Lowry discussed the impact that has been made by the volunteers of the Chamber over the last twenty years helping the North Houston-Greenspoint area grow and thrive.

“This is the time to recall the passion that led to our many successes,” he said.



These successes began with a small group of dedicated individuals who joined together in March of 1986 to form the founding organization of what is now known as the North Houston-Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce. Many thanks to Terry Burge of The Leader Newspapers and the committee for all their efforts.



Past chairmen of the board in attendance included from left Ray Shotwell, Erv Baumeyer, Bill Thorne, Bill Webster, Leland Jauer, Donna Mauldin (widow of founding chairman Vic Mauldin), Jack Drake, Susan Hill, Seth Sharr, and Jerry Lowry.
Photo by Harry Williamson

Thank you Renewing Members!

Be An Angel Fund
Best Value Platinum Inn & Suites
CenterPoint Energy
Hines
Houston First Insurance Associates
Houston Pipe Benders

Humble Civic Center
Landmark Chevrolet
Mark of Distinction, Inc.
Meador Staffing Services
Mission Greenspoint
North Forest ISD

Office of US Representative Gene Green
Office Systems of Texas
OMNIBANK
Speed Printing & Office Supply, Inc.
Spring ISD
The WorkSource—Greenspoint

Calling ALL members... Join us for the **Networking Breakfast** where you can give a 30-second commercial promoting your business ~ come meet your fellow Chamber members!

Bring a Guest ~ you'll be entered in a drawing for a free Breakfast at the May Networking Breakfast!
Consider more exposure for your company by donating a door prize.

Thursday, April 13th , 7:30 am
Hotel Sofitel Houston 425 N Sam Houston Pkwy E
RSVP by April 11th by 5pm to rachael@nhgcc.org
\$15 for members/\$20 non-member or w/out RSVP

Monthly Luncheon
Thursday, April 20th —11:30 am
Holiday Inn Intercontinental Airport, 15222 JFK Blvd

Cesar Ricon, Univision
Hispanic Business in Houston

RSVP by April 18th by 5pm to rachael@nhgcc.org
\$25 for members/\$35 non-member or w/out RSVP
Bring a Guest ~ you'll be entered in a drawing for a free Lunch.
Consider more exposure for your company by donating a door prize.

NHMCCD Referendum

The Board of Trustees for the North Harris Montgomery Community College District recently announced \$249.6 million bond referendum to carry forward NHMCCD's master plan to address projected enrollment growth and community needs identified in a nine-month planning initiative conducted by outside consultants in facilities planning and management, finance and demographics. If voters approve the bond referendum, the district's good financial condition and planning will make it possible to issue the additional debt without an increase in the tax rate. The trustees' unanimous vote for the referendum was preceded by sessions with district and college community advisory groups whose input was incorporated into the plan.

The elections will be conducted at the district's five college campuses and seven satellite centers. "This is not the first time that the district has conducted its own election at its own facilities. In 2000, the Department of Justice pre-cleared a district bond election using the college campuses as the polling sites. The district made the decision to conduct the May 2006 election at district sites based on the high cost and low participation rates the district has experienced in past joint elections. Election results from the last joint election showed that at some of the shared polling sites as much as 80% of the voters who showed up to vote didn't vote on the college district ballot. An analysis of the election costs projects that the district stands to save more than \$100,000 by conducting its own election," said Ray Laughter, vice chancellor for external affairs.

The North Harris Montgomery Community College District is among the largest and fastest growing community college districts in Texas. It comprises North Harris College, Kingwood College, Tomball College, Montgomery College, Cy-Fair College, seven satellite centers and The University Center. To learn more, visit www.nhmccd.edu.

Welcome New Members

Americas Best Value Inn Hotel Kevin Shah

16410 North Fwy—Houston, 77090
281-821-1000

Hotels

Offers large, spacious suites with a full kitchen in every room. Studio, 1 & 2 bedroom suites that include cable TV and wireless internet in selected rooms. Meeting space also available.

Bayside Printing Rose Mary Bualdscho

160 Lockhaven Dr—Houston, 77073
281-209-9500

Printers

Offering commercial printing, computer graphics, bindery services & mail fulfillment.

Beltway Printing & Gifts

Barry Bethea

416-B N Sam Houston Pkwy E—Houston,
77060
281-820-5900

Printers

A full-service commercial printing company operating in the Greenspoint area for 25 years. Services include offset & digital printing, graphics & digital copies. Along with printing services, the gift shop offers a wide variety of general gifts, corporate gifts & home/office décor.

Bristol Apartments William Henson

2121 Kirby Dr Unit 68—Houston, 77019
713-334-5808

Apartments

Bukoba Coffee Shop Damian Restrepo

15155 North Fwy #200—Houston, 77090
281-875-8178

Coffee Shops

Bukoba Coffee Shop is a place filled with the highest-quality coffee, fresh baked pastries and unparalleled service. The mission at Bukoba Coffee is to provide an experience that makes the day better.

Eurasian Cargo USA Kenneth Murphy

3340 Greens Rd Bldg C Suite 510
Houston, TX 77032
281-227-7673

Freight Forwarders

Represent, market, and sell cargo for international airlines.

Creative Promotional Solutions Christine Leard

522 Whispering Meadow—Magnolia, 77355
281-259-0705

Advertising—Promotional Products

Creating incentive, recognition, and safety programs; provide custom printing products; increase public awareness through tradeshow & events and more! A full service promotional company partnering with you from start to finish. Promoting your business the way YOU want to be promoted—to your employees, current customers and potential clients.

Dods & Associates Doug McCommas

1805 Humble Place Dr—Humble, 77338
281-964-1102

Telecommunications

Dods & Associates is a certified Avaya Communications Business Partner, specializing in Voice over IP applications & solutions. Since 1989, serving the North Houston area with award winning excellence in customer service. Call for a free telecommunications and VoIP analysis for your business.

Golf Matrix

Mitch Lohmann

15832 W Hardy Rd Ste 650—Houston, 77060
281-999-0200

Retail—Custom Golf Items

Golf boutique for video teaching, digital shaft fitting & customization with one of the best selections of high performance shafts in Houston. Also build custom clubs & repairs.

Gosmall Biz

Elaine Combs

PO Box 5218—Kingwood, TX 77325
281-216-8874

Consultants—Business

Pre-Paid Legal Services

Helping small businesses grow, protect their assets & provides legal plans & identity theft plans thru pre-paid legal services.

Mamacita's Mexican Restaurant

Joe Gonzalez/Alma Gonzalez

15335 North Freeway—Houston, 77090
281-876-3663

Restaurants

A family-owned and operated Mexican restaurant where we pride ourselves by using only the finest ingredients and freshest products around and providing you with the great service you deserve.

Houston's Incredible Pizza Adrienne Solomon

3645 FM 1960 Rd W, Suite B—Houston 77068
281-583-1410

Restaurants

At Houston's Incredible Pizza Company the all-you-can-eat buffet features fresh pizza, pasta, salad, baked potatoes, soups and delicious desserts. In the Fairgrounds, you'll find an incredible arcade, go-karts, bumper cars, mini golf and more, specializing in groups so come celebrate with family & friends.

SM&P Utility Resources, Inc.

Scott Woerner

15403 Vantage Pkwy W Ste 320—Houston 77032
281-987-2140

Utilities

Founded in 1979, SM&P is an underground utility locating company headquartered in Carmel, IN & operates in 8 states. A local district office provides multi-dimensional protection services for buried utility and communications systems. SM&P is a subsidiary of the Laclede Group, Inc. which trades on the NYSE under the symbol LG.

The Common Source Incorporated

Ann Zdansky

515 N Sam Houston Pkwy E Ste 610—Houston 77060
281-260-9220

Consultants—Business

The Common Source Incorporated was founded in 1997 as a full service document management & litigation support service provider & consulting company. Commitment to quality service is evidenced by the company obtaining ISO 9001:2000 certification for Quality Management System & Sigma Six implementation and the WBENC certification as a woman-owned business.

USpersonnel

Mary Skaff

2425 West Loop South, Suite 510—Houston, 77027
1-888-547-7785

Personnel Services



New Members learn about the Chamber and have the opportunity to meet other members at the recent New Member Orientation.

Please welcome these new members with your patronage!

Houston's Airport Growing

According to the most recent traffic figures released by the Airport Council International, Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) is now the nation's 9th busiest airport in the number of passengers served annually.

Last year, as the 7th largest international gateway in the US, IAH served a recorded 48 million passengers—showing an increase of 4 million passengers from 2004 to 2005.

In the cargo arena, IAH is the 15th most active airport in the country for total air cargo and moved more than 347,000 metric tons of air cargo in 2005. The international airport also ranks 6th in the world for the most number of total aircraft movements.

Applications Being Accepted

The Greenspoint Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) is currently accepting scholarship applications for a \$1,200 Chapter Grant to be awarded to a qualified female candidate based upon the review of completed applications.

All those interested should contact Caroline Smith, Scholarship Committee Chairman. Applications are being accepted through **May 10th—for questions please contact:**

Caroline Smith

californiasmith@earthlink.net

713-553-1918

FAA Selection

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) selected the Houston Airport System (HAS) as *Airport of the Year* for 2005. The reasons for selection:

- Completion of a multi-year \$3.1 billion airport improvement program
 - Development at Hobby Airport that included a new concourse
 - HAS was the recipient of the FAA's 1st grant to implement the Voluntary Airport Low Emissions (VALE) program.
- "We proudly accept this award on behalf of all Houstonians," said Rick Vacar, HAS Director.

The Buzz on Taxes—Tax Reform Commission Plan

The Texas Legislature has been called into a Special Session to begin on Monday, April 17th at 2pm by Governor Perry.

"The Texas Supreme Court has ruled that Texas' current tax system must be reformed by June 1," Perry said. "This special session provides legislators of both parties a rare opportunity to significantly reduce property taxes, make substantial reforms to the franchise tax so it is fairer and broader, and ensure our schools have a reliable and constitutional stream of revenue."

The Tax Reform Commission presented a plan for property tax reduction and suggestions for the state's business tax structure. The bi-partisan commission was appointed last year by the governor to recommend changes to the current franchise tax.

The Texas Supreme Court later issued its ruling in a school-finance lawsuit and gave the legislature until June 1st to address what it found to be an unconstitutional statewide property tax.

If passed, the property tax cuts would take place immediately, with property owners seeing an initial rate reduction in school property taxes of 17 cents. Those tax reductions would be paid for with an increase in taxes on tobacco products, increased tax compliance measures and a portion of state surplus.

The reforms on the business tax structure would take effect in 2007 and school property tax rates would be further reduced

to \$1 per \$100 in valuation—a 1/3 reduction in the current school tax rate of \$1.50.

The Governor's Office released a copy of the tax bill which will be the basis for the property tax reduction and the franchise tax reform to be considered during the Special Session.

Businesses can visit a link of worksheets that can be used to calculate the potential tax consequences to property tax relief and franchise tax reform: <http://www.txbiz.org/PubDocs/Taxes/SampleTaxForm.pdf>

For more details, the draft of the bill can be accessed at <http://www.txbiz.org/PubDocs/Taxes/TaxBill.pdf>

The Governmental Affairs Committee is interested in hearing from members and your opinions of the current recommendations—watch your email for an upcoming survey where members will be able to share their opinions, which will be conveyed to decision makers during the Special Session.

"If Texas is to continue to be a national leader in job creation, any new tax system we adopt must reward jobs and investments, not penalize them." Governor Rick Perry

Best Companies to Work for in Texas Profiled in Texas Monthly

Texas Association of Business in partnership with Society for HR Management Texas State Council and Best Companies Group recently hosted a luncheon where the 50 Best Companies to Work for in Texas were recognized. Being a recognized company is a distinction, which recognizes the best employers in the state who make it a priority to create a better workplace for their employees. Peter Burke, executive vice president and COO of Best Companies Group stated, "The goal of the program is to heighten company pride, bolster

50 Best Companies to Work for in Texas includes Chamber Members

Anyone can tell you that Chamber members are awesome companies—but a few have also been named in the top 50 in the state of Texas.

Edward Jones

Hines

Wells Fargo

employee morale, raise company visibility, and increase the bottom line." This year is the first time a Best Companies list has profiled the entire state. Participation was voluntary and open to for profit and not for profit companies with 25 or more employees. In order to be considered the companies were involved in many resource-consuming activities including a 2-part survey along with an organizational overview of company's policies and procedures and an in-depth employee questionnaire. Congratulations to all who were named as finalists!

2006 Program of Work

The Board of Directors, through their annual planning retreat established a direction for the work of the Chamber that is carried out through the various committees and task forces within the organization, with each listed below. Consider finding out more about a committee that interests you or whose work you are passionate about—getting together *Connected for Growth!*

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Vice Chair – Bill Hester
Staff Liaison – Rachael Weaver

Economic Development Committee

Chair: Amanda Graham – Caldwell Watson Real Estate Group
Meets 4th Tuesday at 12 noon
Supports and promotes economic growth and business development in the area.

Job Fair Committee

Chair: Michele Willis – NHMCCD
Meets 1st Wednesday at 9am
Plans annual job fair which brings area employers together with potential employees.

Workforce/Education Committee

Chair: Jana Anders – InvesTex Credit Union
Meets 4th Thursday at 11:30 am
Works to foster and build upon cooperative relationships with area school districts. Focuses on Workforce Development through Lunch & Learn Seminars.

COMMUNITY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS DIVISION

Vice Chair – Dr. David Sam
Staff Liaison – Nicole Dukehart

ANHOC (Alliance of North Houston Chambers of Commerce)

Representatives:
Gregg Mielke – Mielke Masters, LLP
Mark Hecker – Power Procurement Specialists
Meets 1st Tuesday 4 pm—Every other month
Works to facilitate joint discussions of public policy issues affecting business in chambers collective service areas.

Beautification Committee

Chair: Ralph Wheeler – Aldine – Greenspoint YMCA
Meets 4th Thursday at 9am
Works to support businesses to undertake beautification projects and presents quarterly beautification awards.

Governmental Affairs Committee

Chair: Gregg Mielke – Mielke Masters, LLP
Meets 1st Tuesday at 11:30 am
Works to inform members of legislative issues affecting business and presenting members' positions on issues to decision makers.

Greens Bayou Coalition

Representative: Bill Ginder – Caldwell Watson Real Estate Group
Coalition of interested parties working together to develop a master plan with concepts applicable to the entire corridor.

Law Expo— Each year this community event brings approximately 50 different law enforcement agencies together to educate the public on law enforcement resources available to them—scheduled for Fall 2006.

Leadership North Houston

Representatives: Jill Boullion – Boullion Graphics
Bill Ginder – Caldwell Watson Real Estate Group
A multi-community based program committed to educating and enhancing the involvement of existing and emerging leaders in North Houston. Applications currently being accepted until June 1, 2006.

Transportation Committee

Chair: Ken Stanley – Montgomery & Associates
Works towards the betterment of transportation concerns in the North Houston-Greenspoint service area.

MARKETING & FUNDRAISING DIVISION

Vice Chair – Jill Boullion
Staff Liaison – Nicole Dukehart

FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

Events held to generate funds for the activities of the organization.

Casino Night

Chair: Bill Townsend – North Houston Bank

Golf Tournament

Chair: Rosemary Buske – Contact Promotions
Meets 1st Thursday at 9am

The Starlight Ball

Chair: Amanda Graham—Caldwell Watson Real Estate Group
Meets 3rd Wednesday at 8:30am

IAH Festival

Event Representative: Bill White—Parsons

Marketing Committee

Chair: Jill Boullion – Boullion Graphics
Works to develop a Marketing Plan for the Chamber.

MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

Vice Chair – Mary Skaff
Staff Liaison – Marilyn Bayless

Ambassador Committee

Chair: Bill Townsend – North Houston Bank
Works towards recruiting & retaining members.
Meets monthly.

Networking Events

Chair: Rodney Anderson – Northside Lexus
Works to provide quality networking events for members.



Sponsored by



Wells Fargo Golf Tournament 18th Annual

Monday, May 22nd Willow Creek Golf Club

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

PLATINUM SPONSOR \$3000

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--|----------------|
| 2 Golf Teams | \$1,200 | Recognition in <i>Pacesetter</i> | \$100 |
| 8 Lunch Tickets | \$200 | Company recognized in media promotions | |
| 8 Dinner Tickets | \$200 | Recognition at Awards Dinner | |
| Company Logo on tee box at every hole | \$3,600 | Recognition at Annual Awards Banquet | |
| 8 Raffle Tickets | \$80 | One of the following with company's logo: | \$600 |
| Recognition in Event Program | \$100 | cooler; tees; balls; divot tools; koozies; hat clips | |
| | | Value | \$6,800 |

GOLD SPONSOR \$1500

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|--|----------------|
| 1 Golf Teams | \$600 | Company recognized in media promotions | |
| 4 Lunch Tickets | \$100 | Recognition at Awards Dinner | |
| 4 Dinner Tickets | \$100 | Recognition at Annual Awards Banquet | |
| 4 Raffle Tickets | \$40 | One of the following with company's logo: | \$600 |
| Company Listed in Event Program | \$50 | cooler; tees; balls; divot tools; koozies; hat clips | |
| Recognition in <i>Pacesetter</i> | \$100 | Value | \$1,590 |

BAG DROP SPONSOR \$500
 Company displayed on Sign at Bag Drop
 Available for set up with promotional materials
 Company Listed in Event Program

BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR \$500
 Company name on Beverage Cart
 Company Listed in Event Program
 Company Employees may drive Cart

Carts All Sold

HOLE SPONSOR \$200
 Company displayed on Sign at Hole / Company Listed in Event Program

- TEAMS OF 4** ~~\$600~~ **Early Bird Discount \$550** sign up by April 10th
- INDIVIDUAL** \$150

Auction Item Donation \$ _____ (value)

Description of item: _____

Name: _____ Company: _____

Player #1: _____ Handicap: _____

Player #2: _____ Handicap: _____

Player #3: _____ Handicap: _____

Player #4: _____ Handicap: _____

Texas Named Top State in the Nation Again for Job Creation *Site Selection Magazine Awards Prestigious 2005 Governor's Cup to Texas*

Gov. Rick Perry today announced that Site Selection magazine, the world's foremost publication for business expansion and relocation, has again awarded the annual Governor's Cup to Texas for securing the most job creation announcements in the nation for 2005.

This is the second consecutive year that Texas has won the award. It also won in 1992, when it shared the award with North Carolina, and in 1978, 1980, 1981 and 1982. This year's win brings a record seven wins to Texas, more than any other state.

"It has been 23 years since the last time Texas won the Governor's Cup two years in a row. Today, we have defended our title and Texas is once again the number one state in America for job creation announcements," Perry said. "The good news we are reporting today is this: No state has been more successful in making good jobs available to its workforce."

The Governor's Cup rankings are determined by tracking the number of business expansion projects in a state that involve a capital investment of at least \$1 million, create 50 jobs or more or involve 20,000 square feet of new floor space. Texas secured 842 such projects in 2005 – a 26 percent increase from the previous year. Ohio, which placed second in the rankings, had 598 projects. Last year, Texas won the award with 668 job expansion projects.

"Winning the Governor's Cup two years in a row is powerful evidence that Texas is on the right track to a prosperous future. We have made wise decisions by keeping taxes low, investing in an educated workforce, limiting lawsuit abuse and aggressively pursuing jobs," Perry said. "Our coordinated strategy to educate out-of-state employers about Texas' excellent business climate is working. And it is proof that our unprecedented investments in job creation tools are paying real dividends for the people of this state."

In 2004, Site Selection called the \$295 million Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF) a tool that is "central to Texas' ability to lure projects" whose role "cannot be overstated." To date, the Enterprise Fund has helped close the deal on projects that will bring 37,000 new jobs to Texas and add \$6.7 billion in capital investments to our economy.

Additionally, the magazine cited two Texas metropolitan areas among the strongest in the nation for job growth with Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown area ranked third and Dallas-Forth Worth area was ranked second nationally.

Greater Greenspoint District Connects Businesses

Businesses, residents and commuters between the Greenspoint business district and West Hardy have a new, convenient route available. Construction is complete on a bridge over a tributary of Greens Bayou at Benmar Drive that opens the street from Greenspoint Drive to West Hardy. In addition to improving the area's traffic flow, the bridge includes original artwork and other special features, exemplifying the Greater Greenspoint Redevelopment Authority's (GGRA) commitment to enhance the community through capital improvements and public art.

"This project gave us an opportunity to improve the area's accessibility," said Sally Bradford, executive director of the GGRA. "But, it also gave us an opportunity to continue showcasing our area through public art. The existing murals along Airline Drive at Casa Linda Restaurant, Stovall Middle School's SPARK Park and the Harris County Public Library Aldine Branch highlight the area's culture and pride. We want to continue bringing infrastructure improvements and public art to Greenspoint," she added.

Dixie Friend Gay is the artist for the bridge project. Bush Intercontinental Airport incorporated Gay's work in the form of an impressive glass mosaic mural in its Terminal A-B garage connector. Her works focus on nature and the theme will continue in her art on the bridge at Benmar Drive. The bridge construction also included the installation of sidewalks from Imperial Valley Drive to West Hardy, continuing the existing sidewalk from Greenspoint Drive.



L to R—Bart Baker, Urban Design Manager—Greater Greenspoint District; Dixie Friend Gay—Bridge Mosaic artist; Sally Bradford, Executive Director—Greater Greenspoint Redevelopment Authority; James Curry, Board Chair—Greater Greenspoint District; Marilyn Bayless, President—NHGCC; Rosario Martinez, Board Member—Greater Greenspoint District; Jack Drake, President—Greater Greenspoint District; Tom Wussow, Founder/Treasurer—Greater Greenspoint District. *Photo courtesy—Chris Lopez.*

April 2006 Calendar of Events

Week of April 3rd

- 04 **New Member Orientation, 9 am**, Chamber Conference Room, Suite 150
- 04 **Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting, 11:30 am** Chamber Conference Room, Suite 150
- 05 **Networking Luncheon, 11:30 am** Mamacita's Mexican Restaurant, 15335 North Freeway
RSVP by April 3rd at 5 pm to Kim at 281.446.1071—\$10 per person
- 06 **Golf Committee Meeting, 9 am** Chamber Conference Room, Suite 150
- 07 **Job Fair Committee Meeting, 2:30 pm** Chamber Conference Room, Suite 150

Week of April 10th

- 10 **Executive Committee Meeting, 11:30 am** Chamber Conference Room, Suite 155
- 11 **Marketing Committee Meeting, 3:30 pm** Chamber Conference Room, Suite 155
- 13 **Networking Breakfast, 7:30 am** Hotel Sofitel, 425 N Sam Houston Pkwy E
RSVP by April 11th at 5pm to rachael@nhgcc.org or Rachael at 281.442.8701
\$15 for members/\$20 for non-members or w/out RSVP
- 14 **Chamber Office Closed in Observance of Good Friday**

Week of April 17th

- 18 **Board of Directors/Ambassador Membership Meeting, 11:30 am** The Greenspoint Club
RSVP by April 16th at 5pm to rachael@nhgcc.org
- 19 **Gala Committee Meeting, 8:30 am** Chamber Conference Room
- 20 **Golf Committee Meeting, 9 am** Chamber Conference Room
- 20 **Monthly Luncheon, 11:30 am, Hispanic Business In Houston—Cesar Ricon, Univision**
Holiday Inn Houston Intercontinental Airport, 15222 JFK Blvd
RSVP by April 18th at 5pm to rachael@nhgcc.org or Rachael at 281.442.8701
\$25 for members/\$35 for non-members or w/out RSVP
- 21 **Casino Night Wrap Up Meeting, 9 am** Chamber Conference Room

Week of April 24th

- 24 **Transportation Committee Meeting, 4 pm** Chamber Conference Room, Suite 155
- 25 **Economic Development Committee Meeting, 12 noon** Chamber Conference Room, Suite 150
- 26 **Workforce/Education Committee Meeting, 11:30 am** Chamber Conference Room, Suite 150
- 27 **Beautification Committee Meeting, 9 am** Chamber Conference Room, Suite 150
- 27 **Business After Hours, 4:30 pm to 7 pm, Willow Creek Golf Club, 24525 Northcrest Dr, Spring**

Why I'm A Chamber Member *By Nadine Kujawa, Aldine ISD*



Nadine Kujawa
Superintendent of Schools
Aldine Independent School District
2004 & 2005 National Broad Prize
for Urban Education Finalist

"Membership in the North Houston-Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce is vital for Aldine ISD. The Chamber enables our school district to keep other members and businesses informed of state and national recognition we have received, as well as the challenges the district faces now and in the future.

Secondly, we receive constructive feedback from members about the educational services we provide to assist us in keeping pace with the skills needed in the job market. Finally, through the Chamber, we are able to establish educational partnerships that benefit our students as we prepare them for higher education, the workplace, and to be responsible, productive citizens."

110% Club

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Adecco Employment Services | Houston School of Morals & Ethics |
| Africa 2000, Inc. | IBC Innovative Business Consultants |
| Ajilon Finance | International Specialists |
| Aldine - Greenspoint YMCA | Magoo's PrintShop |
| Allseas USA Inc. | Mir Fox & Rodriguez, P.C. |
| Boring Specialties, Inc. | Northeast Medical Center |
| Brothers Lighting & Electrical Specialists | Parsons |
| Case Contractors | Peacock Building Services |
| Contact Promotions | PrimeWay Federal Credit Union |
| EFG Insurance Agency | Ross Enterprises Insurance Company |
| Golf Plus Gifts & Events | Seth Sharr |
| Greater Greenspoint District | Steak and Ale |
| Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center | Stevens, Pilkington & Co PC |

Chairman's Circle Membership

Developer's Circle Investors

Aldine Improvement District
Aldine ISD
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Caldwell Watson Real Estate Group
Kerr-McGee Oil & Gas Corporation
Observer Newspapers

Executive Investors

ABS
Fitness Connection
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Convergys Corporation
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Grant Prideco
Greenspoint Mall
Hines
Hotel Sofitel Houston
Houston Community College—NE
Hydril
Landmark Chevrolet
Mac Haik Dodge Chrysler Jeep
MATTCO Manufacturing
Montgomery & Associates
North Forest ISD
North Harris College
North Houston Bank
Northeast Medical Center
Northline Mall
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OMNIBANK
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Peacock Building Services
Reliant Energy
Ross & Baruzzini
SBC
SETEC Protection Service
Shell Oil Products US
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Smith International , Inc.
Sterling Bank
Stone Energy Corporation
Swift Energy Company
Texas Southern University
Thomas Properties Group
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ACI, Fully Booked
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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