



## Tidings of Comfort & Joy by Dr. Charles Grant, President & CEO

Recent publications have indicated an upswing in the economy. For example, the November 28th edition of the Houston Chronicle's Business Section printed an article entitled "Holiday Weekend Sales Hit New High." The day after Thanksgiving, Black Friday, retail sales were at an all time record! According to Phil Rist, Executive Vice President at BI-Gresearch, "Consumers are clearly demonstrating their desire to spend this holiday season." In fact, U.S. retail sales during Thanksgiving weekend climbed 16 percent and sales totaled \$52.4 billion, according to an article by Lauren Coleman-Lochner of Bloomberg News. Additionally, Black Friday sales

increased by 24 percent over the previous year. The article also indicated that a record number of people were out shopping. There were 226 million this year compared to 212 million during the same period in 2010. Cyber Monday also had record sales this year.

Another article in the Money section of USA Today (December 8, 2011), discussed why the Dow Jones industrial average had climbed over 12,000, its highest level since October. Optimism that European leaders would agree to a solution to halt the debt crisis in Greece, Italy and Spain as well as other counties in Europe, sent stocks higher. In fact, the Dow is up almost 1000 points to where it was just a few months ago. Consumer confidence is a key to a bull market. According to the article by Sumi Somaskanda, "The Nations of the euro-

zone, the 17 countries that use the euro as currency, have been pleading with Germany to use its financial strength to assume more responsibility for solving the crisis."

The November 25-December 1, 2011 copy of the Houston Business Journal printed an article by Sanford Nowlin about the demand for employees because of the Eagle Ford Shale. Although this activity is closer to San Antonio than Houston, many of the companies doing work there are based in Houston. They include Halliburton, Baker-Hughes, Schlumberger, and Weatherford International. According to the article, this is the most significant job creation in the last ten years. Over 67,000 jobs will be available by 2020.

An on-line report, Texas Ahead: Tracking the Texas Economy, reported the follow-

ing in the December 9th update:

- \* Job growth and sales tax collection signals that the Texas economy has emerged for the recession.

- \* Between October 2010 and October 2011, Texas gained 231,600 jobs.

- \* Texas sales tax receipts for October 2011 were 15.9 percent higher than for October 2010

- \* October 2011 home sales were 8 percent higher than in October 2010.

If the above economic news doesn't bring you comfort and joy, perhaps you should consider relocating to the mountain range just outside Whoville. According to a local Realtor, there are several properties available. In fact, there is a house just South of Mr. Grinch. Deed restrictions, however, require residents to have small hearts!

Happy Holidays!

### Inside this issue:

Board of Directors	2
New Members	2
Renewals	3
Port of Houston	3
Ribbon Cuttings	4
Calendar of Events	4

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Bates Custom & Collision presented a "new", used vehicle from their North Channel location and one from their Baytown location to very deserving families on December 14, 2011. According to Dr. Charles Grant, "This is the true spirit of the season." Thank you Bates!



## 2011 Board of Directors

**Matt Davis – Chairman,**  
**CommunityBank of Texas**

**Dr. Vickey Giles– Chair-elect**  
**Sheldon ISD**

**Wilfred Broussard Jr.—1st Vice Chair,**  
**Broussard's Real Estate**

**Shalonda Dawkins – Secretary,**  
**United Community Credit Union**

**Bill Chote—Treasurer,**  
**Community Bank of Texas**

**Kim Marak – Immediate Past Chair,**  
**Arkema, Inc.**

Bob Bartel, Individual  
Don Bobo, CenterPoint Energy  
Marlene Clowers, Congressman Gene Green  
Dr. Shirley Ellisor, Holy Trinity Episcopal School  
Mike Fortner, Fortner Financial  
Pedro Garcia, Port of Houston Authority  
Ramon Garza, Farmers Insurance  
Johnny Gonzalez, Houston Community Newspaper  
Kimberly Gonzalez, Platinum Copier  
Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College N.  
June Harris, Halo Branded Solutions  
Dear Hofmann, LyondellBasell  
David Hopkins, Life Member  
Carrie Hulsey, Texas Bay Area Credit Union  
Dale Jones, Sterling Wood Church  
Erika Koehler, Wendel D. Ley Y  
Terry Loving, Advantage Howard Glendale  
Edward Miller, Edward Miller Appraisal Svs.  
John Moore, Galena Park ISD  
Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD  
Larry Pfeifer, Sheldon ISD  
Mike Roussos, East Houston Regional Medical Center  
Brian Wilhelm, State Farm Insurance

### Staff

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**North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 9759, Houston, Texas, 77213, (713) 450-3600**

*You are invited to the 35th Annual North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Membership and Awards Banquet*

*Saturday, January 28, 2012 at Houston Hobby Airport Marriott, 9100 Gulf Freeway Houston Texas 77017*

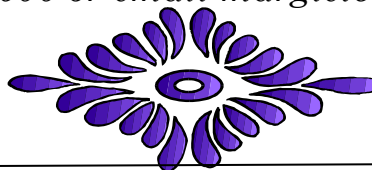
*Speaker—Judge Ed Emmett*

*Social Time and Auction—6:30 pm*

*Dinner and Entertainment—7:30 pm*

*Tickets are \$50 per person and Corporate tables for eight are \$500*

*Table assignments are based on a first paid first assigned basis. Please RSVP at 713-450-3600 or email margielb@flash.net*



## NEW MEMBERS

### State Representative Harold Dutton, Jr.

8799 North Loop East, Ste. 305  
Houston, TX 77019  
(713) 692-9192

Harold Dutton, Stephanie Russell

Government—State

### East Houston General Surgery

13111 E. Frwy., Ste. 110  
Houston, TX 77015  
(713) 944-1340

Leonidas Miranda, MD, Prapti Regmi

Medical Office

### Herrera Fabricating

7118 John Ralston Rd.  
Houston, TX 77044  
(281) 454-5166

Blanca Garcia

Fabricating

### State Farm Insurance - Tom Joacim

14606 Woodforest Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77015  
(713) 453-4373

Tom Joacim

Insurance Agencies

# Still caring...by renewing their membership

A special thank you to the following members who have shown their dedicated support of the Chamber and the community by renewing their membership investment.

## 11–31 Years

Farmers Ins.—Nunley	31 years
B.J. Sargent	31 years
Woodforest Nat'l Bank	30 years
Foster Fence Ltd.	30 years
Shippers Stevedoring Co.	30 years
Wendel D. Ley Y	29 years
Havard Welding Supply Co.	28 years
North Channel EMS	28 years
Channelview Coca-Cola	28 years
Hubbard Electric Co.	23 years
The Honorable Mike Parrott	20 years
Harris Co. WCID #36	11 years

## 6-10 Years

Dr. Carmen Wong	10 years
HCC—Northeast	8 years

## 1-5 Years

Professional Bodyworks	5 years
The Chuck Radney Co.	5 years
The Conklin Clinic	5 years
Fairfield Inn & Suites Channelview	2 years
Executive Catering	2 years
Prozign Architects	1 year
Jeffery Miller	1 year

### OUR MEMBERS

*Our chamber thrives on membership. Help us out with the names of new businesses opening in our area.*

*You show your support for the North Channel community when you purchase goods or services from businesses that display the chamber membership decal.*

*When in doubt, contact the chamber office for a list of businesses at 713-450-3600 or go online to [www.northchannelarea.com](http://www.northchannelarea.com)*



## PORT BRIEFS

# Sam Houston Boat Tour



On December 6, some North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce members got the pleasure to take a ride down the Port on the M/V Sam Houston. If you haven't taken the tour, get ready for an unforgettably spectacular waterborne tour of one of the busiest ports in the world aboard the Port of Houston Authority's free public tour boat!

Named for the legendary military commander who led the fight for Texas independence from Mexico and later statehood, the M/V Sam Houston offers free leisurely 90-minute round-trip cruises along the Houston Ship Channel.

Embarking from the port's Sam Houston Pavilion, visiting sightseers

aboard the M/V Sam Houston can enjoy passing views of international cargo vessels, and operations at the port's Turning Basin Terminal. The 95-ft. vessel has capacity for up to 90 passengers and features air-conditioned lounge seating as well as standing room outside on the boat's rear deck.

The M/V Sam Houston has been operating as the Port of Houston's public tour vessel since its first voyage on July 30, 1958. In 2010, the vessel received new low-emission fuel engines and a new generator. The environmental upgrades were made possible through grants from the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan and American Recovery and Rein-

vestment Act funding through EPA's National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program.

Make your reservations now for this rich educational experience. The tour is free. Reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis and are required at least 24 hours in advance. Register online any time, or call 713-670-2416, Mondays - Thursdays between 10 am and 4 pm.

If you would like to UPDATE AN EXISTING RESERVATION, please send your update to [samreservations@poha.com](mailto:samreservations@poha.com) or you may FAX your update to 713-670-1515.

## NORTH CHANNEL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 9759  
Houston, TX 77213  
13301 I-10 East, Suite 100  
Houston, TX 77015  
Phone: 713-450-3600  
Fax: 713-450-0700  
[www.northchannelarea.com](http://www.northchannelarea.com)

## Upcoming Events



December 23-26  
Christmas Holidays  
Chamber Office closed

January 2  
New Year's Holiday  
Chamber Office closed

NO JANUARY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 10  
Ambassador Breakfast  
8 am @ La Quinta Inn & Suites-  
Channelview, 5520 E. Sam Houston  
Pkwy. N., 77015

Monday, January 16  
Martin Luther King Day  
Chamber Office closed

Tuesday, January 18  
Board of Directors  
11:30 am @ Sheldon ISD

Saturday, January 28  
Chamber Annual Banquet  
6:30 pm @ Marriott Hobby  
9100 Gulf Freeway

Friday, February 3  
Monthly Luncheon  
11:30 am @ SJCN Student Center,  
Monument Room, 5800 Uvalde  
Speaker—SJC Chancellor Brenda  
Hellyer

*Did you know you can put  
your calendar events on our  
website? Go to  
[www.northchannelarea.com](http://www.northchannelarea.com)  
click on view all events and  
then click on submit an  
event.*



## CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTINGS



**ABOVE**—La Quinta Inn & Suites—Channelview @ 5520 E. Sam Houston Pkwy. N. held a ribbon cutting on November 21.

**BELOW**—Holiday Inn—East Houston @ 16311 East Freeway held a ribbon cutting on December 8.

