



A Season of Change by Wayne Oquin

"The only thing that remains constant is change." While I don't know who to attribute this quote to, I often like to start my articles with a well-worn cliché. I have once again succeeded.

From budget shortfalls to budget cuts in areas ranging from essential services to education, I believe the preceding statement is both worn out and appropriate. We are truly experiencing change in the North Channel Area. It seems as though each new month brings another

new challenge for both business and individuals. Forgive me if I choose not to deal with change of this sort.

I prefer to focus on the change in leadership that happens in key areas of our community such as in education and business. I won't spend a great deal of time on the who's who in change. However, recent examples are past Chairmen of the Chamber Board Aaron Woods and Dr. Mark Henry. It goes without saying that they will both be missed. Instead, I will focus on what happens next as we go through an on-going "season of change."

When a business leader or a Superintendent of Schools leaves the community, the

North Channel Area Chamber is left to deal with the void caused by their departure. Unfortunately, this happens with more regularity than any of us wish for. Strong relationships with member concerns along with the individuals who represent them are a key to the success of the Chamber.

The means by which the Chamber replenishes leadership is by Board election. Every July, the Board approves a ballot that consists of names submitted by a nominating committee representing a cross section of the Chamber membership. Within a week of this presentation and approval, the ballot is sent out to all Chamber members. New Board mem-

bers are elected to either a three or one year term based on total votes received. New Board members take the oath of office at the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet in January of the following year. Sounds like a regular election, right? There is one large difference. We have term limits of 6 years. We continue to get fresh faces/ideas.

This system has worked since 1977 when the Chamber was formed and continues to function smoothly to this day. Everyone has the right to vote. Those that don't vote shouldn't complain. Wish I could think of an appropriate cliché to close with but I am at a loss. Just watch for your ballot and exercise your right. Help us deal with our constant "season of change."

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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

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, CommunityBank
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
Ramon Garza, Farmers Insurance
Johnny Gonzalez, Houston Community
Newspapers

Kimberly Gonzalez, Platinum Copiers
Dr. Charles Grant, Harris Co. Pct. 2
Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College N.
June Harris, Halo Branded Solutions
Dean Hofmann, LyondellBasell

David Hopkins, Galena Park ISD
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.
Greg Ollis, Channelview ISD

Larry Pfeifer, Sheldon ISD
Mike Roussos, East Houston Reg. Medical
Center

Brian Wilhelm, State Farm Insurance
Jay Woodall, East Houston Reg. Med. Center

Staff

Wayne Quin, President & CEO
wayneoq@flash.net

Margie Buentello, Membership Assistant
margielb@flash.net

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

NEW MEMBERS

Adler Tank Rentals
2751 Aaron St.
Deer Park, TX 77536
(281) 479-5675
Jason Green, John Stewart
Rental Services— Industrial
Alamo Roofing
16555 Cedar St.
Channelview, TX 77530
(281) 452-6355
Joe & Thelma Garcia
Roofing Contractors

Powerhouse of Love Ministries,
dba Timothy Project
13334 Wallisville Rd.
Houston, TX 77049
(281) 414-1381
Carolyn & Marvin Robinson
Non Profit

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.**

6-31 Years

Clarion	30 years
Martha R. Lozano, M.D.	24 years
Burger King	22 years
Brown & Gay Engineers	12 years
Forest Park Apartments	12 years
Hunters Creek Apartments	11 years
North Channel LEPC	11 years
Flex Tank Systems	10 years

1-5 Years

New Forest Dental	5 years
Joe Blasi	4 years
Vickey Giles	4 years
Go Store It	4 years
Elizabeth Lalor	4 years
UTLX Manufacturing, Inc.	3 years
Tracy Marak	2 years
Thompson/Horton LLP	2 years
Rainbows & Stars Childcare	2 years
Crystal Murray	2 years
Matt Davis	2 years
Randy Taylor	2 years
Dr. Joan Bowman	2 years
McClain Trailers, Inc.	1 year
Clemtex	1 year
Carla Voekel	1 year
Mike Williams of Edward Jones	1 year
Sydnors and Associates	1 year
Our Lady of Fatima Church	1 year



PORT BRIEFS

Dredging Up Environmental Bounty— Storm Damage Repair



In September 2008, Hurricane Ike bore down on the Gulf of Mexico and took aim at the upper Texas coast. After ravaging Galveston, Harris County and communities near Galveston Bay, Ike went on the cause additional flood and wind damage in the southern Great Lakes, Ohio Valley and New England.

The third costliest hurricane in U.S. history, Ike caused \$30 billion in damage. While local residents lost power and sustained damage to their homes and businesses, the Houston Ship Channel also felt Ike's fury. Levees, shore protection Evia Island bird habitat, Redfish Island and Mid-Bay Island were all affected.

Interestingly enough, the nearly 2,000 acres of marsh created by the Port of Houston Authority using dredge material from both the deepening/widening project as well as maintenance dredging was largely unaffected. The marshes proved their protective and resilient nature in the face of this natural disaster.

Annually, the 52-mile-long Houston Ship Channel needs approximately \$40 million in regular maintenance dredging. Damage from Ike pushed the funding need much higher at a time when projects competing for a slice of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' budget is fierce.

"The area's diverse congress-

sional delegation once again pushed aside political difference working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to secure the necessary emergency funds to repair the damage caused by this devastating storm," says Port Chairman James T. Edmonds.

Even without a major storm like a hurricane, the Houston Ship Channel is part of a dynamic system. The many bayous and rivers that empty into the channel bring silt that impedes safe transit for vessels in the nation's second busiest port in terms of tonnage. A recent study examined the impact of the loss of depth in the ship channel. The loss of just one foot of depth in the Houston Ship Channel has an economic impact of \$378 million.

While the main purpose of regular maintenance dredging is to keep commerce moving along the channel safely and efficiently, it also provides material to create marshes and other beneficial uses. Storm repair returns valuable wildlife habitat in the ship channel.

"The repairs allowed us to make adjustments that increase the health of Galveston Bay," explains David Casebeer, Houston Ship Channel Project Manager for the Port Authority. "While repairing the Evia Island, we will plant more salt-tolerant plant species so that there is less damage during the next storm surge."

Six-acres Evia Island provides much-needed colonial water bird habitat, and the birds found it not long after it was first constructed. By 2008, the island hosted an average of 3,732 nesting pairs of birds. This number represents 16 of Galveston Bay's known 21 nesting species, including the once-endangered brown pelican. Despite Ike destroying the beach and vegetation of the island, the birds returned even before repairs began, a testimony to the value of this habitat built by the Port Authority.

In addition to island, shore protection and levee repair, more creeks and ponds will be cut into marsh cells to enhance the fisheries and wildlife habitat. Breaches on interior levees enhance circulation and the health of the marshes. These and future marshes will be located where they can do the most good to prevent shoaling in the ship channel and provide the most benefit to the local ecosystem.

"It has been 13 years since the marsh and habitat creation project began on the ship channel and much is constantly being learned as these areas mature," said Casebeer. "All of the various funds allow for continued improvements, which benefit Galveston Bay, and long-term, I am hopeful they will decrease the need for dredging in the channel."

NORTH CHANNEL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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13301 I-10 East, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77015
Phone: 450-3600
Fax: 713-450-0700
www.northchannelarea.com

Upcoming Events

CHAMBER SUMMER HOURS
June 9—July 31
Mon.—Thurs, 8 am—5 pm
Closed on Fridays

NO JULY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, July 19
Chamber Board Meeting
11:30 am @LyondellBasell

Friday, August 5
Monthly Luncheon @ 11:30 am
Jacinto City Town Center
Speaker—County Commissioner
Jack Morman

Tuesday, August 9
Ambassadors Breakfast
8 am @ Location TBD

Wednesday, August 17
Ribbon Cutting
11 am @ S.T.E.P.S.
13845 Corpus Christi, Ste. A

Wednesday, August 31
Ribbon Cutting
8 am @ Wal-Mart
I-10 East Frwy. & Freeport

Friday, September 2
Monthly Luncheon
11:30 am @ SJCN

RIBBON CUTTINGS



ABOVE: A Ribbon Cutting for The Purple Ribbon Resale Shop was held on June 15. All proceeds go to the North Channel Coalition. They are located on Avenue C in Channelview.

BELOW: A Ribbon Cutting for the newly renovated Villa Sierra Apartment Homes was held on May 26. They are located at 550 Normandy.



*Did you know you can put your
calendar events on our website?*

Go to

*www.northchannelarea.com click
on view all events and then click
on submit an event. Also, like us
out on Facebook—North Channel
Area Chamber of Commerce.*

MAY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



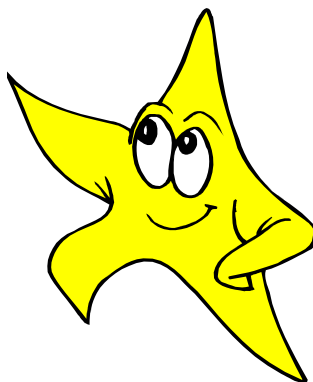
ABOVE LEFT—Annell Salgado, C. E. King High School: MIDDLE: - Zachary Potter, North Shore Middle School and RIGHT- Gabby Contreas, Alice Johnson Junior High

MAY EDUCATORS OF THE MONTH



**LEFT: Dr. Kelly Mizell
of San Jacinto College
North**

**RIGHT: Dave DeJohn
of Galena Park High
School**



The Keys To A Successful Golf Tournament

Great events are made up of great leadership, supported by great sponsors who invite great people to share great times. Thanks to all who participated!

Platinum Sponsor—Woodforest National Bank

Gold Sponsors—McGriff Seibels & Perdue, Brandon Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP

Silver Sponsor—Advantage Howard-Glendale Funeral Home

Bronze Sponsors—East Houston Regional Medical Center, North Shore Rotary, Platinum Copier Solutions, San Jacinto College North, Slocomb Insurance Agency Inc, United Community Credit Union, Channelview ISD, Galena Park ISD, & Sheldon ISD (schools districts courtesy of Congressman Gene Green)

Buy a Tee Box Sponsor—Go Store It

Towels—Bates Custom and Colli-

Hole Sponsors:

1. Advantage Howard-Glendale Funeral Home
2. Brooks & Sparks, Inc.
3. Broussard's Real Estate
4. C & H Pipe Services, Inc.
5. Capital Bank
6. Carino's Italian Restaurant
7. Carter Funeral Home
8. Cary Stephens
9. Chick-Fil-A, Beltway 8

10. Chris Diaz for Constable Precinct 2
11. Community Toyota*Honda*Kia
12. CommunityBank of Texas
13. Constable Ken Jones
14. Cray Valley USA, LLC
15. Dennis Albright, Attorney @ Law
16. Don Coffey, JP
17. Edward Jones Investments - Mike Williams
18. Edward Miller Appraisal Services
19. EHC Hospice
20. Everitt Industrial Supply, Inc.
21. Express Electric Co.
22. Farmer's Insurance - Joe Stephens
23. Foster Fence Corp.
24. Genan, Inc.
25. GV Marine Surfaces, Inc. (GVMS)
26. Havard Welding Supply
27. Heights Builders
28. In Honor of My Wife Debbie Palko - Bill Palko
29. Intra-Services Co.
30. JDH Property Management
31. Jim Defoyd, Attorney @ Law
32. Judge Parrott
33. Leroy Willits, MD
34. LyondellBasell
35. MACO Construction, Inc.
36. Mr. Gatti's Pizza, #412
37. Northshore Glass Co.

38. Pineforest Jewelry
39. Port of Houston Authority
40. Quantum Environmental Consultants, Inc.
41. R.C. Schmidt & Sons, Inc.
42. Ryan Dagley Appraisal
43. San Jacinto College North
44. Sherwin Williams
45. Sign Center
46. South Lake Houston EMS
47. Southwest Securities
48. State Farm Insurance - Brian Wilhelm
49. State Representative Ana Hernandez
50. Sterlingwood Church
51. Stone Park Apartments
52. Stuart Nunley Farmers Insurance
53. Texas Bay Area Credit Union
54. The Chuck Radney Co.
55. The Conklin Clinic
56. Transmatic
57. Wallisville Road Boat Storage
58. Wells Fargo Bank
59. Zachry Industrial, Inc.



A Good Time Was Had By All

.... DRIVING THE BALL



.... DRIVING THE CART



.... PUTTING



.... OR WINNING \$10,000 LIKE TIM MISER!