



THE NAVIGATOR

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www.northchannelarea.com

March 2011

Tee it up with the Chamber

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament provides a great opportunity to fellowship, promote your business or entertain clients. This year's event will be held on Monday, June 20, 2011 at Tour 18 in Humble with an 8:00 am shotgun start. Teams of 4 are available for \$500.00 and individual players are \$125.00. Please be advised that we have 33 team slots and the tournament fills up quickly. Opportunities for non-golfers include hole sponsorships at \$200 each and we also accept donated items for hole and raffle prizes.

Woodforest National Bank is serving as Platinum (major) sponsor for this year's event. Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, & Mott, along with McGriff Siebels are sharing the Gold (food) sponsorship. Our Silver (hat) sponsor is Advantage Howard-Glendale Funeral Directors. Bronze sponsors are: East Houston Regional Medical Center; North Shore Rotary Club; Platinum Copier Solutions; San Jacinto College North;

Slocumb Insurance; and United Community Credit Union. Channelview ISD, Galena Park ISD and Sheldon ISD are also bronze sponsors courtesy of Congressman Gene Green.

The Chamber tournament provides a prize on every hole including a \$10,000 hole-in-one prize courtesy of Woodforest National Bank as well as prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive and a buy

-a-tee-box hole. All prize opportunities are included in the \$500.00 entry fee. We also have a special \$2.00 per ticket raffle for prizes ranging from golf balls to golf clubs.

For more information on the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament or other Chamber events, contact the Chamber office at 713 450-3600 or go to www.northchannelarea.com.

My Town, My Job, My Voice

It seems to be a regular occurrence that that someone inquiring about Chamber membership asks me to define our purpose or mission. My general response is that "the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce exists to support business and quality of life issues within the boundaries of the North Channel Area." The most asked follow-up question is simply "how?" Quite honestly, the response given is typically tailored to the person asking the question.

One could easily surmise that I am a salesman well versed in overcoming objections and closing the sale. I would prefer to offer that the Chamber provides an appro-

priate vehicle to anyone desiring to promote their business, sell their products or support their community. Therefore the answer given as to how we achieve our mission is not the same for all who inquire.

A great example of the role of the Chamber is our support of a campaign known as "My Town, My Job, My Voice," an initiative designed to unite businesses and organizations that have been affected by the regulatory structure imposed on the oil and gas industries. There can be no dispute as to the importance of petrochemical manufacturing to the economy of the North Channel Area. Furthermore, there is no dispute from responsible petro-

chemical manufacturers that their products should be produced in a manner that protects the environment. The message of the campaign is simply that the oil and gas industry is important to the economy and the ripple effect that is felt due to regulatory and public pressures on the industry can cost jobs and undermine our community's quality of life.

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce has always sought to provide a forum for business promotion as well as a means to create dialogue between stake-

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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.

Janet Allen, United Community Credit
Union

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

Chula's Sports Cantina

12008 E. Freeway
Houston, TX 77029
(281) 352-6563
Pat Lindsey
Restaurants

Reginald Anderson
Restaurants

Sam Houston Area Council, Boy Scouts

P.O. Box 924528
Houston, TX 77292
(713) 756-3386
Marcus Jackson
Non Profit

Crawfish Shack

5822 FM2100
Crosby, TX 77532
(281) 536-1481
Dan Meaux
Restaurants

The Dasco Companies

13111 East Frwy.
Houston, TX 77015
(713) 451-7011
Melissa Graham
Property Management

Da Swamp Shak

214 Sheldon Rd.
Channelview, TX 77530
(281) 979-5201

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.**

11–33 Years

Capital Bank	31 years
Woodforest National Bank	30 years
Leshner's Chiropractic Clinic	26 years
Hector Barkley, CPA	25 years
Don's Auto Service	24 years
Pine Trails Comm. Improvement	23 years
Wal-Mart #1137	23 years
Fred Bosse, Attorney @ Law	22 years
Dependable Diesel	19 years
Northshore Glass Co.	17 years
Channelview ISD	14 years
Edward Miller Appraisal Svs.	14 years
R.C. Schmidt	14 years
Charlie Jones	13 years

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6-10 Years

Triumph Hospital East Houston	10 years
Investor's Management	10 years
Prudential Gary Green Realtors	7 years

1-5 Years

Bellotte Enterprises, Inc.	5 years
Bill Chote	4 years
Worldwide Machinery	3 years
Orphalinda Bazan	2 years
Arnold Ramirez	2 years
Chick-fil-A	1 year
Yvonne Koopman, PLLC	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



PORT BRIEFS

Anniversary of a Historic Milestone



In three years, the Port of Houston will celebrate the centennial of the official opening of the Houston Ship Channel. It was a long process convincing the United States Congress of the worthiness of the project, and some milestones concerning the leadership that pursued deep water for Houston are beginning to reach their 100th anniversaries.

Private business interests pushed hard for many years for a deep-water port with organizations such as the Houston Cotton Exchange leading the way. Cotton, lumber, rice and other cargo from Houston needed to move to the Atlantic Coast and beyond. Several railroads converged in Houston, but without deep water, only barges could move cargo as far as Galveston, where it had to be transferred onto ocean-going vessels, a costly and time-consuming process.

Houston Mayor Horace Baldwin Rice was devoted to the idea of deep water for Houston and along with U. S. Representative Tom Ball, moved the dream from an idea to reality. At a meeting in the mayor's office on January 18, 1909, Ball proposed sending a bill to the Texas Legislature to authorize navigation districts that would permit the local power to make harbor improvements. The bill was passed by

the 31st legislature in 1909. Law provided that such navigation districts be governed by a board of three commissioners.

The next step was convincing Congress to allocate funding for deep water. Houston succeeded in persuading the Rivers and Harbors Committee through the genius of Ball, who proposed that Houston share the cost of the project. The so-called Houston Plan became the precedent for many federal funding projects as it demonstrates local support for proposed projects.

The Harris County Houston Ship Channel Navigation District was formed and later became the Port of Houston Authority. Voters were asked to support bonds in the amount of \$1.25 million to pay for Houston's share of the project to create a deep-water channel to Houston's port. The election was held on Tuesday, January 10, 1911, and county-wide, the issue carried by a ratio of 16 to one.

The county commissioners followed the state's navigation district law and appointed the governing body consisting of Charles Dillingham, Camille G. Pillot, and Ross S. Sterling, who then met on March 23, 1911, to elect Dillingham as chairman and Sterling as secretary of the Navigation and Canal Commissioners.

But the state law did not include a provision for management of the municipal facilities on the channel. So, another governing body was created and a city election was held to authorize a \$3 million bond issue to build the public wharves.

The City Council then passed an ordinance creating a city harbor board of five members appointed by the mayor, to oversee the city's waterfront facilities. Those five members were appointed on December 3, 1913, and consisted of Jesse H. Jones as chairman, Roy M. Farrar, Ball, John T. Scott and Pillot.

Although the two governing bodies often met simultaneously so that they could keep abreast of each other's actions, the two were only finally merged in 1922 under the leadership of Mayor Oscar Holcombe. He brought city and county officials together and they worked through the night crafting a reorganization of the Navigation District. The state legislature approved their request on August 21, 1921, to have a single five-member Board of Navigation and Canal Commissioners with two appointed by the city, two by the county and a chairman jointly appointed. Voters approved the changes in 1922, and in May, the original boards became one: today's Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority.

NORTH CHANNEL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Houston, TX 77213
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Houston, TX 77015
Phone: 450-3600
Fax: 713-450-0700
www.northchannelarea.com

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 22
Board Meeting
11:30 am @ GPISD

Wednesday, March 23
Ribbon Cutting
Mr. Car Wash
380 Uvalde Rd.
11 am

Thursday, March 24
Business After Hours
Woodforest National Bank
80 Uvalde Rd.
5:30—7 pm

Friday, March 25
Ribbon Cutting
Da Swamp Shak
214 Sheldon Rd.
2 pm

Friday, April 1
Monthly Luncheon
11:30 am @ SJCN Student Center,
Monument Room
5800 Uvalde Rd.

Tuesday, April 12
Ambassadors Breakfast
Location—TBD
11 am

Monday, April 25
Judge Parrott's Golf Tournament

RIBBON CUTTING



A Ribbon Cutting was held at I-Hop on February 10 after their renovation. Go visit them at 13405 East Freeway, Houston, 77015. Below are (L-R) Chamber Chairman Matt Davis of CommunityBank of Texas; I-Hop manager Leroy Gaskin; and Dr. Charles Grant of Harris County Pct. 2.



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holders in the future of our community. In a perfect North Channel Area every petrochemical manufacturer would be a member of the Chamber and participate in this dialogue. This is simply not the case.

However, those area manufacturers who belong to the Chamber have invested in our community and sought to join the discussion in order to make our area a better place to live and work. Campaigns such as **"My Town, My Job, My Voice"** provide an opportunity to point out the facts and fallacies associated with this valuable North Channel resource.

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.

FEBRUARY STUDENTS AND EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH



At the February Chamber luncheon Students of the Month Sedrick Flowers of North Shore Senior High School; (left); Sha'Kayla Nunez of Channelview High School (middle); Meagan Andrusick of C.E. King High School (not pictured); and Educator of the Month Dr. James Semones of San Jacinto College North (right) were recognized.

Do you know someone who has made a difference in the North Channel area?

Do you know of someone who has gone above and beyond the call to make the North Channel Area a better place to live, work or do business? The Recognition Subcommittee of the Chamber wants to provide appropriate appreciation to those who impact the community in a positive way through their vocation or as a volunteer. Nominations can be sent to the Chamber office and will be forwarded by the committee to the Chamber Board for review. Please provide a one-paragraph narrative in support of the nomination. Special consideration will be given to community service providers such as police, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

