



THE WOODLANDS AREA CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

# BUSINESS TODAY

November 2013

## OUR NEW HOME!



The Chamber proudly announces our future home at Research Forest Lakeside.

See page 2 for details.

Scan the code  
to learn about  
our new home.





# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

**Ellis & Ellis, has achieved the status** as a NABCAP Premier Advisor, an exclusive group of financial advisor. This is the third consecutive year that the firm has been recognized within the Houston area. Learn more at [www.byronwellis.com](http://www.byronwellis.com).



L-R: Barry W. Ellis, Ron Folwell, Stephen Bauer, Byron W. Ellis, and Kiernan A. O'Connor.

**The Woodlands Christian Academy** announced ten high school students have been named AP Scholars and two have been named AP Scholars with Honor. Students recognized with this honor are; Katy Adams Hope Bradshaw, Nick Carroway, Will McGrath, Cray Noah, Katie Rogers, Bob Sievert, Katie Van Horn, Isabella Vargas, Wyatt Wheeler.

**For the second year in a row, Lone Star College-Montgomery's** chapter of Psi Beta, the national psychology honor society for community colleges, has earned the Chapter Excellence Award, a distinct honor given to only seven of the 120 active Psi Beta chapters nationwide.



Front L-R: Angel Hardy, Amanda Augustine, Ami Meredith, Marbella Guerra, Tiffany Bertoldi, and Stacie Gonzalez. Back row L-R: Alan Taylor, Dr. Mike Green, and Dr. Karen Buckman.

**The Lone Star College System Small Business Development Center** Advisory Council has named 18 finalists for its 27th Annual Small Business of the Year awards. Each year, members of the LSCS SBDC Advisory Council select and recognize successful small businesses that make an impact in the local community and on the economy.

From LSC-Montgomery – BOI Consulting, LLC, Paul

Oman and Marc Berry; Karlins Ramey & Tompkins, LLC, Mike Karlins, Jay Tompkins and Glea Ramey; The Woodlands LearningRx, Kim Bellini and Beth Buzbee.

**Hodges Collision Center's** 1488 location has become a Blue Ribbon Nationwide Direct Repair Facility. Hodges Collision Center met exceptional qualifications for the overall experience, quality and customer service they provide. Owner, Steve Guinn was thrilled to have all four locations accredited with this recognition. Learn more at [www.hodgescollisioncenter.com](http://www.hodgescollisioncenter.com).

**Security State Bank** ranked #2 in loan growth percentage out of 50 Houston area banks. Bank CEO & President, Gary Van Deventer, commented, "Our growth comes on the heels of the opening of a loan production office in North Houston in May with plans to open a full-service banking center in that market in 2014." Learn more at [www.ssb-tx.com](http://www.ssb-tx.com).

**The Woodlands Christian Academy** celebrated Homecoming recently. During half-time festivities, Rachel Earle and Tristian Suayan were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.



## NEW TO THE TEAM

**Phyllis Martin has joined** MCÜW Leadership team as the VP of Community Strategies. She has a "passionate commitment for advocating for those that are less fortunate and a



Phyllis Martin

driven desire to help individuals during times of life altering experiences." Learn more at [www.mcuw.org](http://www.mcuw.org).

**The Woodlands EDP has announced the newly-appointed board members** for the 2013-2014 term. The new board members include Jan Sieving of Repsol USA as chair, Stuart Lapp of Petroleum Wholesale as vice-chair, Terry Sellers of Gallagher Benefit Services as secretary, Debra Sukin of St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital as treasurer, and Chris Grice of Amegy Bank of Texas as immediate past chair. Learn more at [www.edpartnership.net](http://www.edpartnership.net).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tommy Bahama's has added Market Street Photo Booth** as a Preferred Vendor to provide additional services to their private event clients. Clients that choose to add the service will receive personalized photo strips with the event information and company logo (if applicable to event) for attendees to treasure. Learn more at [www.MarketStreetPhotoBooth.com](http://www.MarketStreetPhotoBooth.com).

**The Woodlands Financial Group** is staging its 2014 Insurance Services convention in The Woodlands next summer bringing in more than 250 high-producing insurance agents nationwide. By pledging to bring future conventions here, Gordy Bunch, TWFG President & CEO, estimates expenditures by TWFG and its attendees will total up to one million dollars each year.



L-R: Nick Wolda, Peggy Hausman, Gordy Bunch, Nelda Blair

**Newton Design & Marketing** now offers a unique service with the addition of three unmanned aircraft equipped with state of the art cameras. These small, lightweight drones can be used for wide range of missions including aerial photography, video surveillance, showing future views of buildings and more. Learn more at [www.designbynewton.com](http://www.designbynewton.com).

## ANNIVERSARIES

**The Woodlands Celebrity Golf Classic** celebrates the 25th Anniversary this November. The Classic benefits Montgomery County Youth Services and is the longest running tournament in The Woodlands

**Star Furniture has been serving the Houston area for 101 years** and has had a store servicing The Woodlands for 35 years. This month, they celebrate five years in their Showcase Store. To celebrate, they planned a special event this month for all in appreciation of their success. Learn more at [www.starfurniture.com](http://www.starfurniture.com).

**Art Outlet recently their 2nd year anniversary** by hosting Grant Manier, an artist that has turned his Autism into an art by using recycled paper and puzzles. All proceeds went toward Autism education, Focus Academy.



L-R: Edward Scroggs, Grant Manier, Susan Scroggs

**Blanton Advisors, LLC is celebrating their third anniversary.** The firm was founded in 2010 to offer CFO services. Barry Blanton, founder, has worked with over 25 different businesses ranging from health care services to contractors and retailers with annual revenues ranging from \$5 to \$100 million.



barry Blanton

## DEVELOPMENT

**The Johnson Development Corp. – Woodforest** recently opened the community's Forest Island swimming complex with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting and party. The resort-style amenity includes 6,000 sq. ft. of water space and 10,000 sq. ft. of decking. Anchoring the pool is a 42-ft. tower with two 29-ft. water slides. Forest Island also has two tennis courts and a full-sized basketball court.