



THE WOODLANDS AREA CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

BUSINESS TODAY

February 2014



The Chamber's 28th Annual
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK
CONFERENCE

EOC PLANNING TEAM L-R JEFF
GARRETT, BROOKE BATCHELOR,
LINDA HEAD AND GREG USHER
INFORMATION ON PAGE 9

Secure Your
Seat for Meet the
Candidates/Whistle
Stop Luncheon
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Five of Memorial Hermann's hospitals have been recognized by Healthgrades as America's 100 Best hospitals in four areas of care. Collectively, the hospitals were recognized as a top 100 hospital for orthopedic surgery, joint replacement, and critical care and for the third year - stroke.

The master-planned community of Woodforest applauds the efforts of Lennar sales representative Chase Ericsson, who sold more than 70 homes in the community last year, about 17% of the more than 420 total. Visit www.woodforesttx.com.

The book, God Made Them All, written and illustrated by Woodlands Christian Academy students in Mrs. Karen Mahan's first grade class, has been selected as a winner in the Studenttreasures Publishing National Book Challenge. Books from around the country were judged on originality, story line, and illustration.



TWCA 1st Grade

St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital recently announced that it has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award.

The award recognizes the hospital's commitment and success in implementing excellent care for stroke patients, according to evidence-based guidelines.



1st place winners in **The John Cooper School's annual Gingerbread Contest**, Nina Rivela and Isabel Sands, pose with their winning piece, "The Hobbit Hole". Other winners were 2nd place; Monica Canavati and Adriana Leal and 3rd place;

Taylor Turner and Peri Monroe. Visit www.johncooper.org.



Every year the **South Montgomery County YMCA** recognizes an outstanding volunteer for his/her generosity of spirit, hard work and compassion for others. Chris Osborne has been named this year's YMCA Volunteer of the Year. As an active member and volunteer for 17 years, his service includes Board Member, Partners Campaigner and Community Partner.



Chris Osborne

NEW TO THE TEAM & PROMOTIONS

Brian Albert has been named as an associate attorney of The Strong Firm P.C., focusing in corporate, real estate, oil and gas, and business law. An active member of the community, Albert is a member of The Woodlands Young Lawyers Association and is a member of the Houston Bar Association and The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals Network. Visit www.thestrongfirm.com.



Brian Albert and Brett Strong

Mike Karlins, CPA of Karlins, Ramey, and Tompkins, Certified Public Accountants recently welcomed three members to the team; Mona Fathinejad as a Staff Accountant, Erik Lange as a Senior Tax Accountant and Betsy Soto as Staff Tax Accountant. Visit www.krtcpas.com.

Dr. Austin Lane, LSC-Montgomery, as a member of the advisory board for Southern Methodist University's

Department of Education Policy & Leadership, will use his insight and expertise to help prepare educators for leadership roles in higher education. Visit www.LoneStar.edu/montgomery.



Dr. Austin Lane

Colliers International announced the addition of Derrick Jones as vice president in The Woodlands' office. Derrick brings 10 years of experience representing industrial owners and tenants in transactions throughout Houston. During his tenure, Derrick has negotiated leases in excess of 3 million square feet for a total lease consideration of \$60,000,000. Visit www.colliers.com/houston.



Derrick Jones

Montgomery County Food Bank announced Mr. Rodney Dickerson as the new President. MCFB is moving into a new facility nearly nine times the current facility's size. Dickerson, shares the same giving passion with the former President, Sean-Michael Hazuda, who recently decided to move back to San Antonio to be near his family. Visit www.mcfoodbank.org.

Maris Blair, an attorney with The Blair Law Firm, P.C., has been named as Executive Director for the Conroe ISD Education Foundation, Inc. The Foundation serves to support Conroe ISD with scholarships to educate current and future educators.



Maris Blair

PARTNERSHIPS & EXPANSIONS

TWFG, the largest insurance agency in The Woodlands, and one of the largest in the nation, has acquired a high-volume commercial insurance agency, creating a "supersize southeast Texas agency" for business and residential customers, according to Gordy Bunch, president and CEO of

TWFG. The combination creates the second largest TWFG office of the 320 operating nationally.

Legacy Preparatory Christian Academy announces expansions in the Athletics Department. The school has experienced an average annual growth rate of over 25%. The main building will be approximately 55,000 square feet with 24 classrooms, administrative and business offices, cafeteria and gym - which will host junior high and varsity basketball games and tournaments.

Market Street Photo Booth and Milstead Automotive celebrated a 2nd year of partnership in providing fun and cherished

memories at Milstead's annual Christmas Party. Pictured are Chairman Amy Milstead of Milstead Automotive, Transmission, Collision & Towing and MSPB-Owner Adreana Betti, as they enjoyed good times, silly pictures and treasured memories.



Farner & Perrin, LLP, attorneys, announced the expansion of its estate planning and probate practice to The Woodlands. The Firm represents high net worth families, focusing on family wealth transfers and related taxation, with over fifty years of collective experience exclusively in estate planning/probate.

EVENTS/SERIES

If you're a sportsmen, gun enthusiast or novice mark your calendar for the first annual Bustin' Clays for our Heroes on April 17. Bustin' Clays will raise awareness by supporting the disabled veterans. "I am so glad to be lend my support to this worthy cause," said Danielle H. Melton, MD of TIRR Memorial Hermann. Visit www.tirr.memorialhermann.org.



Bustin' Clay's planning committee 1-r Josh Urban, Linda Freede, Mike Karlins and Dave Sharp.